



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

Nicosia, 4 December 2009

H.E. Mr Thor PEDERSEN,
Speaker of the Folketing,
Folketing of Denmark,
COPENHAGEN.

Dear colleague,

Only a few days ahead of the next European Council and the assessment of Turkey's accession course to the European Union, I consider it as my duty to voice the serious concerns of the people of Cyprus over the absence, so far, of any sign on behalf of Turkey towards the fulfillment of its obligations vis-à-vis the European Union and its member states. Such obligations are no others than the respect of the founding principles of the European Union, as well as those emanating from Turkey's signature of the Additional Protocol to the Association Agreement, including those affecting the Republic of Cyprus, i.e. the opening of Turkey's ports and airports to Cypriot vessels, the recognition by Turkey of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the normalization of Turkey's relations with the Republic of Cyprus.

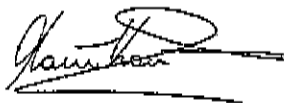
The air of optimism injected by Turkey or others to the on-going process of direct negotiations between President Christofias and the Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Talat, in view of developments within the European Union, are regrettably not matched by any concrete actions whatsoever on the part of Turkey, that could lead to a just, viable and functional settlement of the Cyprus problem, in accordance with international law, pertinent UN resolutions and EU principles. For more than a year of talks, the Turkish side has been escalating its intransigent stance by overtly aiming at a "new partnership between two states and peoples", to emerge from a so-called "virgin birth", which could only mean the abolition of the Republic of Cyprus.

Turkey's aims in Cyprus have been pursued through increased faits accomplis on the ground. These include the massive exploitation of Greek Cypriot properties, the continuing crime under international law of implanting Turkish settlers in the occupied areas, in addition to the 180,000 already present, thus more than doubling the 80,000 Turkish Cypriots left in the area and, not least, Turkey's tactics of deliberately letting illegal immigrants cross over to the government-controlled areas of the Republic of Cyprus through the occupied areas. They also include the continuing violations by Turkey of the air and maritime space of the Republic of Cyprus, the vetoing of Cyprus' participation in a number of international organizations and bodies, as well as overt threats and actions directed against the sovereign right of the Republic of Cyprus to conduct oil and gas surveys within its Exclusive Economic Zone.

It is no secret that Turkey holds the key of the solution to the Cyprus problem. President Christofias' unfailing commitment to the negotiation process, aimed at reaching a settlement of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship, with political equality, as described in pertinent UN resolutions, remains unchanged. Just as unchanged remains Cyprus' support to Turkey's European course, upon the firm conviction that such a development will benefit Turkey itself, Cyprus and its people, as well as peace and stability in the wider region, provided that Turkey abides by its obligations, which apply for all EU member states and candidate countries without exceptions or discounts. The forthcoming assessment of Turkey's accession cannot not be considered as "business as usual", for this is not only a test for Turkey, but primarily a test for the credibility of the European Union itself in upholding the rule of law and, not least, its own principles and ideals.

At this most significant crossroads for the European Union, in the context of the Treaty of Lisbon entering into force since 1 December 2009, I call and count upon your solidarity, Mr. President and dear Colleague, in exerting all your influence, so that the rule of law prevails and that the EU fundamental values and principles are respected.

Yours sincerely,



*Marios GAROYLAN,
President of the House of Representatives
of the Republic of Cyprus*