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CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS STRONGLY OPPOSES CANADA'S COOPERATION AND FREE-TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH TURKEY

Toronto, October 27, 2026. Last week's visit to Turkey by Prime Minister Mark Carney has overturned Canada's human rights principles in favour of free-trade and strategic cooperation with an authoritarian Turkish regime.

"This visit 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," said George Manios, Canadian Hellenic Congress (CHC) President.

Since May 15, 2026, the CHC has written several letters to the Prime Minister and his Ministers noting and stating its concerns and opposition to the foreign-policy direction that the Canadian government is pursing with respect to any authoritarian regime like Turkey. We can expand our trade partners without undermining our long-standing principles on human rights and the rule of law.

The CHC has noted on several instances that 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; regularly violates the sovereignty of Greece and Cyprus; threatens its neighbours with military action and restricts the ability of the Ecumenical Patriarch in carrying out its functions. Turkey is also known to finance and train terrorists like Hamas and Hezbollah that have killed millions of people.

"Turkey is not a bona-fide partner to rely on. The belief, that Canada will have access to the Eurasian market via Turkey, is flawed", said George Manios. "Turkey is an ally of convenience and does not adhere to the same values and principles. It is foolish to believe that it will be a good and reliable partner".

Turkey may have a large population and a large army, but it is not a democracy. It is a brutal dictatorship run by "family". Its military-industrial complex is based on foreign-made systems, mainly American and European weapons.

Turkey has a long history of gross violations of human and religious freedoms, jails political opposition leaders and journalists, and does not respect the rule of law or international treaties. This must not be ignored by the Government of Canada. Our government must put conditions to ensure that the rule of law prevails on any agreements reached with Turkey.

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For information: chc@chcongress.ca

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.