



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 9, 2022

The Honorable
Gus M. Bilirakis
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Bilirakis:

Thank you for your letter dated January 21. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to our allies and partners in the Eastern Mediterranean. The United States continues to partner with Greece, the Republic of Cyprus and Israel through the 3+1 framework, which includes lines of effort to increase the energy security and connectivity of the Eastern Mediterranean and deepen its integration with Europe. The United States supports electricity interconnections that link Eastern Mediterranean countries to each other and to Europe, allowing for future exports of electricity, benefiting nations in the region.

Our policy on new fossil fuel infrastructure overseas is guided by our climate goals. The Biden-Harris Administration is focusing support away from the construction of new and large-scale fossil fuel projects, like the East Mediterranean Gas Pipeline (EMGP), and towards clean energy projects such as more flexible electricity interconnections and other infrastructure which will allow for the increased use of renewable energy to generate electricity.

The United States did not reverse its position as it had not formally or financially supported the EMGP thus far. Rather we clarified our position to focus on electricity. The decision to move forward with EMGP ultimately rests with the nations involved in the project. The Biden-Harris Administration supports the development of energy infrastructure projects that will pave the way for a clean energy transition in the Eastern Mediterranean region and Europe. Projects like electricity interconnections will support Europe's efforts to diversify energy supplies, meet our mutual climate goals, and increase energy security.

Finally, we appreciate the concerns you raise about the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. As we have made clear, the Biden – Harris Administration continues to oppose Nord Stream 2 as a harmful Russian geopolitical project that is a bad deal for Ukraine and for Europe.

We hope this information is helpful. Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Naz Durakoglu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Naz" and last name "Durakoglu" clearly distinguishable.

Naz Durakoglu
Senior Bureau Official
Bureau of Legislative Affairs