

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001681/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Fredis Beleris (PPE)
(23 April 2026)

Subject: New provocation by Türkiye concerning Greece's maps for fishing in the Aegean Sea

On 21 April 2026, based on maps published by Greece's Fisheries Control Directorate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye issued a press release alleging that Greece had imposed fishing restrictions in maritime areas beyond its jurisdiction. However, Greece has issued directives for its territorial waters and areas of Greek jurisdiction, while, as far as international waters are concerned, the provisions of the relevant international treaties are binding for all contracting states.

These claims by Türkiye undermine the sovereign rights and established maritime borders of Greece and, by extension, those of the European Union.

Moreover, Greek fishers, who fully comply with EU regulations, are forced to compete for the same stocks with Turkish counterparts who are not bound by EU regulations and are often involved in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. This creates an uneven playing field and threatens the livelihoods of Greek fishers. Reports also indicate frequent harassment of Greek fishers by Turkish vessels and the Turkish coastguard and the intrusion of Turkish fishing vessels into Greek territorial waters.

In the light of this:

1. Will the Commission consider adopting and enforcing certain measures, including diplomatic measures and sanctions, to ensure compliance with the common fisheries policy and to combat IUU fishing?
2. How will the EU defend its maritime borders and interests in the Aegean and the eastern Mediterranean?

Submitted: 23.4.2026

Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(26 June 2026)

As regards Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, the EU IUU Regulation ⁽¹⁾ is primarily a cooperation framework to help third countries meet their obligations as flag, coastal, port and market States.

The identification of a non-cooperating third country is a measure of last resort and requires verifiable evidence and a case-by-case assessment respecting due process and proportionality.

For alleged activities in Member State waters, the Commission relies on complete and substantiated reporting and follow-up by the coastal Member State. The Commission remains ready to examine any substantiated information.

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.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008R1005>.