



-Need to reduce tensions and build confidence in the North-Eastern Mediterranean

1 In the current geopolitical circumstances, with the war raging on the European
2 continent creating global repercussions, escalating tensions and even risking an armed conflict
3 opening another front in a volatile
4 region would be utterly irresponsible, disruptive, and eventually suicidal for
5 anybody attempting it destructive. The European Green Party is watching with grave concern
6 and condemns the intensifying escalations, including verbal aggression and
7 violations of national airspace and territorial waters in the Eastern
8 Mediterranean. We remain firmly convinced that sustainable dispute resolution
9 can only be achieved through dialogue, diplomacy, and respect for international
10 law by all sides.

11 With deep concern we also see the continuing The continued and extremely concerning
12 deterioration of human rights and press freedom in the region. We are particularly concerned about
13 Türkiye's. backtrack in preventing and combating violence against women and its withdrawal from
14 the Istanbul Convention -; the
15 weakening of democratic institutions and its hostile actions, including airstrikes, against
16 neighbouring states. the struggling economy, and the growing
17 climate emergency are real concerns that the Turkish government should urgently
18 turn its attention, energy, and resources to. Economic impasses and electoral
19 insecurities cannot be addressed through escalation of hostile attitudes and
20 provocations towards Türkiye's neighbours. The fact that those neighbours are EU
21 Member States makes even more untenable the attitude of Türkiye, a candidate for
22 EU accession and regional power which wants to be respected in Europe and
23 beyond.

24 For peace, security, and good neighbourly relations in Europe's south-eastern
25 region, it is necessary to intensify efforts to build trust and introduce a
26 regional green cooperation framework. The energy transition should be a common
27 priority, together with the goal of sustainable prosperity, for all countries in
28 the region. There is no more scope for new fossil-fuel extractions, neither by
29 confrontation nor by co-exploitation. And, of course, the use of nuclear energy
30 cannot be considered as a solution, especially in earthquake-prone areas such as
31 the Eastern Mediterranean. As the EGP clearly pronounced at its 35th European
32 Green Party Council in Riga (June 2022) on the case of the Turkish nuclear power
33 plant under construction with Russian funding at Akkuyu: "The impact of a
34 failure in the safety systems at such a plant or an earthquake is a high risk
35 with inevitably catastrophic consequences for the region... In case of a nuclear
36 accident, not only the area of Akkuyu would be in danger, but also Cyprus, the
37 Greek Dodecanese region and the whole of the south-east Mediterranean region."

38 We, as European Greens:



- 39 □ **Stress the paramount importance of peaceful conflict resolution in the**
40 **Eastern Mediterranean** and urge the governments of Türkiye, Greece and
41 Cyprus to engage in constructive dialogue, stepping up efforts to **finally**
42 resolve disputes over land and maritime borders, to commit to good
43 neighbourly relations, international agreements and the peaceful
44 settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nations Charter with support of the
45 EU if necessary as a mediator within these dialogues and disputes;
- 46 □ **Call on all countries in the region to agree to a mutual freeze of any**
47 **plans for oil and gas exploration and extraction, as well as of nuclear**
48 **energy use.** We urge the governments of the region Turkish government to abandon cease
49 any plans for current or actual
50 drilling for hydrocarbon extraction of fossil fuels in the region to prevent irrevocable harm to
51 nature. Moreover we urge the Turkish government to cease any form of extraction in border
52 regions and territorial areas of their neighbours, such as drilling in the Exclusive Economic
53 Zone of
54 Cyprus and beyond, in order to stop the escalation of tensions. The future is in renewable
55 energy sources and natural
56 gas is not one of them. The governments of the region need to increase their efforts to
57 make use of. Instead of wasting limited resources, the Turkish
58 government should focus on exploiting the huge renewable energy potential
59 available within the country has, like all countries in the region together.
- 60 □ Call on Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus to seek out ways to utilise the blue and green economic
61 potential of the Mediterranean together, integrating off-shore power generated into each-
62 other's and the European interconnected grids. At the same time, we acknowledge the
63 unfair burden this places on the countries in the region and therefore call on the European
64 Union and its Member States to further work towards an interconnected energy
65 infrastructure and network for the EU and its neighbours, and to prioritise the sharing of
66 sustainable energies between high-producing countries in the EU with the countries in the
67 region.
- 68 □ **Stress that bi** and multilateral relations between Türkiye and its neighbours countries in
69 this region should
70 **be based on mutual respect for each other's borders sovereignty and peoples and on -and**
71 **on confidence-building**
72 measures the deepening of social, economic and intercultural ties, such as via cultural
73 exchanges, trade, and joint ventures in the
74 economy but also in nature protection (coordinated management of protected
75 areas on land and sea that cross state borders). Cultivating good
76 neighbourly relations is the only viable long-term strategy for peace and
77 prosperity for all in the region and for regional resilience in the face
78 of interconnected crises, such as climate change, pandemics, food, and
79 water and energy insecurity. The first to benefit from friendly bilateral
80 relations should be the inhabitants of the border regions;



- 81 ~~□ Call on all countries of the region to refrain from interfering with or~~
82 ~~curtailing the enjoyment of rights of refugees and migrants, who are being~~
83 ~~instrumentalised to serve populist political objectives of governments and~~
84 ~~political parties in the region and beyond.~~
85 ~~The cost is too high for the very people, the desperate refugees and~~
86 ~~migrants who are being used, but also for the local inhabitants in the~~
87 ~~border regions. This is particularly the case for the inhabitants of the~~
88 ~~Aegean Islands who, apart from the normal challenges of island life, find~~
89 ~~themselves 'in the firing line', fortunately only metaphorically for now;~~
- 90 □ We condemn the ongoing violations of human rights at the external borders of the
91 European Union, including the ongoing illegal pushbacks. There must be no involvement in,
92 support or toleration of such activities by national authorities and the European Border and
93 Coast Guard agency (Frontex).
- 94 □ We call for the establishment of an EU-wide fundamental rights monitoring mechanism at
95 the external borders of the European Union. We call on the EU and all its Member States to
96 protect the human rights of refugees and migrants, regardless of how they arrive at the
97 borders and which countries they travel through, in line with international and human rights
98 law and the EU asylum acquis.
- 99 □ We urgently call on the EU and its Member States to step up solidarity efforts, equally
100 accept responsibility for the reception of asylum seekers and to stop pushing for the
101 externalisation of border controls. Finding sustainable solutions is also important for the
102 local inhabitants in the border regions, in particular of the Aegean Islands who, apart from
103 the normal challenges of island life, have demonstrated remarkable solidarity with asylum
104 seekers over many years. Protecting human lives and the dignity of all individuals should be
105 the first and foremost consideration in the treatment of refugees and migrants before and
106 once they have entered EU territory.
- 107 □ Call for Turkey to end the destruction of civil infrastructure, as well as the obstruction of
108 water supply in autonomous regions in Syria and Iraq settled mostly by Kurds.
- 109 □ We condemn the recurrent Human Rights' violation taking place internally in Turkey, and
110 particularly the repression against the Kurdish community.
- 111 □ Call for an immediate end to Turkish military operations in Syria and Iraq, and for the swift
112 withdrawal of the Turkish armed forces from any territory outside the internationally
113 recognised borders of the Turkish Republic
- 114 **□ Stand in solidarity with the people of all Mediterranean countries in**
115 **their quest for peace, security, cooperation, and mutual respect anchored**
116 **in international law. Today, t**~~he~~ **immediate neighbours of each country are**
117 **de facto its primary partners. Nationalism, reviosionism and intolerance harm everyone,**
118 **especially and directly ethnic, cultural and national minorities, particularly those and**
119 **instrumentalised as political pawns, and even harm those**
120 **but most of all the groups that promote them such practices in the long-run.** We support



- 121 the integration
122 into the European Union of candidate countries~~our immediate neighbours~~, but without
123 concessions in terms of acceptance and implementation of the EU *acquis*. A cautious
124 return to the baseline of the 2000s and early 2010s is still within our memory and grasp, but
125 this requires, above all, that Türkiye shows in practice its espousal of and commitment to EU
126 norms and values. Moreover, bilateral and multilateral
127 External relations must be adapted to the new circumstances created by the
128 ecological and climate crisis;
- 129 **Oppose militaristic the logics of military power and its mechanisms and support policies**
130 **to prevent conflicts and crises instead.** We are seeking agreements for the de-escalation of
131 increasing militarisation of border regions and disputed territories, including a
132 mutual freeze or even a reduction in armaments, instead of a new arms race
133 that ~~may would~~ lead to deteriorating living standards, reduced social cohesion and greater
134 instability in the
135 region.
- 136 Priority should be given to a pact for regions stability and mutual respect, the lifting of any
137 threats and the definitive demarcation of maritime zones and boundaries,
138 within the framework of international law and the EU *acquis*, prioritising first and foremost
139 agreements made through peaceful dialogue between parties with EU assistance in
140 mediation where necessary, and, as a last resort, with possible
141 recourse to the International Court of Justice in the Hague or to
142 international arbitration in case a settlement cannot be reached through
143 negotiationsdialogue.
- 144 **Reiterate that the withdrawal of the ending the Turkish troops from occupation of the**
145 **northern part of the**
146 **Republic of Cyprus remains a priority.** It should be done within the
147 framework of decisions taken by the United Nations and the EU *acquis*,
148 without military intervention by any country. We support the forces that
149 seek rapprochement, on both sides.