



CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

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Canadian Hellenic Congress strongly opposes Canada's expanding the military-industrial cooperation and free trade with Turkey

The recent visit to Turkey by the Honorable Stephen Fuhr, Secretary of State for Defense Procurement raises serious and profound concerns about the ethical and accountability of Canada's middle power foreign and cooperation policy with authoritarian states that do not respect the rule of law or international treaties.

On May 15, 2026, the CHC wrote to the Minister stating its concerns and opposition to the foreign policy direction that the Canadian government is pursuing with respect to any authoritarian regime like Turkey.

The CHC notes several instances where Turkey is not a reliable or a trusted partner. For example, Turkey undermined the European/NATO sanctions against Russia; occupies about 40% of Cyprus and has stationed over 40,000 military forces on the island contrary to UN Security resolutions. They are also known to finance and train terrorists that have killed millions of people.

Over the years Turkey has repeatedly violated Greek Sovereignty bringing both countries to the brink of war. A few days ago, Turkey has sought to arbitrarily divide the Aegean Sea, hence de facto annexing Greek territory. This is against international law and the UN Charter.

"The notion that Turkey is a "trusted partner" and a "valuable ally" is far from the truth", said George Manios, President of the Canadian Hellenic Congress. "On the contrary Turkey has a history of gross violations of human and religious freedoms and does not respect the rule of law or international treaties" he added.

Canada's policy direction is ethically wrong and is flawed, is against our principles and values and raises profound ethical, security and accountability concerns.

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.