



CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ
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**CHC STATEMENT ON CANADA'S
LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY**

Montreal, February 1, 2024— The Canadian Hellenic Congress (CHC) is deeply concerned with Canada's decision to end a ban on Canadian military exports to Turkey – which was in effect for just over 3 years – and stands in solidarity with the Armenian National Committee of Canada in urging the Government of Canada to reconsider its decision and to adopt a principled stance against the belligerence of the Turkish government.

The ban on Canadian military exports to Turkey was imposed in 2019, following Turkey's incursion into northern Syria, then extended in 2020 following revelations that Turkey had not used air-strike targeting gear in the way it had said it would – misleading Canada about its actual goal – when it redirected Canadian optical-technology drones to Azerbaijan in its aggression against Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Canada's reversal of the military-arms ban earlier this week – disturbingly seems as a reward to Turkey – as it comes after its ratification of Sweden's accession into the NATO alliance – a result of discussions between Western countries and Turkish President Erdogan aiming to convince the latter to drop objections against Sweden's membership to NATO.

Under the global Arms Trade Treaty and domestic law, Canada has an obligation to prevent, detect and stop the redirection of military arms to be used by others than the primary customers. Instead, this reversal of the arms ban to Turkey clearly compromises Canada's commitment to human rights, international security and justice – contradicting its longstanding principles in promoting international human rights, inclusive governance and democracy on the international stage, and fully ignores the ongoing aggression and human rights violations perpetrated and supported by Turkey against various populations.

The CHC stands by the Armenian Canadian community as it calls upon the Canadian Government to reconsider its decision to lift the arms ban.

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The Canadian Hellenic Congress is a national democratic communal institution that represents, advances, advocates and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic descent and Hellenism in general. The Congress is the national voice of Hellenes and their communities and/or organizations across Canada.