

Finland advances bid to join NATO as Turkey holds up Sweden's request

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Helsinki, March 2 (RHC)-- Finland's Parliament has voted overwhelmingly to join NATO, setting the country up to become the military alliance's 31st member.

Wednesday's vote came just days after Finland began constructing a 120-mile wall topped with razor wire along its 800-mile border with Russia.

In Hungary, the party of far-right Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said Wednesday it will endorse the expansion of NATO to include Finland and Sweden. That leaves Turkey as the only holdout.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has rejected Sweden's accession to NATO after accusing it of harboring dissidents he considers terrorists. Sweden and Finland had hoped to join NATO simultaneously.

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