

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2589/06  
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to the Council

Subject: Turkish accession to the EU, collision between Turkish and Greek fighter aircraft, infringements of the principle of good neighbourly relations and compliance with obligations under the association agreement

On 23 May 2006 two Turkish F16 fighter planes and one RF4 reconnaissance-photography aircraft were spotted flying in battle formation over the Aegean to the south of the island of Karpathos without having previously submitted a flight plan to the Athens FIR<sup>1</sup>. Two Greek F-16 fighter jets were sent to investigate one of which was hit by a Turkish F-16 at a height of 27 000 feet. The Greek pilot was killed while the Turkish pilot managed to eject and was subsequently recovered by a Greek rescue team. It was subsequently revealed that the Turkish fighter aircraft had been sent to photograph the defence systems installed on the island of Crete. In view of the fact that an Egyptian civil aircraft was in the vicinity, the pilot of which d the collision, and given the large number of civil aircraft traversing the Athens FIR at any one time:

1. Are such bellicose incursions by Turkey into the Aegean compatible with its European strategy and in particular the provisions of Council Decision 2006/35/EC<sup>2</sup> on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the accession partnership with Turkey, expressly requiring Turkey to unequivocally commit to good neighbourly relations, address any sources of friction with neighbours and refrain from any action which could negatively affect the process of peaceful settlement of disputes?
2. What explanation can there be for bellicose actions directed against a Member State on the part of an applicant country?
3. Does the process of Turkish accession to the European Union require respect for the principle of good neighbourly relations or not? What are Turkey's obligations in this respect, given that the above Council decision requires Turkey to ensure that civilian control of the military in particular, as regards to the formulation of the national security strategy and its implementation and to bring about greater accountability and transparency in the conduct of security affairs?
4. Is the effect of the provocative actions of Turkey's armed forces on its relations with Greece being duly noted and will account be taken of this tragic incident ion the progress report regarding Turkish accession to be published at the end of 2006?

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<sup>1</sup> Flight Information Region.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 22, 26.1.2006, p. 34.