

**Question for written answer E-003153/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Continued illegal drilling by Turkey off Cyprus: need for the European Union to take action against these provocations

After the vessel Fatih, which was already in the area, Turkey has recently also deployed the Yavuz to prospect for gas and oil in the Eastern Mediterranean, in an area off the coast of Cyprus for which Nicosia has granted a concession to Eni and the French company Total.

The Government of Cyprus has denounced the operations as 'utterly provocative and aggressive' and as indicating a decision to 'irreversibly depart from international legality', and the USA too, represented by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, has stated that 'no country can hold Europe hostage'.

On 18 September, Nicosia announced that it had granted a contract for shared production in Block 7, in a consortium involving Total (which would act as the operator). At the same time, the Government of Cyprus also reorganised the holdings in other blocks, bringing the French into a series of areas already awarded to Eni, where Eni remains the operator.

Does not the Commission think that, in view of these repeated violations of international law, the time has come to announce and, if necessary, impose appropriate sanctions on Turkey?