

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002053/26
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(19 May 2026)**

Subject: Regional Activity Centre on Climate Change's possible involvement in the preparation of Türkiye's 'Blue Homeland' bill

Türkiye is preparing a bill with a view to claiming maritime jurisdiction in parts of the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean, based on the legally unfounded Turkish claim that the islands cannot have a continental shelf and EEZ, in total contradiction with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), which is an integral part of the European *acquis*. The National Center for the Sea and Maritime Law (DEHUKAM) ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ of the University of Ankara, whose organisational structure includes the Regional Activity Centre on Climate Change (CC/RAC) of the UN ⁽³⁾, has contributed to the bill, while until recently the director of the CC/RAC ⁽⁴⁾ was also the CEO ⁽⁵⁾ of DEHUKAM. According to DEHUKAM ⁽⁶⁾, Türkiye, in cooperation with the EU, presented the proposal to create the CC/RAC, which was unanimously adopted by the Parties to the Barcelona Convention on 6 December 2023.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Has it checked whether the CC/RAC contributed to the preparation of this bill?
2. Can it confirm that no European technical, financial or human resources have been allocated to the CC/RAC, which may have contributed to DEHUKAM's preparation of Türkiye's illegal maritime spatial planning?
3. Does it continue to support the 2023 decision on the CC/RAC, despite its relationship with DEHUKAM, whose positions are publicly at odds with the European *acquis*, such as Unclos?

Submitted: 19.5.2026

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

The Commission is closely following media reports and statements referring to preparations to submit draft legislation on maritime jurisdiction areas to the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

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

The Climate Change Regional Activity Centre (CC/RAC), which was not created particularly in cooperation with the EU, is fully financed from direct Turkish contributions. After the mandate decided at the last Conference of the Parties (COP) in December 2025, the work of the CC/RAC is to be overseen by the climate change focal points.

The EU has repeatedly made clear that Türkiye is expected to make an unequivocal commitment to good neighbourly relations, international agreements 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 including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ⁽¹⁾.

Abstaining from unilateral actions that violate international law and the sovereign rights of Member States is essential to ensure a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is also essential for developing a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the EU and Türkiye.

¹ <https://www.dehukam.org/en/2026/05/12/press-conference-held-on-current-developments-in-sea-and-maritime-law/>.

² <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/turkiye-confirms-maritime-rights-bill-for-blue-homeland/news>.

³ <https://www.dehukam.org/en/organisational-chart/>.

⁴ <https://www.instagram.com/p/DLFZ57sohaG/>.

⁵ <https://www.dehukam.org/mudur/>.

⁶ <https://www.dehukam.org/en/2023/12/06/climate-change-regional-activity-centre-cc-rac-hosted-by-turkiye-within-dehukam-has-been-established-under-united-nations-environment-programme>.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf.