

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001632/25
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(23 April 2025)

Subject: Violations of Greek territorial waters by Turkish vessels

Greece — and by extension the European Union — is facing a very serious security and sovereignty problem in the Aegean Sea, due to the continuous and blatant violations of Greek territorial waters by Turkish fishing vessels, which often act with the support of the Turkish coast guard. Greek fishers complain that Turkish fishers engage in warlike practices, destroy equipment, threaten and harass, creating conditions of tension, with a serious risk of accident or even bloodshed. Greek fishers typically report that ‘we feel like strangers in our own land’ due to the uncontrolled activity of Turkish vessels. Furthermore, this is causing enormous damage to marine ecosystems.

In light of the above:

What measures does the Commission intend to put in place to safeguard the sovereignty of EU Member States when their territorial waters are violated and the security of their citizens is threatened?

Submitted: 23.4.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(18 July 2025)

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

Unequivocal commitment to good neighbourly relations, to international agreements and to the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nations Charter, as well as abstaining from unilateral actions which run counter to EU interests, violate international law and the sovereign rights of Member States, remains a requirement to ensure a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Türkiye is a candidate country and a key EU partner. The Commission has underlined in the 2024 enlargement report ⁽¹⁾ that Türkiye must avoid threats and actions that damage good neighbourly relations and respect the sovereignty of all Member States over their territorial sea and airspace as well as all their sovereign rights in accordance with EU and international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ⁽²⁾.

Through its Council conclusions of December 2024 ⁽³⁾, the EU noted the improvements in relations between Greece and Türkiye and expressed its expectations that these are sustained.

⁽¹⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2024_en.

⁽²⁾ https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf.

⁽³⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16983-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.