

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003411/25
to the Commission
Afroditi Latinopoulou (Pfe)
(3 September 2025)**

Subject: Illegal activity of Turkish fishing vessels in Greek territorial waters and protection of European maritime borders

The recent incident in the Thracian Sea, in which Turkish fishing vessels illegally entered Greek territorial waters, was accompanied by threats, intimidation and shots fired into the air against Greek fishers. This action constitutes a clear violation of the national sovereignty of a Member State of the European Union and aggravates the already tense situation in the region. This issue does not only concern Greece, but also endangers the security and stability of the maritime borders of the European Union as a whole.

In light of the above:

Is the Commission considering the adoption or strengthening of measures to protect the safety and physical integrity of European fishers, in light of the allegations of threats and shootings against Greek fishers?

Submitted: 3.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(18 December 2025)**

The EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in Eastern Mediterranean. All countries need to respect the jurisdiction, sovereignty and sovereign rights of Member States, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) the provisions of which reflect customary international law.

In this regard, coastal States have sovereignty over their territorial sea, including for adopting laws and regulations related to innocent passage and taking necessary steps to prevent passage that is not innocent.

The EU consistently promotes regional cooperation within Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, such as the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, aiming to achieve a level playing field.

While the primary responsibility for the safety and security conditions of the fish workers and for the control of fishing activities lays with the Member States in their waters and falls on their authorities, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) assists operationally Member States and coordinates their fisheries inspection activities in the Mediterranean through a dedicated Joint Deployment Plan, to which the EFCA patrol vessels participates.

Alleged illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by Turkish vessels is monitored by Greece and the Commission. Under Regulation (EC) 1005/2008 ⁽¹⁾, any unauthorised entry of third-country fishing vessel in a Member State's territorial sea constitutes IUU fishing.

The Member State concerned is primarily responsible for monitoring waters, inspecting suspicious vessels, and applying proportionate sanctions. Türkiye's ratification of the Unclos would improve cooperation with the EU in fisheries.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1005/2011-03-09/eng>.