



H.E. Ursula VON DER LEYEN
President
European Commission
Brussels.

1 May 2024, Nicosia

Madam President,

As we mark the 20th anniversary of Cyprus' accession to the European Union, we are at an impasse in the efforts to find a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem. We are deeply concerned about the long-term impact of the current situation and are convinced that, if there is political will and determination, both sides could find a realistic path to resume negotiations with a view to establishing a bi-zonal bi-communal federation in Cyprus with political equality between the two communities and in line with the principles upon which the EU is founded.

To that end, we, as the members of the CPDC, would like to call upon you to encourage both sides for the resumption of talks from where they were left off in Crans Montana, but this time in a phased, meaningful and results-oriented manner, with a mechanism agreed by the parties for resolving possible impasses, leading to a comprehensive settlement agreement that would be submitted for the approval of both communities in separate, simultaneous referenda. As the continuation of the status-quo is unacceptable and unsustainable, it should not be among possible outcomes. The consequences of a new failure should be made clear to both sides. We also strongly embrace the Security Council position that the negotiations should ensure transparency and effective participation of women and youth as well as members of the civil society.

We believe that a successful end to the Cyprus issue will not only serve the Cypriots but will also benefit the wider region by clearing the path for broader cooperation among all stakeholders in the Eastern Mediterranean region, and as such deserves the active engagement of the international community. After decades of conflict and division, a Cyprus solution could serve as a powerful and catalytic example for other regional and international conflicts, promoting peace and security worldwide.

Inspired by the words of Robert Schuman that "World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it" and by the successful example of the creation of the European Union, we remain determined to work towards effecting more economic, cultural and other cooperation and reconciliation between the two communities, creating a convergence of common interests. The European Union could be instrumental towards that end by significantly increasing its funding and support, especially for common



ventures and projects. The introduction of the Turkish language, as one of the two official languages of Cyprus, could act as a strong and effective catalyst in making the Turkish Cypriot EU citizens an integral part of the European Union.

We once again welcome you to our island and hope that your visit will demonstrate to all that the EU is determined to do all it can through active diplomacy to assist both Turkish and Greek Cypriots in their efforts to end the Cyprus problem and enjoy together the benefits of being in the EU.

Kind regards,

On behalf of the Cyprus Peace and Dialogue Centre (CPDC) Policy Group

Dr. Meltem ONURKAN-SAMANI, CPDC Founder and General Coordinator

Members: Özdil NAMI, Former Foreign Minister and Turkish Cypriot Negotiator

Dr. Erato KOZAKOU MARCOULLIS, Former Foreign Minister

Dr. İpek BORMAN

Andy GEORGIU

Hüseyin SİLMAN

<http://www.cypdc.org>

meltem.onurkan@cypdc.org

contact@cypdc.org