

Question for written answer P-004212/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - EU measures to end Turkish encroachments on its external borders

Since the beginning of the year, Turkey has been stepping up its encroachments on EU air and sea boundaries. Up to the end of April, 600 violations of Greek airspace, 27 flights by Turkish military aircraft over Greek islands and 350 violations of the Athens FIR have been recorded.

On 15 December 2015, the EU Council yet again called on Turkey to respect fully the sovereignty of the EU Member States over their airspace and territorial waters. In this connection, the EU once more underlined its serious concerns, calling on Turkey to refrain from making any threat or taking any aggressive action against an EU Member State that might damage good neighbourly relations.

In a resolution adopted on 14 April, the European Parliament once again called on the Turkish Government to end its repeated encroachments on Greek airspace and territorial waters and flights by Turkish military aircraft over Greek islands.

In view of this:

- Can the Vice-President/High Representative say whether these dangerous actions by the Turkish authorities in sending aircraft that are sometimes armed into the airspace of an EU Member State constitute a direct threat against its sovereignty?
- What specific measures – aside from exhortations – will the Vice-President/High Representative take to ensure that Turkey ceases its violations of European borders and to defuse the situation in the Aegean?
- When does she intend to implement the sanctions provided for?