

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003173/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)
(4 August 2025)

Subject: Türkiye's illegal and unacceptable announcement of two marine parks

Türkiye has announced two marine parks, one in the northern Aegean and one off the island of Kastellorizo.

In line with Türkiye's long-standing revisionist position, the map disputes the influence of Kastellorizo in the delineation of maritime zones, in an attempt to close off the island within territorial limits of 6 nautical miles.

The parks' boundaries extend beyond the 25th meridian. It should be noted that, based on Ankara's long-standing position that the limit of Turkish jurisdiction in the Aegean Sea lies along the 25th meridian, Turkish diplomacy considers that it retains various jurisdictions east of this limit.

What is more, the Tenedos marine park appears to extend to the marine areas between Samothrace and Lemnos, in theory cutting the islands off from each other, reflecting the long-standing Turkish rhetoric that cuts the Aegean down the middle and challenges the sovereign rights of Greek islands in the Aegean.

The announcement of marine parks in undelimited areas outside Turkish territorial waters is an unacceptable, unilateral and illegal act that produces no legal effect against Greek sovereign rights and shows a complete lack of respect for the international law of the sea.

In view of the above, will the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy say:

1. Is she aware of this latest unacceptable action by Türkiye?
2. What measures will she take in response to Türkiye's unacceptable action, which directly challenges Greek sovereign rights?

Submitted: 4.8.2025

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

The EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and has called on Türkiye to fully respect international law, to de-escalate tensions in the interest of regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, and to promote good-neighbourly relations in a sustainable way ⁽¹⁾.

The EU has noted the recent improvements in relations between Greece and Türkiye in the expectation that de-escalation will be sustainable ⁽²⁾.

To this respect, Greece and Türkiye have activated multiple work strands. The EU has also made clear 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 ⁽³⁾.

Unequivocal commitment to good neighbourly relations, to international agreements and to the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nation 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 ⁽⁴⁾.

In the same context, the EU remains determined to use, if need be, the instruments and options at its disposal to defend its interests and those of Member States.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/57442/2022-06-2324-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16983-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

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

⁽⁴⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/16679fa1-cb73-4481-bc02-e3620b8c6dd3_en?filename=Joint%20Communication%20to%20the%20European%20Council%20-%20State%20of%20play%20of%20EU-Turkiye%20political%2C%20economic%20and%20trade%20relations.pdf.