

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-000006/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Kostas Papadakis (NI), Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)
(3 January 2025)

Subject: The dangerous possibility of a Turkish-Syrian maritime zone agreement

The imperialistic intervention of Türkiye and Israel in Syria — an independent country — with the backing of the US, NATO and the EU has led to a jihadist takeover that was welcomed by the EU and the Nea Dimokratia Government in Greece, which consider these jihadists to be ‘guarantors of a democratic transition’. There is a plan underway to change borders and divide Syria. These developments are inevitably leading to a new wave of displacement.

As a direct consequence of the intervention in Syria, Erdoğan government officials have made statements broadcasting the dangerous possibility of a Turkish-Syrian agreement on maritime zones, along the lines of the unacceptable and arbitrary Turkish-Libyan agreement.

In view of the above, can the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy answer the following:

1. What view does she take of the fact that, following the Euro-Atlantic intervention in Libya, which was also supported by the EU and which the Turkish Government also exploited, the EU is now supporting the intervention in Syria too, an intervention that is leading to border changes and the development of a dangerous scheme to establish an arbitrary Turkish-Syrian agreement that violates and calls into question the sovereignty and sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus, an EU Member State which is not even taken into account?
2. What view does she take of the fact that Commission President von der Leyen’s visit to Türkiye and the EU’s welcoming stance towards the jihadist takeover meant that the EU endorsed and gave legitimacy to the intervention, invasion and review of the region’s borders by Türkiye which has the support of the US?

Submitted: 3.1.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(6 February 2025)

The fall of Assad’s criminal regime marks a historic moment for the Syrian people. The European Council of 19 December 2024 ⁽¹⁾ stressed the historic opportunity to reunite and rebuild the country and underlined the importance of an inclusive and Syrian-led political process that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people, in line with the core principles of United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 2254.

In this respect, the EU supports the work of the UN Special Envoy for Syria. Syria’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within secure borders should be fully respected, in accordance with international law.

This was also the agreement reached in Aqaba ⁽²⁾ on 14 December 2024 on common principles ⁽³⁾ for the international community’s engagement in support of the Syrian people in this unprecedented transition.

The EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye.

In this context, the EU continues to expect Türkiye to respect the sovereignty and the sovereign rights of all Member States, in accordance with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ⁽⁴⁾ and to unequivocally commit to and promote good neighbourly relations and the peaceful settlement of disputes, having recourse, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice.

The European Council conclusions of 12 December 2019 ⁽⁵⁾ clearly stated that the Türkiye-Libya memorandum of understanding on the delimitation of maritime jurisdictions in the Mediterranean Sea ⁽⁶⁾ infringes upon the sovereign rights of third states, does not comply with the Law of the Sea and cannot produce any legal consequences for third States.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/jhlehaj/euco-conclusions-19122024-en.pdf>

⁽²⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/press-statement-eu-high-representative-foreign-affairs-and-security-policy-following-international_en

⁽³⁾ <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/syria/news/2024/article/joint-statement-on-syria-14-dec-2024>

⁽⁴⁾ https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf

⁽⁵⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/41768/12-euco-final-conclusions-en.pdf>

⁽⁶⁾ [https://www.un.org/depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/TREATIES/Turkey_11122019_\(HC\)_MoU_Libya-Delimitation-areas-Mediterranean.pdf](https://www.un.org/depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/TREATIES/Turkey_11122019_(HC)_MoU_Libya-Delimitation-areas-Mediterranean.pdf)