

We should use the accession to the European Union for the solution of the Cyprus conflict!

Resolution of the National Committee of the CDU for Foreign and Security Policy

chaired by Dr. Friedbert Pflüger MP

on March 18, 2002

(Courtesy Translation)

The two parts of Cyprus and its capital are now for 28 years just as long cut off from each other as the Berlin wall stood in the German capital. As the European integration turned out to be a magnet to the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe, the European integration works nowadays as a magnet to the Turkish Northern part of the island, in order not to miss the accession to the stability and prosperity zone European Union.

The CDU welcomes that the president of Cyprus, Glafkos John Klerides, agreed with the political leader of the Turkish ethnic group, Rauf Denktasch, at their historic meeting on December 4, 2001, to take up intensive negotiations at the presence of the representative of the United Nations, Alvaro de Soto, in order to achieve a political solution of the Cyprus conflict. Klerides and Denktasch started their negotiations on January 16, 2002, with the aim to reach a solution by June 2002 in order to be able to still integrate it into the negotiations of accession to the European Union. On March 1, 2002, the negotiations entered the second round. It is intended to close the negotiations of accession with Cyprus at the EU-summit at Copenhagen in December 2002. A belated correction of the European Union treaty of accession with Cyprus for the consideration of the interests of the Northern part of the island would be extremely complicated in particular during the ratification process. In order to make sure that representatives of the Turkish ethnic group will be able to represent Cyprus in the institutions of the European Union to realise the interests of their home region from the outset of the planned European Union accession in 2004, the adherence to the negotiation schedule till June 2002 designed by Klerides and Denktasch is of greatest importance.

The CDU Germany considers that the following aspects should be taken into account to achieve a successful conclusion of the negotiations:

1. On one hand, both ethnic groups must recognize that one-sided proposals will not lead to lasting solutions for the unity, freedom, and the increase of the wealth of Cyprus. The Greek and Turkish ethnic group must refrain from regarding the annexation of Cyprus by Greece or Turkey as an option.
2. On the other hand, none of the two ethnic groups should be able to dominate the other one. Both the Greek and the Turkish ethnic group must be able to feel themselves at home in a united Cyprus. The tried and tested concept for the Europe of the 21st century is not the antagonistic rivalry of separate peoples and ethnic groups, but the trustworthy co-operation in a united Europe, in which in accordance with the principles of federalism and subsidiarity the EU-member states, regions, and municipalities have extensive competences of their own. In particular member states with several ethnic groups must, in order to prevent tendencies of separatism, guarantee comprehensive autonomy rights to ethnic groups, in particular in the social-cultural range of politics. The ethnic groups are, however, obligated in return, to act in a loyal way in relation to the central government.
3. Since the ethnic groups are not to be limited to the present settlement areas, a solution must be found of a federal government with two federal areas and two ethnic communities. Such a solution has also contributed substantially to the stabilization of Belgium.
4. The European Union and the United Nations should take the responsibility of as guarantors for the solution for a durable and stable peace solution in Cyprus negotiated by the two ethnic groups.
5. The CDU demands the abolition of the commercial boycott against the Northern part of the island after the achievement of a political solution of the Cyprus conflict. The CDU welcomes the resolution of the European Union ministers of foreign affairs in Caen on February 9, 2002, to support the proposals of the European Commission to support the Northern part of the island after a successful solution of the Cyprus conflict with 39 million euros in 2004, 67 million euros in 2005, and 100 million euros in 2006. That region will be one of the poorest regions of the extended European Union and has not

been able yet to benefit of the advancement strategy of the European Union. Both measures are preconditions for a rapid adjustment of per capita income in the Northern part (at present approximately 4,600 euros) to the Southern part of Cyprus (at present approximately 16,100 euros).

6. A particular problem represents the resettlement of many thousands of persons from Turkey to the Northern part of Cyprus. Some of them have already lived in Cyprus for decades and it would be inhuman and economically not very meaningful to send them back again to their original homeland. Therefore a solution must be found to enable them to remain in their new homeland.
7. A difficult problem is also the property of the members of the respective ethnic group in the two parts of Cyprus. A solution must also be found that avoids human hardship, meets the principles of the rule of law, is economically meaningful, and could be implemented within a foreseeable period of time. It must come thus to a fair and brisk reconciliation of interests between the original proprietors and current owners. If desired by the people of Cyprus, the CDU is in favour of offering German expert knowledge in this field of politics, which we gathered after the reunification of Germany.
8. The CDU Germany supports all efforts of both ethnic groups to achieve a political solution of the Cyprus conflict still before the conclusion of the accession negotiations to the European Union. It emphasizes, however, that the promise of the European Union must be kept that the Republic of Cyprus has also a claim to full membership of the European Union, if there should be no political solution of the Cyprus conflict till 2004 in spite of a constructive conduct of the negotiations. Cyprus meets all preconditions to become a member state of the European Union, is a model at the EU accession negotiations, and must not be made responsible for a possible blockade by Ankara.