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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.5.2026)

The EU remains committed to defending its interests and those of its Member States as well as to upholding regional stability. In this context, the EU attaches the greatest importance to safeguarding the sovereign rights of all Member States, in full respect of international law. Unequivocal commitment to international agreements and the UN Charter, as well as abstaining from unilateral actions which violate international law and the sovereign rights of 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.

The Commission is aware of reports regarding the alleged obstruction of cable-laying activities under the SEA-SPINE project co-funded by Connecting European Facility (CEF Digital)¹, which aims to enhance digital connectivity between Greek islands and it is a strategic priority for the EU's digital transition. Following inquiries via European Health and Digital Executive Agency, the consortium confirmed that the Ocean Link vessel completed its scheduled works between Amorgos and Astypalaia without disruption. While no formal notification of hailing was received, the Commission underscores that all EU-funded infrastructure projects operate in full compliance with international law (UN Convention on the Law of the Sea²).

The EU rejects any unilateral actions that impede lawful activities. Given the critical role of submarine cables in securing the EU's digital resilience, the Commission is in close cooperation with Member States to ensure the smooth completion of the project and will continue to monitor closely the situation and the project's implementation.

¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-makes-available-eu200-million-submarine-cable-and-digital-infrastructure-projects>.

² https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf.