

## CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

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June 21, 2022

Via electronic mail:

justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca; pm@pm.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Canada Langevin Block Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

SUBJECT: TURKEY'S ESCALATING THREATS TO GREECE'S SOVEREIGNTY

AND NATO'S POSITION

Dear Prime Minster,

Over the past few weeks, Greece and Hellenes have been subjected to threats and insults by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his ministers. Most recently, the Turkish President – via Twitter – threatened to "bury" Greece, alluding to the last century's Greco-Turkish War (1919-1922). This is unacceptable.

We call upon you and your government, Prime Minister, to speak up to condemn Erdogan's provocative and insulting rhetoric.

Moreover, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg continues to be Turkey's main appeaser in NATO, stating that Turkey's security concerns are legitimate regarding its opposition to Finland and Sweden joining the Alliance. This must end, and Secretary General Stoltenberg should advance the best interests of the Alliance, **not** the revisionist policies of Turkey.

As Canadians, we remain disappointed with the inability and unwillingness of NATO's political leadership to address intra-Alliance conflicts and for allowing its Secretary-General to appease Turkey at every turn.

By all accounts, Turkey – under Erdogan's tutelage – does <u>not</u> share NATO's core values, purpose or best interests. Yet, there seems to be continued appearement from Secretary General Stoltenberg, who is appointed to his position by the Alliance and should, therefore, work for the Alliance and <u>not</u> to be a "mouthpiece" for Turkey's policies.

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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 find Stoltenberg's behaviour highly unethical, biased and **not** in the best interests of NATO. In fact, we believe his behaviour should be questioned by our government and the Alliance should take remedial action on him.

Prime Minister, we urge you, and your Foreign and Defence Ministers, to address this matter immediately! You must act today, as democratic values and, thus, democracies are at peril!

Sincerely,

Dr. Theodore Halatsis

President

Dr. Costas Pappas

VP - Administration & Secretary

C.c: The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs: <a href="melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca">melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca</a>
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