

**Question for written answer P-005650/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Turkish provocation of Greece

Under Article 3(5) of the Treaty on European Union, the Union is obliged, in its relations with the wider world, to seek to cultivate peace and normality, solidarity between peoples and compliance with international law.

This clearly includes the international agreements that have irrevocably established the status of the Greek islands in the Aegean Sea, along with the principle of border inviolability. However, this principle and the provisions of international law have recently been called into question by the Turkish Defence Minister, who claimed that Greece exercised only provisional de facto sovereignty over 16 of its islands and that they in fact belonged to the Republic of Turkey¹

These utterances show that Turkey is once again seeking to create tension and call into question the principles of international law applicable to the Aegean. As a result, Greece is still, at a time of economic hardship, being forced to incur costs of several million euros annually to deal with the problem.²

In view of this:

What action will the High Representative take in response to these unacceptable acts of provocation by Turkey in seeking to challenge the territorial integrity of an EU Member State?

¹ http://www.todayszaman.com/diplomacy_turkish-defense-minister-rejects-greek-territorial-claims-on-aegean-islands_376391.html

² <http://www.enet.gr/?i=news.el.article&id=81771>