



**AHI**  
American Hellenic Institute

## GREECE

# 2012 CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Greece is an immensely valuable, proven, and reliable ally for the United States in its region. AHI has always stated that Greece is the strategic, political and economic key for the United States in southeastern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean. We call for a special relationship between the United States and Greece for the mutual benefit of both countries.

**ISSUE 1: THE AEGEAN SEA BOUNDARY** Turkey has made claims devoid of any legal basis to one-half of the Aegean Sea, disputing Greece's sovereignty over the Dodecanese Islands. Turkey refuses to take its maritime boundary claim to the International Court of Justice at The Hague

for a binding ruling. Despite accession negotiations with the EU, and Greece's sincere efforts to achieve complete normalization of relations with Turkey, the latter, as its official policy, continues to threaten Greece with war (*casus belli*) and promotes claims that are unfounded and devoid of any legal basis. Also, the United States is a signatory to the 1947 Paris Peace Treaty under which the Dodecanese Islands and adjacent islets were ceded by Italy to Greece. Therefore, the United States is obligated by U.S. law to carry out the treaty's provisions.

**1. Would you support legislation requesting the U.S. Department of State to recognize the territorial boundaries in the Aegean Sea as set forth in the Paris Peace Treaty of 1947 to which the U.S. is a signatory and the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

## ISSUE 2: THE OUTSTANDING NAME ISSUE REGARDING THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM)

The 1995 Interim Accord<sup>1</sup> signed by Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) required negotiations for a new name for FYROM. However, no breakthrough has been made since 1995 and today the negotiations are stalemated because FYROM maintains that the only name that is acceptable to them is its original "constitutional" name of "Republic of Macedonia," which is problematic for Greece. For example, only a small portion of geographic area known as Macedonia lies within FYROM, whose population is one-third Albanian and two-thirds Slavic in origin. The largest part of geographic Macedonia lies within Greece in the Greek province of Macedonia. Moreover, FYROM promulgates propaganda in which it claims portions of Greek territory and usurps Greek national identity and culture. Furthermore, the final name must apply for all internal and international uses (*erga omnes*).

President George W. Bush and the State Department negated previous U.S. policy when the U.S. recognized FYROM as the "Republic of Macedonia" on November 4, 2004. The policy change was not in the best interest of the United States, and in fact, harms U.S. interests in the Balkans. The decision ignored historical truths recognized by the United States for decades. It was a disrespectful act toward Greece which is a staunch NATO ally in the Balkans. It made FYROM more obstinate in its will to negotiate a new name and emboldened its desire to continue its provocative propaganda against Greece.

The immediate settlement of the name issue in a way that is mutually acceptable to both Greece and FYROM will allow the United States' strongest ally in the Balkans, Greece, to be the driving force for FYROM's membership to NATO and ultimately the EU. This will create stability for U.S. interests in the Balkans.

**2. Do you support rescinding United States policy that recognizes FYROM as the "Republic of Macedonia" and returning to original U.S. policy that recognizes FYROM as FYROM until a mutually-agreed upon solution is reached?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Would you support a solution to the FYROM name-recognition issue that could have the effect of compromising the territorial integrity of Greece?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Do you support extending a formal invitation to FYROM to join NATO before a mutually-agreed upon solution to the name-recognition issue is achieved?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Would you oppose any U.S. foreign aid to FYROM for as long as FYROM does not commit to negotiate in good faith with Greece to find an acceptable solution to the name to be used by FYROM for all purposes?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>The Interim Accord is a UN-brokered Treaty signed in New York (September 13, 1995) between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It constitutes the political framework of the bilateral relations between the two countries

# CYPRUS

**Cyprus** is an important nation for U.S. interests in the eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, and it is a key partner on counter-terrorism and security issues. Cyprus shares the U.S.' core values of freedom, democracy and adherence to the rule of law. It is also a member of the EU and currently holds the rotating EU presidency. Also, the Republic of Cyprus is the first EU nation to sign the U.S.' Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). Cyprus is a Western-oriented country and it is vital to U.S. interests that it remains so as demonstrated by the 2006 evacuation from Lebanon to Cyprus of 15,000 U.S. citizens during the Israel-Lebanon conflict. Also, Limassol port is used by U.S. military personnel deployed in the region for R&R.

**ISSUE 1: A JUST AND VIABLE SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS ISSUE** On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded the Republic of Cyprus with the illegal use of U.S.-supplied arms and equipment in violation of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and customary international law. Turkey occupied about four percent of Cyprus during the initial phase of its invasion.

On August 14, 1974, **three weeks after the legitimate government of Cyprus was restored**, Turkey launched the second phase of its invasion of Cyprus. As a result, Turkey grabbed another 33 percent of the island, expanding its land grab to nearly 40 percent of Cyprus's sovereign territory; killed innocent civilians, raped women from the ages of 12-71, forced 170,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes and property, and committed mass destruction of property including churches. The Turkish army continues to occupy this territory. Furthermore, to secure its land grab of Cypriot territory, Turkey has illegally settled occupied northern Cyprus with more than 180,000 Turks from Anatolia in violation of the Geneva Convention of 1949, which prohibits colonization by an occupying power.

**6. Do you support the immediate removal of the 43,000 illegal Turkish troops and 180,000 illegally-settled colonists that occupy one-third of the Republic of Cyprus?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Would you support legislation that would condition any benefits which do or may accrue to Turkey under U.S. law upon Turkey immediately removing the 43,000 illegal Turkish troops and the 180,000 illegally-settled colonists that occupy one-third of the Republic of Cyprus?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Would you support legislation that enables U.S. citizens to make claims for rent or the return of real property which they own in occupied Cyprus either through a claims commission or through the courts (See H.R.2597 in 112<sup>th</sup> Congress)?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

**ISSUE 2: CYPRUS'S SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO EXPLORE FOR HYDROCARBON RESERVES** On December 17, 2010, Cyprus and Israel signed an agreement delimiting the maritime boundary between the two nations which opens up cooperative exploration of hydrocarbon exploration in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Exploration began late September 2011. The Turkish government threatened (and continues to threaten) to block exploration asserting—incredibly—that it has rights in the area and the Republic of Cyprus does not because 1) Turkey does not recognize the Republic of Cyprus, and 2) Turkey has not ratified the Law of the Sea and therefore can maintain that the Republic of Cyprus has no such claim as a continental shelf or EEZ to delimit. However Turkey, which is 40 miles from the northern coast of Cyprus, has no rights in the continental shelf of Cyprus or in the area because it has not ratified any of the three treaties on the Law of the Sea. Despite Turkish threats, U.S.-based firm Noble Energy announces a discovery off the coast of Cyprus that may hold as much as 8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

**9. Do you support the Republic of Cyprus's sovereign right to explore for hydrocarbon reserves and other natural resources in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ)?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

**ISSUE 3: THE DESTRUCTION OF CYPRUS' RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE** The Law Library of Congress and the United Nations have documented the deliberate destruction of Orthodox Christian religion and culture, which the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court calls a war crime. The Turkish invaders have vandalized, looted and pillaged 17 monasteries, 500 churches and 15,000 religious icons. They've converted 77 churches into mosques. Turkish forces have desecrated or destroyed 25 cemeteries. In addition, religious sites belonging to other Christian and Jewish communities have been desecrated, pillaged or destroyed in Turkish-occupied Cyprus.

**10. Would you support legislation to amend the eastern Mediterranean policy provisions (22 USC Section 7626,) and the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act as amended, to impose sanctions on Turkey for the desecration of religious and cultural property and artifacts in the portion of the Republic of Cyprus it illegally occupies?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

# ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE AND THE HALKI PATRIARCHAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

## ISSUE 1: URGING TURKEY TO RESPECT THE RIGHT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

The Ecumenical Patriarchate is the spiritual home of the world's oldest and second largest Christian Church. Very little progress has been made by Turkey to safeguard it or its spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, and about six million in the U.S., Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. The Turkish government has tolerated assaults against its Greek Orthodox Christian religious minority and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, continues the illegal closure of the Greek Orthodox Halki Patriarchal School of Theology, and has illegally taken numerous church properties.

*11. Would you support legislation that requires Turkey to afford to the Ecumenical Patriarchate religious freedom as defined in U.S. and international law, which includes the reopening of the Halki Patriarchal School of Theology and guaranteeing and protecting the property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate?*

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

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*12. Would you support legislation calling on the President of the United States to invoke provisions of the U.S. International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 USC Sec. 6401 et seq.) against Turkey?*

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

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## TURKEY

Turkey is the main cause of the problems in its region, the northeastern Mediterranean, the Aegean Sea, the northern Middle East and in the southern Caucasus. Turkey is hardly a model for the Muslim world or for any nation to emulate.

**ISSUE 1: TURKEY AS AN UNRELIABLE ALLY** Turkey is an unreliable ally. This assertion was proven during the George W. Bush administration when Turkey refused to allow the United States to use bases in Turkey to open a northern front against the Saddam Hussein dictatorship. Turkey's reasoning was that it wanted \$6 billion more—in addition to \$26 billion irresponsibly offered by the Bush administration through then Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz—for a total of \$32 billion. A former Bush administration official called Turkey's negotiating tactics "**extortion in the name of alliance.**"<sup>2</sup> The United States' successful prosecution of the war against Iraq without access from Turkey proved Turkey's limited value as a strategic military resource in the region. Furthermore, Turkey's attacks on Israel for the latter's actions in Gaza, its public support for Iran's dictator, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and that country's fraudulent election and nuclear ambitions; and its public support of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir, who is under indictment for crimes against humanity, are all in stark opposition to U.S. policy. Turkey's foreign policy direction has given reason for the media and foreign policy experts to scrutinize Turkey's NATO membership. During a Republican presidential debate held January 16, 2012 in South Carolina, *Fox News* Anchor Bret Baier questioned if "Turkey still belongs in NATO" and at an AHI policy forum held February 6, 2012, Keynote Speaker Daniel Pipes, president, Middle East Forum and Taube Fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, offered that Turkey's NATO membership should be "suspended" or "terminated."

*13. Do you support a critical review and assessment of U.S. policy toward Turkey that would also consider revoking Most Favored Nation Status and conditioning military assistance to Turkey?*

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

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*14. Would you advocate for a review of Turkey's NATO membership based upon its foreign policy direction?*

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> The Interim Accord is a UN-brokered Treaty signed in New York (September 13, 1995) between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It constitutes the political framework of the bilateral relations between the two countries

<sup>2</sup> *New York Times*, Feb. 20, 2003; A1; col. 6.

# AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE

## 2012 CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE FORM

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_

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**I have read the attached 2012 Candidate Questionnaire.  
(Note: Candidate must sign below)**

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete, print, sign and return this form—along with your responses (if needed, on a separate sheet of paper)—via fax or mail to the below address by Monday, September 24, 2012.**

Please feel free to write any additional comments or your statements on a separate piece of paper.



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