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RESOLUTION

Turkish Provocations in Eastern Mediterranean

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting via Zoom, 28.11.2020

The year 2020 is undoubtedly a year with significant changes for the humanity. In this particularly sensitive period that uncertainty has become the only certainty, international affairs make no exception. The volatility we see today in geopolitics is unprecedented and the main protagonist of this situation has a name which is no other than Turkey and its President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In the last decades and even more profoundly recently, Turkey undermines any efforts of cultivating good neighbourly relations with Cyprus and Greece, two Member States of European Union by its continuous illegal unilateral activities; the multiple NAVTEX issued on the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus and Greece, the systematic violation of Greek and Cyprus borders and sovereignty and territorial integrity, the change of status of Hagia Sophia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, from that one of a museum to mosque, the situation created by Turkey at the Evros border line with Greece by the instrumentalization of migrants forcefully trying to enter the Greek territory and the opening of the occupied city of Cyprus, Famagusta last October.

The European Union and the United Nations have already expressed grave concern for the Turkish led plans to open the fenced-up area of Varosha in Cyprus, under conditions of occupation. Since the 1974 Turkish invasion, the areas to the south of the city of Famagusta, Varosha, has been sealed off and closed by the Turkish army to prevent the return of its inhabitants. Although the city is protected by two UN resolutions and in particular Resolution 550 (1984) calls for the immediate return of Varosha to its lawful habitants, Turkey threatens to settle the city with people who are not its lawful



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inhabitants. Turkey started this plan by illegally opening a part of the iconic beach in the closed part of the city.

On November 15th, President Erdogan, visited the self-proclaimed, so called, 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' where during an abominable show with the newly elected leader of the Turkish-Cypriots Mr. Tatar, they announced plans to open the whole city of Varosha and their intention to create two states on the island of Cyprus which is a blatant deviation from the framework of negotiations based on a bizonal, bicomunal federal model for Cyprus, as established by the UN Security Council Resolutions and the parameters set out by the UN Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres in Crans Montana. YEPP is also deeply concerned with the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean caused by the illegal hydrocarbons exploration activities conducted by Turkey, via seismic and drilling vessels accompanied by war ships, in the territorial sea, the Exclusive Economic zone (EEZ) and the continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus and in Greece's continental shelf, in violation of the rules of international law and the Law of the Sea. Such illegal activities severely affect the stability and security in the EU's South Eastern Region. Under the current volatile geopolitical field, with the world paralyzed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and with the eyes of the United States turned on its internal affairs, Turkey has been given the space to act as a bully in the region, infiltrating to other countries and trespassing sovereign rights. We call all the members of YEPP to adopt the following resolution:

Recognizing:

- The UN Security Council call for reversal of the decision to open the fenced-off area of Varosha and to adhere to UN resolutions.
- The United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).



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- The relevant conclusions of the European Council calling on Turkey to stop the unauthorized and illegal drilling activities in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone.
- The European Parliament's resolution, approved on the 13th of November 2014, urging Turkey to show restraint and to respect Cyprus sovereignty over its territorial sea borders and Cyprus's sovereign rights in its Exclusive Economic Zone, with reference to the 2005 EU declaration stating that "recognition of all Member States is a necessary component of accession process".
- The 2019 European Parliament resolution on the 2018 Commission report on Turkey.
- The framework of negotiations based on a bi-zonal, bicomunal federal model for Cyprus provided for by the UN Security Council Resolutions, in line with the EU law, values and principles and based on the Guterres framework reached in 2017 in Crans Montana.
- The European Parliament resolution 0332 adopted on 26th Nov 2020 calling for "the European Council to maintain its unified position vis-à-vis unilateral and illegal actions by Turkey, to take action and impose tough sanctions in response to Turkey's illegal actions".

Acknowledging:

- Turkey's unilateral escalations with Europe by the continued violation of the national airspace and the territorial waters of Greece and the Republic of Cyprus.
- The 46 years of military occupation imposed by Turkey on the Republic of Cyprus must cease.
- The settlement process should be Cypriot-led, aiming to unify the island as a bizonalbicomunal federation.
- There should be no deviation from the framework of negotiations based on a bizonal, bicomunal federal model for Cyprus as established by the UN Security Council



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resolutions, as well as on the parameters set out by the UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres in Crans Montana.

Condemns:

- Turkey's recent actions and statements that continue to undermine efforts to resume the Cyprus problem talks.
- Turkey's and the so-called 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' provocative actions to bring Varosha under its own administration which are an infringement of the UN resolutions and decisions taken for Varosha.
- Turkey's continued actions to disrupt the Republic of Cyprus drilling program by launching its own drilling operations within the Republic of Cyprus territorial waters as well as Turkey's illegal and provocative actions in the continent shelf of Greece.

YEPP calls upon:

- The immediate de-escalation of the situation in the area.
- Turkey to comply with the United Nations Security Council resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992) and to immediate return Varosha to its lawful inhabitants, under UN administration, in accordance with those Resolutions.
- Turkey to refrain from actions and statements that undermine the efforts to resume the Cyprus problem talks for a just, sustainable and viable solution to the benefit of all the people of Cyprus, without the presence of foreign troops, and the anachronistic system of guarantees and intervention rights of any foreign state.
- Turkey to take constructive steps to facilitate the negotiations, resuming the constructive talks which have been interrupted to its culpability.
- Turkey to refrain from any activity which is not conducive to good neighbourly relations and cause instability in the region.



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- The European Union to take all necessary measures to support Greece and Cyprus and to reassess the European Union relations with Turkey.
- The immediate activation of the economic sanctions drawn up by the European Commission.
- The European Council to maintain a unified position and take all necessary measures against unilateral illegal turkish activity aiming to create tension, new disputed areas and de facto cases of unlawful occupation of land with the use of army;
- The European Council, in absence of any progress and results of measures already taken, to adopt an arms embargo against Turkey.