

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS


EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Benjamin Cooper
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: May 26, 2024 Return: June 1, 2024
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington DC Destination: Ankara, Turkey; Istanbul, Turkey; Return City: Washington DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Atlantic Council
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Meetings included US and foreign government officials as well as Turkish parliamentarians and parliamentary staff.
Events included meetings and working meals with officials as well as a reception with business leaders.
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 6/10/2024

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Gregory W. Meeks Date: 6/10/2024

Signature of Supervising Member: 

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: Atlantic Council

2. Travel Destination(s): Ankara & Istanbul, Turkey

3. Date of Departure: May 26, 2024 Date of Return: June 1, 2024

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Amelia Litynski, Jesse Von Stein, Alec Daman, Benjamin Cooper, Michael Mac Harg II

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$2529 (flights)	\$480	\$170	\$195 (ground transportation between meetings) \$6.52 (museum ticket entrance fee)
Accompanying Family Member				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment.
Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 6/7/2024

Name: Julie Varghese Title: Chief Operating Officer

Organization: Atlantic Council

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 1030 15th St NW 12th Floor Washington, DC 20005

Telephone: +1 202.778.4952 Email: jvarghese@atlanticcouncil.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Benjamin Cooper

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Benjamin Cooper

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): House Foreign Affairs Committee

Office Address: 2471 Rayburn House Office Building

Telephone Number: 2022255021

Email Address of Contact Person: benjamin.cooper@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

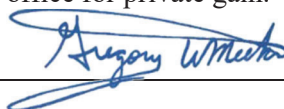
1. Name of Traveler: Benjamin Cooper
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Atlantic Council
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Turkey
4. a. Date of Departure: May 26, 2024 Date of Return: June 1, 2024
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
 - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
 - (2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
 - (3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
I work for Ranking Member Bill Keating on the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe as his Subcommittee Staff Directory. Given the Subcommittee's jurisdiction over European issues, including issues related to Turkey, this trip will contribute directly to my official work and enable me to better inform RM Keating's policies.
9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____



Date: 5-14-2024

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

Atlantic Council

2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**

b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**

c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): Attached separately.

5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: May 25, 2024 Date of Return: May 31, 2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington DC

b. Destination(s): Ankara & Istanbul, Turkey

c. City of return: Washington, DC

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**

b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**

c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**

- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
- b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
- c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
- d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**

- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

The Atlantic Council promotes constructive leadership and engagement in international affairs based on the Atlantic Community's central role in meeting global challenges. In this spirit, the Atlantic Council is committed to strong transatlantic relations. The Atlantic Council's Turkey Programs seeks to promote a positive agenda in US-Turkey relations based on mutual understanding and dialogue through programs such as this fellowship.

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
- b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
 - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
\$50
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____

This trip is a capstone study trip for the Atlantic Council IN TURKEY's US-Turkey Congressional Fellowship Program, which is intended to build dialogue and understanding of US-Turkey relations between Congressional and Parliamentary staff. Hence we will be visiting Ankara

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: Limak Ambassadeur Hotel City: Ankara Cost Per Night: 130

Reason(s) for Selecting: The hotel is centrally located in Ankara, close to our meeting locations.

Hotel Name: AC Hotel by Marriott Istanbul MACKA City: Istanbul Cost Per Night: 170

Reason(s) for Selecting: The hotel is centrally located in Istanbul, in between meeting locations.

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	1500	730	250
For each Accompanying Family Member			


	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: April 9, 2024
 Name: Julie Varghese Title: Chief Operating Officer
 Organization: Atlantic Council
 Address: 1030 15th Street NW, 12th floor, Washington DC 20005
 Email: jvarghese@atlanticcouncil.org Telephone: (202) 778-4952

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Keelie Broom
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

May 21, 2024

Mr. Benjamin Cooper
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Turkey,¹ scheduled for May 26 to June 1, 2024, sponsored by Atlantic Council.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Guest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael Guest
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:mc



Atlantic Council

IN TURKEY

US-Turkey Congressional-Parliamentary Fellowship Trip to Turkey

May 26-June 1, 2024
Ankara & Istanbul

Key contacts:

Grady Wilson: +1 715 821 9685 (Whatsapp)

Alp Ozen: +90 535 394 5123

MISSION GOALS: *The goal of this trip is to provide the US fellows the opportunity to participate in discussions and activities to build knowledge of Türkiye and bilateral relations through meetings with officials and experts, engage in dialogue with their Turkish counterparts and explore in-depth Turkish political and cultural history. Türkiye is an important NATO ally. This trip plays an important role in promoting dialogue and understanding among US and Turkish stakeholders.*

RELEVANCE TO OFFICIAL DUTIES: *The subject matter of the trip is important to the fellows of the US-Turkey Congressional Parliamentary Fellowship as they will hear directly from the decision-makers on Turkish foreign policy and US-Türkiye bilateral relations, and engage and interact with their Turkish counterparts' culture. This trip is being supported by a grant from the US Mission to Turkey.*

LOCATION: *The purpose of travel to Ankara and Istanbul, is to attend meetings at the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and US Embassy in Türkiye to provide an overview of the Turkish foreign policy perspective and an overview of the US-Türkiye bilateral relations. Atlantic Council will then take US-Turkey Congressional-Parliamentary Fellows to several locations around of Ankara and Istanbul to introduce them to their Turkish counterparts' culture.*

Sunday, May 26, 2024

10:50 PM Departure from Washington Dulles Airport – Flight number AA 7001 to London

Monday, May 27, 2024

11:10 AM Arrival in London Heathrow Airport

1:20 PM Departure from London Heathrow – Flight number AA 7214 to Istanbul

7:15 PM Arrival in Istanbul Airport

10:00 PM Departure from Istanbul Airport – Flight number TK 2184 to Ankara

11:15 PM Arrival in Ankara Esenboğa Airport

Transfer Airport to Hotel

(Limak Ambassadeur Hotel Gaziosmanpaşa, Boğaz Sk. No:19, 06700 Çankaya/Ankara)

RON in Ankara

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

9:00 AM **Meet in lobby (Formal attire)**
Brief welcome by Defne Arslan, Senior Director, Atlantic Council Turkey Programs & AC in Turkey

9:15 AM **Departure from Hotel**

Transfer from Hotel to the US Embassy

10:00 – 11:30 AM **Meeting with US Embassy Economic and Political Division**

Address: US Embassy Ankara, 1480 Sokak No. 1, Cukurambar Mahallesi, 06530 Cankaya, Ankara - Türkiye
PoC: Aysegul Taskin, taskina@state.gov, +90 507 637 3729

Featuring:

Heather Byrnes, Regional Senior Commercial Officer, Eurasia, and Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs and Acting Charge d’Affaires, US Embassy

Etienne LeBailly, Economic Counselor, US Embassy

Viraj LeBailly, Public Diplomacy Counselor, US Embassy

Dan Newman, Political Officer, US Embassy

Fellows will meet with the political and economic divisions at the US Embassy in Ankara to learn about different aspects of the bilateral relationship and the mission’s work with Turkish counterparts.

Transfer to Mausoleum

12:30 – 2:00 PM **Visit of Atatürk’s Mausoleum**

Address: Yüce-tepe, Akdeniz Cd. No:31, 06570 Çankaya/Ankara

Fellows will tour Atatürk’s Mausoleum, a memorial to the founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, to gain insight on Türkiye’s founding ideals and principles. Atatürk continues to be a revered figure in Turkish society and politics. Learning more about the founding father of Türkiye, Turkey’s war of independence and the founding of modern Turkey is an essential element to understanding how Turkish people think about Turkey’s position in international affairs.

Transfer to Parliament

2:30 - 4:00 PM **Working luncheon with the Parliament’s Foreign Relations and Protocol Members**

Address: Atatürk Bulvarı TBMM 06543 Bakanlıklar - ANKARA

PoC: Mehtap Hanım, Mobile: +90 533 427 33 10

Fellows will meet with the members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly’s Foreign Relations and Protocol Department to discuss their perspective on bilateral relations and regional issues.

4:00 - 4:45 PM **Guided tour of the Turkish Parliament Compound**

Address: Atatürk Bulvarı TBMM 06543 Bakanlıklar - ANKARA

PoC: Mehtap Hanım, Mobile: +90 533 427 33 10

Fellows will tour the Turkish Grand National Assembly compound and briefly sit in on a parliamentary session.

5:30 - 6:30 PM

**Meeting with Grand National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee
Chairman Fuat Oktay**

Address: Atatürk Bulvarı TBMM 06543 Bakanlıklar - ANKARA
PoC: Rezak Bey, Mobile: +90 507 107 36 00

Fellows will meet the chairman of Turkish parliament's Foreign Relations Committee and member of parliament from the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) Fuat Oktay, to hear parliament's role in Turkish foreign policy and his perspective on US-Türkiye relations.

Transfer to Citadel (Ankara Kale)

7:15 - 9:00 PM

Welcome and Meet and Greet Dinner with Turkish fellows

Address: Ankara Kale, Numara 21

US Congressional fellows will meet their Turkish parliamentary fellow counterparts and discuss takeaways from the Fellowship program. Welcome remarks by Atlantic Council International Advisory Board Member Ebru Ozdemir and Atlantic Council Turkey Programs Senior Director Defne Arslan.

Transfer from Dinner to Hotel

RON Ankara

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

9:15 AM

Meet in lobby (Formal attire)

9:30 AM

Departure from Hotel

Transfer from Hotel to MFA

10:00 AM - 12:45 PM

Roundtable with Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Address: Balgat, Dr. Sadık Ahmet Cd. No:8, 06520 Çankaya/Ankara
PoC: Anıl Özge Ertay, head of department, Directorate General of North America, MFA; email: aulusan@mfa.gov.tr ; Phone: +90 530 542 70 08

Speakers:

- Amb. Murat Lütem, Director General for North America, Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Amb. Burak Özügergin, Director General for Bilateral Political Affairs and Maritime-Aviation-Border, Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Burak Rende, Deputy Director General for Energy and Environment, Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Hakan Karaçay, Deputy Director General for Middle East, Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Can Oğuz, Deputy Director General for Eastern Europe, Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Fellows will meet with the leaders from regional divisions of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs to learn about Turkey's foreign policy perspective and priorities related to relations with the United States, in the Eastern Mediterranean, in the Middle East and between in the Russia-Ukraine War.

Transfer to hotel

Lunch at hotel

Transfer to Greek Embassy

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Meeting with Greek Ambassador Theodore Bizakis

Address: Kazım Özalp Mh. Ziaur Rahman Cd. No:9 Pk:06700 Çankaya/ankara, 06700

PoC: Özge Hanım, Mobile: 05356336940

Fellows will meet the Greek Ambassador Theodore Bizakis, to discuss relations between Turkey and Greece in light of a positive momentum in bilateral relations and the recent visit to Turkey by Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

Transfer from Greek Embassy to Ministry of Energy

3:30 – 4:30 PM

Meeting with General Manager of Foreign Relations at the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Öztürk Selvitop

Address: Nasuh Akar Mahallesi Türkocağı Caddesi No:2 06520 Çankaya/Ankara

PoC: Halime Semerci, Mobile: +90 536 231 70 03

Fellows will join a roundtable at Türkiye's Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources featuring General Manager of Foreign Relations, Öztürk Selvitop to discuss US-Türkiye energy cooperation including on liquified natural gas, the southern gas corridor, renewables as well as energy developments in the Eastern Mediterranean and Türkiye's role in European energy security.

Transfer to Ankara Citadel

5:30 – 7:15 PM

Ankara Citadel Tour

Address: Kale, 06240 Altındağ/Ankara

Fellows will take a walking tour of Ankara castle, the oldest part of the city, which dates back to the 7th century. The castle complex is also home to traditional artists and artisans, providing insights for the fellows both on Turkish and Anatolian history and culture. At the crossroads of civilizations and continents, the legacy and strategic importance of Anatolia continues to play an important role in shaping how Turkey interacts with the region.

Transfer from museum to dinner

Dinner at Incir Meyhanesi, Remzi Oğuz Arık, Bülten Sk. No:4/1, 06566 Çankaya/Ankara

RON in Ankara

Thursday, May 30, 2024

8:20 AM

Meet in the hotel lobby, check out from hotel (Formal attire)

8:30 - 9:30 AM

Breakfast/Meeting with EU Permanent Delegation to Turkey Deputy Head of Mission, Jurgis Vilcinskas

Address: Hotel

PoC: Ms. Khadija Elbkraoui, Mobile: +90 531 629 26 44, email: Khadija.ELBKRAOUI@eeas.europa.eu

Fellows will meet with the deputy head of mission from the EU Delegation to Turkey to discuss EU-Turkey relations.

9:45 – 10:45 AM

Meeting with Utku Çakırözer, CHP Eskişehir Deputy, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

Address: Hotel

PoC: Ayşen Hanım, Mobile: +90 530 115 92 98

Fellows will meet with Utku Çakırözer, a member of parliament from the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), who also sits on the parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, for a conversation on the CHP's perspective on Turkish foreign policy and democracy.

Transfer from Hotel to First Grand National Assembly

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Visit of the First Grand National Assembly

Address: First Grand National Assembly, Anafartalar, Doğanbey Mah. Cumhuriyet Cad, Ulus No:14, 06050 Altındağ/Ankara

Fellows will tour the very first historical Turkish parliament building, guided by Museum Director Fatma Hicret Un, to learn about the founding of modern Turkey and the early years of the Turkish Republic.

Transfer from First Grand National Assembly to Airport

Pickup en route to airport Cafe Nomi, Saray Cumhuriyet, Özal Bulvarı No:173/A, 06146 Akyurt/Ankara

3:00 PM

Departure from Ankara to Istanbul – Flight TK 2151

4:20 PM

Arrival in Istanbul, transfer to US Consul General Residence

6:40 – 9:15 PM

Reception on US-Türkiye Trade and Business Relations

Address: US Consul General's Residence, Boyalıköşk Sokak No: 2, Arnatvutköy, Istanbul

PoC: Belinda Markoglu, markarb@state.gov

Fellows will participate in a private reception to discuss US-Turkey bilateral and business relations with business leaders, diplomats and other stakeholders, hosted by the US Consulate.

Transfer to hotel: Cheya Hotel & Suites Beşiktaş, İstanbul

RON in Istanbul

Friday, May 31, 2024

8:25 AM

Meet in lobby (Business casual)

8:35 AM

Walk from Hotel to Conrad

9:00 – 9:45 AM

Meeting with US Ambassador to Turkey Jeffrey L. Flake

Address: Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus, Cihannüma, Saray Cd No:5, 34353 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

PoC: Marvin Alfaro, Cultural Attaché · U.S. Consulate General – Istanbul; Mobile: +90 501 706 33 84; email: AlfaroM@state.gov

Fellows will meet with US Ambassador to Türkiye Jeffrey Flake to hear the Ambassador's perspective on US-Türkiye relations and efforts to bolster US-Türkiye relations.

10:30 – 11:30 AM

Meeting with Amb. Mustafa Osman Turan, Foreign Relations Advisor to the Mayor of Istanbul

Address: Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus, Cihannüma, Saray Cd No:5, 34353 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye

PoC: Burcu Hanım, Mobile: +90 501 328 93 60

Fellows will meet with Ambassador Mustafa Osman Turan, foreign affairs advisor to the Mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem İmamoğlu, one of the leading figures in the Republican Peoples' Party. To discuss the political perspective of the main opposition Republican Peoples' Party (CHP) and will learn about the politics of Istanbul and Turkish democracy.

Transfer from Conrad to Feriye

12:15 – 1:45 PM

Lunch with Deputy Central Bank Governor of Turkey Osman Cevdet Akcay

Address: Feriye Restaurant, Yıldız, Çırağan Cd. No:44, 34347 Beşiktaş/İstanbul

Fellows will participate in a working lunch with Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Turkey to learn about Turkey economy and monetary policies.

Transfer from Feriye to Dolmabahçe Palace

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Meeting with Presidential Foreign Policy and Security Chief Advisor Akif Çağatay Kılıç

Address: Dolmabahçe Palace, Vişnezade, Dolmabahçe Cd., 34357 Beşiktaş/İstanbul

PoC: Zeynep Bilgin, Mobile: +90 539 821 74 31

Fellows Akif Çağatay Kılıç, the chief foreign policy and security advisor to the President of Turkey, who is the de facto National Security Advisor, to hear from a key official and policymaker Turkey's foreign policy priorities and strategy.

4:30 – 7:00 PM

Historical Tour of Istanbul:

Hagia Sophia, Sultan Ahmed Mosque, Grand Bazaar

Address: Hagia Sophia - Sultan Ahmet, Ayasofya Meydanı No:1, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Address: Sultan Ahmed Mosque, Sultan Ahmet, Atmeydanı Cd. No:7, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Address: Beyazıt, Kalpakçılar Cd. No:22, 34126 Fatih/İstanbul

Fellows will tour the historic areas with cultural significance of old Istanbul: The Hagia Sophia, Sultan Ahmed Mosque and the Grand Bazaar, to experience Turkish culture and learn about Turkish history and the significance of each site. The first-hand experience of Turkish culture and history in Istanbul, the cultural capital of

Turkey, will help the fellows become more familiar with and have a stronger understanding of the country unlocking opportunities to better connect with Turkish counterparts.

7:30 – 8:30 PM

Farewell Dinner

Address: Sultanahmet Kofte, Alemdar, Divan Yolu Cd. No:12, 34110 Fatih/İstanbul

Fellows will participate in a farewell dinner to conclude the trip. Fellows will share their thoughts on the activities they participated, discuss their takeaways, the impact of the trip and how their understanding and perspectives changed.

Tram to Besiktas, walk to Hotel

RON Istanbul

Saturday, June 1, 2024

5:00 AM	Meet in lobby
5:15 AM	Departure from Hotel to Airport
8:30 AM	Departure from Istanbul Airport – Flight number AA 6612 to London
10:35 AM	Arrival in London Heathrow Airport
5:25 PM	Departure from London Heathrow Airport – Flight number AA 7002 to Washington Dulles Airport
8:30 PM	Arrival in Washington Dulles Airport



IN TURKEY

US-Turkey Congressional-Parliamentary Fellowship Trip to Turkey

May 2024

House of Representative employees invited to participate in Atlantic Council US-Turkey Congressional Parliamentary Fellowship capstone study trip to Turkey:

- Benjamin Cooper, Democratic Staff Director, Subcommittee on Europe, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
- Alec Daman, Legislative Assistant, Office of Representative Bill Huizenga (MI-4)
- Amelia Litynski, Policy Advisor, Office of Representative Tom Emmer (MN-6)
- Michael Mac Harg II, Legislative Aide & Press Assistant, Office of Representative Joe Wilson (SC-02)
- Jesse von Stein, Legislative Director, Office of U.S. Representative Cory Mills (FL-07)

All US fellows are currently working in the House of Representative have been invited to participate in our study trip to Turkey.

Benjamin Cooper serves as the Democratic staff director on the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber, which covers Turkey. Therefore, Ben will be an important contributor in discussions related to US-Turkey relations and the impact of Turkey's broader relations with Europe and Eurasia.

Alex Daman covers foreign affairs for Representative Bill Huizenga, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. In this role, Alec has covered many issues pertaining to or relating to Turkey.

Amelia Litynski serves as policy advisor to Representative Tom Emmer. In her role, she works on national security including defense issues such as the NDAA that makes her relevant for the Fellowship given the impact of Turkey as US-Turkey relations are underpinned by defense ties.

Michael MacHarg covers foreign affairs for Representative Joe Wilson, a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who also serves as a Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Türkiye Relations and Turkish Americans.

Jesse von Stein serves as Legislative Director to Representative Cory Mills. In that capacity, Jesse advises the Representative on international relations per his seat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Congressman Mills also serves on the House Armed Services Committee, and Jesse strengthening his understanding of US-Turkey relations is valuable for that work.