



March 26, 2013

The Honorable Demetrios Marantis
Acting United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Marantis:

On behalf of our respective communities, we are writing to encourage the Obama Administration to ensure that any future trade measures involving the Republic of Turkey, including both bilateral and European Union-related agreements, require, as a statutory precondition, that Turkey end its illegal economic blockade of Armenia and its unlawful military occupation of Cyprus.

We raise this concern in connection to the White House's March 20, 2013 notification to Congress of its intent to negotiate a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the European Union, and the Turkish government's own stated interest in joining this agreement and also in reaching its own Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

We welcome your leadership on the expansion of U.S. trade and investment based on a fair playing field and respect for the rule of law. In the case of Turkey, however, it is clear that the United States would not advance our national interests, our economic welfare, or our core values in any meaningful or enduring manner by rewarding a nation that so egregiously and flagrantly undermines the integrity of the global trading system by occupying a European Union member state and maintaining the last closed border in Europe.

We appreciate your attention to this matter, and would very much welcome both a written response to our concerns and the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss these and other reservations in greater detail.

Sincerely,

Nick Larigakis
President

Aram Hamparian
Executive Director