



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
PIRAEUS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Piraeus, 13th of July 2020
Ref. num.: 3183

TO: EUROCOMMERCE
ATTN: Mr. Régis Degelcke
President

Mr Christian Verschueren
Gen. Director

«HELLENIC CHAMBERS PROTEST AGAINST TURKEY'S ACTIONS AND REQUEST EU SANCTIONS»

In this letter, we stress Turkey's unspeakable decision to turn Hagia Sophia into a mosque, urging European business community to react, as no business practice can justify the political character of that particular decision. EU should demonstrate a clear will, not to tolerate such an action that offends the international community, world and European institutions and especially culture around the world, calling on the Turkish government to review and stop any attempt to convert Hagia Sophia from a museum into a mosque.

The economic bridges of cooperation have many times in the past been useful in periods of crisis, between Greece and Turkey, despite the intense controversy over serious national issues, but we believe that, after the latest events, we should reconsider our business attitude towards Turkey. Greek companies cooperating with Turkish companies are also discussing to review or suspend their cooperation, as a sign of protest, at least for as long as they insist on their provocative decision to turn the Hagia Sophia monument into a mosque.

The Greek market is now seriously considering to boycott Turkish products. We all understand that with a ban, on our part, from the import and consumption of Turkish products, there will be retaliation and, possibly, the impact to the Greek economy will be considerable. Nevertheless the surplus trade balance is not enough, to balance the Turkish offensive devaluation of a historic, christian and world cultural monument.

Greece has officially asked the European Union to have a ready list of strong measures and requests sanctions against Turkey, in case the neighboring country continues to be provocative. Referring to Hagia Sophia the international community must take its own responsibilities, because that is a criterion for the way Turkey sees things. However, there must be an initiative by UNESCO, also the European Union and the United Nations, not only by Greece. The issue is not Greek-Turkish, not even Euro-Turkish, but it is a matter of undoing rules and disrespecting rules that concern the world community.

As PCCI we call on the administration of the EuroCommerce to support our protest and to inform the Turkish organizations that the European business community do not accept **such actions without sanctions**; to take strict measures against Turkey, which could even reach the embargo. A resounding protest warning from business organisations will be a first European reaction of entrepreneurship to the Turkish unjustified decisions. We are calling our European and world partners to say:

#Stop selling culture!

#Stop Turkey using culture for politics!



Kindest regards,

Vassilis Korkidis



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PIRAEUS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Piraeus, 13th of July 2020
Ref. num.: 3183

TO: ASCAME

ATTN: Mr. Ahmed El Wakil
President

«HELLENIC CHAMBERS PROTEST AGAINST TURKEY'S ACTIONS AND REQUEST EU SANCTIONS»

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As PCCI we call on the administration of ASCAME to support our protest and to inform the Turkish organizations that the European business community do not accept **such actions without sanctions**; to take strict measures against Turkey, which could even reach the embargo. A resounding protest warning from business organisations will be a first European reaction of entrepreneurship to the Turkish unjustified decisions. We are calling our European and world partners to say:

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Kindest regards,

Vassilis Korkidis