

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 12, 2007

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## Wexler Holds Hearing on US-Greece Relations

*Under Secretary of State Nicolas Burns to Testify*

(Washington, DC) Congressman Robert Wexler (D-FL), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and a senior member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, will hold a hearing on Wednesday, November 14 at 2:30 p.m. in 2172 Rayburn House Office Building entitled "US-Greece Relations and Regional Issues." Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns will be the sole witness testifying before the Europe Subcommittee. Undersecretary Burns was U.S. Ambassador to Greece from 1997 to 2001.

The hearing will focus on US-Greece bilateral economic, political and security relations as well as counter-terrorism cooperation, defense cooperation in Afghanistan and in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Greece's application to participate in the Visa Waiver Program and American assistance to Greece following devastating wildfires in August. In addition, the hearing will address key regional issues impacting US-Greece relations including stability and security in Western Balkans and the final status of Kosovo; Turkey-Greece relations; American, Greek and European Union energy security cooperation; counter-terrorism collaboration in the Eastern Mediterranean; moving the Cyprus process forward; and addressing the ongoing name dispute between Greece and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).

"As the United States faces difficult foreign policy challenges globally, it is essential that we make every effort to strengthen our historic partnerships with allies such as Greece -- who share America's commitment to democracy and rule of law. America has been extremely fortunate to have an iron-clad friend such as Greece that has consistently been willing to assist the United States and shoulder the burden in the most difficult circumstances in Afghanistan, the Balkans and in our efforts combat terrorism," Wexler said. "I look forward to this hearing and to Undersecretary Burns' testimony, which I am certain will highlight the depth of US-Greece relations and provide new opportunities to strengthen the unbreakable bond between our countries."

Subcommittee Hearing Notice Attached Below

Congressman Wexler is Chairman of the Europe Subcommittee, a senior member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Judiciary Committee, and he also sits on the Financial Services Committee.

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### SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE

Committee on Foreign Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subcommittee on Europe  
Robert Wexler (D-FL), Chairman  
November 9, 2007

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

You are respectfully requested to attend the following OPEN hearing of the Subcommittee on Europe, to be held in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building:

**DATE:** Wednesday, November 14, 2007

**TIME:** 2:30 P.M.

**SUBJECT:** U.S.-Greece Relations and Regional Issues

**WITNESS:** The Honorable R. Nicholas Burns  
Under Secretary for Political Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

### **By Direction of the Chairman**

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations please call 202-225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee as noted above.}

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