

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002335/26
to the Commission
Nikolas Farantouris (S&D)
(8 June 2026)**

Subject: Türkiye's instrumentalisation of fisheries and environmental protection in the context of the 'Blue Homeland'

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye is implementing a new action plan to protect marine resources and harmonise policies with UN Food and Agriculture Organisation standards ⁽¹⁾. However, this plan is directly linked to strengthening Türkiye's alleged 'sovereign rights' to its continental shelf and Exclusive Economic Zones, effectively integrating fisheries policy and environmental surveillance mechanisms into the broader revisionist doctrine of the so-called 'Blue Homeland'. ⁽²⁾

This development is a cause for legitimate concern, as Türkiye is using issues of fisheries, marine environment protection and natural resource management to promote unlawful unilateral claims in maritime areas where EU Member States, in particular Greece and Cyprus, have sovereign rights and legitimate interests.

Accordingly:

1. How does the Commission assess the connection between Türkiye's policy to combat illegal fishing and unlawful claims based on the 'Blue Homeland' doctrine that challenge the sovereign rights of EU Member States under the International Law of the Sea?
2. Does the Commission consider it acceptable to instrumentalise environmental protection and natural resource management to promote revisionist geopolitical aspirations to the detriment of EU Member States?
3. What specific measures does the Commission intend to take to protect the sovereign rights of Greece and Cyprus and the EU's strategic interests in the Eastern Mediterranean against illegal unilateral actions by Türkiye?

Submitted: 8.6.2026

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

The Commission is aware of the implementation of a new action plan by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye to protect marine resources and harmonise policies with UN Food and Agriculture Organisation standards. These issues are assessed on an annual basis in the context of the enlargement reports on Türkiye.

Türkiye must avoid threats and actions that damage good neighbourly relations and respect the sovereignty of all Member States over their territorial sea and airspace as well as all their sovereign rights, including the right to explore and exploit natural resources in accordance with EU and international law, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

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 issues of good neighbourly relations and of respect of sovereignty and sovereign rights of all Member States remain high in the EU agenda and are consistently raised in the meetings with counterparts from Türkiye, including during the recent visit of the High Representative/Vice-President, the Commissioner for Enlargement and the Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration to Türkiye on 30 June 2026.

Abstaining from unilateral actions which violate international law and the sovereign rights of 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.ulusal.com.tr/yurt/tarim-ve-orman-bakanligi-denizlerde-dugmeye-basti-kacak-balikciliga-karsi-dev-eylem-plani-resmilesti-15098243?utm_source=chatgpt.com.

² <https://www.capital.gr/diethni/3996950/i-tourkia-sundeei-tin-alieia-me-ti-galazia-patrida-me-neo-sxedio-drasis/>.