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PRESS STATEMENT BY ÜNAL ÇEVİKÖZ, CHP MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ISTANBUL AND PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO THE PARTY CHAIR ON FOREIGN POLICY, ON THE RECENT PROBLEMS TURKEY FACES IN FOREIGN POLICY

The recent tension brewing in the eastern Mediterranean between Turkey and Greece is troubling for our whole nation as a serious source of concern.

Nobody can prevent Turkey from protecting its legitimate rights arising from international law. On the other hand, the causes of the present situation must be thoroughly examined and analysed.

1. As the Republican People's Party, we have stated several times that Turkey's relations with Egypt must be improved.
2. We have stressed time and again that Egypt is one of the most important regional actors and counterparts on the way to making use of hydrocarbon resources in eastern Mediterranean and taking the legal steps with respect to maritime jurisdictions.
3. We have stated our view that not involving Turkey in the EastMed Gas Forum, formed by seven countries of the region, to exploit the hydrocarbon resources was an unfair and wrongful act, which we have severely criticized, and called on the government to take the necessary measures.

It is a reality that formations of solutions in our region excluding Turkey are futile.

That being the case and although we, as CHP, have drawn attention to these shortcomings, it is a complete lack of awareness to portray CHP almost as the cause of these problems.

The greatest problem in Turkish foreign policy is not observing meritocracy and the fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff are completely sidelined.

Elevating our relations with Egypt back to the level they require and deserve and taking steps with Egypt towards to the solution of the problems of the region would only make us happy.

As CHP, we will continue our initiatives and efforts, as we always have, and cast light on the government's shortcomings and errors so that Turkish foreign policy can be led in such a way as to enable our country to restore its reputation in the international community and to ensure capable foreign policy staff protect our rights and interests.



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