



# AKEL *bulletin*

EDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BUREAU

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***Since the 3rd of September direct face-to-face negotiations have started, at the level of the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, aiming in the solution of the Cyprus problem as soon as possible. The position of AKEL regarding the substantive negotiations that have begun is one of guarded optimism.***

## **STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE C.C OF AKEL,**

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of AKEL during its session yesterday exchanged views regarding the better preparation for the Organisational Congress of the Party which is scheduled to take place in December. The P.B. of AKEL conducted an initial exchange of views also regarding the forthcoming European elections, their political significance and the better preparation of the Party for this election battle.

The P.B. of the C.C. of **AKEL welcomes the commencing of substantive negotiations between the leaders of the two communities**, which has been made possible as a result of the policy and initiatives of the President of the Republic. We are entering into a **crucial phase of the Cyprus problem**. A period of difficult and arduous negotiations lie ahead, during which everyone will be called upon to exhibit a heightened sense of patriotism and responsibility. Hasty conclusions and, even more, negative predictions should not be drawn from the first meetings held.

### *Read also:*

- *Speech by N, Katsourides, Parliamentary Spokesman of AKEL at the Nicosia District Gathering of Party cadres p. 3*
- *Speech by the General Secretary of PEO Pambis Kiritsis at a Bi communal event p. 5*

An atmosphere of unity on the domestic front is needed that will strengthen the negotiating position of the President of the Republic. AKEL welcomes the fact that a number of public opinion polls show that the people in their overwhelming majority support the policy and initiatives of President Christofias. We also ascertain the support shown to President Christofias as expressed by nearly all the political forces. It is imperative that parallel negotiation between the political forces on the various aspects of the Cyprus problem, and indeed in



public, which do not offer anything to the effort to solve the Cyprus problem, but on the contrary undermine it, must be averted. Unnecessary confrontations and especially irresponsible sloganeering in a patriotic guise must be avoided. This is not the time for slandering and projecting slogans, but time for actions and responsibility.

**AKEL supports with all its strength the President of the Republic and rallies to his side in the great battle he is waging for the liberation from the occupation and the reunification of our country. We express our deep conviction that Demetris Christofias will handle the issue of the negotiations by defending with determination the principles for the solution of the Cyprus problem and by showing flexibility and political will to reach a solution.**

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We call on the Turkish Cypriot leadership to respond in a positive way at the negotiating table, so that the road to a solution by Cypriots which shall be in the interests of the Cypriot people, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, will open up.

**At this crucial time the international factor is called upon to play its own important role by exercising chiefly its influence on Turkey in order to abandon its current policy on the Cyprus problem and to follow a policy in line with the resolutions of the United Nations and the principles of international law.**

The position of AKEL regarding the substantive negotiations that have begun is one of **guarded optimism**. Their outcome must be an **agreed bi-zonal bi-communal federal solution** with political equality as set out by the resolutions of the United Nations. Reunified Cyprus will be one state with a single sovereignty, a single nationality and a single international personality. AKEL looks forward to a solution that will liberate Cyprus from the occupation and colonisation; that will reunify our country and people and restore the human rights and basic freedoms of all Cypriots. AKEL together with President Christofias will continue fighting, with all its strength, for the achievement of this solution.

NICOSIA, 13th SEPTEMBER 2008

**EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH OF NIKOS KATSOURIDES,  
PARLIAMENTARY SPOKESMAN OF AKEL, AT THE NICOSIA DISTRICT  
GATHERING OF PARTY MILITANTS AND CADRES,  
15th SEPTEMBER 2008**

**The election of Demetris Christofias, the positions he adheres to - which are the constant long-standing policies of our Party - the initiatives he has undertaken and the political will he is showing for the solution of the Cyprus problem, have broken the deadlocks and provoked an unprecedented mobility surrounding the Cyprus problem.** Abroad we have won the support and sympathy of the international factor. On the domestic front up to **85% of the people support the policy and initiatives of President Christofias.**

Among the Turkish Cypriots many of our compatriots see their hopes for a better tomorrow in Demetris Christofias, AKEL and the policy we are following.

In the first six months of the Christofias Presidency **important steps** have been made that were not taken before. Four meetings between Christofias and Talat have been held as a result of which: a) **Ledra Street has opened**, b) **Working Groups and Technical Committees** have been set up and functioned, producing work to be used during the negotiations, c) it has been **clarified that the solution being sought is a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal solution with political equality as defined by the resolutions of the United Nations.** Reunified Cyprus will be one state with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single nationality, very important elements which have been accepted for the first time by the Turkish Cypriot side, despite the interpretations being given at various times.

**Since the 3rd of September we have entered the phase of direct face-to-face negotiations at the level of the leaders of the two communities, aiming at the solution of the Cyprus problem as soon as possible.** This is the most difficult and crucial phase. We are all conscious of the fact that a period of intense, arduous and difficult negotiations will follow because on many and vital issues the gap in the views of the two sides continues to exist.

The position of President Christofias at the first meeting and his additional statement set out in a very clear and categorical way the positions of principle which our own side will defend till the end in current effort to solve the Cyprus problem. The positions of Mehmet Ali Talat are causing reflection because they are being projected within the parameters of the well-known Turkish policy and the decisions of the National Security Council of Turkey. We are exercising the necessary criticism of these positions which do not assist the effort underway. On the other hand we should not rush to draw hasty pessimistic conclusions and to prejudge the failure of this effort. **It is at the negotiating table where everything will be judged and it is there where we will see if the Turkish Cypriot leadership and principally Turkey will change their policy on the Cyprus problem so that the road towards the solution shall proceed.**

At this point I would like to express our regret because the Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat, who whilst on the one hand is raising the issue of an embargo on public statements, and we do agree that the dialogue should be conducted at the negotiating table, is unfortunately breaking his pledge which he together with President Christofias had made not to issue public statements. This behaviour does not help in the improvement of the atmosphere.

On the basis of today's realities, we are cautiously optimistic. Various aspects of the Cyprus problem, due to the passage of time and the various positions and changes of the Turkish side in relation to the Cyprus problem, have unfortunately become complicated and intricate. Hence a

great deal of good will and of course a change in the stand of the Turkish side regarding the core issues of the Cyprus problem is needed. We are fully aware of this, but we are not ready to prejudge whatever outcome, as some, well-intentionally or not, are doing in the past few days.

We have from the first moment recognised and declare that each small and major step on the Cyprus problem will go through difficult times. **We understand that a problem that has existed for 34 years now and each year that goes by and the problem remains unsolved gets even more complicated, will not be solved by one or two meetings between the two leaders.** Taking into account the current conditions within the Turkish Cypriot community, Turkey and the world in general, we understand that in this struggle we are waging exercise self-restraint, patience and determination and this is precisely what the President of the Republic is doing.

Some other circles either because they are incapable of understanding these realities, either because they disagree with the fundamental principles of the Cyprus problem, are sowing the seeds of confusion and negativity, are damaging in essence the prospects for a successful outcome of the new initiative on the Cyprus problem. That is why whilst on the one hand we will resolutely face the unfair attacks on the President of the Republic, we shall be rejecting whatever unacceptable positions by the other side put forward, on the other hand we will under no circumstances undermine the new effort through our own actions by negotiating publicly, either with journalists, either between ourselves, either with Mr. Talat.

***If the negotiations do advance in the direction of a federal solution we must expect the intensification of the reaction of those forces who are openly or indirectly combating federation. Both the Party and the government must be ready to resolutely face this reaction by rallying on our side the largest possible part of the people.***

We shall continue the effort with persistence and be totally focused on our goals. We shall protect this effort from any attempts from whatever quarter to undermine it, above all observing the embargo on public statements concerning the negotiations that has been agreed.

This is the reason why the only thing we can say at this juncture about the first meeting between the two leaders is that through convergences and deviations we can express the view that the positive elements outnumber the negative.

A lot has been said recently and a great deal of criticism has been directed against the President of the Republic regarding the convening or non-convening of the National Council. AKEL is a Party that has supported from the very first moment the institution of the National Council. It has devoted a lot of time and effort for the effective functioning of the body as far as possible. Hence, any restriction of its role and downgrading is far from the thoughts of the President and our Party.

From the first moment the new effort on the Cyprus problem got underway the President made it clear that the political forces of the country would be briefed and participate in this process in two ways, both through the separate briefing of the political forces by the President as well as through the regular convening of the National Council. However on the other hand it must be understood by all that it is practically impossible, politically inappropriate and ineffective to convene the National Council each time the President will have a meeting with Mr. Talat, both before as well as after the meeting.

**The President of the Republic has been elected with the mandate above all to handle the Cyprus problem on the basis of the line and tactics which he set out in his Pre-**

**election Programme.** He is the elected negotiator of the Greek Cypriot side. The demand projected by some, because they have different views from those of the President regarding the essence of the Cyprus problem, that every proposal and every detail which he will submit and discuss with Mr. Talat should be discussed and approved beforehand by each Party separately and then by all the parties together at the National Council is beyond any logic.

Some forces are said to be worrying that the President of the Republic is allegedly making unacceptable compromises. We say to them not to worry needlessly because first of all such that is not the case nor is there any such possibility and secondly the political force the President comes from and leads has never accustomed the Cypriot people to such a policy. He is with determination and prudence waging the struggle for the solution of the Cyprus problem based on principles and with the consistency which he himself and his Party is marked by.

The situation regarding our domestic front is in general satisfactory. The mobility surrounding the Cyprus problem, the rejuvenation of hope and the popular support of the policy of President Christofias do not allow fierce confrontations, even if some would like to do so. We appreciate the positive stand taken by the leadership of the Rally Party, without harbouring illusions.

As far as the cooperating parties are concerned, despite the reservations even differences which are being expressed with a variety of intensity by various leading cadres, we consider the fact that the leaderships of these parties declare their support of President Christofias as positive.

Some forces still hold their well-known anti-federation positions and are openly opposing the current effort for the solution of the Cyprus problem. This is natural, because given that there is the prospect of a federal reunification the opponents of such a solution cannot be pleased with such a development.

**If the negotiations do advance in the direction of a federal solution we must expect the intensification of the reaction of those forces who are openly or indirectly combating federation. Both the Party and the government must be ready to resolutely face this reaction by rallying on our side the largest possible part of the people.** Any extreme chauvinistic circles will be decisively combated.

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## **ADDRESS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PANCYPRIAN FEDERATION OF LABOUR (PEO) PAMBIS KYRITSIS AT A WOMEN'S BI-COMMUNAL EVENT, 6TH SEPTEMBER 2008**

### **"Together for equality in a reunified country"**

On behalf of the General Council of PEO I feel first of all the need to congratulate the two **Working Women's Departments of PEO and DEV-IS** for their initiative to organise this activity.

**The issues of equality and the emancipation of working women, the issues that deal with the creation of the preconditions for the equal participation of women in society and work are issues which PEO has always placed in the forefront of its priorities.**

This activity, apart from its political and trade union content, also has at the same time a social and human perspective.

**We have never underestimated the social and psychological aspect, which plays its own important role in the struggle for reconciliation, the mutual understanding and the common action between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.** The main content

however of this effort and of this very struggle has never ceased to have a class and social content; a content deeply political. They have used and are still using nationalism and chauvinism to serve their goals and objectives. In this game of course the so-called "mother countries" have played their own role.

***"I would like to note with satisfaction the upgrading of the meetings and activities that are being initiated by the PEO and DEV-IS Working Women's Departments centred on the common struggle for the reunification of Cyprus, for peace, for a future which will create the preconditions for economic and social progress with respect to women's equality and parity."***

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The joint celebrations of International Women's Day on the 8th of March, the exchange of visits at work places and the acquaintance with the day to day problems of working women of each others communities, the establishment of these meetings taking place within the framework of the 1st of September the International Trade Union Day of Action for Peace and other similar activities all contribute significantly to the broader struggle being waged jointly by PEO and DEV-IS for peace and the reunification of our country, for the solution of the Cyprus problem which will liberate our country from foreign dependencies and foreign military presence.

Brothers and Sisters,  
Dear friends,

Today's meeting is being held at a really crucial time for the course and development of the efforts to reach a solution of the Cyprus problem. The procedure which has began since March with the functioning of the Technical Committees and the Working Groups and the beginning since Wednesday of face-to-face negotiations between the leaders of the two communities heralds a new period of a hard and intense effort aiming at an agreed, viable and workable solution that will reunify our country and people and liberate it from the foreign military presence. After a long period of inertia and immobility, the resumption of the effort for sure rejuvenates hope.

There is certainly no doubt that the election of Demetris Christofias to the post of the President of the Republic of Cyprus represented a decisive point in the course of developments regarding the Cyprus problem, something which in any case was clearly and evidently made apparent immediately after his election. His own constant political position as a political leader through the years, but also the very history of the political spectrum which elevated him, have been entirely bound up with the struggles for the reunification of Cyprus, with the cooperation and common action of all the inhabitants of the island irrespective of their community and national or religious origin.

They have been strongly linked to the firm and constant defence of the policy for a just and logical compromise between the Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, so that the solution will serve the inhabitants of our island and not those of any foreign powers and forces.

The interlocutor of Demetris Christofias in this procedure, the current leader of the Turkish Cypriot community Mehmet Ali Talat has been tied in the past to these policies. We are sure that if ,through this procedure that has started in such difficulties, the principle of serving the well-intentioned interests of Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots prevails, if the necessary respect of basic principles and values of law is exhibited, if all the necessary good will coupled with courage and boldness is shown, if the two leaders rely on the strength of the Cypriot people and not on the influences or interventions of any foreign powers and forces, then we are justified and can hope. The framework of the solution is there and we know it; the resolutions of the United Nations, the agreements between the two communities, the principles and values upon which objectively the European future of Cyprus is based on. It is the bi-communal bi-zonal federation and the political equality of the two communities within the framework of this federation with a single sovereignty, a single nationality, a single international personality. In the final analysis, a single Cypriot economy and Cypriot society.

It's only within this framework that it will be possible to practically implement the vision which is outlined in the title of our activity today: **"Together for equality in a reunified country"**.

Dear friends,

PEO and DEV-IS in the recent common declaration which we publicly issued on the occasion of the International Trade Union Day of Action reaffirm our pledge to support with all our forces this effort within the framework I have outlined.

**For us rapprochement, the cooperation and common action between the progressive forces of the two communities is action with a deep class and political content. We fully recognise that nationalism and chauvinism served improper goals and foreign plans that were incompatible to the interests of Cypriots.**

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Today's coincidence of circumstances therefore is the time for action by all of us. It's the time for courage and determination. Once again I congratulate the two Departments for the initiative they have undertaken and I want to assure you that we shall always be on the side of working women, struggling together in the struggle for peace and reunification, but also in the daily social struggle for equality and equal rights for women and for the vision of a better and more just society for the people of labour and toil.