During a meeting of the Foreign Committee of the European Parliament with the Foreign Minister of Greece

**López-Istúriz asks that the EU consider sanctioning Turkey for its provocations to Greece**

* He has also expressed his solidarity with those affected by the fire in the Moria refugee camp

**Brussels, September 10, 2020**.- The MEP and Secretary General of the European People's Party (PPE), Antonio López-Istúriz, has declared today that the EU must consider the imposition of sanctions on Turkey for its latest provocations to Greece.

These sanctions, López-Istúriz said during a meeting of the Foreign Committee of the European Parliament in which the Greek Minister for European Affairs, Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, also participated, would be "the logical reaction of the EU" to this crisis.

Sanctions, he added, "are the only language that these types of regimes tend to understand."

"Erdogan is not an ally of the EU and the half-measures diplomacy that some are using is useless," recalled López-Istúriz, who has also asked "not to fall into the trap of the Turkish narrative."

He pointed out that the crisis between Turkey and Greece is not a justified dispute over gas or a clash between two actors with legitimate arguments and positions, but rather a member state of the EU, Greece, which "responds to an unprovoked aggression from a defiant neighbour ” such as Turkey.

"Greece continues to show respect for international law, meeting with its democratic allies and with the Secretary General of the United Nations, while Erdogan meets with leaders of Hamas and Iran," recalled the Partido Popular MEP.

López-Istúriz also stressed that "Erdogan's actions are a clear threat to the stability of the region and to the borders of Greece, which are also the borders of the EU and therefore we will protect them."

**Solidarity for the Moria fire**

He has also expressed his solidarity with the refugees affected by the fire in the Moria camp, as well as his solidarity with the Greek government and people.