

Escalatory Steps of Greece
between 12 September and 20
October 2020
(Updated Version)

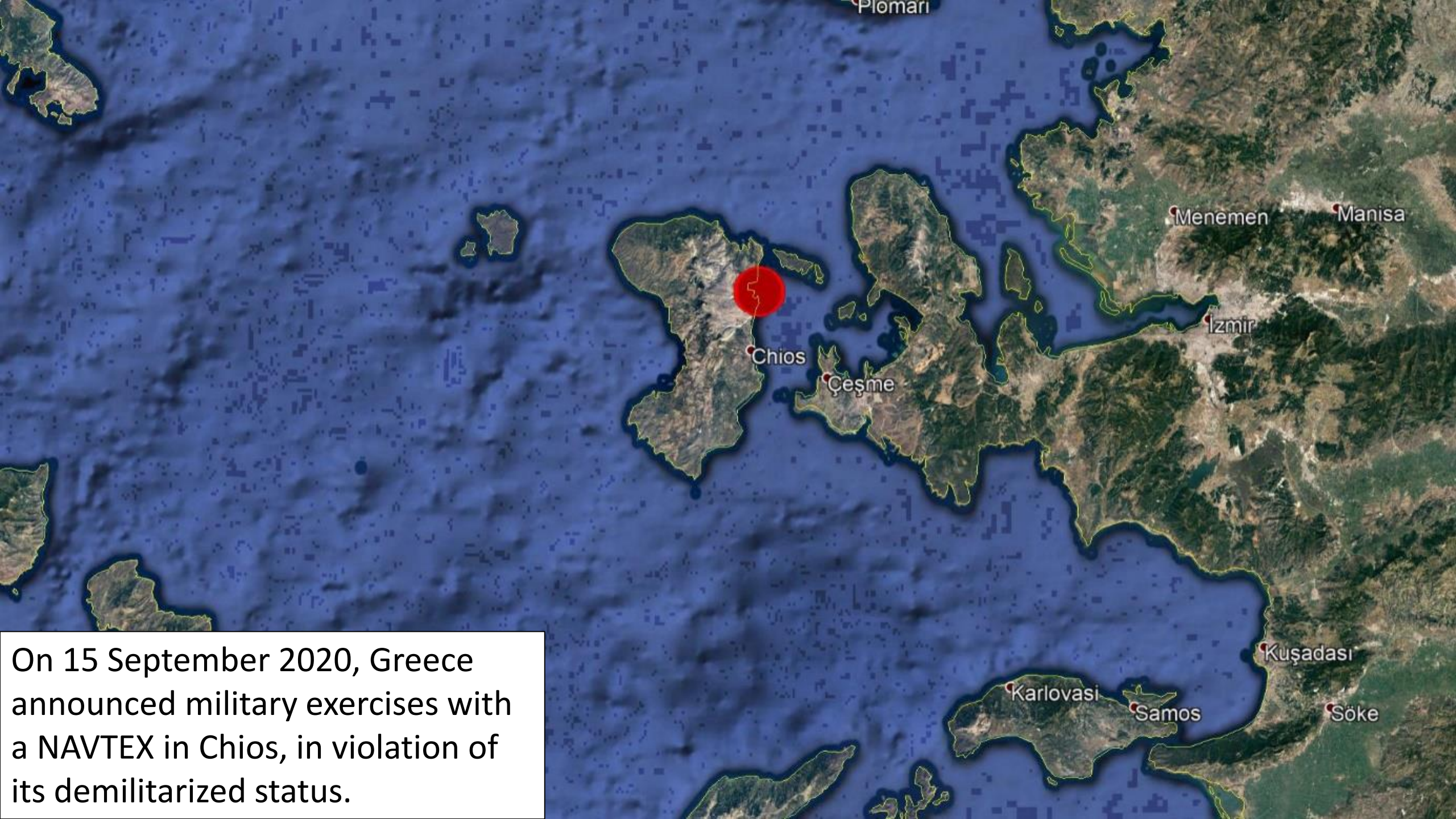


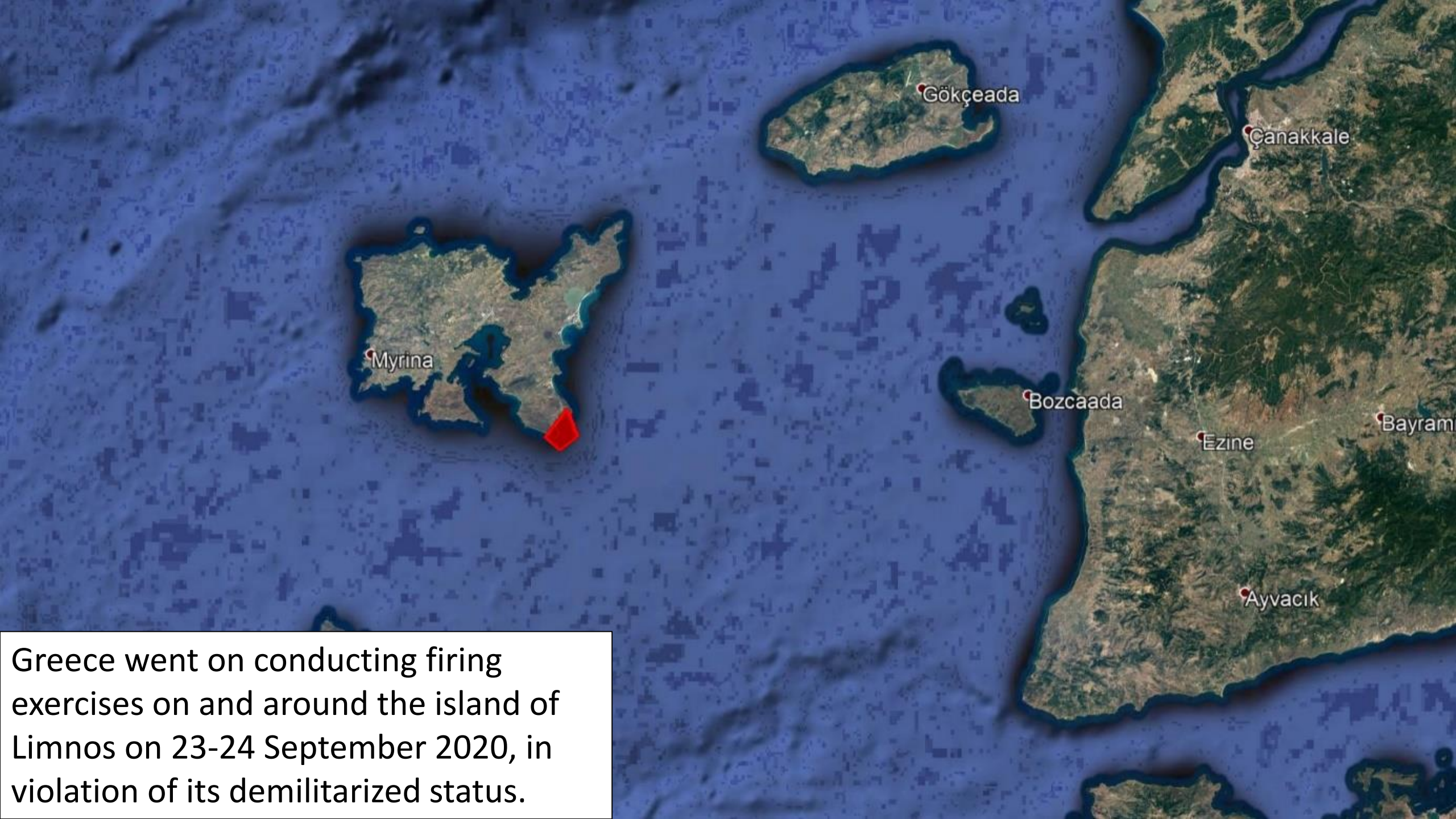
Immediately following the return of Oruç Reis, Greece deployed naval units to the island of Kastellorizo on 13 September 2020. Various naval assets continue being stationed in Kastellorizo since then in violation of its demilitarized status.



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, heavily armed exercise in the area went ahead.

On 15 September 2020, Greece announced military exercises with a NAVTEX in Chios, in violation of its demilitarized status.





Myrina

Gökçeada

Çanakkale

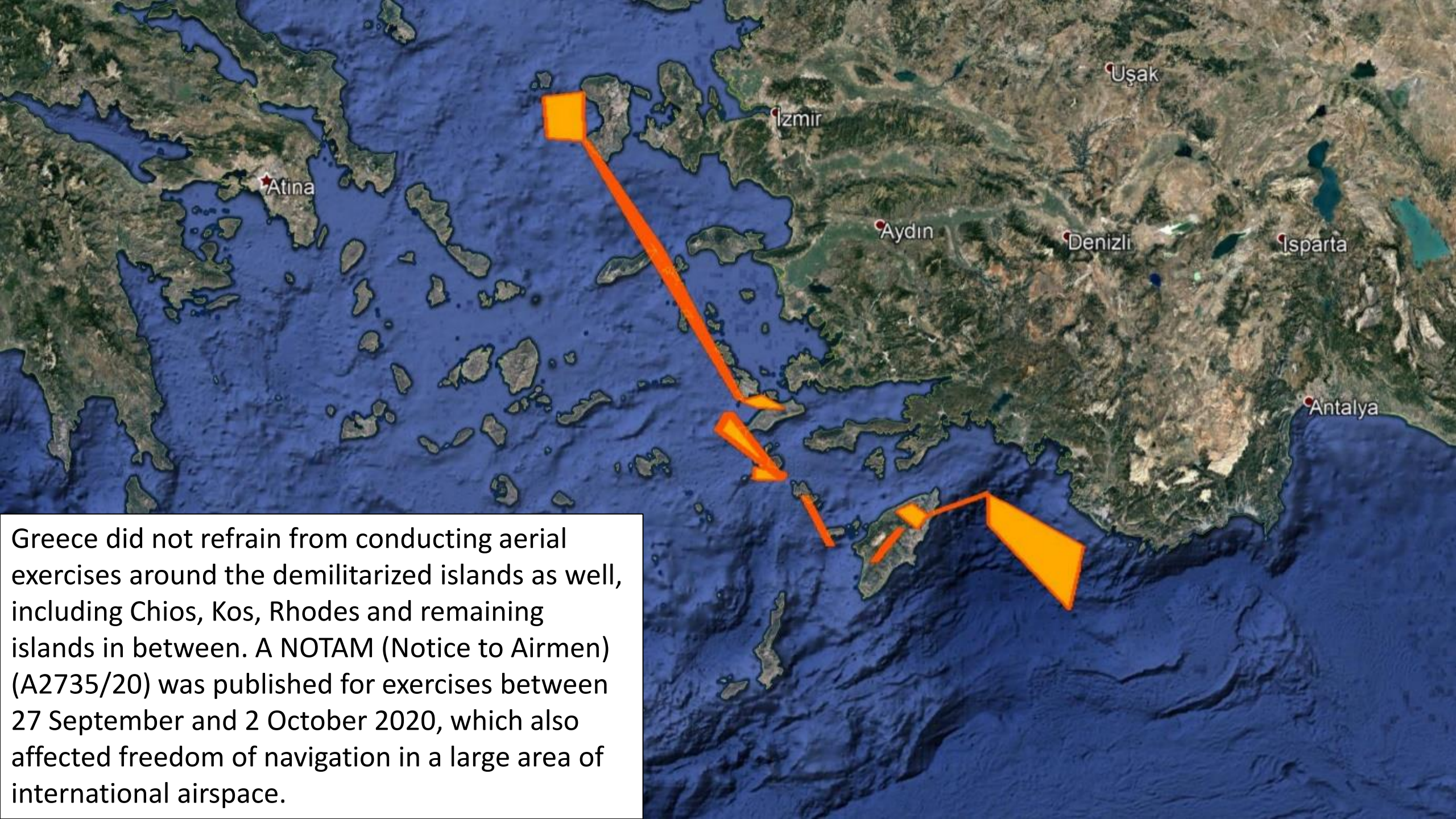
Bozcaada

Ezine

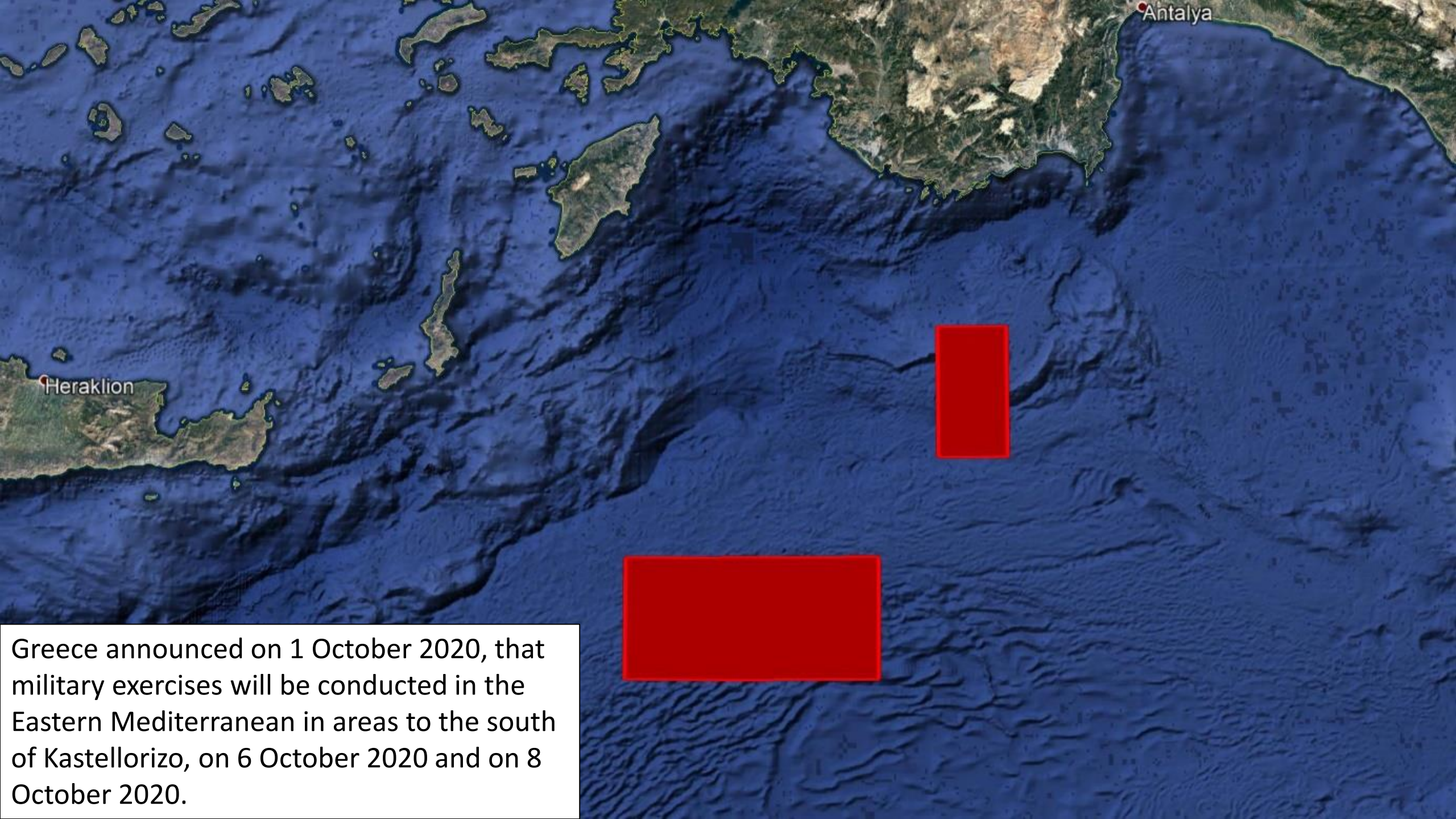
Bayram

Ayvacık

Greece went on conducting firing exercises on and around the island of Limnos on 23-24 September 2020, in violation of its 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.

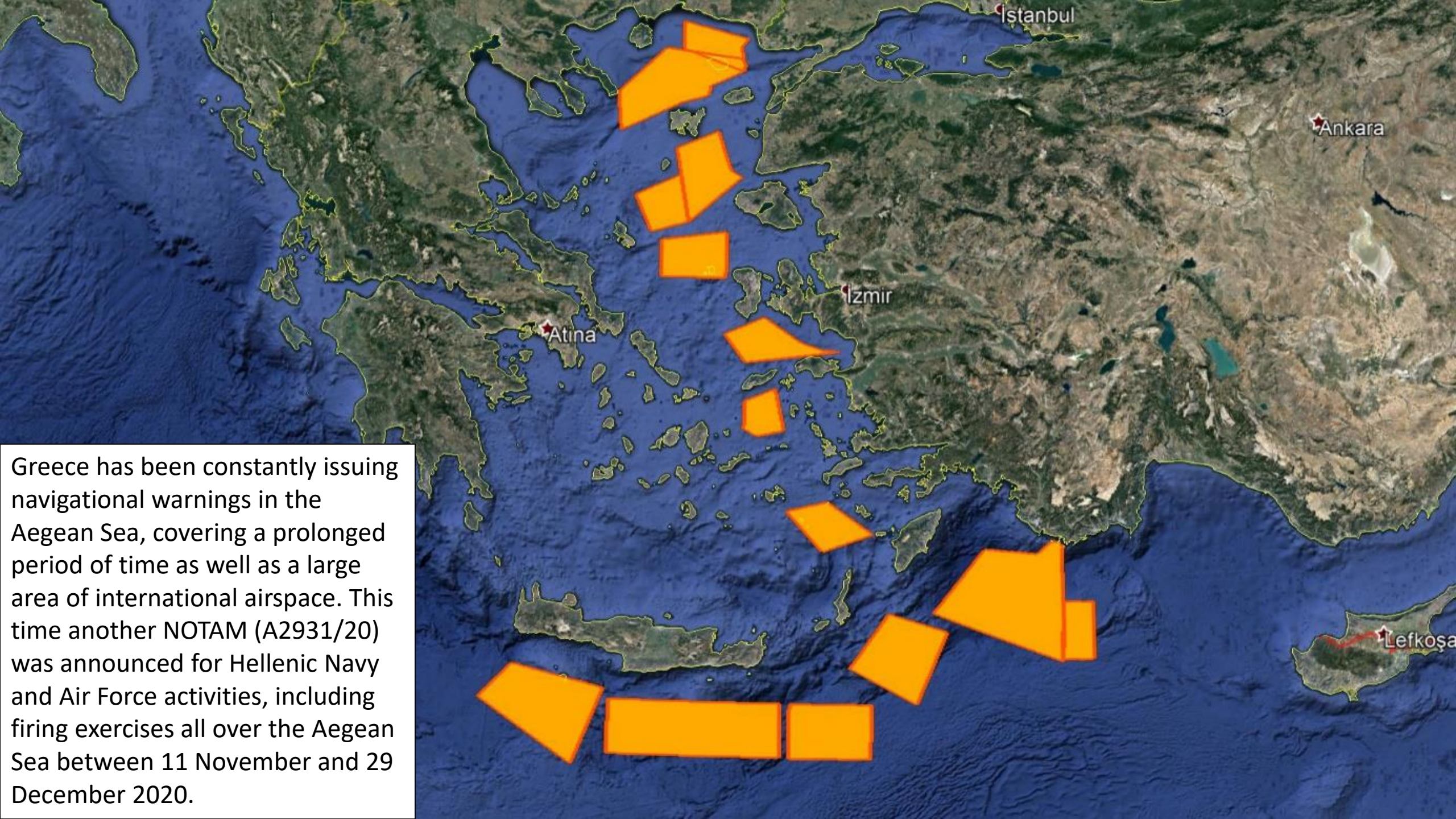


Heraklion

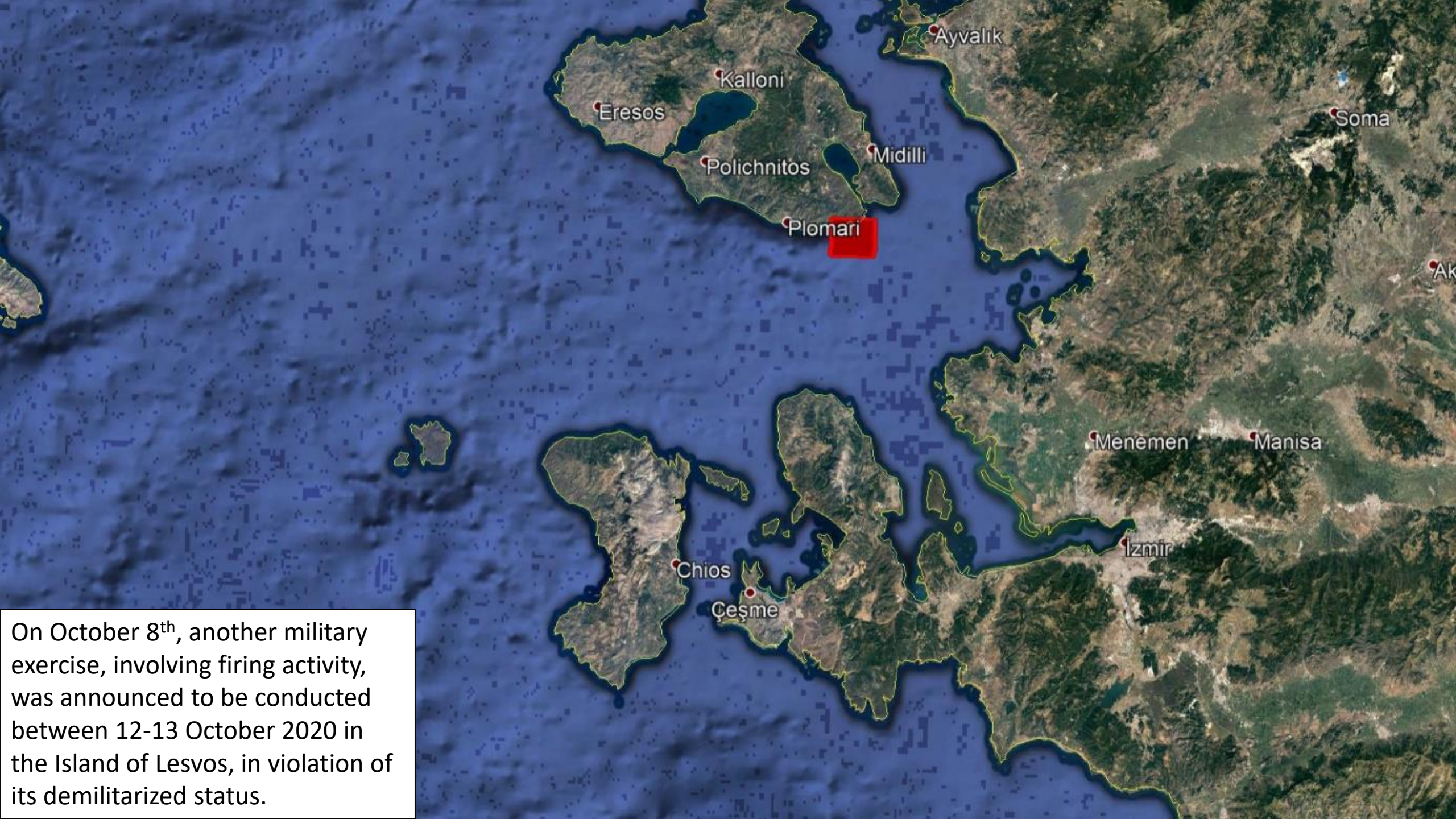
Antalya

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

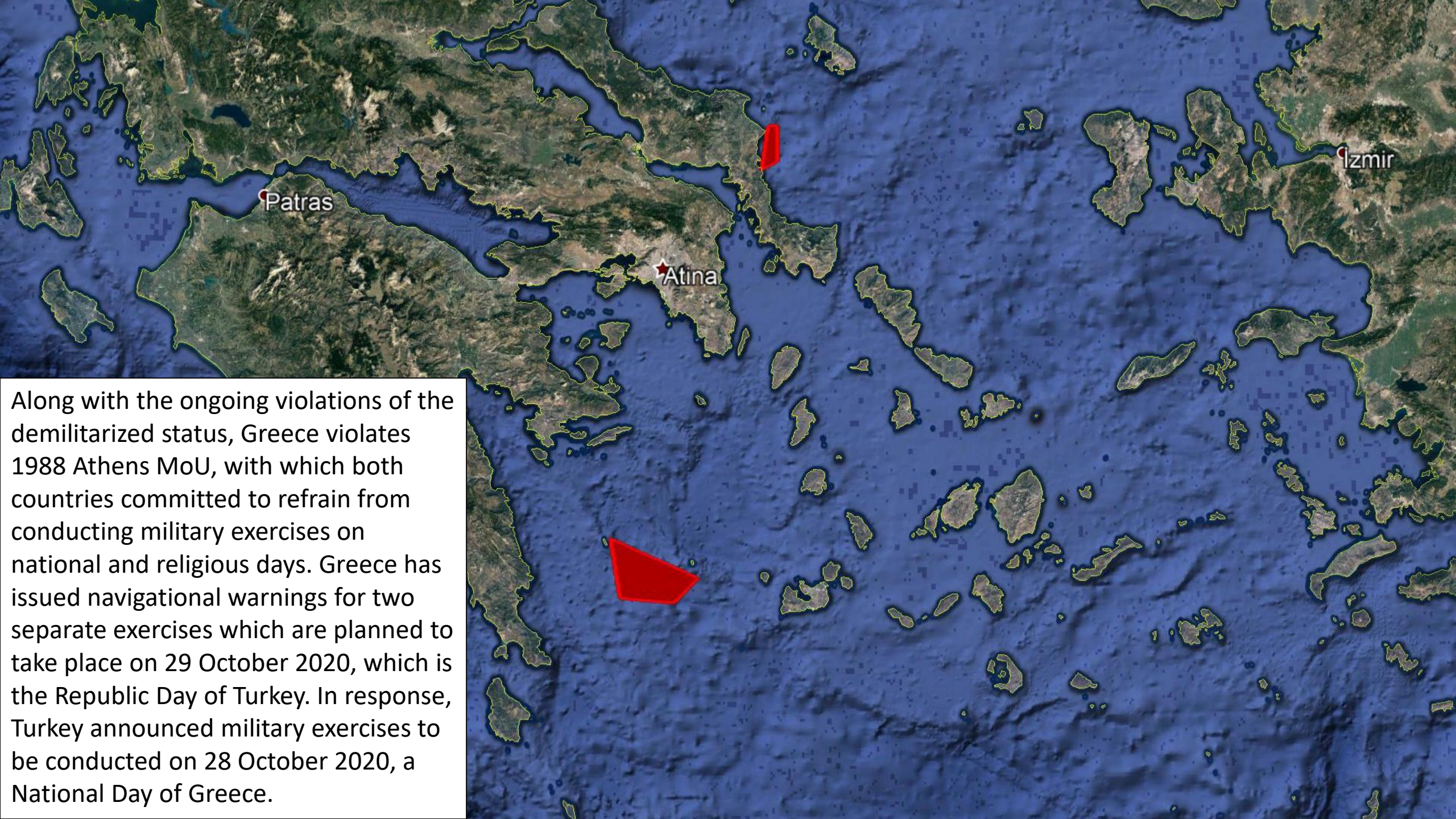


On October 8th, another military exercise, involving firing activity, was announced to be conducted between 12-13 October 2020 in the Island of Lesvos, in violation of its demilitarized status.



As another violation of the demilitarized status of the Eastern Aegean Islands, firing exercises were announced on October 9th 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.



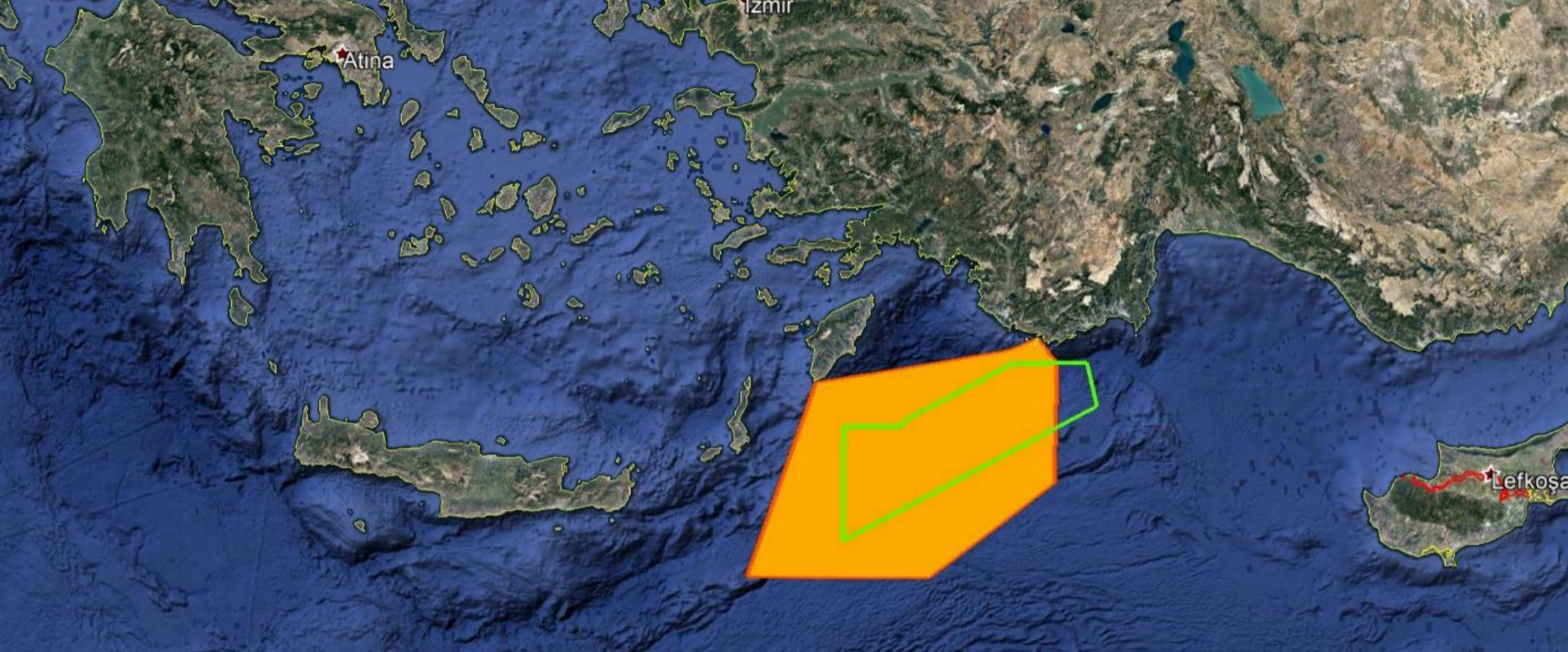


Patras

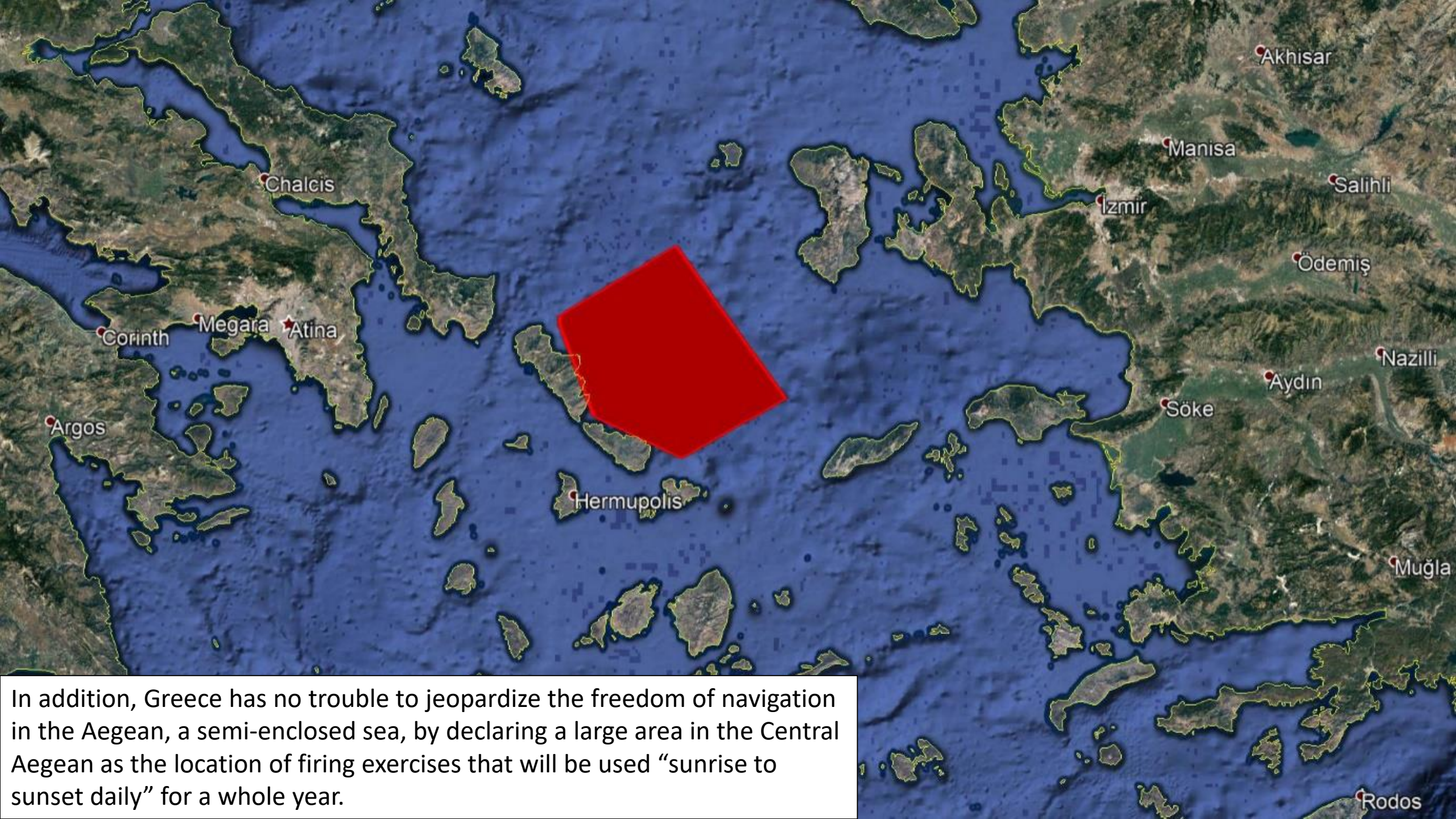
Atina

Izmir

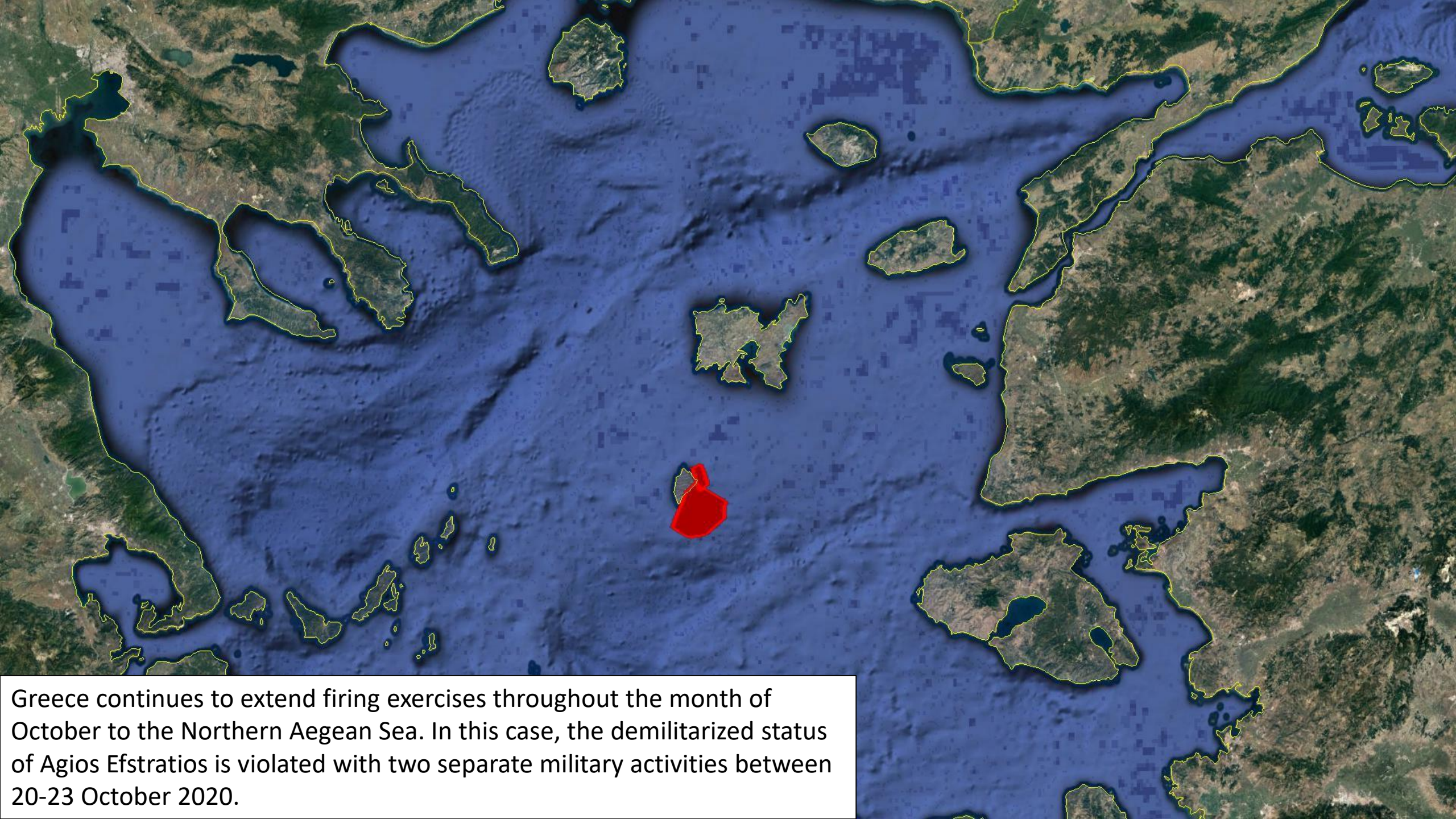
Along with the ongoing violations of the demilitarized status, Greece violates 1988 Athens MoU, with which both countries committed to refrain from conducting military exercises on national and religious days. Greece has issued navigational warnings for two separate exercises which are planned to take 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, a 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. The NOTAM was subsequently prolonged up until 22 October 2020, coinciding with the entire period of Oruç Reis' survey.



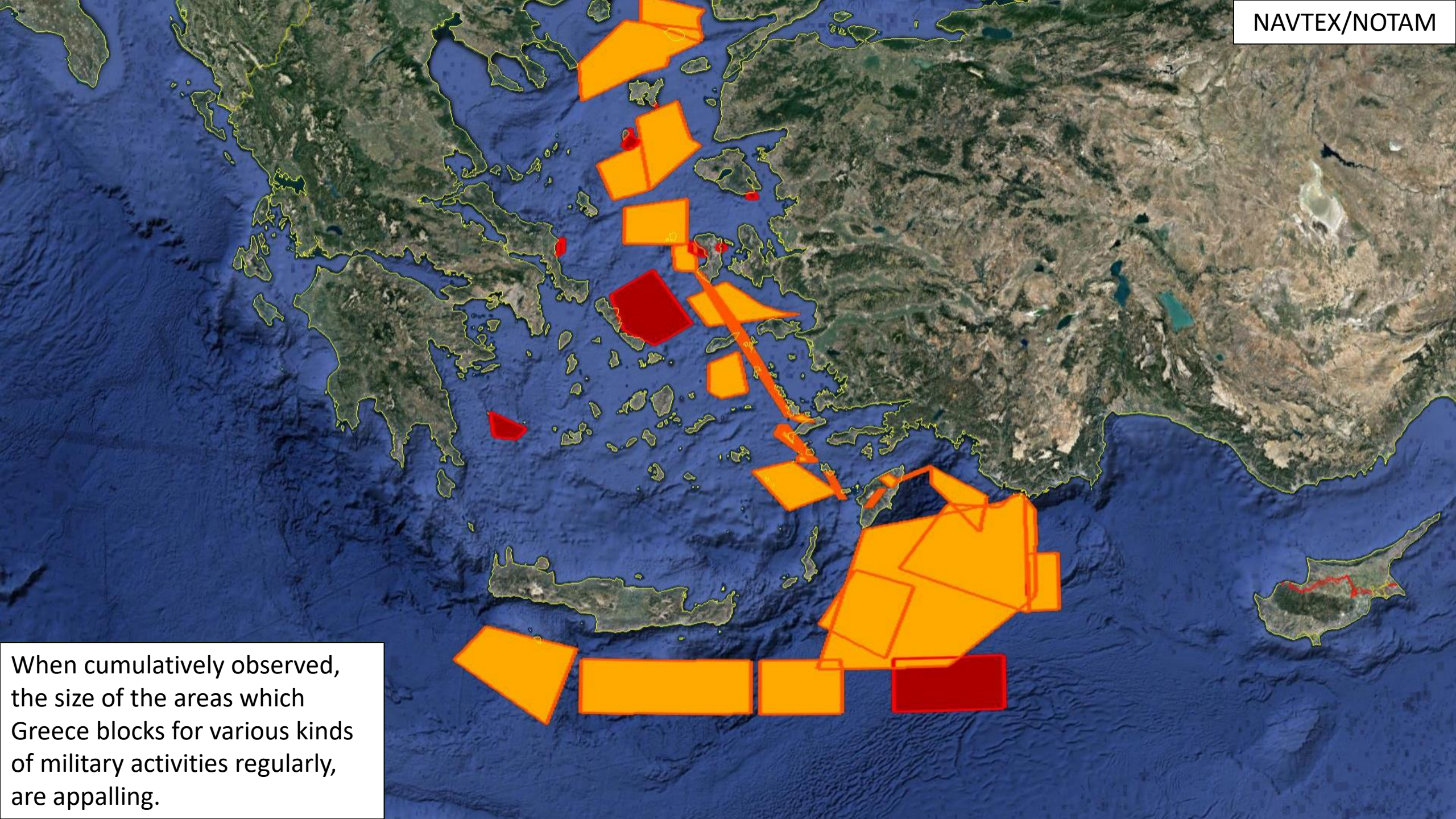
In addition, Greece has no trouble to jeopardize the freedom of navigation in the Aegean, a semi-enclosed sea, by declaring a large area in the Central Aegean as the location of firing exercises that will be used “sunrise to sunset daily” for a whole year.



Greece continues to extend firing exercises throughout the month of October to the Northern Aegean Sea. In this case, the demilitarized status of Agios Efstratios is violated with two separate military activities between 20-23 October 2020.



In rapid succession, Greece announced another firing exercise on 21 October 2020 in the Northern Aegean Sea, covering a large area. The demilitarized status of Samothrace is violated.



When cumulatively observed, the size of the areas which Greece blocks for various kinds of military activities regularly, are appalling.



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.