



**Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Excellency, dear Colleague,**

This year marks a tragic anniversary for Cyprus. Fifty years ago, Turkey illegally invaded Cyprus, a military invasion which led to the geographical division of our country and resulted in 37% of Cypriot territory falling under de facto control by Turkey. An event that has left deep scars on our people and continues to impact our society profoundly. Around 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forced to flee south abandoning their homes, 1510 missing persons have disappeared during or after the Turkish invasion, including non-combatants, women and small children while on November 15, 1983, the occupying regime unilaterally declared the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)", an act which was condemned by the international community as legally invalid and no UN country other than Turkey has officially recognised "TRNC" as a sovereign state.

Despite numerous efforts towards reunification and the establishment of lasting peace, our country remains divided, with a substantial portion under occupation. As you are already aware, the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey have proposed a two-state solution, which is completely out of line with UN Security Council resolutions and the positions of the European Union, an unacceptable partitionist rhetoric which can never be accepted by the European Union and the international community.

Another negative development is that on 20 July 2021, the Turkish army proceeded with the further reopening of a part of the fenced-off area of Varosha. Such actions constitute a flagrant violation of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions on the status quo of the area and lead to the creation of an extremely negative precedent as far as the overall solution to the Cyprus problem is concerned. Once more, let me bring to your attention that United Nations Security Council Resolutions 550 (1984), 789 (1992), and 2357 (2020) defined the framework for the return of Varosha to its lawful inhabitants and the transfer of this area under the administration of the United Nations.

It is imperative to acknowledge that what Turkey is aiming for through its actions and rhetoric is to destroy any effort for the resumption of talks for a comprehensive and



lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem. At the same time, the Greek Cypriot side has repeatedly reaffirmed its strong will for the resumption of the talks to reach a comprehensive settlement on the Cyprus issue based on a bizonal bicomunal federation, with political equality, in line with the parameters set by the Security Council resolutions, EU principles and the acquis.

We appeal to you and the international community on this dark anniversary to renew your focus on Cyprus. We urge you to support our continued efforts towards a just, sustainable and viable solution to the Cyprus problem, to the benefit of all the people of Cyprus, Greek and Turkish Cypriots, without the presence of foreign troops and the anachronistic system of guarantees and intervention rights of any third party.

The EU should send a strong message of solidarity to Cyprus by assuming a more active role in trying to overcome the deadlock and resume the negotiations to end the 50-year-long occupation of Cyprus by Turkey. This is the time for our European family to demonstrate solidarity with a member state. This is the time for the European Union to show that it cannot remain idle while Turkey behaves in a manner that goes against all the values the European Union stands for.

The European Union must demonstrate the same resolve, as it rightly does toward Russia for Ukraine, also vis-à-vis Turkey in the case of Cyprus, so that Turkey abandons its unacceptable claim for a "two-state" solution, abides by international law and reverses its illegal acts against the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus and the fenced area of Famagusta.

The division of Cyprus represents a broader challenge to international peace and security, as it involves issues of illegal occupation, human rights violations, and the displacement of thousands of people. This ongoing situation is not just a regional concern but a matter of international law and justice.

Dear colleague, we thank you for your continued vigilance and active support in our pursuit of peace and reconciliation for a reunified Cyprus under a bizonal, bicomunal federation. We also ask you to intensify our joint efforts to persuade Turkey to take a positive stance towards Cyprus and to abide by the rule of law.



**DEMOCRATIC  
RALLY**

**President's Office**

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your support and solidarity.

**Sincerely,**

**Annita Demetriou  
President, Democratic Rally  
Cyprus**