



Resolution on Turkey's illegal activities in the Eastern Mediterranean

The CDI is deeply concerned with the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean, caused by illegal activities conducted by Turkey which affect the stability and security in the EU's South Eastern Region. In particular, it condemns the conduct by Turkey of hydrocarbons exploration activities, 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 pertaining to the Law of Sea.

The CDI condemns all such actions and calls Turkey to respect the sovereignty and sovereign rights of Cyprus and Greece, in accordance with international law. In this regard, the CDI welcomes the agreement between Greece and Egypt, delimiting the Exclusive Economic Zone between the two countries, and commends the ongoing cooperation between Greece, Cyprus, Israel and Egypt which contributes towards stability in the region as well as energy security in the European Union.

In the interests of peace, security and stability in the region, the CDI calls upon the international community and the European Council to stand in full solidarity with Cyprus and Greece, by strengthening and expanding its sanctions regime with regard to Turkish illegal activities in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The CDI is also gravely concerned by Turkish led plans to open the fenced – up area of Varosha in Cyprus, under conditions of occupation. The CDI demands full compliance by Turkey with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and in particular Resolution 550(1984), and calls for the immediate return of Varosha to its lawful inhabitants, under UN administration, in accordance with those Resolutions.

The CDI reaffirms its strong support to the UN-led efforts for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem based on a bizonal, bicommunal federal model, without the presence of foreign troops and the anachronistic system of guarantees, in accordance to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and in line with EU law, values and principles. The CDI calls on Turkey to actively contribute to the resumption of the UN-led negotiations, from where they were left off at Crans Montana.

The CDI also condemns the conversion by the Turkish Government of Hagia Sophia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a symbol of Christianity, into a mosque, despite repeated calls by the international community to refrain from such action.

The CDI calls upon Turkey to refrain from any activity which is not conducive to good neighbourly relations in the region, to abstain from any actions that cause instability in the region and to constructively contribute to the efforts in reaching a full and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

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