

**Question for written answer E-013801/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Sophocles Sophocleous (S&D)**

Subject: Illegal Turkish research vessel in the free area of Famagusta

The Turkish research vessel 'Barbaros', accompanied by a tug support vessel, the corvette 'Kemal Kourou', sailed from the port of Mersin on 22 November, reaching the Saint Andrew marine region. At first, the ship conducted illegal seismographic surveys along the southern coastline of Karpas, violating waters controlled by the Republic of Cyprus many times.

On 3 December, the 'Barbaros' was spotted in the free area of Famagusta, namely the marine area of 'Kappari' in Paralimni, causing panic and confusion.

These illegal surveys in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus by the Turkish ship are intended to maintain a climate of tension following the recent awarding of licences for hydrocarbon location, exploration and exploitation by the Republic of Cyprus.

How does the Commission intend to respond to the Turkish provocations?

Will it continue to allow Turkey, as a candidate country, to fail to respect a Member State?