24/05/2022

Erdogan incensed over PM Mitsotakis' historic visit to US; says he won't meet again with Greek leader



A Greek government spokesman on Monday evening dismissed the latest, but even more egregious statements by Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan against the southeast European country's leadership.
Erdogan apparently took umbrage with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' recent high-profile visit and statements in Washington D.C.

Government spokesman Yannis Economou underlined that Mitsotakis is "…strongly and effectively defending both our national rights and international legitimacy."

Earlier on Monday, the Islamist and authoritarian Erdogan told reporters, after a cabinet meeting, that he would stop talking to Mitsotakis and cancel a high-ranking

meeting between ministers of the two countries.

Erdogan, according to international press reports, said Mitsotakis engaged in "…hostile behavior against Turkey".

He claimed, among others, that Mitsotakis tried to dissuade the United States from selling Turkey more F-16s warplanes.

Another grievance aired by the Turkish leader is the establishment of new military bases in Greece, claiming that these are aimed at Turkey – a swipe that also touches on the US, as he was referring to facilities with American assets.

Erdogan's government and much of the pro-AKP party media in Turkey, which now dominate the press, were incensed over Mitsotakis' historic visit to the US capital last week, which included his address before a joint session of Congress.

Back in Athens, the government spokesman merely added that Greece's policy is "… heavily based on history, international law and our alliances, no matter how much this bothers some … We will not engage in confrontational statements with Turkish leadership, our policy is one of principles."