



# General Assembly

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Agenda items 41 and 73 (a)

### Question of Cyprus

#### Oceans and the law of the sea

### **Letter dated 29 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

With reference to the letter of the Greek Cypriot representative dated 6 September 2016 ([A/70/1032](#)), I would like to bring to your attention the following considerations.

At the outset, I would like to reiterate that there is no single authority which in law or in fact is competent to represent both the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, consequently Cyprus as a whole.

Having said that, the outer limits of Turkey's continental shelf in the maritime areas in the eastern Mediterranean that are west of longitude 32° 16' 18" E were defined in the Turkish notes verbales No. 2004/Turkuno DT/4739, dated 2 March 2004, and No. 2013/14136816/22273, dated 12 March 2013.

In this specific case, the vessel *R/V Flash Royal*, upon entering the Turkish continental shelf on 25 August 2016 (16:37C at position 34° 43' .80 N — 032° 06' .75 E) as well as on 26 August 2016 (08:35C at position 35° 14' .56 N — 032° 06' .57 E), was hailed by the Turkish frigate TCG *Gelibolu* and was informed that it should not continue its activities on the Turkish continental shelf without prior coordination and/or permission from the relevant Turkish authorities.

The above-mentioned coordinates lie to the west of longitude 32° 16' 18" E and fall within Turkey's continental shelf, where Turkey has ipso facto and ab initio rights, as well as legitimate interests.

Therefore, in accordance with well-established rules and principles of international law, Turkish naval vessels in the area in fact do have the legitimate right to intervene in any scientific research activity conducted without the consent/permission of Turkey. In other words, the Turkish naval vessel acted with due regard to well-established international practices, and thus no "harassment" took place as alleged in the letter under reference.



In light of the foregoing, Turkey refutes all the allegations contained in the letter of the Greek Cypriot representative.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 41 and 73 (a).

*(Signed)* Y. Halit **Çevik**  
Permanent Representative

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