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**Letter dated 5 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative
of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Further to my letter dated 29 October 2013 ([A/68/555-S/2013/634](#)), upon instructions from my Government, I regret to inform you that the Republic of Turkey continues its provocative and unlawful action in the eastern Mediterranean Sea vis-à-vis the Republic of Cyprus.

In particular, following the conclusion of its illegal seismic operations in the northern/eastern part of the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus, in the period from 5 September to 18 November 2013, the Republic of Turkey issued, on 22 November 2013, navigational warnings Nos. 748/13 (transmitted through Antalya Turk Radio) and 589/13 (transmitted through Navarea III), through which it has arbitrarily reserved maritime areas for the purpose of carrying out illegal seismic surveys in the territorial sea, as well as in the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus.

According to these navigational warnings, the seismic operations are carried out by the seismic vessel *Barbaros Hayreddin Paşa* since 22 November and are scheduled to continue until 18 December 2013. It should be stressed that, during the seismic operations, *Barbaros Hayreddin Paşa* is escorted by the Turkish frigate *Gokceada*.

A map depicting the area of the maritime zones of the Republic of Cyprus, reserved by Turkey for such illegal seismic survey operations, is attached hereto (see annex).

Turkey, through this provocative and illegal act, violates once more customary international law, reflected also in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In particular Turkey violates:

- The sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus over its territorial sea (articles 2-3 of the Convention);
- The sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus to explore and exploit natural resources in the seabed and subsoil of its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf (articles 56 and 77, respectively).



Furthermore, Turkey stands in violation of the relevant legislation of the Republic of Cyprus and in particular the Territorial Sea Law (Law No. 45/1964), the Continental Shelf Law (Law No. 8/1974) and the Exclusive Economic Zone Law (Law No. 64(I)/2004).

In addition, the actions of Turkey in the territorial sea of the Republic of Cyprus constitute a breach of Turkey's obligation to respect the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, expressly arising out of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [541 \(1983\)](#) and [550 \(1984\)](#).

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus strongly deplores the new Turkish provocation and calls upon the Government of the Republic of Turkey to respect international law, as well as the law of the Republic of Cyprus by:

- (a) Recalling *Barbaros Hayreddin Paşa* from the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Cyprus;
- (b) Ceasing permanently all seismic survey operations being conducted within the maritime zones of the Republic of Cyprus and refraining from similar actions in the future;
- (c) Avoiding further escalation of tension in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 76, and of the Security Council, and have it published in the next *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(Signed) Nicholas **Emiliou**

Annex

