



Greek Turkish Forum (GTF) Statement

Athens, 20 May 2026

The Greek Turkish Forum (GTF), met in Athens on 18-19 May 2026 to assess the recent state of affairs between the two countries, as well as the impact of global and regional issues on bilateral relations. Members noted that the steps taken in the framework of the positive agenda helped defining concrete areas of cooperation and importantly contributed to defusing tensions and maintaining a calmer atmosphere between the two countries.

While acknowledging the progress made, we wish to reiterate that it would be meaningful if the Positive Agenda adopts a few flagship projects that could provide a strong impetus. Also, additional efforts are needed to engage civil society actors, universities, think tanks, and media in this process. Enhancing cooperation in the field of health, education, environment, tourism and disaster management will help sustaining the momentum.

The GTF, recognizing the importance of economic cooperation and the partnership of business communities, encourages the two Business Councils to intensify its efforts and further explore the range of possible specific initiatives.

Taking into account the challenges and complexities related with the implementation of existing agreements, we continue to consider that an overarching coordination mechanism would be useful.

We reiterate that, in alignment with the principles of a constructive and forward-looking agenda, it would be meaningful for Greece and Türkiye to pursue a systematic exchange of views on regional issues, exploring possible areas of cooperation in initiatives promoting stability. Such engagements could thereby foster a climate of trust through joint contribution to regional security and lasting peace.

The GTF, which has been monitoring and working on bilateral issues since 1997, emphasizes the importance of keeping open all relevant channels of communication between Greece and Türkiye as the best way to prevent and handle crises. It is instrumental for building trust and avoiding unnecessary frictions. A strengthened political dialogue based on the existing acquis can produce substantial progress in the framework initiated three years ago - for the benefit of both countries and the region.