

Question for written answer E-001947/2022

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Dimitrios Papadimoulis (The Left)

Subject: Totally inadequate Commission response to inadmissible and blameworthy utterances by the Turkish President

Constant provocation by Turkey, which is intensifying its daily incursions into Greek airspace and its unprovoked illegal actions in Cyprus, is steadily ramping up the tension caused by perceived threats to international and regional security and peace. Against this backdrop, the Turkish President's deliberately offensive utterances regarding the Greek Prime Minister¹ are totally inadmissible and blameworthy. In the face of such affronts, the Commission cannot remain neutral and inactive, but is required under international law to take effective action and undertake to uphold the sovereign rights of Greece as an EU Member State. The refusal by Commission Deputy Chief Spokesperson Dana Spinant to comment on the Turkish President's utterances², in line with an untenable strategy of keeping an equal distance, was a totally inadequate response to Turkish provocation and aggression, leaving a shadow of doubt hovering over the Commission's intended approach to critical issues of international law and sovereign rights.

In view of this:

1. Can the Vice-President / High Representative say how the Commission will respond effectively to Turkish acts of provocation in the region, which are challenging the sovereignty of Greece and Cyprus?
2. How does the Commission plan to prevent unilateral Turkish infringements of international law and any further threats to security and stability that might further ramp up tensions in the region?

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/turkeys-erdogan-says-greek-pm-mitsotakis-no-longer-exists-him-2022-05-23/>

² <https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1185140/commission-spokesperson-declines-to-comment-on-erdogan-remarks/>, <https://m.naftemporiki.gr/story/1865769>