



CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ
CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

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January 25, 2021

Via electronic mail: OttawaNIV@state.gov;
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The Honourable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America

The Honourable Kamala D. Harris
Vice-President of the United States of America

c/o The Embassy of the United States of America
P.O. Box 866, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5T1

Subject: Congratulatory letter from the Canadian Hellenic Congress

Dear Mr. President,
Dear Madam Vice-President,

On behalf of the Canadian Hellenic Congress, we wish to extend our warmest congratulations on your inauguration into your respective positions of President and Vice-President of the United States of America. Your recent election victory is a momentous testament to the U.S.' democracy and Vice-President Harris' election is, undoubtedly, historically significant.

We hope that God blesses and guides you in your new mandate and gives you courage and strength as you endeavour to overcome key issues such as the health, economic and social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, advancing racial equity and civil rights, the battle against climate change and the challenges on the road to economic recovery, amongst others. The further development of trade relations between the U.S. and Canada will, certainly, serve to reinforce Canada's strong economic ties with the U.S. and will be essential to the economic recovery of both our countries.

As Canadians of Greek descent, we wish to remind you that Greece, our country of origin, – which finds itself at the crossroads of three continents – has always stood as a great ally of the United States of America and has always treated all people with dignity and respect. Unfortunately, this small country is facing bullying from its eastern neighbour, Turkey, on a daily basis. Despite the fact that Turkey is a member of NATO and the UN, she has never respected the treaties that she has signed. More recently, Turkey has voiced claims disputing her borders with all of her neighbours and, more specifically, with Greece in the Aegean Sea and Thrace; borders that were established by the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne. Moreover, Turkey has historically committed acts against humanity, genocide and aggressive behaviour against other nations and peoples, including – but not limited to – Cyprus, Armenia and Artsakh, as well as, the Kurdish people inside and outside of Turkey.

Mr. President, Madam Vice-President, we trust that when the time comes for you to deal with issues in the Eastern Mediterranean region, you will keep in mind all these events from the not-so-distant, painful past and you will use all your powers to create a harmonious environment of co-existence in the letter and spirit of international law.

We wish you every success for your mandate.

Respectfully,

Dr. Theodore Halatsis
President

Dr. Costas Pappas
VP-Administration & Secretary

C.c.: Antony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State; usstatebpa@public.govdelivery.com
Daniel Bennett Smith, acting U.S. Secretary of State; usstatebpa@public.govdelivery.com

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.