

**Question for written answer E-013899/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Arbitrary statements by Mr Juncker regarding joint patrols by Turkey and Greece in the Aegean

Despite strong objections by the Greek Foreign Ministry (over the last just two days<sup>1</sup>) regarding joint patrols by Greece and Turkey in Greek territorial waters, Mr Juncker once again raised the matter yesterday, stating, 'I have spoken with President Erdogan regarding joint patrols and joint initiatives for surveillance of the sea area between Greece and Turkey. Turkey has expressed its agreement on the matter. I believe that Greece is less willing to do so'<sup>2</sup> He subsequently called on Greece to rethink its position.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say what exactly the institutional role of Mr Juncker is? Since when has he had the authority to speak with a third-country President regarding the sovereign rights of an EU Member State and, what is more, in the absence of the latter? Is the EU prepared to uphold the sovereign rights of Member States or is that a matter on which it is, on the contrary, prepared to give ground?

Given that Turkey:

- i. continues to occupy 50 % of the territory of Cyprus, an EU Member State;
- ii. is constantly encroaching on Greek airspace and territorial waters in the Aegean;
- iii. is challenging the sovereign rights of both Greece and Cyprus, regardless of international agreements (such as the UN Convention on the International Law of the Sea);
- iv. occasionally intimates that it is willing to threaten war with Greece:

Does the Commission consider it reasonable to propose joint patrols by Greece and Turkey?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mfa.gr/en/current-affairs/statements-speeches/foreign-ministry-spokesperson-koutras-response-to-yesterdays-statements-from-spokesperson-for-the-chancellor-regarding-the-need-for-coordinated-scheme-in-the-aegean-for-confronting-the-refugee-issue.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-parliaments-34529928>