

**Question for written answer E-000015/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: European maritime strategy and the prospect of the creation of an EU EEZ

The sea is of vital importance for the EU. According to the OECD¹, its political and economic importance is increasing rapidly because it impacts the food chain, transport networks, renewable energy sources and tourism. At the same time, it has a strong geopolitical dimension, because within the maritime zones of the 27 Member States the EU is increasing its regional strength. The conditions for exercising rights at sea have been codified by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Commission has already developed the European MSP Platform for maritime spatial planning², based on the Seville Map³. However, in the fluid geopolitical environment of the Eastern Mediterranean, European rights, which are identical to those of the Member States, are being called into question or threatened by revisionist powers such as Türkiye⁴.

Since the developments in Syria, with the pending talks on the declaration of a Türkiye-Syria EEZ (modelled on the illegal and abusive agreement between Türkiye and Libya)⁵, pose a serious risk of loss of geopolitical and economic power on the part of the EU:

1. Does the Commission intend to develop a unified strategy for maritime planning and maritime zones, in terms of both coordination and sanctions against third countries, given the challenges and threats against Member States such as Greece and Cyprus?
2. Does it intend to go ahead with the adoption of a 'European EEZ', on the basis of the Seville Map, protecting the vital maritime rights of the EU and its Member States?

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¹ https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/blueprint-for-improved-measurement-of-the-international-ocean-economy_aff5375b-en.html

² <https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/msp-practice/countries>

³ Juan Luis Suárez de Vivero and Juan Carlos Rodríguez Mateos. 'Maritime Europe and EU enlargement. A geopolitical perspective.' *Marine Policy*, Volume 30 (2006): 167-172.

⁴ <https://www.ekathimerini.com/politics/foreign-policy/1253977/ankara-irked-by-european-maritime-map/>

⁵ <https://www.ekathimerini.com/politics/foreign-policy/1257185/turkey-to-sign-eez-agreement-with-syria-transport-minister-says/>