

Question for written answer E-002251/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Need for preventive measures by the EU to defend Cyprus's EEZ and prevent any
 Turkish drilling

According to recent statements by the President of Turkey, Turkey plans shortly to send the Deep Sea Metro II drilling rig to the eastern Mediterranean to begin drilling for hydrocarbons. President Erdoğan confirmed this in statements he made to European officials in Varna when he said that Turkish Cypriots would receive a share of hydrocarbons within the framework of the exploration work in Cyprus's EEZ, regardless of whether or not a solution had been found to the Cyprus problem. It is obvious that such an action seeks to create a fait accompli in the event of a solution being found to the Cyprus problem.

These statements came only a few weeks after the expulsion by Turkish warships of the Saipem 12000 drillship, operated by the Italian company ENI, which was due to go to Block 3 for drilling operations scheduled in the 'Souphia' (Cuttlefish) field within Cyprus's EEZ.

Even though the EU has condemned these provocative actions, it has failed to announce appropriate preventive measures in the event of fresh provocative actions by Turkey in the Aegean.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

What preventive action does the EU intend to take to defend the EEZ of Cyprus, a Member State of the EU, and the recognised right of the Cypriot people to exploit its energy resources?

Has it issued an early warning that it intends to impose specific sanctions on companies and individuals involved in any Turkish drilling activities that violate international law and Cyprus's EEZ?