| **Images** | **Sound** | **Text English** | **Deutsch/Francais/Espanol** |
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|  |  | Turkey has been involved in illegal drilling for oil and gas in Cypriot waters - so that means EU waters - for quite some time. And has continued doing that despite the EU’s repeated calls for it to stop.  With their patience wearing thin, European Union Member States have decided to set up a mechanism to impose sanctions - such as a travel ban or asset freeze - on individuals or entities involved in the illegal drilling activities.  The EPP Group put the issue on the agenda of the European Parliament plenary in Brussels to protest against this breach of Cypriot and EU sovereignty by Turkey,  Michael Gahler is an EPP Group MEP and the Group’s spokesperson on foreign affairs. |  |
|  | Michael Gahler, EPP Group spokesperson on foreign affairs | *1.03-1.31*  *I think it requires, from our side, a very clear and strong message. And that is, from our Group, that we condemn these activities. These activities violate the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus, both the drilling to the west and the second drilling to the north east. And it should be stopped. International law must be respected, also by Turkey.*  *00.39-00.46*  *And we call on the Turkish authorities to stop it and to seek common ground.* |  |  |
|  | **Restrictive measures (sanctions) and illegal drilling: What should the EU do now?** |  |  |
|  | Michael Gahler, EPP Group spokesperson on foreign affairs | 1.56-2.15  *And we are clearly calling on the European Union now, after the Council has agreed on these measures, to fill this legal possibility with concrete names in order to deter those who are active there from continuing their activities.* |  |
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| Headline |  | **MEPs debate how the EU should react to illegal drilling activities by Turkey** |  |
| Description |  | Turkey has been involved in illegal drilling for oil and gas in Cypriot waters for quite some time despite the EU’s repeated calls for it to stop.  European Union Member States have decided to set up a mechanism to impose restrictive measures (sanctions) - such as a travel ban or asset freeze - on individuals or entities involved in the illegal drilling activities.  The EPP Group put the issue on the agenda of the European Parliament plenary in Brussels to protest against this breach of Cypriot and EU sovereignty by Turkey. |  |
| Tags |  | EPP Group, European Parliament, European Union, Michael Gahler, Turkey, Cyprus, illegal drilling activities, illegal drilling, oil, gas, sanctions, asset freeze, travel ban, sovereignty |  |