

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002001/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
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(13 May 2026)

Subject: Turkish bill violating sovereign rights of Greece and Cyprus in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean

According to international press reports ⁽¹⁾, the Turkish Government is preparing to submit a bill to the Turkish National Assembly with a view to claiming maritime jurisdiction over parts of the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean. According to the information published, the bill will presumably be based on the legally unfounded Turkish claim that the islands cannot have a continental shelf and EEZ. This is in complete contradiction with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), which is an integral part of the European *acquis*, as well as with the case law of the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Bearing in mind that such a bill would directly violate the sovereign rights of Greece and Cyprus, two Member States, creating a new area of tension in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean, will the Vice-President/High Representative say:

1. Is she aware of the Turkish Government's intention and what is her view on it?
2. What specific steps will she take to prevent the bill in question from being submitted and adopted?
3. Does she intend to propose to the Council that penalties be imposed on members of the Turkish Government who put forward a bill that violates the sovereign rights of two EU Member States and is completely contrary to the European *acquis* and international law?

Supporter ⁽²⁾

Submitted: 13.5.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(2 July 2026)

The Commission is aware of media reports and statements referencing preparations for the submission to the Turkish parliament of draft legislation on maritime jurisdiction areas.

The content of this legislation has not been made officially public, and the Commission does not comment on media reports.

The EU has repeatedly made clear that Türkiye is expected to make an unequivocal commitment to good neighbourly relations, international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

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 and law of the sea.

Abstaining from unilateral actions which violate international law and the sovereign rights of EU Member States is 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://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-05-08/turkey-plan-for-maritime-areas-may-fuel-mediterranean-tensions>

² This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D).