



EXPERT OPPOSITION TO TURKEY ACQUIRING S-400

“The Turkish government’s proposed purchase of the Russian-made S-400 undermines the security of U.S. aerospace and defense technology and risks the productive relationship the American aerospace and defense sector has shared with Turkey. We welcome Turkey’s long-standing partnership and support efforts by Congress and the Administration to encourage the Government of Turkey to meet its air & missile defense requirements with a NATO-interoperable system.”

- **Eric Fanning**, CEO and President, Aerospace Industries Association; 22nd Secretary of the Army

“Turkey’s acquisition of the Russian S-400 air and missile defense system could lead to a serious rupture in the US-Turkish alliance and jeopardize Turkey’s participation in the F-35 program, which will adversely affect the security of all the members of NATO. Turkey should heed the concerns of its allies and acquire a NATO-compatible system, such as the US Patriot or European SAMP-T, rather than the S-400.”

- **Ambassador Alexander Vershbow**, Distinguished Fellow, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, Atlantic Council; Former NATO Deputy Secretary General and U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense

“If Turkey buys Russian S-400 air defenses, it will create huge problems for NATO interoperability including the F-35, and put severe strains on Turkey’s relations with the U.S. and other NATO allies.”

- **James Miller**, Senior Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs; Former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

“Turkey is making a bad bet by seeking to acquire the S-400 from the Russian Federation. It is elemental to NATO membership that Alliance members should be procuring advanced systems that are interoperable and which advance common security objectives. The S-400 meets neither criterion.”

- **Brian McKeon**, Senior Director, Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement; Former Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

“US Army Air Defense units with Patriot Missile Defense systems deployed to Turkey five years ago to protect Turkish citizens from Russian-made missiles coming out of Syria and the Assad Regime. I don’t understand why now Turkey is (1) willing to buy a Russian-made system that will negate Turkey’s ability to be a part of NATO’s integrated air and missile defense system and (2) remove it from any participation in the F35 program, further degrading its ability to be interoperable with NATO air forces. It is Russia that has propped up the Assad regime which is responsible for the 3.5 million refugees now in Turkey. Why would Turkey, a vital Member of our great Alliance, take actions that are clearly not in its best interest or the interest of the Alliance?”

- **LTG (Ret) Ben Hodges**, Pershing Chair, Center for European Policy Analysis; Former Commander, United States Army Europe

“Turkey is a key US partner and NATO ally, which is why its determination to pursue the procurement of the Russian S-400 is such a consequential mistake. It would only complicate our military interoperability, further embolden Russia, and disrupt bilateral relations. In an environment of so much political division in Washington, this is something upon which Democrats and Republicans strongly agree.”

- **Derek Chollet**, Executive Vice President and Senior Advisor for Security and Defense Policy, The German Marshall Fund of the United States; Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs

“Turkey’s decision to purchase S-400s from Russia is an unfortunate decision that will only weaken NATO unity and interoperability and leave Turkey isolated from its closest allies. Russia is doing its very best to undermine NATO solidarity. That’s why it has pushed so hard for Turkey to purchase the S-400s. Russia knows that this sale will weaken NATO’s collective hand.”

- **Julianne Smith**, Weizsäcker Fellow, Bosch Academy in Berlin; Former Deputy National Security Advisor to the Vice President of the United States

"For decades, the US and Turkey have enjoyed strong and close bilateral relations, especially in the defense area. The potential acquisition of the Russian S-400 system is nothing more than a bitter political statement by the angry Turkish President of his unhappiness with the US. This willingness to damage the US-Turkish relationship to score a political point is deeply troubling, especially given that such an acquisition does nothing to add to the security of Turkey. There are better ways for Turkey to resolve its differences with the US than to cause such deep and long-lasting damage to the relationship with its close friend and Ally."

- **Jim Townsend**, Adjunct Senior Fellow, Transatlantic Security Program, Center for a New American Security; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy

"The F35 is the most sophisticated fighter aircraft on the planet. A NATO ally purchasing and operating a Russian-made air and missile defense system poses considerable risks to the F35s' security and calls into question why such an ally would want to make this crucial system vulnerable to Russian exploitation. Doing so undermines both the US-Turkey defense relationship and more broadly, Turkey's standing in NATO, particularly since it provides a gift to Russian understanding of the alliance's capabilities both now and in the future."

- **Dr. Mara Karlin**, Director, Strategic Studies Program, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy and Force Development

"Turkey has time and time again proven to be an important US ally. But the purchase of the S-400 from Russia is strategically misguided. That transaction provides economic reward to Moscow as Russia continues to militarily occupy the territories of Georgia and Ukraine and postures itself to threaten the NATO alliance. Moreover, there is no way the USG should allow the F-35 to operate with the S-400. That would create unjustifiable risk to the classified technologies of the F-35."

- **Ian Brzezinski**, Resident Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, Atlantic Council; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO policy