

11/11/2020

## **Greece-Turkey: Athens reacts to Turkish Navtex extending Oruc Reis activities**

[www.ekathimerini.com](http://www.ekathimerini.com)

Athens on Wednesday condemned Turkey's decision earlier in the day to issue a navigational telex (Navtex) for the continuation of survey activities of the Oruc Reis vessel in an area overlapping the Greek continental shelf in the Eastern Mediterranean through November 23.

In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said that the move is in violation of international law and *"undermines peace and stability in the region."*

It said the decision causes further damage to any prospects for constructive dialogue between the two sides and called upon Turkey to cancel the unauthorized Navtex.

**The ministry added that Athens will lodge a demarche with Turkish authorities over the notice, as well as inform Greece's allies and partners about "Turkey's continuing illegal behavior."**

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11/11/2020

## **Greece-Egypt: to welcome more decisive US involvement under Biden**

[www.ekathimerini.com](http://www.ekathimerini.com)

Greece and Egypt, which angered Turkey by reaching an agreement on natural resources in the EMED, will welcome more decisive US involvement in the region under President-elect Joe Biden, the Greek PM said on Wednesday, 11/11/2020.

- **"Both Greece and Egypt will receive positively a more decisive role of the United States in the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean,"** Kyriakos Mitsotakis said at a news conference with visiting Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Cairo and Athens sealed an accord for the partial demarcation of maritime boundaries in August, giving them rights over natural resources in the Mediterranean.

**Mitsotakis** said the accord showed that countries which respect international law and good neighbourly relations can achieve results to the benefit of their people. He **said both Greece and Egypt were willing to expand the accord.**

Turkey, which is at odds with Greece over overlapping claims to energy resources in the Mediterranean, says the pact infringes on its own continental shelf.

The agreement also overlaps maritime zones Turkey agreed to with Libya last year, which were declared illegal by Athens.

[...]

On Wednesday, Greece said Turkey's new naval advisory from Nov. 11-23, engaging an area for seismic activities, was provocative and urged Ankara to revoke it immediately.

- **"We agreed to continue our solidarity, alongside all friendly countries, in order to confront anyone who threatens regional stability and security, and in a way that prevents any party from imposing its hostile positions,"** Sisi said.

Biden will further lay the groundwork for his new administration on Wednesday as President Donald Trump pursues a flurry of lawsuits challenging the results of the Nov. 3 election in an effort to cling to power.

[Reuters]

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11/11/2020

## **Turkey-Greece: Turkish fishing boat collides with Greek vessel; 4 dead**

[www.ekathimerini.com](http://www.ekathimerini.com)

A Turkish fishing boat capsized on Wednesday after colliding with a Greek-flagged tanker off Turkey's Mediterranean coast, officials said. Four people on board the boat were killed while one other person is reported missing.

The incident between the Polatbey fishing boat and the Greek-flagged Ephesus occurred at dawn, about 15 nautical miles off the coast of Karatas, in Adana province, the Turkish coast guard said.

A search-and-rescue operation involving three coast guard boats and a team of divers was launched shortly after communications with the boat was lost.

The coast guards later recovered four bodies and was still searching for a fifth person, the Adana governor's office said in a statement.

The cause of the incident wasn't immediately known. [AP]

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11/11/2020

## Turkey-US: Turkish FM to snub Pompeo during Istanbul visit

www.middleeasteye.net

[...] "Turkish officials made clear that Cavusoglu wouldn't meet Pompeo unless he comes to Ankara for an official visit," one person familiar with the issue told MEE.

"Americans maintain that Pompeo's agenda is too packed and he couldn't make space for Ankara. They wanted to have a meeting [with Cavusoglu] in Istanbul, which isn't going to happen." [...]

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10/11/2020

## EU Delegation: EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REPORT – NOVEMBER 10, 2020

- GMAIL\_DELEGATION\_SUBSCRIPTIONS\_ECA\_ASIA\_AFRICA\_MENA\_EN

### HIGHLIGHTS

Turkey is in a "historic struggle" against those seeking to shackle it with high interest rates, inflation and exchange rates, President Erdogan said. No one can come up and explain the justification behind the unconditional support to those taking unjust, unlawful and unfair attempts against Turkey as we are witnessing in the concrete example of Eastern Mediterranean, he added. Erdogan also said that Turkey has gained weight in regional and global matters.

"No one should expect Turkey to abandon its right to the resources [in the Eastern Mediterranean], and initiatives [in the region] excluding Turkey have no chance of success," FM Mevlut Cavusoglu told the 12th Ambassadors' Conference in Ankara. There are concrete opportunities including updating the Customs Union and visa liberation. The migration issue is our common problem. The March 18 [2016] agreement must be updated with this understanding, he added.

Germany has approved ~522 million in arms exports to Turkey since 2002. Greek FM Nikos Dendias urged Germany to halt the sale of Type 214 class submarines to Turkey, saying that the move would upset the existing power balance and enable Ankara to destabilize the Eastern Med.

MHP Deputy Chairman Kamil Aydin accused the CHP of failing to stand by Turkey on national matters especially on the Eastern Mediterranean

### FULL STATEMENTS

*President Erdogan speaks at ceremony to mark the 82nd anniversary of passing of Turkey's founding father Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, November 10, 2020*

We have succeeded to reunite our country with her history as well as worldwide goals, through our clashes with the pro-tutelage mentality that consider themselves as the master of the people and slave to the west. Those who have been used to utilising this country for years through a handful of political and economic elites, as if it was their property, have attacked us through every means and method. Those who have lost their privileges inside did not make much effort to find proponents too. We need to look into the developments unfolded in the last 18 years of Turkey from this perspective as well. This struggle has always remained underneath the insidious games of the tutelage, bloody attacks of terror organisations, attacks into our borders aiming to divide our people and land, coup attempts and sabotages against our economy. Turkey has been subject of such a deep and heinous siege because she has revived an even stronger War of Independence which had been launched a century back. If we had remained within the narrow boundaries drawn for our country like in the past, if we did not reject surrender, if we had done what the tutelage said rather than the people we would not have had any of these problems however we would not be able to look at our nation in the face. We would not have gained the prayers of the oppressed who have given their hearts and turned their faces towards us. We would not have had anything to say to the new generations. We have always meant it when we said call for prayer will never be silenced, our flag will always fly, people will not be divided, the land will not be split, our country will grow and state will strengthen.

**From Libya to Cyprus, we have come to a level where we can own up to all that has been entrusted to us by our history and our civilization, where necessary even if it would cost us our lives. We have risen to the level of a country, whose words are heard; whose stance is taken into consideration; whose side has gained weight in regional and global matters.** Don't we have any problems? Of course, we do. But none of them are problems that we cannot overcome or resolve.

**One of the issues that we focused a lot on was economy. In fact, on one side of any overt or covert attack that we have been exposed to with every step that we have taken in this period, there was economy. The fact that many countries --**

**none of whose political and economic indicators are comparable to our country s-- are ranking before us is fully a part of this struggle.**

**We have and we are still seeing this in all international political and economic platforms, and notably in the EU full membership process. There is no one who can claim that international credit rating organizations do their assessments on objective criteria. No one can come up and claim that the criticisms in the western media against our country are based on facts and genuine grounds. No one can come up and explain the justification behind the unconditional support to those taking unjust, unlawful and unfair attempts against Turkey as we are witnessing in the concrete example of Eastern Mediterranean.** Altogether, we are following those --who in spite of having dressed up as the flag bearers of democracy-- taking sides with cruel regimes and with coupists just because Turkey is advocating for legitimate administrations or persecuted innocent people.

In this climate, who can honestly claim that what we are experiencing with the economy is the result of their own system? There's not much need for in-depth technical analyses to realize that those who berate our economy do so due to ulterior motives.

How much did Turkey owe the IMF when we came to power? It was \$23.5 billion. What did we do? After we came to power, we whittled down that debt to zero in May 2013. We currently have absolutely no relationship with the IMF in connection with unpaid debts. It was capitulations back then, today it is the IMF. They were all but in complete control of the political will. Are you owed money and are unable to collect? You cannot interfere in our politics. You'll get your money, but you will not be giving us political advice. I am the prime minister of this country. The meetings I had during my time as prime minister. May god save us from having to deal with these people. We are waging a fight against those who seek to hold Turkey prisoner with the modern-age capitulations that are the shackles of interest and exchange rates.

## STATEMENTS

Statements by President Erdogan

Turkey in a historic struggle against those trying to force Turkey into modern capitulations

Turkey is in a "historic struggle" against those seeking to shackle it with high interest rates, inflation and exchange rates, President Erdogan said. "We are in a historic struggle against those who want to force Turkey into modern capitulations through the shackles of interest rates, forex rates and inflation," he said at a commemoration event held on the occasion of the 82nd anniversary of Ataturk's demise. Turkey will overcome political obstacles to work on improving economic growth, employment and exports, he added. Hopefully, we will achieve and ensure that our country has reached its goal in many areas so far and will be among the top 10 in the world in the economy. I believe that this will be the greatest gift to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the Republic of Turkey, Erdogan said.

[...]

Statements by FM Mevlut Cavusoglu

'Initiatives excluding Turkey in EMED have no chance'

"No one should expect Turkey to abandon its right to the resources [in the Eastern Mediterranean], and initiatives [in the region] excluding Turkey have no chance of success," FM Mevlut Cavusoglu told the 12th Ambassadors' Conference in Ankara. We want to solve the problems with Greece by talking. We do not close our doors to dialogue and diplomacy without preconditions. We present them with all sorts of reasonable diplomatic initiatives: Concrete proposals such as exploratory talks, revenue sharing, or a regional conference were all proposed by us, he said.

Turkey to issue a report on developments in the West with respect to Islamophobia

FM Cavusoglu also addressed Islamophobia in his speech. The challenges facing peace and stability in the world are not just geopolitical. We maintain that xenophobia and Islamophobia, which have become a problem in Europe for quite some time, has the potential to turn Europe into the sick man of the world, he said. I would like to use this occasion to announce that we as the Foreign Ministry will be issuing a report on developments in the West with respect to Islamophobia, xenophobia and anti-immigration movements. These reports will allow us to expose the crimes being perpetrated and monitor judicial procedures, he added.

Where there is no political equality, there needs to be equality of sovereignty

Regarding Cyprus, FM Cavusoglu said, Cyprus is our national cause. It is clear who is blocking paths to a solution. There is a mindset on the island that does not see the Turkish community as equal. Where there is no political equality, there needs to be equality of sovereignty, and so it shall be. The Cypriot Turks will not sit at the table just to negotiate.

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10/11/2020

## Turkey: Erdoğan's Turkey instigates tension between Islamists and the West

ahvalnews.com

Turkey, under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's rule, has established a role as an ideological instigator of tension between Islamist elements and the West, Ioannis E. Kotoulas, an adjunct lecturer in geopolitics at the University of Athens, said on Monday 9/11/20.

*"Erdoğan's Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated Turkish government has been on the forefront of tension with Europe and now aspires to be the standard bearer of Islamist extremism,"* Kotoulas said in an article in the *Algemeiner*.

In his early days as head of state, Erdoğan was praised by Western diplomats and analysts for his potential as a leader who could combine political Islam and democracy in a country with a complex ethnic, religious, and social mix.

However, the mood has changed radically as Erdoğan "*rallies Islamists by promoting the notion that Europe is at war with Islam*", and declares "*his intent to interfere in other countries in the name of religion*", the analyst said.

Erdoğan and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron engaged in a war of words after the French president said Islam was a religion "in crisis" worldwide. Erdoğan called on Turks to boycott French products during an escalating outcry in the Muslim world over France's support for the right to caricature Prophet Muhammad.

*"Turkey tries to appear as the leader of the Islamic resistance against 'Western imperialism' and accuses the West of no longer feeling 'the need to cover up their hatred toward Islam anymore',"* Kotoulas said.

[for mentioned article [The West Can't Trust a Turkey Ruled by Erdogan](#), click here ]

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11/11/2020

## **Greece: Interview of MFA Dendias**

[www.mfa.gr](http://www.mfa.gr)

### **Commentaire de l'auteur**

*Interview of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nikos Dendias, in Proto Thema, with journalist M. Pollatos (8 November 2020)*

M. POLLATOS: How can we avoid the trap Turkey is setting by carrying out surveys for almost two months now over the Greek continental shelf? And how will Greece react to Turkey's provocations?

N. DENDIAS: We have made a conscious choice to act prudently, calmly and with resolve. In that direction, we are methodically building diplomatic support. At the European Council meeting in October, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis stressed to our partners that a clear message should be sent: that Turkey must stop its violations of international legality. In the Council conclusions, there is clear reference to the potential for adopting sanctions if Turkey continues its unilateral actions and provocations. Turkey is now faced with the creation of a list of sanctions. At the same time, in letters I've sent, I have raised a number of issues related to our neighbouring country's stance, from its violation of the customs union with the EU to matters of provision of arms by certain countries, and I have repeatedly underscored to my colleagues issues such as Ankara's blackmailing of Europe through migration flows and the major issue of security due to the confirmed facilitation of transport of jihadists to Libya, Syria and Nagorno-Karabakh. I have also raised issues that have to do with values, such as the violation of human rights in our neighbouring country. Turkey needs to realise that the deterioration of its relations with Greece has a cost, literally and figuratively, but no benefit. In particular with regard to the December meeting of the European Council, it remains to be seen, in the coming weeks, whether the time provided for diplomacy will bear fruit. But so far, our neighbour's conduct doesn't leave much room for optimism that it will change its stance. In my opinion, Turkey should treat Greece as its potential best friend.

M. POLLATOS: Even if the 'Oruc Reis' stops its wanderings, what would be the point of the exploratory talks on the delimitation of maritime zones if the Turks argue that the region they are surveying is their own continental shelf?

N. DENDIAS: The framework of the exploratory talks is specific and strictly defined. It concerns exclusively the issue of the delimitation of maritime zones in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean. However, Turkey's recent moves show that, for the time being, it does not want constructive dialogue under the predetermined rules and framework. Rather than proposing a specific date for resumption of the exploratory talks, it is choosing to create a climate that renders these talks impossible. In any case, as long as Turkey's illegal activities continue in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean, a constructive dialogue cannot be launched. We are calling on Turkey to stop its provocative actions and stop using delay tactics.

M. POLLATOS: Why is the extension of Greek territorial waters in the Ionian Sea being delayed?

N. DENDIAS: On 26 August, the prime minister announced, in Parliament, the government's decision to extend territorial waters from 6 to 12 nautical miles in the Ionian. But this must be preceded by the closing of bays and drawing straight baselines. The relevant Presidential Decrees have been prepared and have already been submitted to the Council of State. The next step will be the extension of territorial waters in the Ionian, as determined by the Constitution. The implementation of this government decision shows, once again, our country's adherence to the rules of International Law and, more specifically, the International Law of the Sea, which underscores the inalienable right to unilateral extension of our territorial waters to 12 nautical miles.

M. POLLATOS: Why was the agreement with Albania to refer the delimitation of maritime zones to The Hague a success? What if the International Court doesn't rule 100% in favour of Greece's positions? Might The Hague be a way to reach a compromise that the Greek people couldn't otherwise accept?

N. DENDIAS: We agreed with Albania to proceed to the joint submission of the matter of delimitation of maritime zones to the International Court in The Hague so that this long-pending issue can be resolved based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. This agreement is, by definition, a very important joint success, given that our country and Albania are advocating for the resolution of bilateral disputes based solely on International Law and dialogue. If dialogue doesn't lead to an agreement, then disputes must be resolved through international arbitration. In the space of one year, Greece succeeded in concluding two agreements on the delimitation of maritime zones – first with Italy, and then with Egypt. In the case of Albania, the agreement to refer the dispute to the International Court in The Hague – the first time Greece and a neighbouring country have agreed to this process – creates a very important precedent for the wider region and sends a clear message to Turkey. Allow me to underscore that the agreement reached two weeks ago in Tirana has the full support of the political forces in Albania – the full support of the government and the opposition. Allow me to also stress that the special agreement referring the dispute to The Hague will be submitted after the extension of our country's territorial waters in the Ionian to 12 nautical miles. All of this is happening with the full agreement of the Albanian side, which deserves recognition for its respect for International Law.

M. POLLATOS: Are you planning partial extension of Greek territorial waters to 12 nautical miles in the maritime area south of Crete, and when?

N. DENDIAS: Greece retains the inalienable right to unilateral extension of its territorial waters from 6 to 12 nautical miles, based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The decision to extend in the Ionian has already been made, and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we are elaborating the next steps in that process. It is clear that the same exclusive right we have as a coastal state also exists in all the other regions of the country and will be exercised when deemed advisable, based on our overall strategic planning.

M. POLLATOS: Do you think the government and Greek society run the risk of being inured to Turkey's provocations? Are we becoming accustomed and indifferent to Erdogan's aggressiveness?

N. DENDIAS: It is a fact that we are facing Turkish provocations of unprecedented duration and diffusion. The list is long. Beyond the exploitation of the migration issue, we are seeing constant violations of airspace, an unprecedented number of flights over Greek territory, survey vessels in areas overlapping the Greek continental shelf, and so on. Our country responds to those challenges immediately. For every one of Turkey's illegal actions, we make strict demarches and, at the same time, notify our partners and the international organizations, including the EU, the UN and NATO. We leave no Turkish challenge unanswered, and we will never leave one unanswered the future. But we don't simply react. We are taking initiatives, creating networks of relations with other countries that are also being hurt by Turkish expansionism. We have started a campaign to debunk Turkey's image as a western-oriented partner. We are projecting to everyone the real image of Turkey today. A country with neo-Ottoman inclinations. A country that wants to impose its will on the region. And, at the same time, a country that supports extremist Islamist organizations. But we respond prudently to Turkey's provocations. We aren't falling into the trap Turkey is setting for us. We don't want militarisation of the confrontation nor do we want to be the ones to cause a sharp increase in tensions. However, this should not be interpreted as tolerance. We will always react, in proportion to each challenge. What we want is a different Turkey. A Turkey that respects the principles of peaceful coexistence between neighbouring states and has a renewed European perspective. We have no disagreement with Turkish society. Our disagreement concerns the specific policy being exercised, and I hope it finally changes. If this changes and is accompanied by a new effort to resolve the Cyprus problem, we can turn a new page in Greek-Turkish relations, provided there is the necessary political will in Ankara.

M. POLLATOS: The public are confused as to the government's red line. Is it the 12 nautical miles? How do you respond to those who say it is a success that the Oruc Reis and the navy vessels accompanying it have not entered the zone of 6 nautical miles around Greek islands?

N. DENDIAS: Our country's stance has been expressed repeatedly and requires no interpretation. We have made it equally clear that it is our intention to defend our national sovereignty and our national rights. We will tolerate no such attempt. No faits accomplis. And Turkey is well aware of this.

M. POLLATOS: Do you have any explanation for the impunity the Erdogan regime is enjoying from the EU and powerful countries such as the U.S. and Russia?

N. DENDIAS: First of all, let me say that Turkey's image in the EU is changing. And it is changing fast. This is due to Turkey's actions as well as our own. It has been made clear to our European partners that the Turkish threat is not a Greek-Turkish issue. It is an ongoing and emerging threat to Europe as a whole and to the ideas Europe represents. Turkey is destabilising the whole region, from the Caucasus to Libya, through the Aegean, the Eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus, Syria and even Egypt, where, through its open support for the Muslim Brotherhood, it is opposing President Sisi. It is promoting divisive rhetoric and moving towards becoming a mouthpiece for Islamic extremism in Europe and the Middle East.

M. POLLATOS: What is your comment on the outcome of the U.S. elections? Regardless of the result, should Washington impose sanctions on Ankara for the S-400s?

N. DENDIAS: Regardless of whether the vote counting has been completed, it is certain that we will work hard with the U.S. government to further deepen the already exceptional level of our bilateral relations. With regard to the S-400s, as you know, the U.S. has suspended delivery of the F-35, while calls for sanctions are increasing in Congress.

M. POLLATOS: In spite of the deadly earthquake in Samos and Izmir, this time diplomacy didn't pan out. Can a positive attitude stop those who dream of another Manzikert?

N. DENDIAS: A positive attitude is a necessary condition for mitigating the tensions. But it isn't enough on its own. It also has to come from both sides and be in good faith. Turkey's actions, and specifically the issuing of a new illegal NAVTEX reserving areas over the Greek continental shelf for seismic surveys just one day after the conversation between Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the Turkish president, as well as my conversation with my Turkish counterpart, unfortunately doesn't leave much room for optimism.

M. POLLATOS: Are the Germans moving towards an arms embargo or halting construction of the six Type 214 submarines? Is Berlin indifferent to overarming our neighbour? And how can the Germans be considered honest mediators?

N. DENDIAS: One of the main issues I raised with everyone I spoke to in Berlin a few days ago, starting with the Federal President, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, was precisely the issue of Germany's delivery of the T-214 submarines to Turkey. I repeatedly stressed that this would change the balance of power in the region, and I underscored that it is not in Germany's interest to arm a country with revisionist intentions with advanced weapons systems – a country that might use these weapons to threaten EU member states and, in the case of our country, a NATO ally. I didn't expect an immediate result from these talks. But I returned satisfied because the arguments I set out for my German interlocutors were accepted with understanding and created strong concern. In fact, some of the officials I talked to voiced open support for the immediate imposition of an arms embargo on Turkey and underscored that they will make every effort for this embargo to be imposed. This is an ongoing, long-term effort.

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11/11/2020

## **Turkey-Economy: Oxford Analytica: Markets will expect change from new Turkish minister**

[dailybrief.oxan.com](https://dailybrief.oxan.com)

New finance minister promises shift towards exports, innovation, legislative predictability and a pro-investment climate

Istanbul's main stock exchange index reached an all-time high this morning and the lira strengthened following signs of policy shifts with new Treasury and Finance Minister Lutfi Elvan. The Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BDDK) today announced moves towards "normalisation", relaxing limits on banks' lira swaps and other transactions. Negative real interest rates, high inflation, a weakening currency and fears of foreign sanctions had led residents to seek foreign currencies and gold. Limits introduced in February to discourage currency speculation were eased in September, but the lira continued its slide towards record lows. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accepted the resignation of his son-in-law Berat Albayrak on November 9, allowing his replacement by Elvan. He told parliament yesterday he would focus on "a market-friendly transformation programme". However, Erdogan repeated yesterday his aversion towards high interest rates.

## Oxford Analytica's judgement

First steps are being taken to reverse Albayrak's unorthodox policies that sought to tame inflation without using interest rates. Elvan, a former deputy premier and head of parliament's budget commission, can attract foreign investment back to Turkey if he can demonstrate that Erdogan's policy 'red lines' will now be crossed.

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