

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000277/26
to the Commission
Afroditi Latinopoulou (PfE)
(24 January 2026)**

Subject: Maritime sovereignty and support for fishing in Greece

In Greece, the systematic violation of fishing zones by non-EU countries, combined with the strict limitations of the common fisheries policy that apply mainly to European fishers, is putting serious pressure on small-scale fishers and on public funds, reducing their incomes and undermining the viability of the sector.

In view of the above, the Commission is asked:

1. Does it intend to incorporate specific support tools for Member States confronted with fishing zone violations and pressure on coastal fishers, such as Greece?
2. How does it intend to strengthen cross-border coordination and the exchange of best practices for the protection of maritime sovereignty and sustainable fishing?

Submitted: 24.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(2 March 2026)**

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

Also, according to Unclos and customary international law, coastal States have sovereignty over their territorial sea, including for the adoption of laws and regulations related to fishing, innocent passage, as well as to take the necessary steps to prevent non-innocent passage.

The Commission supports Member States in the implementation of fisheries control rules and compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy.

In particular, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) coordinates Member States' inspection activities through the Mediterranean Joint Deployment Plan.

EFCA deploys a patrol vessel on a permanent basis in the Mediterranean. Its activities may be complemented with tools such as aircraft and satellite monitoring, and support may be provided to national authorities' activities if requested.

Furthermore, EFCA in cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Maritime Safety Agency, each within its mandate, supports the national authorities carrying out coast guard functions.

The international cooperation on fisheries of the EU with neighbouring third countries is achieved through regional fisheries management organisations such as the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, including the establishment of common regional rules and the exchange of best practices for fisheries sustainability.
