(English version)

Question for written answer E-002284/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)
(3 June 2026)

Subject: Member States' participation in Turkish military exercise 'EFES 2026' with island occupation scenario

The recent Turkish military exercise 'EFES 2026' included, once again, offensive scenarios of landing operations and air landings, with the clear aim of occupying islands. It is increasingly clear that these war simulations are aimed directly against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Greece and Cyprus, two EU Member States ([1]) ([2]).

The fact that many Member States also participated as observers or with military units in this exercise, which serves the revisionist doctrine of the 'Blue Homeland', is deeply troubling and causes legitimate concern ([3]) ([4]). This stance blatantly undermines the fundamental principles of European solidarity and the common security and defence policy, as European armies train together in invasion scenarios against European territories.

On the basis of the above:

1. Does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy agree with the participation of Member States in exercises simulating the occupation of territories of other Member States of the Union, legitimising Turkish aggression in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean?

2. What specific measures does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to take to ensure that no Member State participates in future in military activities of non-EU countries that threaten the security of the EU? Are there relevant guidelines and an institutional framework for dealing with similar incidents?

Submitted: 3.6.2026

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

Decisions relating to the participation of Member States in military exercises with third countries fall within the responsibility of the Member States concerned.

The EU has no prerogatives in this area. In addition, there is no specific EU legal instrument governing Member States' participation in military exercises organised by third countries.

The High Representative/Vice-President remains in close contact with Member States on developments related to European security and defence.

In more general terms, 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, in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

This position has been consistently endorsed by the Council and the European Council ([1]) and has been underlined in all relevant contacts with Turkish authorities, including on recent visits by the High Representative/Vice-President and the Commissioner for Enlargement to Ankara ([2]).

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1 https://www.militaire.gr/efes-2026-otan-oi-symmachoi-soy-symmetechoyn-se-askisi-katalipsis-nision-toy-aigaioy/.
2 https://www.dimokratia.gr/politiki/699535/polytima-symperasmata-apo-tin-toyrkiki-askisi-efes-kleidi-stin-amyna-ton-nision/.
3 https://www.cnn.gr/politiki/story/534988/i-limnos-se-xarti-tis-tourkikis-polemikis-aeroporias-kata-tin-diarkeia-tis-stratiotikis-askisis-efes.
4 https://www.dimokratia.gr/politiki/694931/i-toyrkia-provarei-apovasi-se-ellinika-nisia/.

([1]) https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16983-2024-INIT/en/pdf.
([2]) https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1495.