

In the following period, Türkiye and Greece decided to put the hostility aside and started to cultivate good-neighbourly relations. The nomination of Atatürk to the Nobel Peace Prize in 1934 by the then Greek Prime Minister Venizelos (who had also been Prime Minister during the Greek occupation) is a clear testimony to this fact. Historical facts cannot be changed by political manipulation. Nor should they be re-written to serve some short-sighted populist agendas. Attempts to draw hostility from history will bring no good other than instigating conflict and hatred among peoples and countries. Historical episodes, including the controversial ones, should be the subject of a dispassionate study of scholars and historians, not politicians or propagandists.

In this context, I would also like to remind that "genocide" is not a generic word, but a legal term defining the gravest crime against humanity under international law that must be used responsibly. According to the 1948 UN Genocide Convention, there are specific requirements and criteria to establish whether a genocide occurred or not (concrete evidence, an intent to destroy and a verdict by a competent court) and none of them apply to the events that took place during the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire.

Common sense and wisdom should prevail to maintain the positive momentum in relations between Türkiye and Greece as well as the democratic credibility and prestige of the European Parliament by not allowing such travesty of history to be replayed once and for all. Atatürk and Venizelos already set the moral standard and a way forward to follow suit in this regard.

Sincerely yours,



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