

**Question for written answer P-008204/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Eleni Theocharous (PPE)

Subject: Turkish threats against the Republic of Cyprus in relation to natural gas

Turkey is escalating its threats against the Republic of Cyprus and continuing its surveys inside Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone. In particular, an organised threat was made on 2 September 2011 in statements by Turkey's chief negotiator in its accession talks with the EU, Egemen Bağış, who asserted among other things that the Turkish navy had been instructed to intervene where necessary.

In the light of Turkey's statement of its intention to use violence, is such use of violence compatible with Turkey's position as a candidate state for accession to the EU? Is the EU prepared - and if so what action will it take - to put a stop to Turkish threats and provide practical support for the Republic of Cyprus in exercising its sovereign rights within the framework of Community solidarity, European and international law and the international law of the sea?