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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.8.2025)

Under Regulation (EC) 1005/2008¹, any unauthorised fishing activity of third-country fishing vessels into a Member State's territorial sea constitutes illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The Member State concerned is primarily responsible for monitoring waters, inspecting suspicious vessels, and applying effective, proportionate sanctions. Rigorous verification of Turkish catch certificates and targeted port inspections further prevent IUU products from entering the EU market. The Commission remains closely engaged with the Greek authorities. Greek data shows a notable peak in vessel sightings in late summer 2024, with significantly fewer incidents in early 2025.

The EU supports national efforts. The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) coordinates joint deployment plans in the Eastern Mediterranean including using the patrol vessel 'Ocean Sentinel', aerial surveillance, and satellite imagery. Collaboration among EFCA, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), and Frontex ensures swift information exchange. The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) supports advanced monitoring equipment and inspector training.

The EU seeks a stable Eastern Mediterranean and cooperative relations with Türkiye, emphasising good neighbourliness, respect for international law, and sovereignty under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Commission continuously urges Türkiye to align its fisheries control with EU standards and cooperate constructively in investigations. The Commission has also emphasised to Türkiye the importance of ratifying UNCLOS.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999, OJ L 286, 29.10.2008.