

Question for written answer P-000482/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - What measures does the EU intend to take in response to repeated Turkish violations of its external borders?

On 13 July 2016, in your answer to my question about the over 600 violations of Greek and European airspace, frequently by armed Turkish fighters, you assured me that: 'As a candidate country Turkey is expected to align with the values and objectives of the European Union as set out in the Treaties...(and) that the issue of good neighbourly relations will continue to be closely followed and will be raised by the European Union in all relevant contacts with the Turkish authorities as one of the requirements against which Turkey's progress in the negotiations is measured.'

Since then, there have been more than 1 200 violations of Greek and European airspace and more than 400 violations of Greek and European territorial waters.

These violations came to a head on 29 January 2017, when a Turkish missile boat carrying the Turkish Chief of General Staff, Hulusi Akar, together with the heads of the Turkish army, navy and air force, escorted by two assault craft carrying Turkish special forces, approached the area of Imia.

In view of this incident, there is no doubt about Turkish aspirations at the expense of the sovereignty of a Member State.

Will the Vice-President / High Representative state:

1. Does the dangerous practice of violations by Turkish aircraft and warships constitute a direct threat to the sovereignty of the European Union?
2. What specific measures — besides recommendations — will the Vice-President/High Representative take to stop Turkey violating Europe's borders?