



H.E. Mr. Mustafa Şentop
Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
ANKARA

May 20th, 2021
2105102
5.30

Mr. Speaker,

With reference to your letter of May 14th, regarding the Armenian issue, I want to make it clear that the Speaker of the Icelandic Parliament does not censor legislative bills or motions for parliamentary resolutions introduced by Members of Althingi. My role in evaluating parliamentary business concerns primarily whether a bill or a proposal is in breach of the Icelandic Constitution. Members of Althingi have freedom of expression and are bound solely by their conviction, according to the Constitution. One of the duties of the Speaker is to safeguard these important rights of free democratic parliamentarism.

A motion for parliamentary resolution in Althingi cannot pass until it has received two readings. Following the first reading, a resolution is usually referred to the relevant standing committee.

The draft resolution mentioned in your letter has been distributed, but it has not yet received a first reading in plenary. The proper channel to submit an opinion on its content would be to the standing committee examining the draft resolution. It should be noted that entities that consider themselves affected by a specific parliamentary bill or motion may submit written opinion to the relevant committee on their own initiative.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that I as a Speaker of Parliament do not express my opinion on the contents of parliamentary business beforehand, and do not normally participate in parliamentary debates. My opinion on parliamentary business is expressed when voting on legislative bills and motions for resolutions.

Steingrímur J. Sigfússon
Speaker of Althingi, Parliament of Iceland