

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 999

Urging Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarch.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. BACA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Urging Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Whereas Turkey began accession negotiations with the European Union on October 3, 2005;

Whereas in 1993 the European Union defined the membership criteria for accession to the European Union at the Copenhagen European Council, obligating candidate countries to have achieved certain levels of reform, including stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, and respect for and protection of minorities;

Whereas the Government of Turkey refuses to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarch's international status; and

Whereas the Government of Turkey has limited to Turkish nationals the candidates available to the Holy Synod for selection as the Ecumenical Patriarch and has refused to reopen the Theological School at Halki, thus impeding training for the clergy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls on Turkey to continue to demonstrate
3 its willingness to adopt and uphold European stand-
4 ards for the protection of human rights;

5 (2) based on the ideals associated with the Eu-
6 ropean Union and its member states, calls on Tur-
7 key to eliminate all forms of discrimination, particu-
8 larly those based on race or religion, and imme-
9 diately—

10 (A) grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appro-
11 priate international recognition and ecclesiastic
12 succession;

13 (B) grant the Ecumenical Patriarchate the
14 right to train clergy of all nationalities, not just
15 Turkish nationals; and

16 (C) respect property rights and human
17 rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and

18 (3) calls on Turkey to pledge to uphold and
19 safeguard religious and human rights without com-
20 promise.

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