

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001895/24  
to the Commission  
Vangelis Meimarakis (PPE)  
(1 October 2024)**

*Subject:* Türkiye's provocative bid to join the BRICS countries and inclusion of the 'Blue Homeland' doctrine in the school curriculum

There have recently been two worrying developments concerning Türkiye:

its application to join the BRICS countries and the inclusion and teaching of the revisionist narrative about the 'Blue Homeland' in school textbooks.

Türkiye is an EU candidate country that has an Association Agreement and is in a customs union with the EU. It is also a member of NATO. How is this compatible with BRICS membership given these countries' conflicting interests with the EU and NATO?

Meanwhile, the 'Blue Homeland' narrative violates the sovereign rights of Greece and Cyprus under the Convention on the Law of the Sea and has led to the illegal Memorandum of Understanding between Türkiye and Lebanon. This narrative undermines the EU's work in the field of energy in the Eastern Mediterranean and can become a source of conflict. It will also instil in Türkiye's young generations a false understanding of the country's history and obligations.

In view of this:

1. How will the Commission address these two issues in the context of the EU-Türkiye high-level dialogue?
2. How will it address the digital diplomacy Türkiye has built through social media, which is reinforcing the 'Blue Homeland' narrative beyond Turkish borders?

Submitted: 1.10.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles on behalf of the European Commission  
(20 November 2024)**

Regarding BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates), the EU monitors the overall evolution. As a sovereign state, Türkiye has the right to apply to join any multilateral forum and build its partnerships across the globe.

At the same time, Türkiye is an EU candidate country and a key partner for the EU, member of the Council of Europe and a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally. Türkiye has signed a Customs Union with the EU, from which it benefits greatly. Since its signature, the trade between the EU and Türkiye has increased four times.

The EU expects all candidate countries to support EU values firmly, to respect obligations deriving from trade agreements, and align with the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. These are significant signals of shared values and interests, and of countries' strategic orientation.

The EU has a strategic interest in a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye and in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The EU is re-engaging constructively with Türkiye in a phased, proportionate and reversible manner, subject to established conditionalities <sup>(1)</sup>.

The Commission, in its 2024 enlargement report on Türkiye, noted that the recent inclusion of the doctrine of 'Blue Homeland' in Turkish school textbooks is a cause for concern <sup>(2)</sup>.

The EU has repeatedly expressed its expectation from Türkiye to unequivocally commit itself to good neighbourly relations, international agreements and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations <sup>(3)</sup>, having recourse, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2024\\_en](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2024_en)

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2024\\_en](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2024_en)

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>

Türkiye must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Member States over their territorial sea and airspace, as well as all their sovereign rights <sup>(4)</sup>.

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<sup>(4)</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16707-2023-INIT/en/pdf>