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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.11.2024)

The Great Sea Interconnector (formerly known as EuroAsia Interconnector) is recognised as a project of common interest (PCI) of the EU in the field of energy, notably under the first EU list of projects of common interest and mutual interest adopted in 2023¹ in line with the Trans-European Networks for Energy Regulation².

All projects of common interest are closely monitored by the Commission. The Great Sea Interconnector is a crucial project aiming at ending Cyprus' energy isolation, bringing the potential to lower energy prices for consumers, allowing for a higher share of renewables in its energy mix and increasing the security of energy supply of two Member States and the EU system altogether. Accordingly, the Commission is working together with the project promoter and relevant national authorities of the Member States involved to advance this project.

The EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye. In this context, the EU continues to expect Türkiye to respect the sovereignty and the sovereign rights of all Member States, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea³ and to unequivocally commit to and promote good neighbourly relations and the peaceful settlement of disputes, having recourse, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_23_6048

² Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, OJ L 152, 3.6.2022, p. 45–102, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/869/oj>

³ <https://www.imo.org/en/ourwork/legal/pages/unitednationsconventiononthelawofthesea.aspx?ref=shutmed.eu>