



End discrimination against Turkish Cypriots



HDIM.NGO/0537/12

4 October 2012

Turkish Cypriots and EU Citizenship and Political Rights

Prepared for OSCE HDIM 2012

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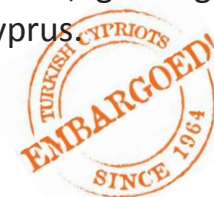


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A divided Cyprus in Europe

- All efforts to solve the decades-old Cyprus Conflict have failed.
 - Over 15 plans developed to resolve the conflict, which exists because one side refuses to share power equally with the other, as required in the Terms & Constitution that formed the Republic of Cyprus.
 - Two ethnic zones have existed since the war of 1974 & the Population Exchange Agreement of 1975. All international plans for unification are based on these two ethnic zones (bar some territorial adjustments) & for the two co-founders to resume their partnership as political equals.
 - In 2004, 65% of Turkish Cypriots voted in favour of the UN-backed Annan Plan to unite Cyprus as a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, while 76% of Greek Cypriots voted against the plan they helped draw up.
 - Follow-up UN efforts to bring about a solution have also failed.
- A divided Cyprus joined the EU on 1 May 2004.
 - According to EU rules, a divided territory should not be admitted – Cyprus' political problems should have been solved first.
 - Turkish Cypriots (TCs), co-founders of the Republic of Cyprus, were required to give their formal consent to EU entry – this did not happen, yet the entire island was admitted.
 - The EU recognises the Greek Cypriot (GC) Government as the sole authority for the whole island, ignoring the politically equality of Turkish Cypriots and the fact the South has no control over North Cyprus.





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Turkish Cypriots – the EU's Excluded Citizens

➤ A census of North Cyprus (NC) recorded 300,000 citizens in December 2011. All are excluded as EU citizens because of where they live.

➤ Since Cyprus' 2004 entry, the '*acquis communautaire*' has been suspended in NC.

This means Turkish Cypriots :

- Have **no voice in the EU** as their **democratically elected officials cannot sit at the EU Parliament** – they do not even have Observer Status or access to permanent offices due to GC objections, who have 6 MEPs representing South Cyprus.
- **Cannot use their administration's travel & identification documents to travel, reside or study freely in the EU**, they need to obtain ones from South Cyprus. Not all NC citizens qualify for this due to the narrow criteria the Greek Cypriot authorities apply (i.e. **if one parent from Turkey, can't become RoC citizen even if they are born in Cyprus**).
- They **cannot trade directly with other EU member states** – dairy, meat etc all prohibited, rest **must first pass through South Cyprus**, adding time & cost, while restricting economic contacts & growth.
- They **cannot travel directly to EU member states** – Greek Cypriots have labelled all ports in NC "illegal", although they have no right to do so. Even NC sea ports, which former EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn confirmed are legal, are misrepresented by GCs who threaten vessel owners with refusal to use South Cyprus ports if they dock in North – most recently a yacht regatta this summer, forcing a complete re-route back to Turkey before proceeding to Lebanon.





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EU actions seemingly at mercy of Greek veto

- Following TC vote in favour of the Annan Plan in 2004, EU leaders vowed to end their international isolation. Support of EU grew to 75% among TCs.
- The EU Commission passed regulations for direct trade and aid for TCs. Both have been obstructed by the GC veto for the past eight years.
- GCs account for less than one percent of the EU's total population, yet they are seemingly able to prevent the rest of the EU from honouring their promises to TCs, essentially forcing the EU to discriminate against its own citizens in North Cyprus.
 - How is this democratic?
- South Cyprus is supported by its close ally Greece, further undermining the EU's ability to be an honest broker in Cyprus.
 - They even got two representatives onto the EU Parliament's High Level Contact Group with Turkish Cypriots (CYTR), ensuring the group rarely met in NC or championed TC needs. The discredited CYTR has now been disbanded, with the EU looking for a new mechanism to engage TCs.
- This situation has not only soured relations with TCs – trust in EU now down to 35% – but also between Turkey & EU.





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Upside of EU relations with North Cyprus

➤ New Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fule has tried to ensure more balance is injected into dealings with Cyprus.

- In 2009, Greek Cypriots applied for Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) status for tradition Cypriot cheese (known as Halloumi in Greek & Hellim in Turkish), excluding producers in NC. This application was subsequently withdrawn. Mr Fule stated in June 2012 that a future application should include both sides.
- While the Green Line Regulation (GLR) is no substitute for direct trade for TCs, its existence has encouraged trade & greater interaction between the two sides, with TCs exporting £10m trade annually to South Cyprus.
- Yet this level of trade accounts for only 10% of total TC exports. There is huge growth potential if EU allowed direct trade. Would also loosen TC dependence on Turkey, who annually provides £0.5b in aid & is largest trading partner for TCs.

➤ EU encouraging NC to harmonise laws with that of the EU by working closely with NC EU Co-ordination Office, as well as helping to develop NC.

- Since 2004, €259 aid invested in essential infrastructure such as roads, water & sewage works, refuse treatment, & rural development, as well as for education, border crossing points (e.g. Yesilirmak-Limnitis), de-mining & missing persons.
- Additional funding of €28.5m & €25m given for 2011 and 2012 respectively.





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Turkish Cypriots exist and they have rights!

- Stop discrimination - either all of Cyprus is within EU borders or not.
 - TCs voted for a united island & cannot be left hostage to the absence of a comprehensive political solution in Cyprus, while GCs, who voted against, enjoy full EU benefits.
- EU must respect fundamental rights of Turkish Cypriots.
 - Both under original constitution of Cyprus & under own EU Convention on Human Rights.
- EU should deal with today's realities.
 - Today's divided Cyprus is far from ideal. Yet if NC's government is illegal, so too is the one in South Cyprus – neither adhere to the Terms & Constitution of the independent Republic of Cyprus created in 1960. The fact one has hijacked the original name does not give it the right to represent the entire island.
 - The presence of two states is a reality – the South does not control the North. The current situation also means a form of political equality between the two sides.
- Enable TCs to have their own representatives at the EU Parliament – how can they champion their rights if they have no voice?
 - And how can the EU claim to uphold human rights and democracy if it denies its own citizens those rights?
- Trade not Aid!
 - Fulfill promises made in 2004 & let TCs trade directly with all EU.





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