

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003292/26
to the Commission**

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(18 August 2026)

Subject: Türkiye's designation of two marine parks in violation of international law and Greek sovereign rights in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean

On 16 August, Türkiye issued two presidential decrees establishing two so-called 'national marine parks', one in the area between Fethiye and Kaş excluding the entire marine area around the Kastellorizo archipelago and the other in the marine area between Samothrace and Limnos.

These marine parks, which are based on the illegal Turkish doctrine of the 'Blue Homeland', do not recognise the legal status of the Greek islands of Kastellorizo, Samothrace and Limnos, as provided for in international law and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is part of the European *acquis*. The marine parks extend beyond Turkish territorial waters, violating Greek sovereign rights since they include areas of the Greek continental shelf and EEZ, and even territorial waters to which the Greek Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean islands are entitled under Unclos.

The announcement about the establishment of the two 'marine parks' came after Türkiye submitted the relevant maps to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of Unesco around this time last year. These along with other new acts of provocation challenge Greece's sovereign rights in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean and constitute a further escalation, effectively nullifying the 'calm waters' policy.

In view of this:

What measures does the Commission intend to take to provide practical support to Greece against Türkiye's unilateral and illegal actions?

Submitted: 18.8.2026

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

The European Commission and European External Action Service are closely monitoring developments in the Aegean Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean, including those that the Honourable Members of the European Parliament refer to.

The EU has consistently underlined that the sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction of all Member States must be respected, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In this context, the EU has repeatedly called on Türkiye to act with restraint and refrain from any unilateral action liable to increase tensions. EU officials have consistently raised relevant matters of concern with Türkiye and will continue to do so in the appropriate political and diplomatic channels. The EU remains committed to defend the interests of the EU and its Member States, as well as to upholding regional stability.

Unequivocal commitment to international law, international agreements and the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes, as enshrined in the UN Charter, remains essential, as does abstaining from unilateral actions which violate international law and the sovereign rights of Member States.

These are essential requirements 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.
