

Brussels, 26/09/2025  
A(2025)7537890 -10069255

Mr Sakis Arnaoutoglou, MEP  
European Parliament

Dear Honourable Member of the European Parliament,

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 September 2025 in which you express your concerns about a reported incident between Greek and Turkish fishing vessels.

The EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye. Unequivocal commitment to good neighbourly relations, to international agreements and to the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as well as abstaining from unilateral actions which run counter to EU interests, violate international law and the sovereign rights of EU Member States, remains an essential requirement in this respect. This is the message that I consistently pass to my interlocutors.

The European Commission is continuously calling on Türkiye to align its fisheries control with EU standards. In addition, in the Commission's country report, as part of the annual enlargement package, it is stressed that Türkiye's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) would improve cooperation with the EU on fisheries and maritime policy.

Under the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the EU reporting mechanisms ensure structured communication between coastal and flag States, enabling action when vessels are suspected of engaging in Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

In line with the relevant Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008, the Member State concerned has primary responsibility for control in its waters, including the adoption of enforcement measures and resource allocation.

The European Commission supports national efforts through the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and the European Fisheries Control Agency, which deploys the patrol vessel 'Ocean Sentinel', provides satellite imagery and aerial surveillance, and coordinates inspection campaigns.

Yours faithfully,

