



Nikolaos Anadiotis

Member of the European Parliament

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Honourable Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU,

I have received your letter dated May 21, 2025, in which you express your strong objection to my public statements regarding the Genocide of the Pontic Greeks. While I respect the right of every delegation to defend the official position of its country, I consider it my duty to point out that the denial of well-documented historical crimes serves neither historical truth, nor reconciliation between our peoples, nor the progress of EU–Turkey relations.

In 2007, the *International Association of Genocide Scholars* (IAGS, genocidescholars.org) officially recognized the Genocide of the Greeks of the Ottoman Empire, along with that of the Assyrians. The composition of its Board includes professors from the United States, Australia, Germany, Spain, Cambodia, and Argentina — with not a single Greek member. It is therefore evident that this recognition is based solely on the scholarly evaluation of facts and not on political expediency.

As you yourself mention, genocide is not a generic term, but a legal one, with clear conditions and criteria as defined in the 1948 UN Convention. Precisely for this reason, on such matters, we must turn to experts. I therefore repeat your own words: “historical facts cannot be altered through political manipulation. Nor should they be rewritten to serve short-sighted populist agendas.” Also: “historical events, including controversial ones, should be the subject of calm study by academics and historians — not by politicians or

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propagandists.” I fully agree, and I refer you to the careful research of the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

The documentation of the events that led to the extermination of the Pontic Greeks is based on thousands of archival sources, testimonies, diplomatic reports (e.g., those of U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau), and accounts of international missions that confirm the existence of mass persecutions, massacres, starvation, and forced deportations.

The recognition of the Pontic Genocide is not exclusively a Greek position. It has also been adopted by other countries, regions, and institutions, such as:

- **Cyprus, the Netherlands, Sweden, Austria, Armenia**
- **U.S. States:** New York, California, New Jersey, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Rhode Island, South Dakota, West Virginia, among others
- **Canadian cities:** Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver, Regina
- **The Youth of the European People’s Party**

The **Armenian Genocide** by the Ottoman Empire and the Young Turks — with hundreds of thousands of victims — has likewise been recognized by dozens of countries.

As for the Treaty of Lausanne, which you invoke, I must point out that it makes no reference whatsoever to crimes against humanity or genocide. Article 59 concerns general matters of reparations and cannot be used either as proof of exoneration or as closure of moral or historical responsibility.

You also refer to the exchange of letters between Venizelos and Atatürk. Indeed, those reflect a sincere effort for diplomatic reconciliation between the two states. But that does not imply historical oblivion, nor does it mean that the memory of the victims can be silenced for the sake of diplomatic decorum. Reconciliation must not rest on denial of the truth.

Moreover, your letter attempts to reverse historical reality by portraying Greece as the aggressor(!), at a time when **353,000 Pontic Greeks were exterminated in the most horrific way**. These were victims who, a century later, are still waiting for just one word: **sorry**.

The progress of peoples does not come through suppression or distortion, but through recognition and justice. To this day, the Turkish state has neither assumed any responsibility nor offered a public apology. Instead, your letter reproduces a narrative that silences, distorts, and ultimately insults the memory of the victims and their descendants.

A mature and democratic society does not threaten those who express a different historical perspective. On the contrary, it has the courage to look its past in the eye and acknowledge its darkest chapters.

Let us not forget that even **Hitler himself**, as he prepared the mass extermination of the Jews, cynically posed the question: *“Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”* This phrase was recorded in his speech of August 22, 1939, just before the invasion of Poland, and was presented as evidence at the Nuremberg Trials (USA-28, document L-3). It was published by journalist Louis P. Lochner in his book *What About Germany?* (1942). This phrase remains a historical testimony of how **impunity for one genocide can encourage the next**.

Reconciliation does not come through forgetting. It comes only through truth. And the responsibility for promoting historical truth is collective — but it weighs especially heavily on those who serve democratic institutions. The very least we owe to the victims of such crimes is **not to forget them**.

Finally, you referred to the supposed positive momentum in our bilateral relations. If such a momentum truly existed, we would be among the first to welcome and cultivate it. However, today, **one-third of Cyprus remains under Turkish occupation**, your country continues to **threaten us with war** if we exercise our legal rights in the Aegean, and for half a century, it has persistently added new, outrageous claims against Greece. Under these

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conditions, no diplomatic language can speak of “positive momentum” without distorting common sense. And as long as these conditions persist — conditions of existential threat to my homeland — you may rest assured that in the European Parliament, and in any other forum, **you will find us standing in opposition.**

Respectfully,

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