

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003431/25**  
**to the Commission**  
**Yannis Maniatis (S&D)**  
(4 September 2025)

*Subject:* Violation of Greek sovereign rights and European legislation by Turkish fishermen

On 2 September 2025, a large number of Turkish fishing vessels entered the Thracian Sea, even crossing into Greek territorial waters near Samothraki.

Greek fishermen complain that they were forced to leave the area, having been threatened with the Turkish vessels' attempts to ram their boats and firing of warning shots in the air. Indeed, the Turkish coastguard either tolerates these movements of Turkish fishing vessels or provides them with protection.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Can it ensure in any way that Turkish coastguard ships purchased with European funding do not participate in activities that run counter to the sovereign rights of Member States, or in the violation of European legislation, as is the case here?
2. Does it intend to impose sanctions on Türkiye, including its exclusion from European funding and programmes, for breaching European legislation?

Submitted: 4.9.2025

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission**  
(5 January 2026)

The EU has supported the Turkish Coast guard in the form of financial assistance for the supply of search and rescue vessels. Assistance has been provided under the condition that the vessels will be of civilian use, while their technical specifications will allow only for search and rescue operations.

As outlined in the relevant programming documents <sup>(1)</sup>, the search and rescue operations of these boats will be carried out in line with international human rights standards and in full respect of the sovereignty and relevant jurisdiction of Member States in accordance with international law.

The implementation of the pre-accession assistance in Türkiye follows the EU Financial Regulation <sup>(2)</sup>, <sup>(3)</sup>. The Commission monitors its programmes through several means, including regular reports from implementing partners, on-the-spot verification missions, results-oriented monitoring exercises and external evaluations.

If there is evidence that a beneficiary violated the applicable European legislation during the implementation of a project and did not comply with EU rules, the Commission and the national agency shall make use of all available means, including terminating the cooperation and recovering the EU funds. Any allegations will be investigated on the basis of provided evidence.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/32ff8768-90e8-49ef-8ae8-2fdaf429d399\\_en?filename=C\\_2024\\_9168\\_F1\\_ANNEX\\_EN\\_V1\\_P1\\_3857028.PDF](https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/32ff8768-90e8-49ef-8ae8-2fdaf429d399_en?filename=C_2024_9168_F1_ANNEX_EN_V1_P1_3857028.PDF).

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkey-negotiating-framework-october-2005\\_en](https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkey-negotiating-framework-october-2005_en).

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast).