

**Question for written answer E-000303/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Demetris Papadakis (S&D)

Subject: Further acts of provocation by Turkey in the EEZ of the Republic of Cyprus

Turkey has once again been ramping up tensions in the eastern Mediterranean by sending the Yavuz drilling vessel into the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Cyprus. This is the third illegal drilling operation by this vessel and it is taking place in the waters over the continental shelf to the south of Cyprus, located in block 8 of its EEZ, in which the European ENI and TOTAL companies have been licensed to operate.

This is in breach of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and of customary international law, which is also binding on non-signatory countries such as Turkey. Such unlawful claims on the continental shelf and EEZ of the Republic of Cyprus are a serious infringement of that country's exclusive sovereign rights regarding the exploitation of its natural resources.

In view of this:

1. What action will the Commission take to uphold the sovereign rights of Cyprus, an EU Member State?
2. Does it intend to seek targeted sanctions against Turkey?