

Question for written answer E-003088/2024
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 144
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)

Subject: The conclusion of an EEZ agreement between Syria and Türkiye violates the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus

On 17 November 2022, Josep Borrell, the then Vice-President of the Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, replying to a question on the illegal memorandum between Türkiye and Libya, stressed that ‘the 2019 Türkiye-Libya memorandum of understanding on the delimitation of an EEZ infringes upon the sovereign rights of third States, does not comply with the Law of the Sea and does not produce any legal consequences for third States’ and that ‘all members of the international community must abide by [those] principles’.

On 23 November 2022, the European Parliament adopted a similar amendment, urging the Libyan authorities to proceed immediately with the cancellation of the illegal Türkiye-Libya memorandum of understanding.

Türkiye’s minister for transport has made a pre-announcement concerning the conclusion of an agreement between Türkiye and Syria for the establishment of an EEZ. Given that they are countries with adjacent coasts, the conclusion of an agreement between Türkiye and Syria must be based on international law – and on customary international law as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – and must take account of Cyprus’s sovereign rights in the region. Any attempt to call into question, affect or violate the sovereign rights of Cyprus constitutes a violation of international law.

In view of this:

1. What comments does the Commission have on the intention to conclude an agreement on the delimitation of an EEZ between Syria and Türkiye, which infringes the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus, an EU Member State?
2. What action does it intend to take?

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