



Turkey says that it will not allow foreign minesweepers to enter Black Sea

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Turkish defence minister Hulusi Akar said last week that the country would not allow foreign minesweeper ships to enter the Black Sea to defuse drifting mines, which were claimed to have broken off from anchor cables near Ukrainian ports.

Turkey said that the decision had been made in accordance with the clauses in the Montreux Convention, the country's daily *Milliyet* quoted the minister as saying. Akar said that the convention, which dates back to before the Second World War, was significant for all the countries abutting the Black Sea, adding that Turkey preferred the balance around the Black Sea not to be disturbed.

In the past few weeks Turkey has detected at least three mines in the waters of Bosphorus Strait