

# Cyprus Green Party

## Introductory Note: Cyprus Problem: Recent Developments

After a five-month period of new efforts towards the solution to the Cyprus problem, we can now make a review and comment on the developments and the perspectives, if any:

- The negotiations – New rounds of discussions between Clerides and Denktash
- New settlers from Turkey – Turkish Cypriots still emigrating abroad
- Violation of human rights of Turkish Cypriots in the occupied area
- Destruction of cultural heritage
- Contacts of Cyprus Parties - Rapprochement of the people
- Cyprus joining the European Union.

### **The negotiations – Clerides and Denktash in new rounds of discussions**

Despite the fact that there were no indications for a significant change in either Turkey's or Denktash's approach, the new period of discussions between the leaders of the two communities initiated in December 2001 was considered to be more hopeful. Some new factors had been introduced, namely the short time left prior to Cyprus becoming a member of the EU, the increasing willingness of Turkish Cypriots to take advantage of such a development, the improvement in the relations between Greece and Turkey, the increasing role of the EU and the general feeling that it's time the problem was solved. Unfortunately it was soon realised that Turkey and Denktash still insist on a solution based on two states and two entities, declaring that the issue has been efficiently and permanently dealt with, after the "peacemaking" Turkish invasion of 1974. On the other hand, Denktash declares that there are no refugees any more. Unfortunately a severe change in the terminology used even by the UN officials is observed: They refer to compensation for the properties of the refugees and not the right of the refugees to return home!

From the beginning of this new phase, the Cyprus Green Party did not hasten to express its pessimism on the perspectives and tried to contribute to a positive atmosphere. However, five months later, it is our responsibility to inform all green friends not only of the fact that no news and no hope has come out of the discussions but, of a series of events still going on which make the whole situation even worse.

### **New settlers from Turkey – Turkish Cypriots still emigrating abroad**

Following some recent statistics from the Turkish Cypriot press and other sources, the following figures illustrate the present situation in the occupied area:

Turkish Cypriots	60.000
Settlers	110.000
Turkish military forces	35.000

This means that half of the Turkish Cypriots have emigrated (most of them to the UK) and underlines the destruction of the demographic character of the island.. Turkish Cypriots apply for a passport of the Republic of Cyprus as they have the right but unfortunately they use it just to leave Cyprus. At the same time the regime issues certificates of "citizenship" to the settlers and property papers to its political friends.

At the end of the day, what will the meaning of a referendum be for a solution and who are the ones to vote for or against it in the occupied area?

### **Violation of human rights of Turkish Cypriots in the occupied area**

Apart from the continuation of the massive violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Greek Cypriots by Turkey, Turkish Cypriots are also suffering from the violation of their rights by the regime. Further to the very bad economic situation for which they blame Denktash (a series of demonstration against his economic policy have taken place during the last two years), Turkish Cypriot newspapers and individuals criticise the regime for its decisive dependence on the Turkish troops and Ankara. The slogan they usually use "***This country belong to us!***" provides for a basis for common targets of all Cypriots and hopes for the reunification of the society. "Avrupa" was symbolically renamed "Afrika", after the economic, legal and other penalties imposed by Denktash.

The gross violations of human rights by Turkey in Cyprus is verified *inter alia* by the European Court of Human Rights in its judgment in the fourth inter-state application of Cyprus v. Turkey on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2001.

### **Destruction of cultural heritage**

According to a recent report, tremendous damage in churches and other places of cultural importance is still going on in the occupied area. These places have either been robbed or vandalised (their icons stolen and the wallpaintings removed or badly damaged) or they have been turned to stables for goats or turned to mosques after the removal of everything that might indicate their Christian identity and origin.

### **Contacts of Cyprus Parties - Rapprochement of the people**

A positive development refers to the increasing interest of Cyprus parties to communicate both bilaterally and multilaterally, despite the barriers usually impose by the regime in the occupied area. The Cyprus Green Party is currently promoting its efforts to find more efficient channels of communication, both with Turkish Cypriot parties and individuals, bearing always in mind that Turkish Cypriots live in the areas of Cyprus under Turkish occupation and they are under Turkey's absolute control.

1 15 April 2002



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## EFGP 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress, Berlin

### PROPOSAL FOR A RESOLUTION ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE CYPRUS GREEN PARTY

10 The **basic elements** for a **humane, viable and democratic solution** to the Cyprus issue, based on the  
11 principles of international law are:

- 12 • A free, multicultural and unified state for all Cypriots. The prevalence of a long-lasting peace in Cyprus  
13 and the termination of the Turkish aggression on the island are secured by bodies such as the United  
14 Nations, the European Union and the Council of Europe.
- 15 • Living in a common country without the geographical division of its people on the basis of ethnic origin,  
16 religion or beliefs and the security of the implementation of all human and political rights for all Cypriot  
17 citizens.
- 18 • The resolution of the issue of the en mass colonisation of the occupied by the Turkish Army part of  
19 Cyprus, as well as the problem of the two British Military Bases remnants of the British Colonisation of  
20 the island.

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#### ***The European Greens***

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#### **Consider that**

- 25  The withdrawal of the occupying Turkish troops and the demilitarization of Cyprus are issues of  
26 immediate priority with application before the solution of the Cyprus issue.
- 27  The accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the European Union is expected to act as a catalyst  
28 towards a peaceful and lasting solution based on the above-mentioned principles.

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#### **Support the efforts being made**

- 31  In the new phase of negotiations between Clerides and Denktash. However, the European Greens  
32 realise that no progress has been made as yet and underline that in case, despite all efforts and hopes,  
33 no substantial result is achieved, this will not impose any barrier to the accession of the island to the  
34 European Union, as concluded in the Helsinki decision
- 35  For communication and cooperation between the political parties and the citizens from the two  
36 communities.

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#### **Express**

- 39  Their concern about the continued destruction of the cultural heritage in the occupied part of Cyprus  
40 and the illegal transfer of settlers from Turkey pushing Turkish Cypriots to immigrate abroad
- 41  Their solidarity to the people of Cyprus.