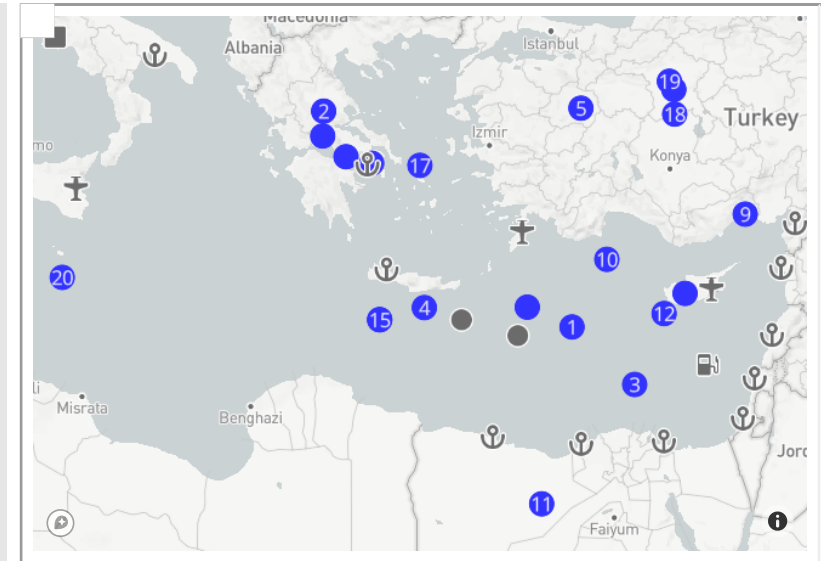


MEDITERRANEAN CRISIS HORIZON (11 Apr - 16 May 2022)

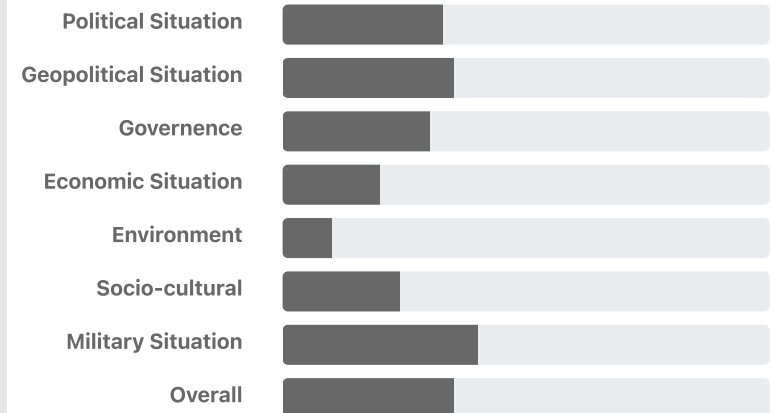
KEY EVENTS

- 1 Europe Races To End Its Russia Gas Addiction**
 2022-04-12 The EU entered a race to replace Russian energy. Several countries are essential to reinforcing the EU's energy supply, such as Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Qatar, and the US, notably via LNG. [BLOOMBERG BUSINESS](#)
- 2 Focus On LNG, Not Pipelines, US Official Tells Kathimerini**
 2022-04-07 The US favours transporting natural gas via LNG and the incorporation of Turkey into the regional energy cooperation so that the region could become an important "energy engine." [EKATHIMERINI](#)
- 3 Energean Discovers New Gas Off Israel's Coast**
 2022-05-09 Eastern Mediterranean-focused oil and gas producer Energean said it had made a new commercial gas discovery off the coast of Israel. Yet, it fell far short of the company's previous estimates. [REUTERS](#)
- 4 Crete Fields Key To Natural Gas Potential**
 2022-04-16 Total and ExxonMobil are asked to accelerate research efforts off Crete. Earlier studies show potential reserves of 70-90 trillion cubic feet of gas. Experts say it could alter the Greek economy as the largest reserve in the East Med. [EKATHIMERINI](#)
- 5 Energy Cooperation With Israel And Cyprus | EKathimerini.Com**
 2022-04-12 The ministers further agreed to examine the possibility of an LNG terminal in Cyprus in order to make optimal use of the natural gas reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean. [EKATHIMERINI](#)
- 6 Greece To Extend Base Access Deal With US Military**
 2022-05-12 Greece's parliament approved the 5-year-extension (instead of one) and amendment of MDCA, the defence cooperation deal with the US, days before Greek PM Mitsotakis' visit to Washington. [AP NEWS](#)
- 7 State Department: Greece An Essential Ally For The Security Of NATO's Southern Wing | EKathimerini.Com**
 2022-05-12 Greece is an essential ally for the security of NATO's southern wing, a State Department official said. [EKATHIMERINI](#)
- 8 Biden Administration Asks Congress To Approve New Weapons Deal With Turkey.**
 2022-05-11 Ankara's role in the Ukraine conflict helped repair frayed ties with Washington. It could set the stage for the sale of F-16s and upgrade kits to Turkey, which the US administration asked congressional leaders to approve. [THE WALL STREET JOURNAL](#)
- 9 Turkey May Be Planning New Drilling In Mediterranean In Early July**
 2022-05-12 Turkey's newly purchased drillship, expected to arrive in the country in the coming days, will be ready to explore for hydrocarbons in the East Med in two months, said the chairman of the Turkish Petroleum Corporation. [AHVAL](#)
- 10 Turkey And U.S. Work To Repair Strained Relations**
 2022-04-13 Turkey and the U.S. recently announced the launch of a "strategic mechanism" aimed at repairing relations and unlocking potential cooperation in different areas during the visit of the US Under Secretary Nuland. She also suggests Cyprus seek alternatives instead of the too expensive East Med pipeline in her visit to Nicosia. [AXIOS](#)
- 11 Italy, Egypt Sign Deal To Boost LNG Exports To Europe**
 2022-04-14 The Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company and Italy's Eni signed a deal to maximise gas production and export liquefied natural gas from Egypt to Europe. [MIDDLE EAST MONITOR](#)
- 12 Eni-Total To Resume Work Off Cyprus | EKathimerini.Com**
 2022-04-13 The Eni-Total consortium will resume work on Block 6 within Cyprus' exclusive economic zone and conduct drilling at a specific point in Block 6 to get a better picture of the Calypso deposit. [EKATHIMERINI](#)
- 13 Panagiotopoulos Says "Now Is Not The Time To Speak Against Turkey" As Turkish Jets Violate Greek Airspace 90x In A SINGLE Day.**
 2022-04-16 Greek Defence Minister Panagiotopoulos said that due to the war in Ukraine, "now is not the best time to speak against Turkey in NATO" despite Turkey continuing its daily violations of Greek airspace. [GREEK CITY TIMES](#)
- 14 Cyprus To Export Natural Gas By 2026, Energy Minister Says | EKathimerini.Com**
 2022-05-04 Cyprus is hoping to begin exporting its natural gas from the Aphrodite gas field by 2026, Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Natasa Pilides, has said. [EKATHIMERINI](#)
- 15 Turkey's Top Diplomat Due In Israel In May - Turkey News**
 2022-05-03 Foreign Minister will hold talks on the normalisation of the bilateral ties in Israel on May 25. [HURRIYET DAILY NEWS](#)
- 16 Turkey Tightening Restrictions On Hamas, Dozens Deported - Officials | | Ahval**
 2022-05-09 Turkey increased restrictions on the leaders and activists of Hamas in the country, deporting dozens and preventing others from entering, The New Arab reported. [AHVAL](#)
- 17 'Unacceptable Provocation': Greece-Turkey Spar Over Airspace**
 2022-04-28 Greece accused Turkey of undermining NATO unity by violating its airspace with fighter jets, prompting an angry Turkish response that blamed Athens for "provocative" violations of its own airspace. [AL JAZEERA ONLINE](#)
- 18 Defense Minister Urges Greece To Respond To Turkey's Call For 'Friendship' - Turkey News**



AI Powered Crisis Situation

This product is prepared by a group of subject matter experts using a number of open sources with a hybrid methodology that merges both traditional methods and AI-powered, data-driven approaches.



2022-04-22 "We tell our neighbor Greece: 'Hold this hand of friendship that we sincerely extend.' Our neighbor takes a little slow

19 Turkey Woos Israeli Media With Five-Star Hotel, Top Restaurants | | Ahval

2022-04-14 Turkey is wooing the Israeli media by inviting journalists for meetings with officials in a five-star hotel. [AHVAL](#)

20 Mare Aperto 2022 Is Underway.

2022-05-09 Mare Aperto 22 (MA22), the largest exercise of the Italian Navy, commenced in the Central Mediterranean on May 3, 2022. The drills will last three weeks and include about 4,000 troops from 7 NATO nations. [MARINA MILITARE](#)

21 Seventh Report On The Naval Situation In The Mediterranean Sea

2022-05-12 NATO currently has 4 aircraft carriers available in the Mediterranean: USS Truman, ITS Cavour, ITS Garibaldi, and FNS Charles de Gaulle. RFN Marshall Ustinov, RFN Admiral Kasatonov, and RFN Admiral Grigorovich operate around Crete. The remaining naval units of the Russian Mediterranean task force are in the port of Tartus. [ITAMILRADAR](#)

22 EU External Borders In April: Detections On The Rise

2022-05-16 The illegal crossings detected in the Eastern Med surged to %66 (9109) this year, and Cyprus accounted for 68% (6273) of these figures. The Western Med route saw a slight increase of 4%, while the Central Med increased by 86%. [FRONTEX](#)

ASSESSMENT

Europe has a difficult task, breaking its dependency on Russian energy resources. There are not much alternatives. The US collapsed the plans for the East Med pipeline, which is not already seen feasibly. LNG arises as an essential option to replace Russian gas. Therefore, the Mediterranean nations scramble to find additional gas reserves, which is crucial for meeting the demand and decreasing the expenses, especially for transportation. Cyprus, Greece, Israel, and Turkey conduct surveys to find natural gas.

In this context, Ankara struggles to normalise its relations with the regional countries. Washington encourages all countries to work together and does not want tensions and escalations in the middle of the Russian invasion. The success of the Turkish campaign to reset relations, which is also significantly affected by the war, has a mixed results. At first, most countries did not approach positively to this efforts though Ankara had already started tone down its rhetoric following the election of Biden as the new US president.

However, Turkey made important gestures to facilitate this process such as the transfer of Jamal Khashoggi's case to Saudi Arabia, restricting the activities of Hamas and Muslim Brotherhood in Turkey, and deporting some of their members. After these gestures as well as the war in Ukraine, the scene has started to change.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE welcomed the normalisation process and they made an unexpected and important progress. After the new government in Israel, Tel Aviv also started to gave positive signals which is solidified with official visits and communications. Egypt is less eager to respond to Turkey and the process is moving slowly despite the restraints imposed on the Muslim Brotherhood by Turkey.

There was some improvement after the meeting of Greek PM and the Turkish President in Istanbul. Yet, after the exchange of accusations about the overflights in the Aegean, Greece becomes more sceptical about making progress. The Greek Defence Minister's statement depicts that Athens try to balance its criticisms due to the war in Ukraine. Greece also decided to suspend the confidence building measures for now. This has two meanings.

First, the war provides an opening in which Ankara has restored some of its relationships by standing with Ukraine. The Biden administration suggested the Congress to approve F-16 deal and some key senators signalled that they will not exercise their veto rights as happened in the Turkey's expulsion from F35s. The atmosphere is not similar to the 2020 when Turkey was more and more isolated.

Second and less important, Greece does not want to undermine the unity within NATO, which will not be welcomed by other allies.

Concerning the military activities, Mediterranean is still busy. A group of NATO units completed a patrol in the context of the Operation Sea Guardian. SNMG2 joins the Italian Mare Aperto 2022, which is the largest exercise of the Italian Navy. Meanwhile, some Russian warships continue to operate around Crete and others are in the Port of Tartus, unlike the first days of war when all units were at sea.