

29. SITUATION IN CYPRUS

CTP Cyprus

YES has been following the dynamic negotiation process in Cyprus towards a comprehensive settlement under UN parameters: a bizonal, bicomunal federation under a single international identity and political equality of the two major communities living in Cyprus; Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots.

YES would like to welcome the decision of cooperation between pro-solution parties in the Greek Cypriot Parliament to annul a previously approved resolution to commemorate a nationalist day that caused disturbances in the Turkish Cypriot community and caused the negotiations to be halted. The leaders' dinner with UN Secretary General Special Advisor on Cyprus followed by the meeting of UN Secretary General Guterres and Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Akinci on 3rd April, paved the way for the resumption of the negotiations and reformation of dialogue. In this sense, YES would like to congratulate all diplomatic efforts to resume the talks and demands a fully focused and comprehensive approach from all active actors to solve the Cyprus Problem which is very near to an end.

It is crucially important that the negotiations are at a stage where the most important topics are being discussed in a broader way with all active actors participating, such as guarantee systems responding to the sensitivities and security needs of both communities. YES extends its appreciation to both leaders of the communities to take the political responsibility and leadership so far and encourages them to take even more courageous steps to reach to a final agreement. As maps are already presented at the 1st Geneva Summit of these negotiations, YES is expecting both sides to re-establish the spirit of friendship and confidence and follow the necessary procedures towards a 2nd comprehensive Summit where all topics are discussed and hopefully agreed upon. YES would like to urge all active actors: UN, Turkey, Greece and UK to give their utmost support and political experience towards a modern settlement that would end the conflict and bring peace and stability to the last divided capital city in Europe. A settlement that would be reached in Cyprus, the easternmost border of the EU, would also set an example to the nearest geography the Middle East that a political settlement through dialogue is possible without violence in such a way that respects not only the culture and tradition of the communities but also the need for equal treatment and security.

YES would like to draw attention to the root causes of the separation of these fraternal communities and condemn them openly: populism and nationalism. At this crucial stage, we call upon the security forces of both communities to act with strong legal action and without hesitation to the attacks or harassments of people from "the other" community by the nationalist components of both sides that would exacerbate the relations between these two communities. The perpetrators of such unacceptable crimes shall face justice rapidly to promote the sense of security and peace within communities. In this sense, YES extends its solidarity and full support to all bicomunal activities and projects that promotes the co-existence and reapproachment of communities and declares that we as the Socialist and Social Democratic Youth Organizations of Europe are ready to contribute whenever it is necessary.

YES would also like to point out to the nationalist propaganda of the education system in both Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. The indoctrination of young people with biased views of history and teaching of "the other" community being an enemy should be halted immediately and revised to be up to the standards of the 21st century. YES firmly believes that young people shall not be tools of nationalist propaganda in any way, which is an attempt to further deepen the conflict and is only having negative effects towards both communities. The component of hate speech in the education system is unacceptable in the 21st century Europe especially in a conflicted zone.

YES would also like to stress that compulsory military service within both communities is also unacceptable as the young males are forced to spend years of their lives to serve in the military. The absence of conscientious objection in both communities pushes the young people to learn how

to kill a person whether they want it or not which is a violation of the human rights. Therefore, all efforts of decreasing the duration of military service and the legalization of conscientious objection is supported by YES. YES wishes that young people would be rid of this burden completely in a short period of time.

YES wants to underline the importance and encourage the cooperation of young people in both communities to reach to a final comprehensive settlement under UN parameters: a united bi-zonal, bi-communal federal Cyprus with a single international identity and political equality. YES demands the leaders of both communities to give the younger generations a homeland without borders and checkpoints and with a better future that includes these fraternal communities coexisting together in one country. YES calls for the support, solidarity and cooperation of the international community to reach to a final settlement to eradicate the borders in this conflicted region and reunite the world's last divided capital city. The peace in Cyprus cannot be prevented! Give peace a chance!