EXCLUSIVE

Greek PM calls Turkey-Libya maritime deal 'void;' calls for global truce after Black Sea attacks

By Antoni Slodkowski

October 29, 202610:36 PM GMT+2Updated October 29, 2026

[1/3]Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, speaks to members of the media at UN headquarters in New York City, US, October 29, 2026. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon Purchase Licensing Rights

Summary Companies

Greek PM calls Turkey-Libya maritime deal 'illegal' and 'void'

Mitsotakis urges global truce for Black Sea shipping

Greek shipowners ready to resume trade if safe passage secured

Greece demands EU bolster naval presence in Red Sea mission

PM affirms support for sanctions against Russia despite US moves

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 29 (Reuters) - Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said on Thursday that the recently signed maritime deal between Libya's eastern parliament and Turkey was "blatantly illegal, null and void," adding that it "completely disregards the geography."

Mitsotakis, speaking to Reuters as Greece ends its UN Security Council presidency, also called for an urgent "international truce" to protect shipping in the Black Sea after the sinking of a Greek-owned container vessel on Wednesday.

Get a look at the day ahead in European and global markets with the Morning Bid Europe newsletter. Sign up here.

Libya's eastern parliament last week approved a maritime boundaries deal with Turkey, drawing condemnation from Athens, but also Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, as a threat to regional security and international legal order.

"It completely disregards the geography, the reality that there are Greek islands -- they seem to completely disappear in the thinking of Turkey and Libya," Mitsotakis said, accusing them of attempting to create a "fait accompli" that ignores the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Advertisement · Scroll to continue

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has said that reactions from the EU and others to the approval of the agreement, originally agreed in 2019, had no legitimate basis, defending Ankara's policy in the eastern Mediterranean.

Since the 2019 Libya-Turkey deal, Greece has awarded a license to a consortium led by Chevron (CVX.N)



to look for gas off the island of Crete and has sought a separate agreement with Libya on demarcating their maritime zones.

Advertisement · Scroll to continue

Mitsotakis assured "there's no risk that these explorations will be in any way challenged."

Referring to Libya and Greece as "natural neighbors," Mitsotakis, who first became prime minister in 2019 and is in his second term, urged the African country to negotiate directly with Athens and take the discussions "very, very seriously."

ATTACKS ON SHIPS IN THE BLACK SEA