



## **DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING  
Working Session 10  
(Monday, 5 October 2009)

### Statement in exercise of the Right of Reply

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

My delegation wishes to refer to the statement delivered by the NGO Embargoed, and underline the following:

The so called isolation of the Turkish Cypriots is in fact the direct result of the ongoing occupation of a substantial part of the island. Since 2003 and the easing of the restrictions on the movement of people across the island, the Government of Cyprus has methodically supported the Turkish Cypriot community with financial and social measures, promoting contacts, trade and other services towards the Turkish Cypriots. Just to name a few: (a) Issuance of Cyprus Republic passports and ID cards to tens of thousands of Turkish Cypriots which enable them to travel and work freely within the EU, (b) Opening of various crossing points across the Green Line which enabled million crossings of people since 2003, (c) Employment of thousands of Turkish Cypriots in the government controlled areas, (d) Provision of social benefits like free medical care, Social Insurance pensions etc.

The numerous measures undertaken unilaterally by the Government or in cooperation with the European Commission, have greatly promoted the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot Community.

Regarding the ports in the occupied area, we wish to remind that following the invasion of 1974, the Republic of Cyprus declared those ports as illegal points of entry and closed to international navigation, since the internationally recognised Government of Cyprus does not exercise effective control and is not in a position to apply national and international law on the operation of ports and airports located there.