

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000474/26
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(5 February 2026)**

Subject: Turkish provocation and European reaction

In January, the Turkish Government published two Navtexes, in which it reinstates its claims, contrary to international law, regarding the competence to issue permits east of the 25th meridian, as well as the supposedly demilitarised status of 23 Greek islands.

These two Navtexes, which according to the Turkish Ministry of Defence are of indefinite duration, directly challenge Greece's sovereign rights in the Eastern Aegean and the Dodecanese, reinstating claims contrary to international law.

Furthermore, on 4 February the Turkish Ministry of Defence questioned Greece's sovereign right, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is also part of the European acquis, to extend its territorial waters to 12 nautical miles.

In light of the *casus belli* passed by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in 1995 and which remains in force, as well as the ever-increasing Turkish provocations in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Dodecanese:

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to protect Greece's sovereign rights from Turkish aggression?
2. Does the Commission consider Türkiye's moves compatible with the policy of the 'positive agenda'?
3. As there were more than 225 violations of Greek airspace by Türkiye in 2025, what initiatives does the Commission intend to take along the lines of the Eastern Flank Watch to protect Greek borders from Türkiye?

Submitted: 5.2.2026

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

The Commission has repeatedly underlined⁽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, to the International Court of Justice.

Türkiye must avoid threats and actions that damage good neighbourly relations and respect the sovereignty of all 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.

The Commission continues monitoring the situation. No flights of Turkish military jets over Greek inhabited areas have been reported since February 2023.

Nevertheless, Türkiye continued to systematically issue general navigational warnings challenging Greek sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction⁽²⁾. The Council has noted the overall improvements in the relation between Greece and Türkiye, underlining its expectation 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.

The main aim of European Defence Projects of Common Interest (EDPCIs) within the European Defence Industry Programme⁽⁴⁾ is to enhance the EU's defence industrial sovereignty and readiness. EDPCIs are large, multi-state programs led by at least four Member States and supported by EU instruments under certain modalities.

These projects focus on EU capability priorities and aim to pool demand, streamline supply chains, and reinforce the European defence technological and industrial base, while addressing urgent defence needs.

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

⁽²⁾ See footnote 1.

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

⁽⁴⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TEXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202502643.