

Question for written answer P-009192/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Condemnation of provocative statements by Turkish Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu maintaining that Imia belongs to Turkey

The Turkish Government has been issuing dangerous and provocative statements challenging the sovereign rights of Greece on the Aegean Sea. After wild claims by Kılıçdaroğlu regarding 18 Greek islands in the Aegean and ongoing attempts to dispute the Treaty of Lausanne, on 1 December 2016 Turkish Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu claimed that Imia belonged to Turkey.

In this way, the Turkish Government is once more contesting the borders of Greece and the Treaty of Lausanne.

Turkey then proceeded to issue NOTAM A5446/16, calling on Greece to cease all military planning and manoeuvres south of Kasos, that is to say in one of three areas in the eastern Aegean used by the Greek armed forces for exercises pursuant to NOTAM A2646/46, claiming that it is a demilitarized zone.

It is clear that Turkey, exploiting the impunity governing its relations with the EU, is attempting to provoke crisis in its relations with Greece, thereby creating tension in the Eastern Mediterranean.

In view of this:

- Can the High Representative say what measures she intends to take to oblige Turkey to comply with international law and cease contesting the sovereign rights of Greece?