

**Question for written answer E-007847/2016**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)**

Subject: VP/HR - Provocative statements by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

There has recently been a dangerous escalation in the provocative statements issued by Turkey's ruling class. The latest statements by **Erdoğan** call into question the borders of Greece and other countries and territorial integrity in the Balkans, the Aegean and the Middle East. Previously the Turkish government had raised the issue of the Treaty of Lausanne, sent a provocative letter to the UN, issued a series of NOTAM announcements and disputed Greek sovereignty over 16 Greek islands and the status of the continental shelves of Greece and Cyprus throughout the Eastern Mediterranean; Turkey had also demanded that 11 Greek islands should not be included in military exercises, describing them as demilitarised.

What is the Commission's view of this dangerous escalation of aggression by Turkey's ruling class which is directly calling into question the status of existing borders and, more comprehensively, the sovereign rights of Greece and other countries?