

**NGO CONTRIBUTION DURING THE DISCUSSION OF OSCE TITLE
"DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS - CITIZENSHIP AND POLITICAL
RIGHTS**

4 October 2012 - working session 16 - Warsaw OSCE

I represent Embargoed!, which is a London based Human Rights group, which campaigns against the cruel and inhuman embargoes that are placed on the 300 000 people of North Cyprus.

I have a few questions to put to our distinguished audience here, albeit rhetorical. It's a little test on what they know about Cyprus!

Question 1: If the whole of Cyprus is in the European Union, which it is, do all the people of Cyprus have equal political rights, and rights to the benefits of the European union?

Is the answer yes? No that would too logical, delegates, the answer is, in fact, no!

The people of South Cyprus have full rights but in the north of the island, you are only entitled to sub-standard rights! If you are a North Cypriot, you are not allowed to elect a Member of European Parliament from your own community, trade with other countries, and you cannot even take part in sporting activities like playing football with other peoples of the world, or take part in the Olympics. In fact, all cultural activities are banned by the Greek Cypriot government. You are a non-citizen, you do not exist. So, I would submit, madame moderator that in effect, the EU operates a form of apartheid in cyprus, right in the heart of Europe, on this tiny island.

Question 2: In 2004, 65% of Turkish Cypriots yes to the UN-backed Annan peace plan while 76% of Greek Cypriots unfortunately said no. Guess which side was admitted to the eu? Yes, you knew it, it was the Greek side. The EU broke its own rules to bring in a split state to the Union.

Question 3 How long have Turkish and Greek populations of Cyprus governed themselves together and how many separately? The answer is 3 together and 49 separately, that is for nearly half a century. Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots elected their own leaders during these 49 years.

Stop discrimination - either all of Cyprus is within EU borders or it is not. This is a bizarre anomaly.

How can the EU claim to uphold human rights and democracy if it denies its own citizens those rights? We demand that it enables TCs to have their own representatives at the EU Parliament. It was agreed in 2004 that there should be 4 Greek Cypriot MEPS and 2 Turkish MEPS, but as soon as Greek Cypriots were admitted into the EU, they vetoed it. How can TCs champion their rights if they have no voice?

How can Greek Cypriots who account for less than one percent of the EU population be allowed to veto and block all the plans which were agreed by the EU in 2004 to equalize the rights of Turkish Cypriots.

We demand that the EU Fulfills promises made in 2004 & let Turkish Cypriots trade directly with all EU.

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 Human Rights. TCs have legal rights Both under original constitution of Cyprus & under EU's own Convention on Human Rights.

The presence of two states is a reality. On paper there is one state, the Republic of Cyprus, but in reality, there are two states – the South does not control the North. What we are witnessing now, is the triumph of politics over common sense - Turkish Cypriots deserve to have their own voice in the European Union and the rest of the world.

Thank you!