

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2963

To repeal the prohibition on the transfer of articles on the United States  
Munitions List to the Republic of Cyprus.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2018

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and  
referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

## A BILL

To repeal the prohibition on the transfer of articles on the  
United States Munitions List to the Republic of Cyprus.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “End the Cyprus Arms  
5 Embargo Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Republic of Cyprus is a vital strategic  
9 partner to the United States.

1           (2) The Republic of Cyprus is a critical member  
2 of the Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State  
3 in Iraq and the Levant.

4           (3) The United States cooperates closely with  
5 the Republic of Cyprus through information sharing  
6 agreements.

7           (4) High-level United States officials have as-  
8 sisted the Republic of Cyprus with crafting that na-  
9 tion's national security strategy.

10          (5) The United States provides training to Cyp-  
11 riot officials in areas such as cybersecurity, counter-  
12 terrorism, and explosive ordnance disposal and  
13 stockpile management.

14          (6) The Republic of Cyprus is a valued member  
15 of the Proliferation Security Initiative to combat the  
16 trafficking of weapons of mass destruction.

17          (7) The Republic of Cyprus continues to work  
18 closely with the United Nations and regional part-  
19 ners in Europe—

20               (A) to combat terrorism through law en-  
21 forcement;

22               (B) to counter violent extremism pro-  
23 grams; and

24               (C) to combat terrorism through financial  
25 mechanisms.

1           (8) The United States and the Republic of Cy-  
2           prus maintain strong bilateral economic relations,  
3           particularly in sectors such as energy, financial serv-  
4           ices, and logistics.

5           (9) The energy exploration in the Republic of  
6           Cyprus's Exclusive Economic Zone and territorial  
7           waters—

8                   (A) includes the participation of United  
9                   States companies;

10                   (B) furthers United States interests by  
11                   providing a potential alternative to Russian gas  
12                   for United States allies and partners; and

13                   (C) should not be impeded by other sov-  
14                   ereign states.

15           (10) Energy exploration in the Eastern Medi-  
16           terranean region must be safeguarded against  
17           threats posed by terrorist and extremist groups, in-  
18           cluding Hezbollah and others.

19           (11) Despite robust economic and security rela-  
20           tions with the United States, the Republic of Cyprus  
21           has been subject to a United States embargo prohib-  
22           iting the export of defense articles and services since  
23           1987.

24           (12) The 1987 arms embargo was designed to  
25           restrict United States arms sales and transfer to the

1 Republic of Cyprus and the occupied part of Cyprus  
2 to avoid hindering reunification efforts.

3 (13) At least 30,000 Turkish troops are sta-  
4 tioned in the occupied part of Cyprus with weapons  
5 procured from the United States through mainland  
6 Turkey.

7 (14) While the United States has, as a matter  
8 of policy, avoided the provision of defense articles  
9 and services to the Republic of Cyprus, the Govern-  
10 ment of Cyprus has sought to obtain these defense  
11 articles from other countries, including countries  
12 that pose challenges to United States interests  
13 around the world.

14 (15) The security of partners in the Eastern  
15 Mediterranean region is critical to the security of  
16 the United States and Europe.

17 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

18 It is the sense of the Senate that—

19 (1) the direct sale or transfer of arms by the  
20 United States to the Republic of Cyprus would ad-  
21 vance United States' security interests in Europe by  
22 helping to reduce the dependence of Cyprus on other  
23 countries for defense-related materiel, including  
24 countries that pose challenges to United States in-  
25 terests around the world; and

1 (2) it is in the interest of the United States—

2 (A) to continue to support United Nations-  
3 facilitated efforts toward a comprehensive solu-  
4 tion to the division of Cyprus;

5 (B) to affirm the importance of demili-  
6 tarization on the island of Cyprus; and

7 (C) for the Republic of Cyprus to join  
8 NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

9 **SEC. 4. REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF ARTI-**  
10 **CLES ON THE UNITED STATES MUNITIONS**  
11 **LIST TO THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 620C of the Foreign As-  
13 sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2373) is amended by  
14 striking subsection (e).

15 (b) EXCLUSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RE-  
16 PUBLIC OF CYPRUS FROM CERTAIN RELATED REGULA-  
17 TIONS.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this  
18 Act, the Secretary of State shall exclude any application  
19 made with or under the authority of the Government of  
20 the Republic of Cyprus from the restrictions set forth in—

21 (1) section 126.1(r) of title 22, Code of Federal  
22 Regulations (relating to prohibited exports, imports,  
23 and sales to or from Cyprus); and

24 (2) Department of State Public Notice 1738  
25 (57 Fed. Reg. 60265; December 18, 1992; relating

- 1 to policy governing munitions export licenses to Cy-
- 2 prus).

