

Statement by the Hellenic Society for Geographical Studies STRAVO on Libya and developments in the Mediterranean

Athens, 10-1-2020

The Hellenic Society of Geographical Studies STRAVO, a profoundly scientific institution consisting of specialists and informed citizens alike who take interest in geography and geopolitics, having followed closely the aberrant, illegal and destabilizing memoranda signed by GNA and Turkey, feel bound to declare appreciation and support of the stance taken by the governments of Greece and Egypt on this important matter. They endorse the resolute step taken by Cyprus, Greece and Israel in signing the EastMed pipeline agreement of Athens on January 2, 2019. They hope that the ongoing civil discord in Libya can be resolved among Libyans themselves, assisted by the UN with the involvement of all moderate political and social stakeholders of the country.

STRAVO supports any legitimate power sharing accord that helps restore Libyan statehood, while guaranteeing a fair share of hydrocarbon revenues to all essential regions of the country.

STRAVO upholds International Law in all its manifestations as the indispensable framework for addressing and settling claims by riparian countries in the Mediterranean. In this regard, they welcome initiatives from Egypt, Cyprus, Israel, Greece and the institutions of EU, which in full compliance with International Law, and UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in particular, aim at safeguarding regional peace. Turkey, on her part, is entitled within the confines of International Law to exploit her own sea and seabed resources.

Last but not least, STRAVO expresses concern and hope that recent actions and reactions will not lead to aggravation of the volatile situation in the Near and Middle East.