

CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

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February 4, 2021

<u>Via electronic mail:</u> <u>marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca</u>

The Honourable Marc Garneau, PC, MP Minister of Foreign Affairs House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Subject: Appointment of the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Dear Minister Garneau,

On behalf of the Canadian Hellenic Congress, we take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs and extend to you our best wishes for the New Year.

We are communicating with you with regard to the current ongoing selection process for the appointment of the next Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Last fall, we were particularly pleased to hear of the nomination of the Honourable Bill Morneau as Canada's candidate for Secretary-General of the OECD. More recently we were deeply disappointed to learn that Canada's candidate did not make it to the third round in the selection process.

As Canadians of Hellenic origin, we would be pleased if Canada would support Anna Diamantopoulou, Greece's candidate for the position.

Canada and Greece share many common values and ideals, as well as, international interests and objectives. They have long-standing ties and bilateral relations in numerous sectors, including – but not limited to – education, foreign policy, trade and investment, and work closely in various multilateral fora with the aim of developing effective responses to today's most pressing global challenges. Furthermore, Canada and Greece are founding members of the OECD, both equally committed to its founding principles of promoting democracy and economic growth as a path to stability.

We believe Ms. Diamantopoulou's significant experience in the political, private and non-profit sectors, at both national and international levels, as well as, her wide-ranging policy expertise and practice; make her an ideal candidate for the post of OECD Secretary-General. Moreover,

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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.



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we are certain that Ms. Diamantopoulou would bring to the position the same principles and values espoused by the Honourable Bill Morneau; a further testament to the strong relationship shared by our countries.

We also believe that Ms. Diamantopoulou's appointment would be especially fitting in this milestone year, as Greece celebrates the bicentennial of the Revolution of 1821 and its War of Independence.

As our Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister, we hope that you, along with Ambassador Madeleine Chenette – Canada's Permanent Representative to the OECD – will support the candidacy of Anna Diamantopoulou for the post of OECD Secretary-General.

Sincerely,

Dr. Theodore Halatsis President

Dr. Costas Pappas VP – Administration & Secretary

C.c.: - The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP, Prime Minister of Canada

- The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, PC, MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance
- The Honourable Mélanie Joly, PC, MP, Minister of Economic Development, Minister of Official Languages
- The Honourable David Lametti, PC, MP, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
- Niki Ashton, MP Churchill-Keewatinook Aski
- Julie Dabrusin, MP Toronto-Danforth
- Fayçal El-Khoury, MP Laval-Les Îles
- Peter Fragiskatos, MP London North Centre
- Emmanuella Lambropoulos, MP Saint-Laurent
- Rachel Bendayan, MP Outremont
- Annie Koutrakis, MP Vimy

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