



Dimitrios Papadimoulis

Vice-President of the European Parliament
Head of the SYRIZA - Progressive Alliance Delegation

To the attention of:

Mr. David Maria Sassoli

President of the European Parliament

Mr. Manfred Weber

President of the EPP Political Group in the European Parliament

Mrs. Iratxe García Pérez

President of the S&D Political Group in the European Parliament

Mr. Dacian Cioloş

President of the Renew Europe Political Group in the European Parliament

Mrs. Ska Keller and Mr. Philippe Lamberts

Co-Presidents of the Greens/EFA Political Group in the European Parliament

Mr. Ryszard Legutko and Mr. Raffaele Fitto

Co-Presidents of the ECR Political Group in the European Parliament

Mrs. Manon Aubry and Mr. Martin Schirdewan

Co-Presidents of the GUE/NGL Political Group in the European Parliament

3 September 2020

Subject: Request for a Plenary debate with resolution on the increasing tensions and security risks in the Mediterranean by Turkey's illegal activities against EU Member States

Dear President Sassoli,

Dear Presidents of the Political Groups in the European Parliament,

I am writing to you, since the situation in the Mediterranean is increasingly worrying because of Turkey's unilateral aggressive provocations, which jeopardise peace and stability in the Mediterranean. The European Parliament should speak firmly and with one voice on this important matter.

Despite the clear message of the European Parliament during the Plenary discussion in July and the results of the recent EU official and unofficial high-level meetings, Turkey, unperturbed, is escalating its unilateral provocations in the Mediterranean, announcing more illegal energy explorations and drillings in delimited and disputed maritime areas, violating sovereign rights of EU Member States (Greece and Cyprus) and announcing continuous NAVTEX in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean, as well as violating the arms embargo in Libya. Disregarding EU position, Turkey purposely rises the tensions in the region with inflammatory speeches including by its President R.T.Erdogan, and intensifies the violation of the International Law of the Sea, the sovereignty of EU Member States and the principle of good neighbourly relations, putting at risk the stability and peace in the Mediterranean.

In addition to the Plenary debate in July, the European Parliament should go one step beyond and after further discussing the current deteriorating situation, vote for a resolution with a firm and clear message against the Turkish destabilising provocations and illegal activities and propose a concrete strategy for de-escalation and enhanced dialogue.

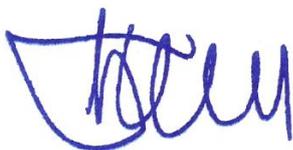
Therefore, I have proposed for the forthcoming Plenary session the following title for a debate with resolution: "Commission and Council Statement on the increasing tensions and security risks in the Mediterranean by Turkey's illegal activities against EU Member States (with resolution)", which I hope that you can support.

I strongly believe that we all have to work intensively for an urgent de-escalation, which will safeguard peace and stability in the region, and to find ways to enhance and deepen our dialogue with Turkey, based on the respect of the international law, enhancing mutual understanding.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Dimitrios Papadimoulis
Vice-President of the European Parliament
Head of the SYRIZA - Progressive Alliance Delegation