



Ελληνική Εταιρεία Γεωγραφικών Μελετών  
«Ο Στράβων»

## **POLITICAL ACTUALITIES**

STRAVON, to be reminded, certainly is a voice dedicated to peace and harmony, particularly in Europe and the zone around the Mediterranean, yet it is a Greek voice.

It is implied that we regard regional and global developments from a national Greek angle, through a prism of both the Hellenic Republic and Hellenism in general, as a force for good.

We decry recent onslaught of HTS jihadist militias, formerly Al Nusra branch of Al Queda, against Aleppo and other urban centres of Syria. We support sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian state, no matter who is at the helm in Damascus. We are not remiss that destabilization of the secular Arab Republic of Syria from 2011 onwards was taken advantage of by Iran to come back to the shore of the Levante after 14 long centuries. The civil war that followed produced untold human suffering and sparked a massive exodus of Syrians to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and to Europe further afield, including Greece.

We in Greece have historic and indelible ties with the Syrian space and also with the modern state of Syria, on the basis of non-interference in its domestic affairs. We are concerned with the fate of the large Christian communities in Syria and Lebanon, the Orthodox in particular, organized under the aegis of the ancient Patriarchate of Antioch, based nowadays in Damascus. In the current circumstances, we recognize that the Syrian Arab Army is the foremost guarantor of safety and survival of all minority communities in Syria, along with the Syrian Democratic Forces of the Syrian Kurds and allies. In this time of necessity for moral and political clarity we assess positively support of both our strategic partner Egypt and security partner Saudi Arabia for President Assad s government.

***Stravon of Amaseia,  
Athens, December 1, 2024***