

## Escalatory Steps of Greece in the Eastern Mediterranean and Aegean Sea since 12 September 2020

Oruç Reis seismic survey vessel reached the port of Antalya on 12 September 2020 for routine maintenance and re-supply operations. Along with Oruç Reis, our naval assets that accompanied Oruç Reis for self-defense purposes have returned to their routine schedule of operations as well.

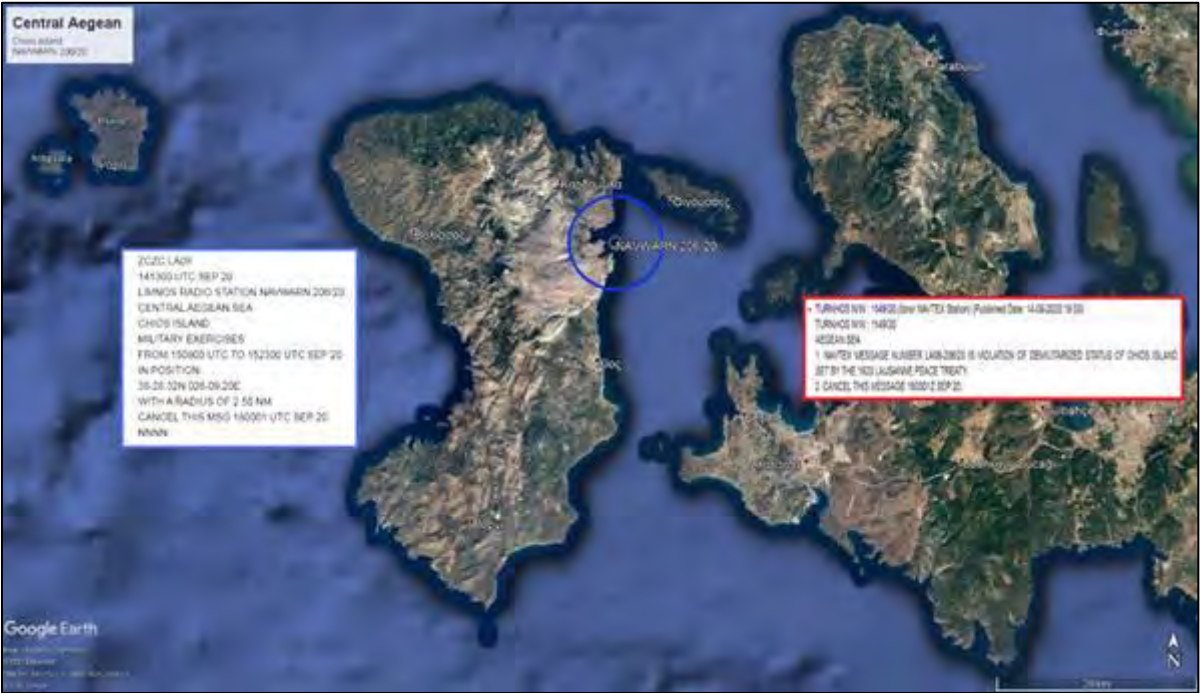
Immediately following the return of Oruç Reis, Greece deployed naval units to the island of Kastellorizo on 13 September 2020. Various naval assets continue to be stationed in Kastellorizo since then.



Between 14-18 September 2020 Greece and the U.S. held joint military exercises in Western Thrace where Greece's Turkish minority lives. The Greek army's Leopard tanks joined the U.S. Army's M1 Abrams tanks for a drill near the Petrochori village in Xanthi. Despite Turkey's call to delay the drill at a time when tensions are already on the rise, heavily armed exercise in the area went ahead.



On 15 September 2020, Greece announced military exercises with a NAVTEX in Chios, which is under demilitarized status.



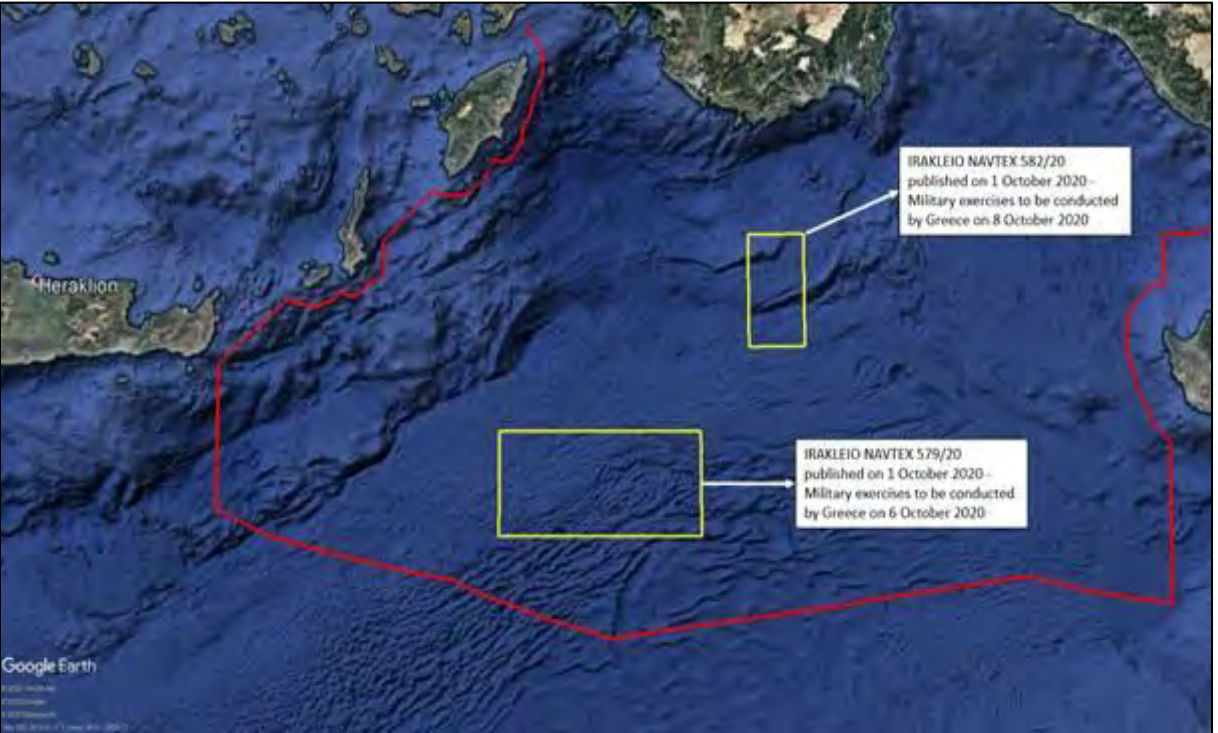
Greece went on to conduct firing exercises on and around the island of Limnos on 23-24 September 2020, which is also under demilitarized status.



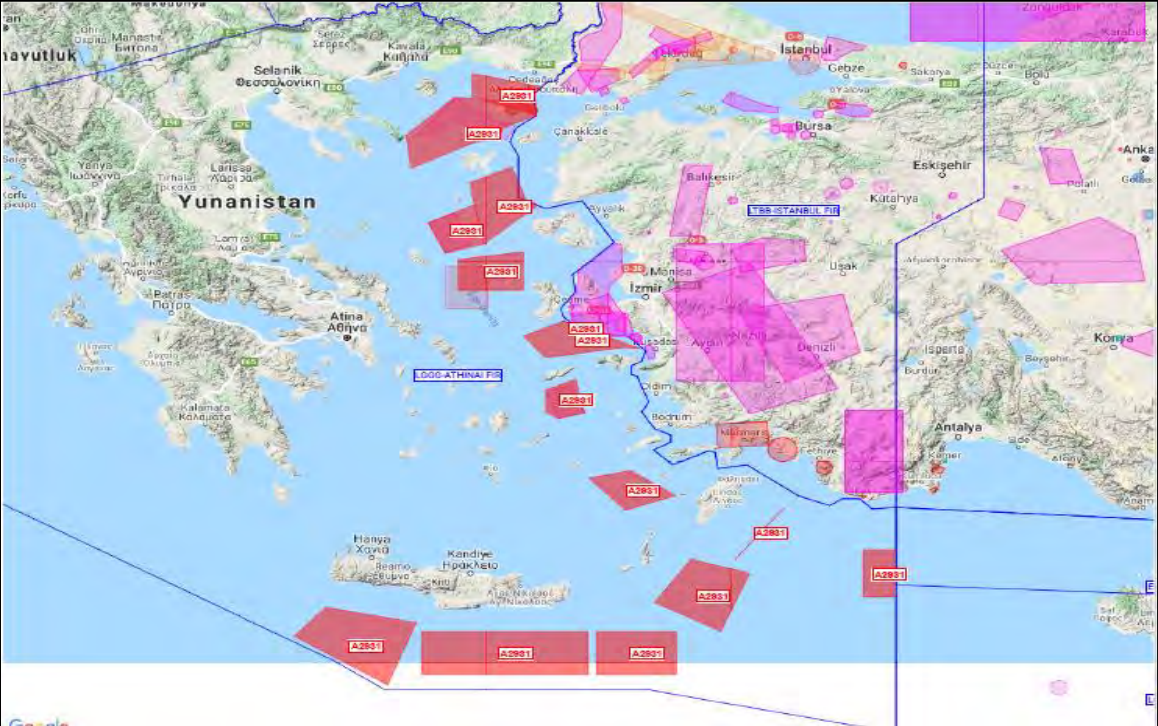
Greece did not refrain from conducting aerial exercises around the demilitarized islands as well, including Chios, Kos, Rhodes and remaining islands in between. A NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) (A2735/20) was published for exercises between 27 September and 2 October 2020, which also affected freedom of navigation in a large area of international airspace.



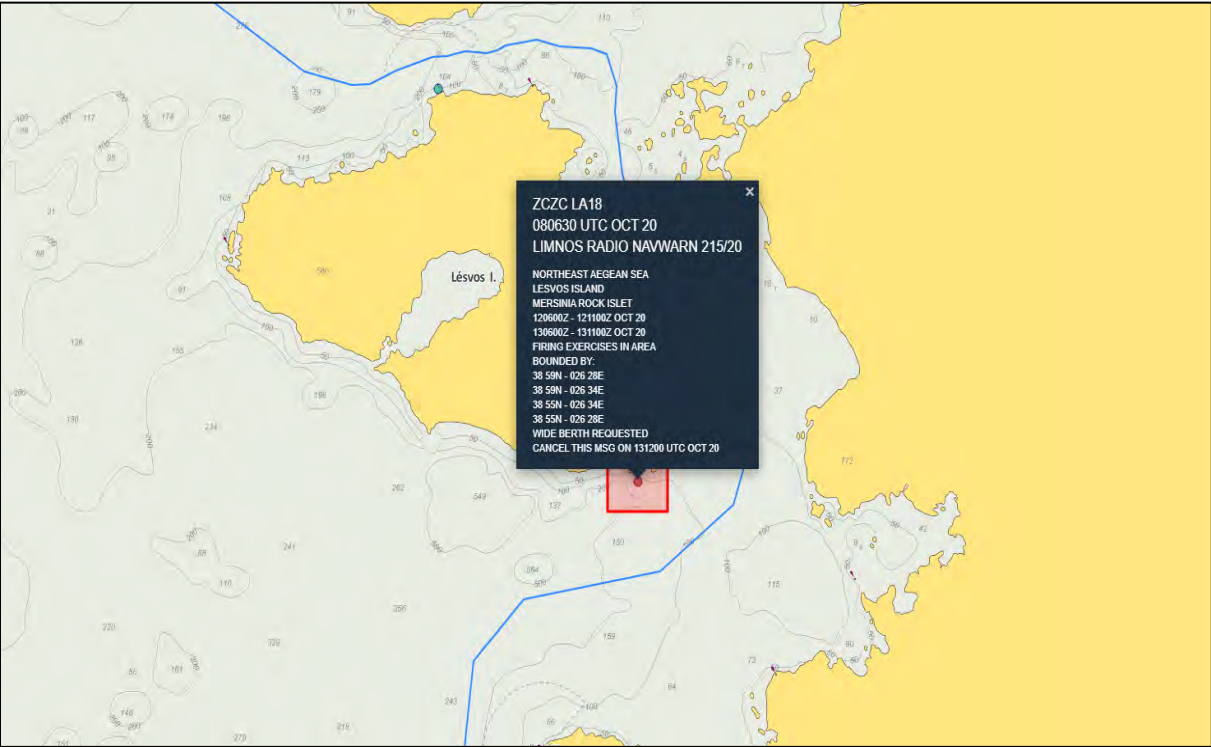
Greece announced on 1 October 2020, that military exercises will be conducted in the Eastern Mediterranean in areas to the south of Kastellorizo, one being on 6 October 2020 and the other on 8 October 2020.



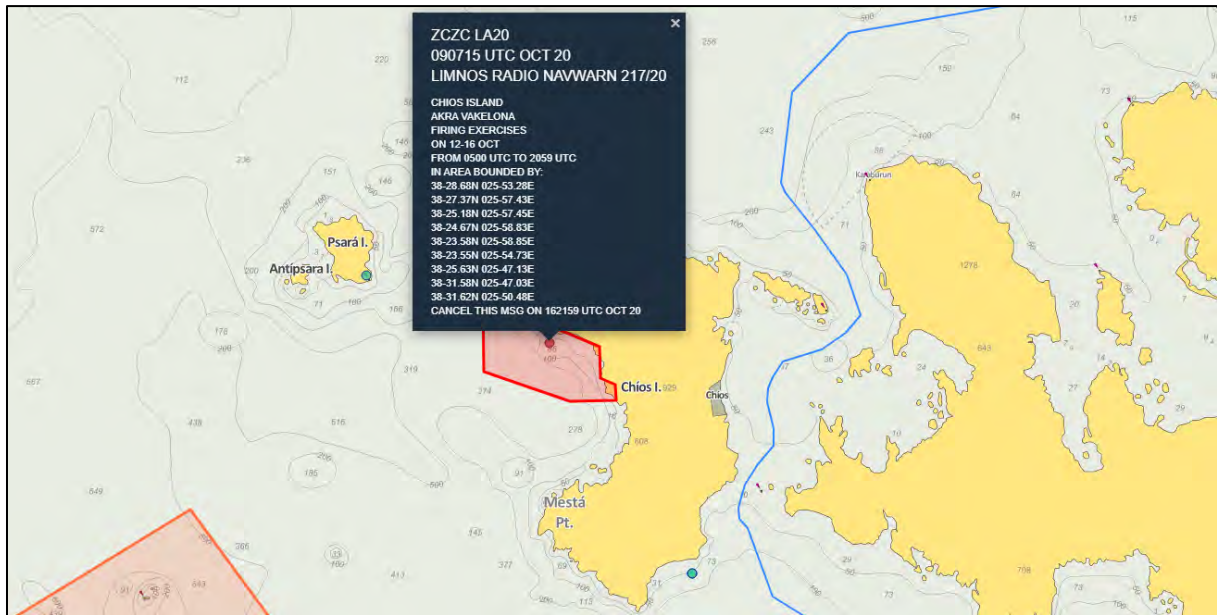
Greece has been constantly issuing navigational warnings in the Aegean Sea, covering a prolonged period of time as well as a large area of international airspace. This time another NOTAM (A2931/20) was announced for Hellenic Navy and Air Force activities, including firing exercises all over the Aegean Sea between 11 November and 29 December 2020.



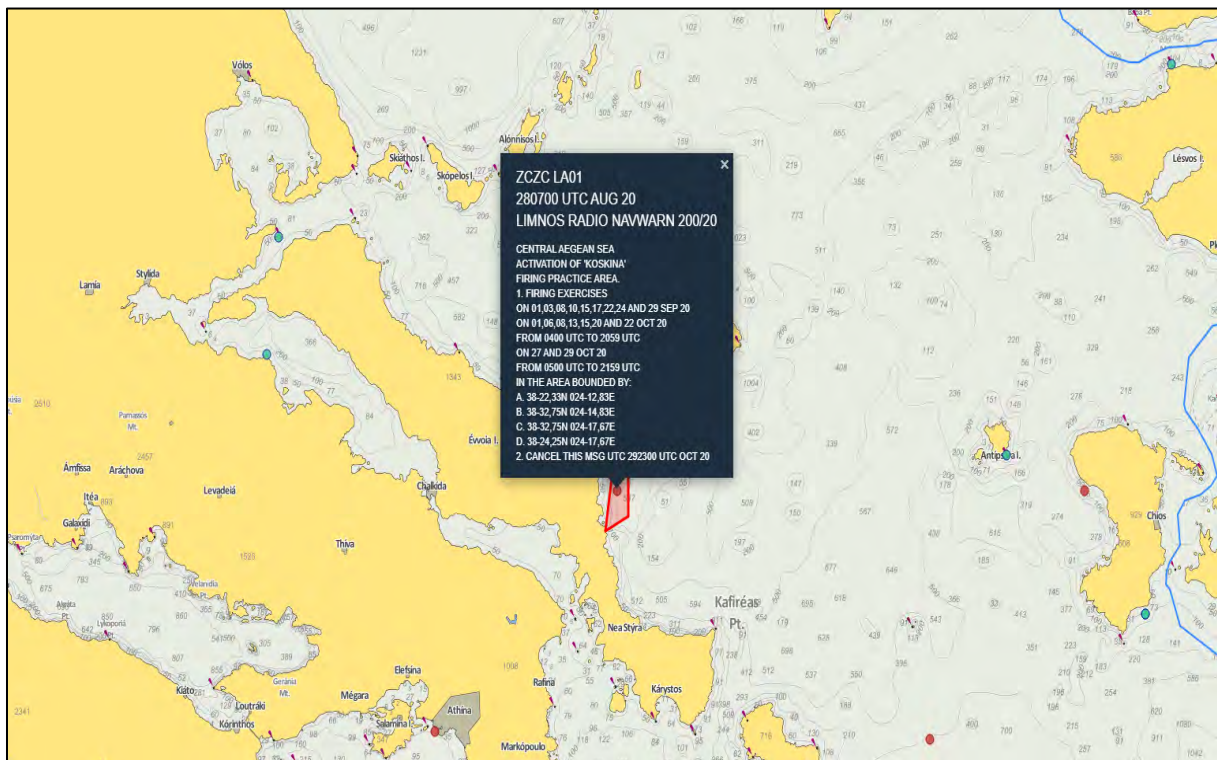
On October 8<sup>th</sup>, another military exercise, involving firing activity, was announced to be conducted between 12-13 October 2020 in the Island of Lesbos, covering an area located immediately off the coast of Turkey.

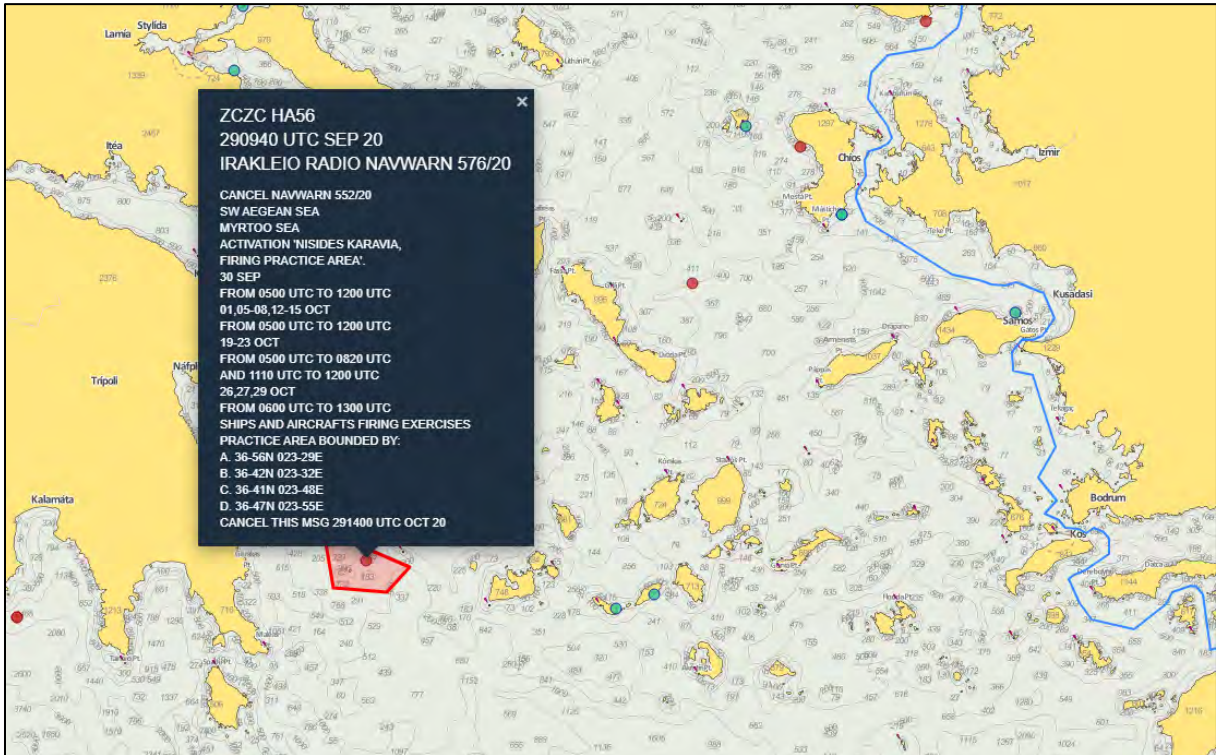


As another violation of the demilitarized status of the Eastern Aegean Islands, firing exercises were announced on October 9<sup>th</sup> to be conducted between 12-16 October 2020 in the Island of Chios, which simultaneously take place with the exercises in the Island of Lesvos on 12-13 October 2020.



Along with the ongoing violations of the demilitarized status, Greece does not hesitate to act against the bilateral agreement of 1988 concluded in Athens as well, which envisages that both countries refrain from conducting military exercises on national and religious days. Recently, Greece has issued navigational warnings for two separate exercises which are planned to take place on 29 October 2020, which is the Republic Day of Turkey. In response, Turkey announced military exercises to be conducted on 28 October 2020, the National Day of Greece.





Greece once again started to militarize the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean by issuing another NOTAM for military activities between 13-18 October 2020 covering the area and timeline of Oruç Reis' activities, which take place between 12-22 October 2020.



Furthermore, it has been reported that Greece is planning to acquire unmanned aerial vehicles from Israel to deploy in the region. It is now evident that Greece has been the party to escalate the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean. These developments point to the ulterior motives of Greece on the eve of exploratory talks.