

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000411/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)
(2 February 2026)**

Subject: Türkiye's unacceptable, illegal and provocative attempt to create a fait accompli in the Aegean

The issuance of a NAVTEX by the Turkish side is part of a tactic to question the status of the Aegean. Their goal is to establish the perception that the entire Aegean region east of the 25th meridian (which divides the Aegean in half) is under Turkish jurisdiction.

Specifically, the NAVTEX issued by the Turkish side states: 'With the NAVTEX we are issuing, taking into account navigational safety, we are emphasising that naval announcements covering the continental shelf in the Aegean Sea and all research activities within the maritime jurisdictional areas must be coordinated with our country. The Turkish armed forces will continue to render ineffective, within the framework of international law, unilateral actions and initiatives that ignore the rights and interests of our country that arise from the maritime areas under its jurisdiction'. A worrying but clear message that Türkiye is not backing down from its persistent provocative positions, which are not based on international law and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and good neighbourly relations.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the NAVTEX messages that directly challenge the sovereignty and sovereign rights of Greece — an EU Member State?
2. What actions does the Commission plan to take?

Submitted: 2.2.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(1 April 2026)**

The Commission is aware of this issue.

The EU has repeatedly underlined, most recently in the enlargement report ⁽¹⁾ that Türkiye is expected to make an unequivocal commitment to good neighbourly relations, international agreements and the peaceful settlement of disputes having recourse, if necessary and among others, to the International Court of Justice.

Türkiye must avoid threats and actions that damage good neighbourly relations and respect the sovereignty of all EU Member States over their territorial sea and airspace as well as all their sovereign rights, including the right to explore and exploit natural resources in accordance with EU and international law, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Despite the positive atmosphere and the ongoing dialogue between Greece and Türkiye, the unresolved dispute over the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zones continues to strain bilateral relations.

As pointed out in the Commission's annual report, Türkiye continued to systematically issue general navigational warnings challenging Greek sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction ⁽²⁾.

The Council has noted that the improvements in the relation between Greece and Türkiye underlining its expectations for them to be sustained ⁽³⁾.

The EU remains committed to defending its interests and those of its Member States as well as to upholding regional stability.

Abstaining from unilateral actions which violate international law and the sovereignty and sovereign rights of EU 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.

⁽¹⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4bb4ddd1-4f20-4ee0-92db-926996ec8dd1_en?filename=t.

⁽²⁾ See above.

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