

## **Greece plans to extend territorial waters, with Aegean second maritime park, despite Türkiye's threats.**

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The extension of the 12-nautical mile in the Aegean Sea is back on the table.

Both the Greek Foreign Minister, Mr. George Gerapetritis and Defense Minister Mr. Nikos Dendias, have reiterated that the extension of Greece's territorial waters is a long standing right under UNCLOS and will not be hindered by the Turkish casus belli. For Greece, this is an inalienable sovereign right. As Minister Dendias stated: "Greece reserves solely for itself this right, as it forms a hard core of national sovereignty. The timing is determined by a careful assessment of national interests".

Based on these statements, Greece is no longer on the defensive and has taken steps to project by concrete action to control its territorial waters and enforce its sovereignty.

The Greek appeasement mentality towards Türkiye has somehow withered away and has given a new impetus to the Greek government to forge ahead and assert Greek sovereignty over the Aegean Sea despite Türkiye's long standing threats of war over such action. The arrival of Kimon may be a coincidence, but it nevertheless changes the military balance and the geopolitics and projects a new order for the area. The alliance between Greece, Cyprus and Israel adds a new key element by further containing and deterring Turkish adventurism in the East Mediterranean.

On Friday, January 16, 2026, in response to questions from the opposition MPs, in the Greek Parliament, by the Greek Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis, reaffirmed Greece's intent to expand the territorial waters and establish a second marine park in the Aegean Sea.

The Minister stated that "Extension of territorial waters [in the Aegean Sea] will come, as marine parks and spatial planning [are implemented]."

Greece, has already extended its territorial waters in the Ionian Sea to twelve nautical miles from 6, following agreement with Italy, and it has signed a maritime delimitation deal with Egypt in the eastern Mediterranean.

Due to Turkish threats of war, Greece has avoided similar moves in the Aegean Sea. However, the Minister's statement appears to indicate that Greece is prepared to advance the extension of the Aegean territorial waters to 12 nautical miles.

While Minister Gerapetritis was vague about which maritime areas could be extended, reference was made to the July announcement unveiling the boundaries of two planned maritime parks in the Ionian and Aegean Seas.

The Aegean Park is covering 9,500 square kilometers (3,668 square miles), which initially expand around the southern Cyclades islands, further south of Türkiye, according to the maps submitted by Athens to EU.

At the time of the announcement Ankara objected to the establishment of the maritime park. However, it appears that Athens is not deterred by the Turkish objections and has forged ahead with its strategy to finalize its Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) as required the EU regulations, create a second maritime park, and possibly extend its territorial waters to 12 miles.

Minister Gerapetritis emphasized that dialogue with Türkiye would continue but insisted that national sovereignty is nonnegotiable.

**Note: This article is based on several reports, including articles that appeared in the GreekReporter, Greek City Times, and e-Katherimeni.**