



Canadian-Turkish Business Council
Conseil d'affaires Canada-Turquie
Kanada-Türkiye /T/Konseyi

April 1, 2015

The Honourable Ed Fast
Minister of International Trade
Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

Dear Minister Fast,

Re: PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTION M-587 DATED MARCH 25, 2015,
CALLING FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE APRIL AS GENOCIDE
PREVENTION MONTH.

I wish to bring your attention to the above mentioned Private Members' Motion, the passage of which risks bringing immediate and severe economic consequences to Canadian businesses operating in Turkey.

The Canadian-Turkish Business Council (CTBC) is a non-profit business NGO that represents most major Canadian firms operating in Turkey, including in such sectors as agriculture and agri-food, aerospace, energy, ICT, and mining. Last year, Canadian exports to Turkey amounted to just over \$1 billion. Canadian investments in the country are in the \$2 billion range and are set to grow further.

The CTBC has supported initiatives by your government in recent years to promote increased trade and investment with Turkey. These include the opening of a Canadian Consulate in Istanbul in 2010, the coming in to force of a bilateral double taxation agreement in 2013 and, identifying Turkey as one of 20 priority markets under your government's Global Markets Action Plan. In a previous letter to you, we expressed our strong support for the establishment of a Canada/Turkey Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) and for the launch of formal bilateral FTA negotiations.

It is against this background of fostering increased Canadian trade and investment with Turkey, coupled with the current fragile state of the Canadian economy, that we urge your government not to support the proposed motion. Turkey is making efforts to address Armenian claims. We should defer to the leaders of those two countries to manage that process. Any interventions by your government on this issue should be to support constructive solutions that will result in positive benefits for all concerned. It certainly should not jeopardize business prospects for Canadian firms operating in Turkey.



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The Hon. Ed Fast (cont.)

April 1, 2015.

Re: Private Members' Motion M-587 dated March 25, 2015

Our members have worked hard over the years to build bilateral trade and investment between our two countries. This is neither the time nor the issue to jeopardize those achievements.

Yours truly,

Gar Knutson
Chairman
Canadian-Turkish Business Council

cc: Office of The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
Office of The Honourable Rob Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Office of The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food