

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003385/25
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(3 September 2025)**

Subject: Escalation of provocations by Turkish fishing vessels in Greek territorial waters

On the night of 2 September 2025, a serious incident occurred in the Thracian Sea, when Turkish fishing vessels, operating illegally in Greek territorial waters near Samothrace, opened fire in the air during their confrontation with Greek fishers, according to reports by Greek public television.

This incident is part of a constantly recurring pattern of Turkish fishing vessels illegally entering Greek territorial waters in the North Aegean.

These actions raise serious issues regarding the safety of European (Greek) fishers, respect for international law of the sea and the protection of EU marine resources within the framework of the common fisheries policy.

In view of the above:

Does the Commission intend to consider additional measures, such as support mechanisms or joint surveillance actions, to protect European fishers operating in maritime border areas such as the Thracian Sea?

Submitted: 3.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(5 November 2025)**

The EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Mediterranean and is firmly committed to ensuring that all countries respect the jurisdiction, sovereignty and sovereign rights of EU Member States, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) and customary international law. In this regard, coastal States have sovereignty over their territorial sea, including for taking necessary steps to prevent non-innocent passage. They may adopt laws and regulations related to innocent passage as per Article 21 Unclos.

While the primary responsibility for the control of fishing activities in Member States' waters falls on their authorities, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) coordinates Member States' fisheries inspection activities in the Mediterranean through a dedicated Joint Deployment Plan, where the EFCA patrol vessel participates. It provides technical support to interested Member States through satellite monitoring and other activities.
