

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1362/09  
by Vural Öger (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Dovetailing of regional initiatives in the eastern neighbourhood: Eastern Partnership, Black Sea Synergy and South Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Platform

At the moment there are a number of regional initiatives in the EU's eastern neighbourhood which are very similar in their geographical scope. Alongside the Eastern Partnership initiated by the EU and Black Sea Synergy, Turkey has proposed the South Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Platform, which, as well as the three South Caucasus States – Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan –, would also involve Russia and Turkey. The Eastern Partnership does not see conflict resolution as one of its aims. However, the region is still characterised by unresolved conflicts, so that one could imagine seeing these initiatives as complementary.

Does the Commission look upon Turkey's initiative as competition or does it believe that a dovetailing of EU and regional initiatives originating in the region itself would be desirable? Can the Commission provide information on whether possible inter-initiative consultation mechanisms are being looked at and whether Black Sea Synergy (or a future Black Sea union) could provide a possible framework for this, since this would include not only the EU and the South Caucasus States, but also Turkey and Russia?