



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LIBERAL YOUTH

Resolution on Cyprus reunification process

International Conflicts, United Nations, Peace Process, Cyprus, Turkey

Liberala ungdomsförbundet, Svensk Ungdom, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund

Noting:

- The situation in Cyprus, where the northern part has been occupied by Turkish military forces since 1974;
- That Cyprus is a member of the European Union since 2004;
- That negotiations for a Turkish membership in the EU have been on-going since 1987 but has been stalled due to infringements on human rights and democratic rights in Turkey;
- That the UN Secretary General started negotiations on behalf of the UN to solve the problem over twenty years ago;
- That the first two rounds of negotiations did not result in any progress towards finding a solution;
- That negotiations started again in May 2015, hosted by United Nations special envoy for Cyprus, Espen Barth Eide, involving Mustafa Akinci and Nikos Anastasiades, to create a federal two-part state without any involvement from a third state;
- That for the first time in the history of the negotiations, the leaders of both Communities swapped maps indicating the territory of each constituent state if a solution is found;
- That not only the two communities, but also the guarantors (Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom) sat down at one table in order to initiate the discussion on the chapter of security which is one of the biggest issues on the table;
- That the negotiations came to a halt in February 2017, which according to the Turkish cypriots was because of a decision by the Greek Cypriot assembly to introduce a school commemoration of a 1950 referendum on unification with Greece;
- That the Greek Cypriot decision has had negative effects on the current negotiations over the island and has contributed to increased tension between the sides, according to many Turkish cypriots.
- That Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders were set to meet in April 2017 at the UN-mandated buffer zone on the divided island.

Considering:

- That because of the imposed separation and division, a whole generation of Cypriots has not been giving a chance of living together;
- That ever since the invasion and occupation of the northern part of Cyprus by the Turkish troops, thousands of Turkish settlers have been illegally transferred to Cyprus;
- That the heated relations between the EU and Turkey due to reforms leading to lesser democratic institutions in Turkey as well as the refugee crisis, has also reflected onto the dialogue on the reconciliation of Cyprus;



- That the rhetoric used by politicians on the island does not favour a reconciliation of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots and worsens the strained climate between the communities.

Stating:

- That all foreign troops must be withdrawn from the island so that reunification of Cyprus could become possible;
- That all the refugees must be allowed to return to their homes;
- That the Human Rights of all Cypriot Citizens must be respected and upheld;
- That everything must be done for the Cyprus problem to be solved peacefully and on the basis of all UN resolutions for a just and viable solution;
- That politicians on the island have to maintain a language of reciprocal respect.

IFLRY Supports:

- The renewed efforts of the United Nations special envoy for Cyprus in promoting a solution through direct negotiations between the two sides;
- The two sides to continue the negotiations for a speedy, just and viable solution.

IFLRY Urges:

- The two sides to continue the negotiations for a speedy, just and viable solution;
- The two sides to remain level headed and refrain from pushing through provocative measures that may jeopardize the reunification process.

IFLRY Welcomes:

- The contacts between IFLRY and the youth organisation Youth of the United Democrats Cyprus as a means to empowering youth in the negotiation process and in party politics on Cyprus;
- A peaceful, viable and lasting solution to the Cyprus issue will post a vigorous sign to the world that diverse societies, with people from different religions, cultures and backgrounds can live and work together in unity and peace, especially since the region around Cyprus is faced with many tensions and problems.

IFLRY Hopes:

- To establish further co-operation with this organisation and other liberal political youth organisations;
- To establish co-operation with young liberals all over Cyprus, who agree on this resolution and who preferably have contacts with one or more of the above mentioned youth organisation in Cyprus;
- To support youth representatives as participants in the reunification negotiation process and as positive change agents on both sides of the now divided island;
- To see the negotiations resumed and give full support for the achievement of a peace plan and fair reunification as soon as possible;



- To advocate for EU member states to make the struggle to reunify Cyprus a top priority on the agenda in the European Union, since for many Cypriots, the full membership of the European Union is the greatest guarantee for both communities.