



NEWS & VIEWS

A perspective from CHP

6 October 2020, Issue: 10



REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY
Foreign Relations Department

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ON THE ARMENIAN ATTACKS ON AZERBAIJANI BORDER

*PRESS STATEMENT BY ÜNAL ÇEVİKÖZ, PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO THE
CHAIRPERSON OF CHP (REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY)*

27 September 2020

It is with great worry and deep sadness that we learned the attacks carried out early in the morning by Armenia on Kapanlı village of Tartar district, Çıraklı and Ortakerbent villages of Agdam district, Alhamlı and Şükürbeyli villages of Fuzuli district and Çocukmercanlı village of Jabrayil district, located at the Azerbaijani border.

We condemn the violation of the cease-fire by Armenia, in breach of the international law, and the attacks that killed and wounded civilians. Once again, we strongly emphasize that the Republican People's Party always stands by its Azerbaijani brothers and sisters.

Turkey must mobilize the international community, notably the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, to avoid further casualties and must support a peaceful solution to the issue. It is certainly not possible to settle the long-standing Nagorno-Karabakh dispute through war. And for the establishment of peace, it is imperative above all, for Armenia to withdraw its soldiers from the territories of Azerbaijan that are under its occupation.

As the Republican People's Party, we wish God's mercy upon Azerbaijani martyrs who lost their lives, convey our condolences to the people of Azerbaijan, and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded.

ON THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EU LEADERS' SUMMIT

*PRESS STATEMENT BY ÜNAL ÇEVİKÖZ, CHIEF FOREIGN RELATIONS
ADVISOR TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF CHP (REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY)
AND MEMBER OF TURKISH PARLIAMENT FROM ISTANBUL*

2 October 2020

As a result of the EU leaders' summit where relations with Turkey and developments in the Eastern Mediterranean were discussed, we have learned with concern the EU decision on the imposition of possible sanctions against Turkey in December.

As the Republican People's Party, we would like to note that we welcome giving political dialogue a chance, as the first pillar of a two-pillar strategy pursued at the summit. However, we consider that the attitude of the EU is a partial one, showing political solidarity with the member state and not respecting fairness, and we do not accept this attitude.

The reference made in the conclusions to resuming the exploratory talks with Greece is positive. However, the summit decision will not only fail to help reduce tensions in EU-Turkey relations, but it will also prevent Greece from coming to the negotiating table in the Eastern Mediterranean crisis under equal terms.

Considering that the decisions of the EU were taken unanimously, in accordance with its structure, the isolation of our country has once again become evident. The government has proven itself to be insufficient and desperate to defend Turkey's rightful arguments and interests in European capitals. The direction of the Republic of Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean should be set based on the traditional foreign policy mindset of our Republic, and not on the hesitant policies that the government has been pursuing with domestic policy considerations so far.

How Turkey's non-EU membership is causing a great loss for us has become noticeably clear during this crisis and the EU Leaders' Summit discussions. Turkey should not be a country subject to the decisions made by other countries at the table, but be one of the countries sitting at the decision-making table. The process of EU-Turkey relations

cannot be reduced to the refugee issue and the updating of March 18 Statement in that regard. We call on the government to return to and solemnly embrace the EU membership agenda that it has long abandoned. This is a requirement of Turkey's national interests.

The summit decision has once again disregarded the Turkish Cypriots. As the Republican People's Party, we would like to underline strongly once again that we will defend and continue to defend the rights of our country and TRNC on all platforms.