

**AMBASSADOR CAGATAY ERCIYES' BRIEFING TO THE
AMBASSADORS/DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN ANKARA-10 MAY 2019
TURKISH FLAGGED DRILLSHIP FATIH'S OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES**

- Turkish Flagged Drillship Fatih has launched offshore drilling operations on 3 May 2019. It is located 75 kilometers (42 NM) off the west coast of the Island.
- The drilling area has nothing to do with any of the Greek Cypriots' (GC) so-called license areas or Turkish Cypriots' licensed areas granted to Turkish Petroleum (TP).
- This area in question lies entirely within our continental shelf registered with the UN and in the permit licenses that Our Government granted to TP (2009, 2012).
- We are quite dismayed that some countries are supporting GCs position in accordance with their political expediencies. Yet, this issue is about international law.
- There is no automacity in claiming that islands generate full maritime jurisdiction areas, which indeed is not the case in international law. Islands are given limited effect in maritime boundary delimitation if their location distorts equitable delimitation.
- We have made this position clear since 2004 and registered our position in the United Nations.
- We do not recognize the unilateral and illegitimate exclusive economic zone claims of the Greek Cypriots.
- We believe that the Island of Cyprus cannot generate full EEZ based on simplistic equidistance delimitation method in the west of the Island as it distorts the equitable delimitation under international law.
- Fundamental principle of Maritime Boundary Delimitation (MBD) is reaching an equitable solution. According to this principle, taking into account geographical and other relevant circumstances, islands may be given special treatment, as far as MBD is concerned. Both in State Practice and jurisprudence, this special treatment may be partial or no effect in

generating EEZ or Continental Shelf if the presence of islands distorts the equitable delimitation.

- In both State Practice and jurisprudence, there are several cases where the islands get no effect and therefore be enclaved.
- Third parties should refrain from taking sides in overlapping maritime boundary claims and acting as a court in deciding on maritime boundaries.
- The final maritime boundaries in that part of the Mediterranean can only be settled through agreements to be concluded between the coastal states based on international law and the equitable principle.
- As far as Cyprus is concerned this would only be possible after the political settlement.
- Third parties should not take sides but play a constructive role.
- As the country with the longest continental coastline, Turkey has legitimate rights and vital interests in the Eastern Mediterranean. Therefore, in line with international law, Turkey has been fully exercising its sovereign rights over its continental shelf.
- Turkey stands ready today, as it has in the past, to give its full support to ensuring a just, equitable and peaceful resolution to all pending issues, including the equitable delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas with all relevant coastal States that it recognizes and with which it has diplomatic relations, in accordance with international law, in order to further contribute to the stability and prosperity of the whole Mediterranean basin.

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- Greek Cypriots' unilateral hydrocarbon-related activities in the Eastern Mediterranean jeopardize the security and stability in the region.
- They disregard the inalienable rights of the Turkish Cypriots, as the co-owners of the Island, on natural resources of the Island.

- The unilateral activities of the Greek Cypriots violate not only the rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriots, but also Turkey's legitimate rights in its continental shelf in the region.
- We warned the Greek Cypriots from the very beginning that the two sides should decide on the fate of the Island's natural resources together. The Turkish Cypriots had made constructive proposals to this end.
- However, the Greek Cypriot side preferred to pursue their unilateral activities. Just as they did not want to share the power, they wanted to keep the wealth to themselves.
- Revenue sharing is just one part of the matter. We therefore do not take it seriously the ideas of setting up trust or escrow funds.
- As the UN Secretary General has also recently recalled, two sides had previously agreed in their negotiations that natural resources in a unified Cyprus would lie within the competence of the future federal Government.

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- In short, Turkey will resolutely continue survey and drilling activities in its own continental shelf in the areas where the Government granted the Turkish Petroleum licenses in 2009 and 2012.
- Likewise, unless the Greek Cypriots include the Turkish Cypriots, as the equal partners of the Island, into the decision making mechanisms regarding hydrocarbon resources or cease their unilateral hydrocarbon activities, We will continue to protect the continental shelf rights of the Turkish Cypriots as well.