

Türkiye's statement regarding NAVTEX Service Areas in the Aegean Sea and Eastern Mediterranean Sea

There is no NAVTEX Service Area delimitation in Aegean Sea or Eastern Mediterranean Sea that is officially confirmed or approved by IMO or IHO, nor by Türkiye. Moreover, coordination efforts by Türkiye in the past to get an agreement over this issue have been unreciprocated. Türkiye has not been officially asked or approached by any of the relevant national or international authorities for the joint delimitation of NAVTEX service areas in the Aegean as well as the Eastern Mediterranean. In such a semi-enclosed sea such cooperation and coordination is among the bedrock principles of relevant international instruments as well as customary and the IMO practices.

It should be noted that Türkiye, starting from 1975, declared her strong willingness to assume responsibility and offered every possible assistance concerning WWNWS in NAVAREA III and has started to broadcast MSI on 1985 and since then has been disseminating MSI ceaselessly.

Türkiye, acting with good faith and spirit of cooperation, clearly stated many times that she stands ready to arrive at a negotiated solution acceptable to all. Türkiye regrets that such a technical subject has been taken out of its context. Some other Service Providers exploit the NAVTEX system as a political discussion platform and hence defeating the very purpose of the system totally disregarding the safety and well-being of mariners at sea by promulgating NAVTEX messages stating that Turkish NAVTEX stations are unauthorized.

Turkish NAVTEX stations, as in the past, will continue to promulgate NAVTEX messages for the sake of navigation safety, until a delimitation of service limits in those areas is affected by an agreement with the consent of parties concerned.