

Calendar No. 509

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, Mr. McCORMICK, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BANKS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. KIM, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JULY 27, 2026

Reported by Mr. RISCH, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

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~~”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

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

5 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The India-Middle East-Europe Economic
8 Corridor (IMEC), launched at the G20 Summit in
9 2023 with G7 backing, enhances connectivity be-
10 tween Asia, the Middle East, and Europe while serv-
11 ing as a strategic alternative to China's Belt and
12 Road Initiative.

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

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

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

4 (5) Enhanced defense and security cooperation,
5 as well as educational and cultural exchanges, are
6 essential for strengthening bilateral and multilateral
7 ties.

8 (6) According to Presidential Determination
9 ~~2025-03~~, “the furnishing of defense articles and de-
10 fense services to the Republic of Cyprus will
11 strengthen the security of the United States and
12 promote world peace”.

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

22 (8) India has strengthened strategic ties with
23 Greece, Israel, and Cyprus, fostering economic, mar-
24 itime, and security cooperation that aligns with
25 United States regional priorities.

1 (9) The success of the India-Middle East-Eu-
 2 rope Economic Corridor depends on infrastructure,
 3 security, and innovation partnerships rooted in the
 4 Eastern Mediterranean region, which serves as the
 5 primary connective hub linking the Gulf and Indian
 6 subcontinent to Europe.

7 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

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

15 (2) the United States should continue to ac-
 16 tively participate in the initiatives of the East Medi-
 17 terranean Gas Forum;

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

24 (4) the United States recognizes the unique role
 25 of Eastern Mediterranean countries as both a dis-

1 tinct subregion and a central connector within the
 2 broader IMEC corridor;

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

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

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

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

22 (b) PRIORITIZATION OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRA-
 23 NEAN.—The Secretary of State shall prioritize the East-
 24 ern Mediterranean region in United States foreign policy;

1 focusing on energy security and defense cooperation with
2 countries in such region.

3 **SEC. 6. REPORTS AND STUDIES.**

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

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

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

1 (d) STUDY OF PROGRAM CREATION AND EXPAN-
2 SION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation
4 with the Secretary of Energy, shall submit to the appro-
5 priate congressional committees a report describing the
6 cost of, steps to, and feasibility of—

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

11 (A) the Binational Agriculture Research
12 and Development Fund;

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

17 (C) the United States-Israel Binational
18 Science Foundation; and

19 (D) the United States-Israel Science and
20 Technology Foundation; and

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

1 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

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

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

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

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

15 (A) The Arab Republic of Egypt.

16 (B) The Hellenic Republic.

17 (C) The Republic of Cyprus.

18 (D) The State of Israel.

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

21 (A) The European Union.

22 (B) The Federal Republic of Germany.

23 (C) The French Republic.

24 (D) The Italian Republic.

25 (E) The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

26 (F) The Republic of India.

1 ~~(G) The United Arab Emirates.~~

2 ~~(H) The United States.~~

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

6 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

7 *This Act may be cited as the “Eastern Mediterranean*
 8 *Gateway Act”.*

9 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

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

13 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

14 *Congress finds the following:*

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 16 *Corridor (IMEC), launched at the G20 Summit in*
 17 *2023 with G7 backing, enhances connectivity between*
 18 *Asia, the Middle East, and Europe while serving as*
 19 *a strategic alternative to Chinese infrastructure in-*
 20 *vestments.*

21 *(2) The Eastern Mediterranean region is of stra-*
 22 *tegic importance to the United States and its allies,*
 23 *as demonstrated by the United States founding role*
 24 *in the 3+1 framework with Greece, Israel, and Cy-*
 25 *prus.*

1 (3) *Energy projects such as the Great Sea Inter-*
2 *connector, the Gregy Interconnection Project, the*
3 *Greece-Bulgaria Interconnector, and the LNG termi-*
4 *nals in the Eastern Mediterranean play a key role in*
5 *European energy security and provide critical infra-*
6 *structure that can serve as the backbone for linking*
7 *India, the Gulf, and Europe through the Eastern*
8 *Mediterranean and improve opportunities for United*
9 *States energy security.*

10 (4) *Cyprus, Greece, Egypt, and Israel are key*
11 *United States partners in promoting stability, secu-*
12 *rity, and economic development in the region.*

13 (5) *Enhanced defense and security cooperation,*
14 *as well as educational and cultural exchanges,*
15 *strengthen bilateral and multilateral ties.*

16 (6) *According to Presidential Determination*
17 *2025–03, “the furnishing of defense articles and de-*
18 *fense services to the Republic of Cyprus will strength-*
19 *en the security of the United States and promote*
20 *world peace”.*

21 (7) *The statement of policy in the Israel Rela-*
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23 *note), notably that it is the policy of the United*
24 *States “to expand and strengthen the Abraham Ac-*
25 *cords to encourage other nations to normalize rela-*

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 2 *and other United States actors in their work to pro-*
 3 *mote integration between India, the Middle East and*
 4 *southeast Europe.*

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 6 *Greece, Israel, and Cyprus, fostering economic, mari-*
 7 *time, and security cooperation that aligns with*
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 10 *Economic Corridor depends on infrastructure, secu-*
 11 *rity, and innovation partnerships rooted in the East-*
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 13 *mary connective hub linking the Gulf and Indian*
 14 *subcontinent to Europe.*

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 19 *East Mediterranean Gas Forum and the Abraham*
 20 *Accords should be recognized and the United States*
 21 *should maintain its leadership role in these diplo-*
 22 *matic initiatives;*

23 *(2) the United States should continue to actively*
 24 *participate in the initiatives of the East Mediterra-*
 25 *nean Gas Forum;*

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2 *gateway that can link three continents and the*
3 *United States should support energy and transpor-*
4 *tation infrastructure, connectivity initiatives, defense*
5 *cooperation, and other forms of integration in and*
6 *around the region;*

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8 *of Eastern Mediterranean countries as both a distinct*
9 *subregion and a central connector within the broader*
10 *IMEC corridor;*

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

15 (6) *the statement of policy in section 203 of the*
16 *Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partner-*
17 *ship Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 2373 note) should guide*
18 *the Secretary of State in promoting connectivity be-*
19 *tween India, the Middle East and Europe, including*
20 *participation in the trilateral dialogue on energy,*
21 *maritime security, cybersecurity and protection of*
22 *critical infrastructure conducted among Israel,*
23 *Greece, and Cyprus.*

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9 *NEAN.*—*The Secretary of State shall prioritize the Eastern*
10 *Mediterranean region in United States foreign policy, fo-*
11 *cusing on energy security and defense cooperation with*
12 *countries in such region.*

13 **SEC. 6. REPORTS AND STUDIES.**

14 (a) *REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.*—

15 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than one year after*
16 *the date of the enactment of this Act and annually*
17 *thereafter for 5 years and every 2 years thereafter for*
18 *10 years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the*
19 *appropriate congressional committees a report de-*
20 *scribing the implementation and effect of this Act, in-*
21 *cluding an update on energy projects and defense co-*
22 *operation that are being carried out pursuant to the*
23 *authorities of this Act and the amendments made by*
24 *this Act.*

25 (2) *CONTENTS.*—*The report required by para-*
26 *graph (1) shall include an assessment detailing how*

1 *IMEC is helping to boost connections and trade be-*
2 *tween relevant United States partners with the aim*
3 *of countering the influence of the People’s Republic of*
4 *China.*

5 *(b) REPORT ON MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES.—Not*
6 *later than one year after the date of the enactment of this*
7 *Act, the Secretary of State shall provide to the appropriate*
8 *congressional committees a briefing on each multilateral*
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17 *SION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enact-*
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20 *priate congressional committees a report describing the cost*
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23 *Mediterranean countries modeled on bilateral pro-*
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4 *dustrial Research and Development Foundation*
5 *(including projects relating to homeland security*
6 *and cybersecurity);*

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8 *Science Foundation; and*

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10 *Technology Foundation; and*

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12 *United States and Israel, including the programs list-*
13 *ed in paragraph (1), to include other Eastern Medi-*
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21 *the Senate; and*

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 2 *term “Eastern Mediterranean country” refers to the*
 3 *following countries:*

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18 (I) *Any other country that the Secretary of*
 19 *State designates as an IMEC country for pur-*
 20 *poses of this Act.*

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