

Reunification of the Island of Cyprus

Cyprus

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party convening in Yerevan, Armenia on 11 May 2012:

Recalls:

- The contents of the ELDR resolution Cyprus, adopted at the 2009 ELDR Party Congress in Barcelona, Catalonia, which calls on "...the leaders of the two communities ... to reach a timely agreement on the reunification of Cyprus ... (including a) bizonal bicomunal federation with political equity (and with a) federal government with a single international personality, sovereignty and citizenship;
- An opportunity to unify the island was missed in 2004

Whereas:

- The issue of Cyprus still remains unresolved leaving the legal status within the EU of Turkish Cypriots and the property rights of refugees unclear;
- The Republic of Cyprus will hold the rotating EU presidency from 1 July 2012, representing only the Greek-Cypriot community;
- The resolution of the Cyprus problem in a way that will reunify the island will allow all the Cypriots to participate in the economic development and to share the benefits that the exploitation of Cyprus' natural wealth will bring. At the same time it will allow the normalization of relations with Turkey, so that Cyprus and Turkey can become partners in peace to the benefit of both countries;

Maintains:

- The importance of finding a solution for the island of Cyprus which is viable over the long term, and would give influence in decision-making for both communities of the island. This would not only establish peace and stability in the East Mediterranean and contribute to evolution of relations of the area with the EU, it would also work as a catalyst for creating new economic growth for all Cypriots and the region.

Resolution:

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Calls:

- For an enhanced role for the UN and its special adviser on Cyprus to lead talks for an eventual solution by the end of the year and to help overcome the gridlock of the long-lasting and highly unsatisfying negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots and at long last to resolve the Cyprus problem;
- ELDR and ELDR Member Parties to actively work for finding a solution for the reunification of Cyprus, taking inspiration from the thorough work that has been done on the matter before, e.g. through the Annan Plan.
- ELDR and ELDR Member parties to put pressure on both communities to reach a roadmap towards prompt unification, so that the rights and obligations of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots can be fully respected at the end of the Cypriot EU Presidency.
- The EU to fulfill its obligations, under the accession treaty, to all communities of the island.
- Both Greek and Turkish Cypriots to show solidarity with the vested interest of the EU to end the anachronistic division of the island which is in clear conflict with both the spirit and values of the Union and acknowledging that solidarity is not a one-way street.

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