

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002431/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)
(17 June 2025)

Subject: Türkiye slices Aegean in two in violation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

As part of its so-called ‘Blue Homeland’ doctrine, Türkiye, in violation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, has submitted its own maritime spatial planning map to Unesco, slicing the Aegean Sea in two. The Turkish maps reflect Ankara’s well-known revisionist approach, which calls into question the influence of the Greek islands and reinstates the theory of a ‘midline’ between Türkiye and mainland Greece. The map, designed by the University of Ankara and formally submitted to Unesco as ‘scientific proof’, calls into question the sovereignty and sovereign rights of the Greek Aegean islands. It was published in response to Greece’s spatial planning, which is already contained in the EU *acquis*. The difference is that the Turkish map has no basis in international law or in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which has been signed by 168 countries, and is not directed at an international organisation that imposes an obligation to submit such maps. Greece will insist on its policy of principles, as is its obligation under international law.

Can the Commission therefore say:

What action will it take with regard to the Turkish map on maritime spatial planning, which calls into question the influence of Greek islands and Greek sovereignty?

Submitted: 17.6.2025

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

The EU has a strategic interest in stability and security in the Eastern Mediterranean and in maintaining a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye.

In the 2024 conclusions on enlargement ⁽¹⁾, the Council emphasised that Türkiye must respect the sovereignty, and territorial integrity of all Member States, as, well as all their sovereign rights, in accordance with EU and international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Commission has also stressed in the 2024 enlargement report that the inclusion of the doctrine of ‘Blue Homeland’ (Mavi Vatan) in Turkish school textbooks is a cause for concern ⁽²⁾.

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 an essential requirement to ensure a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the EU and Türkiye.

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

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16983-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽²⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2024_en.

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