

**Question for written answer E-004610/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Turkey's exploration activities in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone and Turkish aggression against an EU Member State's sovereignty

On Thursday 23 July, Turkey announced its imminent intention to deploy ships to the Eastern Mediterranean. This is not the first time that Turkey has undertaken manoeuvres in waters claimed by Cyprus, an EU Member State, which has recently started to develop a gas field in the area.

On Thursday 30 July, Peter Stano, the spokesperson for the European External Action Service, described Turkey's announcement by Navtex (maritime information system) message that it intended to carry out exploratory activities to the east of Cyprus as a 'negative development'.

The northern part of Cyprus is governed by Turkey and the disputed land and sea borders between Cyprus and Turkey underlie talks between the two countries. Nevertheless, these borders are demarcated by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, known as the Montego Bay Agreement. According to this agreement, Turkey does indeed impinge on the exclusive waters of its neighbours.

Defending exclusive economic zones must be a priority for the European Union's geopolitics.

In view of this fresh interference by Turkey into the affairs of a Member State, will the Commission take concrete action to address this aggression?