**AJ-TUR-SEC**

**Secret**

**Distribution:** The President · Chief of Staff

**Republic of Türkiye — Ministry of Foreign Affairs — Office of the Ambassador**

**Flash Bulletin**

**ANKARA — 8 November 2026**

**20:30 TRT [UTC + 3:00]**

**Subject:** Drone Attacks on Commercial Shipping Threaten Black Sea Security

**Type:** Maritime Security / Diplomatic

**Status:** Heightened

**Event:** Drone strikes on civilian ships in the Black Sea have reached record levels in 2026. Türkiye's Chamber of Maritime Commerce counts 226 civilian and commercial vessels attacked since the war began, 163 of them in the first eight months of this year. Dozens of Turkish-owned ships have been hit, and in October a Turkish cargo ship carrying Ukrainian grain was sunk, killing two sailors. On 28 October, Defense Minister Yaşar Güler warned Russia and Ukraine after another vessel was struck in Bulgaria's waters, a NATO member's zone. On 31 October, President Erdoğan met President Zelensky in Istanbul and urged both sides to stop targeting civilian ships. A new round of Russia–Ukraine–U.S. talks is being discussed for November, possibly in Türkiye. Continued strikes threaten global grain supplies, shipping insurance costs, and the lives of Turkish sailors.

**Action:** Türkiye requests U.S. support for a Black Sea "civilian shipping ceasefire" as a first step in the coming peace talks, and offers Istanbul as the venue. We recommend that the United States and NATO share drone-tracking intelligence with Türkiye, Romania and Bulgaria. Türkiye will expand naval escorts for commercial ships in its waters while keeping warships out of the Black Sea under the Montreux Convention.

**Est. Cost:** Military (naval escorts and maritime surveillance): $150 Million
Diplomatic (hosting peace talks in Istanbul): $10 Million

### — End of message