

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4443

To increase cooperation with countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region in order to strengthen energy security and defense capabilities, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2026

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. McCORMICK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

## A BILL

To increase cooperation with countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region in order to strengthen energy security and defense capabilities, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Eastern Mediterranean  
5 Gateway Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7       The purpose of this Act is to support the role of East-  
8 ern Mediterranean countries as a strategic gateway in the  
9 India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The India-Middle East-Europe Economic  
4 Corridor (IMEC), launched at the G20 Summit in  
5 2023 with G7 backing, enhances connectivity be-  
6 tween Asia, the Middle East, and Europe while serv-  
7 ing as a strategic alternative to China's Belt and  
8 Road Initiative.

9 (2) The Eastern Mediterranean region is of  
10 strategic importance to the United States and its al-  
11 lies, as demonstrated by the United States founding  
12 role in the 3+1 framework with Greece, Israel, and  
13 Cyprus.

14 (3) Energy projects such as the Great Sea  
15 Interconnector, the Gregy Interconnection Project,  
16 the Greece-Bulgaria Interconnector, and the LNG  
17 terminals in the Eastern Mediterranean play a key  
18 role in European energy security and provide critical  
19 infrastructure that can serve as the backbone for  
20 linking India, the Gulf, and Europe through the  
21 Eastern Mediterranean.

22 (4) Cyprus, Greece, Egypt, and Israel are key  
23 United States partners in promoting stability, secu-  
24 rity, and economic development in the region.

25 (5) Enhanced defense and security cooperation,  
26 as well as educational and cultural exchanges, are

1       essential for strengthening bilateral and multilateral  
2       ties.

3           (6) According to Presidential Determination  
4       2025–03, “the furnishing of defense articles and de-  
5       fense services to the Republic of Cyprus will  
6       strengthen the security of the United States and  
7       promote world peace”.

8           (7) The statement of policy in the Israel Rela-  
9       tions Normalization Act of 2022 (22 U.S.C. 8601  
10      note), notably that it is the policy of the United  
11      States “to expand and strengthen the Abraham Ac-  
12      cords to encourage other nations to normalize rela-  
13      tions with Israel”, should guide the Secretary of  
14      State and other United States actors in their work  
15      to promote integration between India, the Middle  
16      East and southeast Europe.

17          (8) India has strengthened strategic ties with  
18      Greece, Israel, and Cyprus, fostering economic, mar-  
19      itime, and security cooperation that aligns with  
20      United States regional priorities.

21          (9) The success of the India-Middle East-Eu-  
22      rope Economic Corridor depends on infrastructure,  
23      security, and innovation partnerships rooted in the  
24      Eastern Mediterranean region, which serves as the

1 primary connective hub linking the Gulf and Indian  
2 subcontinent to Europe.

3 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) the significance of diplomatic initiatives  
6 such as the Greece-Cyprus-Israel-US “3+1” format,  
7 the East Mediterranean Gas Forum and the Abra-  
8 ham Accords should be recognized and the United  
9 States should maintain its leadership role in these  
10 diplomatic initiatives;

11 (2) the United States should continue to ac-  
12 tively participate in the initiatives of the East Medi-  
13 terranean Gas Forum;

14 (3) the Eastern Mediterranean region is a key  
15 gateway that can link three continents and the  
16 United States should support energy and transpor-  
17 tation infrastructure, connectivity initiatives, defense  
18 cooperation, and other forms of integration in and  
19 around the region;

20 (4) the United States recognizes the unique role  
21 of Eastern Mediterranean countries as both a dis-  
22 tinct subregion and a central connector within the  
23 broader IMEC corridor;

1           (5) the “3+1” diplomatic initiative should re-  
2       sume with a meeting of the Secretary of State with  
3       the Ministers of Israel, Greece, and Cyprus; and

4           (6) the statement of policy in section 203 of the  
5       Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Part-  
6       nership Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 2373 note) should  
7       guide the Secretary of State in promoting  
8       connectivity between India, the Middle East and Eu-  
9       rope, including participation in the trilateral dia-  
10      logue on energy, maritime security, cybersecurity  
11      and protection of critical infrastructure conducted  
12      among Israel, Greece, and Cyprus.

13 **SEC. 5. DIPLOMACY IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION.**

14       (a) STRATEGIC DIALOGUES.—The Secretary of State  
15      may institutionalize multilateral strategic dialogues be-  
16      tween the United States and IMEC countries, including  
17      dedicated formats with Eastern Mediterranean countries,  
18      with which the United States has a bilateral strategic dia-  
19      logue.

20       (b) PRIORITIZATION OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRA-  
21      NEAN.—The Secretary of State shall prioritize the East-  
22      ern Mediterranean region in United States foreign policy,  
23      focusing on energy security and defense cooperation with  
24      countries in such region.

1 **SEC. 6. REPORTS AND STUDIES.**

2 (a) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than  
3 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and  
4 annually thereafter, the Secretary of Energy, in coordina-  
5 tion with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appro-  
6 priate congressional committees a report describing the  
7 implementation and effect of this Act, including an update  
8 on energy projects and defense cooperation that are being  
9 carried out pursuant to the authorities of this Act and  
10 the amendments made by this Act.

11 (b) REPORT ON MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES.—Not  
12 later than one year after the date of the enactment of this  
13 Act, the Secretary of State shall provide to the appropriate  
14 congressional committees a briefing on each multilateral  
15 initiative between the United States and IMEC countries.

16 (c) ANALYSIS OF CYPRUS CENTRE FOR LAND, OPEN  
17 SEAS, AND PORT SECURITY.—Not later than one year  
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
19 of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland  
20 Security, shall analyze insights gained from the operation  
21 of the Cyprus Centre for Land, Open Seas, and Port Secu-  
22 rity as a potential model for broad-based multilateral co-  
23 operation.

24 (d) STUDY OF PROGRAM CREATION AND EXPAN-  
25 SION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
26 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation

1 with the Secretary of Energy, shall submit to the appro-  
2 priate congressional committees a report describing the  
3 cost of, steps to, and feasibility of—

4 (1) creating bilateral programs with Eastern  
5 Mediterranean countries modeled on bilateral pro-  
6 grams between the United States and Israel, includ-  
7 ing—

8 (A) the Binational Agriculture Research  
9 and Development Fund;

10 (B) the United States-Israel Binational In-  
11 dustrial Research and Development Foundation  
12 (including projects relating to homeland secu-  
13 rity and cybersecurity);

14 (C) the United States-Israel Binational  
15 Science Foundation; and

16 (D) the United States-Israel Science and  
17 Technology Foundation; and

18 (2) expanding bilateral programs between the  
19 United States and Israel, including the programs  
20 listed in paragraph (1), to include other Eastern  
21 Mediterranean countries and IMEC countries.

22 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

1           (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
2       TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
3       mittees” means—

4           (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural  
5       Resources and the Committee on Foreign Rela-  
6       tions of the Senate; and

7           (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
8       merce and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
9       the House of Representatives.

10       (2) EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRY.—The  
11       term “Eastern Mediterranean country” means any  
12       of the following countries:

13           (A) The Arab Republic of Egypt.

14           (B) The Hellenic Republic.

15           (C) The Republic of Cyprus.

16           (D) The State of Israel.

17       (3) IMEC COUNTRY.—The term “IMEC coun-  
18       try” means any of the following countries:

19           (A) The European Union.

20           (B) The Federal Republic of Germany.

21           (C) The French Republic.

22           (D) The Italian Republic.

23           (E) The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

24           (F) The Republic of India.

25           (G) The United Arab Emirates.



1 (H) The United States.

2 (I) Any other country that the Secretary of  
3 State designates as an IMEC country for pur-  
4 poses of this Act.

○