

**Question for written answer E-000064/2021  
to the Council**

Rule 138

**Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (PPE)**

Subject: Turkish provocation off the islets of Imia

On Wednesday 6 January, in a fresh act of provocation by Turkey, a patrol boat belonging to the Turkish coastguard made dangerous manoeuvres in Greek waters off the islets of Imia when it attempted to push back Greek fishing vessels and collided with two vessels of the Greek coastguard, which were badly damaged.

Every day, patrol boats of the Turkish coast guard illegally obstruct Greek fishermen going about their business off the rocky islets of Imia and elsewhere. On a number of occasions, Turkish port officials have threatened Greek fishermen with weapons and caused damage to their nets and equipment.

Turkey's provocative stance and subsequent action are yet another example of its infringing conduct. It deliberately ignores international law and the Law of the Sea, and unsettles the climate that prevails in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean, opting for a policy of tension in violation of good neighbourly relations.

In view of the fact that Turkey has recently been challenging the status quo in the Aegean in every way possible, testing both international balances and stability in this fragile region, can the Council say:

How does it assess Turkey's stance, given that last December the EU warned Ankara that heavy sanctions would be imposed at the next European Summit in March?