



**CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS**  
**ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ**  
**CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN**

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Montreal, November 29, 2023

***Via electronic mail:***  
[\*\*\*rishi.sunak.mp@parliament.uk\*\*\*](mailto:rishi.sunak.mp@parliament.uk)

The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak  
**Prime Minister of the United Kingdom**  
House of Commons  
London, England  
SW1A 0AA

**Subject: Canadian Hellenic Congress' position on recent meeting cancellation with Greek Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Kyriakos Mitsotakis**

Dear Prime Minister,

As Canadians of Hellenic descent and part of the Commonwealth of peoples, we are extremely disappointed in your insensitive decision to abruptly cancel a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, over his remarks about the Parthenon Marbles.

Prime Minister, you are surely aware that the issue of the return of the Parthenon Marbles is not new. Over the years, both Greek and British government officials have discussed this matter. In our opinion, the harsh manner with which you axed the meeting with your Greek counterpart just hours before it was to take place showed poor judgment and was undeniably insensitive to many who have called for the return of the Parthenon Marbles.

We believe the Greek Prime Minister has every right to raise the issue with you, as the Prime Minister of Great Britain, and you ultimately have a choice to either respond to him or take no action on the matter. However, to cause a diplomatic row over an issue of such importance to Greece, Hellenes and Philhellenes across the world was tactless and down-right disrespectful. Furthermore, we consider it rude to have treated an ally and a member of the NATO alliance with such contempt and disregard for the Greek people.

We also wish to remind you that our compatriots fought on the side of Great Britain during WWII, putting a considerable dent in the Nazis' plans and ultimately changing the outcome of WWII. Wartime Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, praised their bravery by stating: "Hence, we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks..."

We are extremely disappointed as we expected more than this arrogant and disrespectful stance on the matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Theodore Halatsis  
President

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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.***