



AKEL *bulletin*

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The 21st Congress of AKEL **25-28 of November 2010**

The 21st Congress of AKEL will be held on the **25 – 28 of November 2010**, in Nicosia.

The 21st Congress of AKEL will take place in unprecedented circumstances for the Party itself. For the first time, the President of the Republic c. D. Christofias comes from the ranks of AKEL. For the first time AKEL is having such a big participation in a coalition government.

The 21st Congress of AKEL will also be held in extremely crucial conditions for Cyprus and our people. The most important and coherent attempt to solve the Cyprus problem is underway since 1974 and onwards, an attempt which was made possible due to the policy and initiatives undertaken by President Christofias.

Both the President of the Republic and AKEL, are struggling hard for a solution based on principles. We are fighting for the termination of the occupation and the colonisation, for the reunification of our country and people, for the restoration of the human rights and basic freedoms of all Cypriots, for a solution that will be in line with the resolutions of the United Nations, the High-Level Agreements, International and European Law. We remain committed to a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal solution with political equality as set out by the resolutions of the United Nations. We are fighting so that the solution will provide for a united state, with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship. We are struggling against nationalism and chauvinism. We

are resolutely promoting rapprochement and the culture of peaceful cohabitation with our Turkish Cypriot compatriots.

Concerning the domestic issues, despite the difficulties caused by the world economic crisis, the President and his government are implementing a programme of governance with a marked content in the people's interests. Radical changes and reforms have already been implemented, solving many long-standing problems of Cypriot society in a progressive direction. AKEL proves to be a force that knows and can exert influence in the direction of the exercise of power to the benefit of the people and the country, remaining always faithful to the principles of socialism, progress, social justice and meritocracy.

The first day of the Congress, on the **25th of November**, an **International Conference** will be organised under the title **“The struggle of the Left and the fight of the peoples for global peace and security against the imperialistic Order”**

Read also:

- *Speech of the G.S. of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou on the recent developments in the Cyprus Problem (p.2)*
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Speech of Andros Kyprianou, General Secretary of AKEL, to the GUE-NGL meeting on recent developments regarding the Cyprus problem

5th May 2010, European Parliament, Brussels

Allow me to express my joy at being here once again at the Group of the European United Left-Nordic Green Left. On behalf of the C.C. of AKEL, I would like to convey our warm thanks to the Group, which gives us the opportunity to brief the MEP's and leading members of the Group (...).

We have been waging for 35 years now in these difficult conditions our own struggle for the liberation and reunification of our country. AKEL and the President of the Republic, comrade Demetris Christofias, are working tirelessly to achieve this goal: the solution of the Cyprus problem based on the principles as set out by International and European Law, based on the High-Level Agreements agreed between the leaders of the two communities in 1977 and 1979. This basis has been adopted in repeated UN Resolutions. We are struggling ceaselessly for a solution that will lead to a united state with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship, for a solution that will unite the people, country, institutions and the economy and safeguard the human rights for all. The talks, which began in September 2008, are being waged between the President of the Republic and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community on this basis.

It is a fact that with **Mr. Eroglou assuming the leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community** two weeks ago, the Cyprus problem is entering a new phase. As AKEL, we have pointed out that this development will complicate the efforts

for the solution of the Cyprus problem.



This is so because the positions and views of Mr. Eroglou are well known and declared; positions outside the agreed framework of the solution of the Cyprus problem and in conflict with the fundamental principles set out (...). These positions are completely outside the framework defined by the United Nations Organisation and contravene the basis of the talks agreed between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot side before the start of the talks in September 2008.

President Christofias immediately after his election to the Presidency of the Republic devoted all his efforts to the cause of the solution of the Cyprus problem (...). The two leaders agreed, before the direct negotiations began, to work on the basis of what the UN has long set out in agreement with the two communities.

Almost 80 meetings have taken place between the leaders of the two

communities during which all the chapters were discussed - that is to say, all the aspects of the Cyprus problems (...). The negotiations so far have revealed many convergences, but also divergences between the two communities. The Cyprus problem is a problem pending for 36 years and as anticipated, time has created additional difficulties to its solution. Besides this, the Turkish side's insistence on provisions that lead to confederation or even to two separate states did not permit greater convergences. With the beginning of the Second round of the direct negotiations in September 2009, a great deal of time was devoted to the chapters on Governance, the Economy and the European Union. Intensive talks followed during which progress was recorded on

Both the United Nations and the European Union must act so that the Turkish intransigence can be breached and any thoughts about regressions in the negotiations

the issue of Governance.

The assumption by Mr. Eroglou of the leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community unfortunately has created deep concerns among the Greek Cypriot community. Whilst through his various statements, Mr. Eroglou has declared his intention of continuing the talks, he has however called for the chapters to be discussed from the beginning, that is to say opening once again the issues on which convergence and progress has been achieved. At the same time, he insists on his positions, which, as I have already mentioned, are outside the agreed frameworks. We do not agree with this approach. Furthermore, it is evident that such a development is

contrary to the procedure and the framework that was agreed with the United Nations. It is a fact that it has been agreed between the international and the two communities in Cyprus that nothing is considered as agreed until everything has been agreed. However, it is incomprehensible that each time a negotiator changes that the discussion will resume from the beginning, from scratch. This would not permit the procedure to move ahead, neither quickly, but nor constructively.

Aiming at not allowing the basis of the talks to be changed, President Christofias sent a relevant letter to the UN Secretary-General and the permanent members of the Security Council, as well as to the leaders of the member states of the European Union and its officials (...).

So far, Turkey regrettably is content with communication tricks regarding the Cyprus problem, without contributing in essence and constructively to the efforts to solve the Cyprus problem. Instead of assisting the resumption and continuation of the procedure from the point it was interrupted, Turkey proposes the holding of a four-party conference on the Cyprus problem. It proposes the participation of Turkey, Greece and the two communities in Cyprus in this conference. The objective is to sideline the Republic of Cyprus and instead two equal entities will be presented that will create a new partnership. Such a development deviates from the agreed framework and aims at fulfilling a long-standing Turkish goal in Cyprus: the recognition, even for a second, of the Turkish Cypriot community as a separate state. This action would give the right for a future succession and an obligation of the international community for recognition of a separate state.

AKEL has always stressed that **the Cyprus problem has its internal and international aspect**. We consider that the issues related to the internal aspect must be discussed and agreed between the

communities in Cyprus. As AKEL, we consider that the issues regarding the international aspect of the Cyprus problem, (...) must be discussed and solved at an international conference with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council, the European Union, Greece, Turkey, the Republic of Cyprus and representatives of the two communities (...).

We insist that the primary duty is to exert influence for the start of negotiations from the point they were interrupted. The decisions we shall take concerning the further handling of the issues will depend on the development of the negotiations.

At the same time, some other developments have created **additional difficulties to the efforts** we are undertaking for the solution of the Cyprus problem. The decision of the European Court of Human Rights, according to which the ECHR views the so-called "Compensation Committee" in the occupied areas as an "effective domestic remedy" represents a negative development. The ECHR decision is fully respected, but also wrong because it was taken based on political and not on purely legal criteria. The decision does make positive references. Among other references, it clarifies that in the occupied areas there is an entity subordinate to Turkey. It is obvious that it puts all the responsibility for the developments in Cyprus on Turkey. The position of AKEL is that this is why this decision comes into conflict also with the philosophy of the decision taken by the European Court of the European Communities on the Orams case.

The property issue must be settled through the comprehensive solution of our political problem. As such, the problem regarding properties cannot be tackled solely by recourse to legal means. In addition, demands that are connected with the invasion, the

continued occupation and the violations of human rights cannot be left to the jurisdiction of an illegal committee that was set up by the occupational power itself.

As AKEL, we assess the raising by the European Commission of the Regulation for Direct Trade as untimely. Any attempts to upgrade the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" are in contravention of both the Resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and the European Union, which recognise only the Republic of Cyprus and not the pseudo-state. Such actions undermine the efforts to solve the Cyprus problem and transmit completely wrong messages in relation to the European Union's intentions concerning the Cyprus problem (...).

Turkey must promote practically and in deeds all that it verbally declares so far: that is to say that it proves in practise that it wants the solution of the Cyprus problem. It must comply with the resolutions of the United Nations and the decisions of the European Union.

Turkey must promote practically and in deeds all that it verbally declares so far: that is to say that it proves in practise that it wants the solution of the Cyprus problem. It must comply with the resolutions of the United Nations and the decisions of the European Union.

As AKEL, **we do not underestimate the significant role Turkey plays in the promotion of the solution of the Cyprus problem.** Without its own positive contribution, a solution to the Cyprus problem will not be feasible. Besides, the Cyprus problem is a problem of invasion and continued occupation by Turkey. Its role for the solution is therefore significant. Unfortunately for the time being this does

not appear to be the case. It must fulfil its relevant obligations towards the EU regarding the Republic of Cyprus too. If Turkey does not move in this direction the probability is that the new leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community will not respond positively. The Republic of Cyprus constantly underlines that the accession course of Turkey also involves its obligation to fulfil its commitments towards Cyprus. The international community and the European Union must point out this obligation to Turkey. Recently the political leadership of Turkey is seeking to project as its goal the establishment of Turkey as a factor of stability and normalisation in the wider region. This cannot be accepted without the solution of the Cyprus. Besides, it is unconceivable that a candidate country is occupying the territory of another country, indeed one that is a member state of the European Union. For Turkey to appear as consistent towards the European Union and to convince that it is a force seeking peace, it is obliged to contribute constructively to the solution of the Cyprus problem (...).

As AKEL, we support with all our strength the efforts undertaken by President Christofias and insist on the framework and principles that were agreed between the two communities over the recent period and that have been approved by the United Nations in its repeated resolutions (...).

We are brothers, children of the same motherland. Together, we have waged many victorious struggles. Together, within the ranks of the big family of the Peoples Movement of the Left we have upgraded and given a new, social and class content to the friendship and cooperation between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

On the opportunity of the presence here today of my friend Izzet Izcan I would like to address a few words **to the Turkish Cypriot community**. We are brothers, children of the same motherland. Together, we have waged many victorious struggles. Together, within the ranks of the big family of the Peoples Movement of the Left we have upgraded and given a new, social and class content to the friendship and cooperation between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. We worked together on construction sites, in mines, small industries and factories. Together, we have struggled in strikes and demonstrations, against local and foreign fascism. Together, we have made sacrifices for the freedom and independence of our Cyprus. Together we must continue until that sacred day when peace will prevail on our island (...). We need to join our forces and once again give everything to the struggle for the solution. We owe it to our parents, children and ourselves. We owe it to our much suffering and tortured island that we should, and must, transform it into a land of peace.

Addressing you all dear friends, I would like to thank you for your constant support to the struggle of the Cypriot people. I call on you to continue this effort until that sacred day when our Island will be liberated and reunited.

THE CURRENT PHASE OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM

After the 2004 referenda, the Cyprus problem went through a phase of prolonged stagnation, whilst responsibilities were unjustly attributed to the Greek Cypriot side internationally about the situation that had evolved. Meanwhile, the efforts on an international level for the upgrading of the pseudo-state intensified.

The **8th July Agreement in 2006**, which provided for the setting up of Working Groups and Technical Committees for the preparation of the ground so that direct talks would resume between the leaders of the two communities, in reality was not fully implemented until the 2008 presidential elections.

President Christofias, immediately after his election, began a systematic effort to change the negative for us situation, fulfilling his pre-election pledge to work for a just solution. The common statements of the leaders of the two communities clarified the negotiation framework: a bizonal bicomunal federation with political equality as set out by the resolutions of the UN Security Council, with the single sovereignty, single international personality and single citizenship safeguarded. It was the first time that the Turkish Cypriot side accepted a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship, as well as the content the UN attaches to political equality.

Inter alia, **the Working Groups and Technical Committees** were established in accordance with the 8th of July Agreement. The results of the work produced by these Groups, together with the common statements of the leaders of the two communities, prepared the ground for the direct talks, which began in September 2008. The direct talks



continued until March 2010, at which they were suspended in view of the so-called elections for the Turkish Cypriot leader in the occupied areas.

During the talks, convergences were recorded on some chapters, on the chapters of Governance, the Economy and the European Union that are not insignificant but differences remain; whereas on other chapters, such the property, territorial, security issue and the question of the guarantees and settlers, there is no progress.

The President of the Republic submits proposals at the negotiating table fully in line with the principles of the solution of the Cyprus problem, the unanimous proposals of the National Council, the UN resolutions, International and European Law; proposals which serve a bizonal bicomunal federal solution and aim to restore and ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms(...)

What do these proposals provide for?

First, that we remain steadfast on the **presidential system** as stipulated also in the 1960 constitution with a President and Vice-President. Consequently, reunified federal Cyprus will have a recognised leadership of the state with prestige internally and abroad and which can fulfil its duties within the European Union.

Decisions will be taken by the **Council of Ministers** as a whole and not by the President or the Vice-President. According to the proposal submitted by President Christofias, the President and Vice-President will appoint 7 Greek Cypriot and 3 Turkish Cypriots to the Council of Ministers. Vetoes that existed in the 1960 constitution are abolished. The abolition of the veto constitutes an indispensable precondition of the comprehensive Christofias proposal.

For the first time, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots will have an overall say regarding the leadership of the state and the president and vice-president. This brings the two communities closer to each other and forces the candidates to formulate such a policy that will satisfy both communities, given that they will require votes from both communities.

Rotating presidency

According to the Christofias proposal, the term of the government will be for 6 years. In the first four years, the President of the Republic will be the elected leader of the Greek Cypriot side and the Vice-President the elected leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. In the remaining two years of the term, the President will be a Turkish Cypriot and the Vice-President a Greek Cypriot. The leader of the Greek Cypriot community, which is largest in numbers, will exercise the presidency for twice the number of years. The democratic principle is expressed precisely at this point, which respects the fact that the Greek Cypriots are far more than the Turkish Cypriots in numbers. The leader of the Turkish Cypriot community will exercise power for two years. This is

precisely the point where the federal principle of political equality is expressed which demands the effective participation of both communities in the organs of central government.

How will the election be conducted?

We recall there was an absolute separation of the two communities effected by the Constitution of 1960. (...)

The **Christofias proposal** overcomes the absolute separation of the 1960 constitution, but also the unacceptable presidential council proposal specified in the Annan Plan, which was one of the reasons it was rejected by the people. The Christofias proposal provides that the president and vice-president will be elected by all the people that will constitute one single electoral body. For the first time, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots will have an overall say regarding the leadership of the state and the president and vice-president. This brings the two communities closer to each other and forces the candidates to formulate such a policy that will satisfy both communities, given that they will require votes from both communities. That is to say, the unifying elements in the reunified federal Cyprus are enhanced and boosted (...)

Weighted or cross vote

Given the population ratios (80% Greek Cypriot and 20% Turkish Cypriot), according to the Christofias proposal the Turkish Cypriots will influence with their votes a quarter of the result for the Greek Cypriot president. For the system to be fair, a way must be found so that the Greek Cypriots can also have the same influence on the result for the Turkish Cypriot vice-president. This is where the weighted vote comes in. That is to say, the votes of Greek Cypriots will be weighted only for the election of the Turkish Cypriot vice-president. Given that we all recognise the importance of a unified election list, the weighted vote is indispensable because without it, it is

possible that a candidate will be elected as leader of the Turkish Cypriots who will gather the votes of Greek Cypriots, but not of the Turkish Cypriots themselves. This is neither logical, nor democratic, nor can this be accepted by the Turkish Cypriot community (...)

The staying of a number of settlers

We all agree that colonisation constitutes a war crime. The President also stressed this in the relevant document he submitted at the talks. We all agree that colonisation changes the demographic composition of the Cypriot population, which is why it is unacceptable. We all agree that the solution must provide for the resettlement of the settlers to Turkey from where they originate.

Our demand for the termination of the colonisation with the solution is one of the principles that without question must govern the solution of the Cyprus problem.

Turkey refuses to accept back the settlers, invoking humanitarian problems. The misfortune is that the demands of Turkey find a response in the international arena and particularly in Europe that is to say in the arenas that we want to help towards the solution of the Cyprus problem. How do we tackle this problem?

Since the time of President Papadopoulos the Greek Cypriot side, wishing to exhibit its political will for a solution of the Cyprus problem, also including the problem of the settlers, wanting to meet any reasonable concerns regarding humanitarian issues, accepted that the cases which might face such problems (for example, mixed marriages) be recorded and that a specific number over 50,000 shall be considered as Cypriot citizens. This number does not change the composition of the Cypriot population and the acceptance of their staying will only be realised when the solution will provide for the repatriation of

the main bulk of the settlers. The same proposal was reiterated also by President Christofias, thus taking away any pretexts and demands of the Turkish side, but also of all those who want to back Turkey. By showing its political will, by exhibiting our readiness to meet certain humanitarian cases, we strengthen our main demand among the international arena for the withdrawal of the main bulk of the settlers.

Property issue

Regarding the property issue, Talat, contrary to Denktash, accepted the right of property. However, with regards the question of how this right is to be restored, there is still a big difference in the positions of the two sides. President Christofias insists that the first say on properties lies with the lawful owner, whilst Mr. Talat insists that the first say must lie with the current owner.

The package of proposals submitted by President Christofias with the aim of giving a new impetus to the negotiations process. The package includes the following:

A) **The linkage of the discussion of the property issue, which is now under discussion at the negotiations, with the chapter of territorial adjustments and the chapter of immigration, nationality, aliens and asylum.** The simultaneous discussion of these chapters will facilitate the solution of a complex and thorny issue, the property issue, and at the same time will speed up the dialogue.

The Turkish Cypriot side has not accepted this proposal so far, even though it proclaims that it wants a solution by the end of 2010.

B) **The implementation, on the part of Turkey, of resolution UN Security Council 550 of 1984 for the return of the fenced city of Famagusta to the United Nations, with the aim to restore it and return it to its legal inhabitants.** At the same time, the proposal provides for the restoration of the old city of Famagusta, which constitutes a common cultural heritage, as well as the opening of the port of Famagusta, under the aegis of the European Union.

From this proposal, if, of course, the Turkish side accepts it and it gets implemented, the Turkish Cypriot community will benefit in developing relations with the EU in a way that promotes a solution and reunification, as foreseen by the Conclusions of the European Council of April 2006.

This will benefit Turkey who wishes to promote its accession course by unfreezing chapters, and the EU who wishes the continuation of Turkey's accession course. What is more, surely a UN Resolution will be implemented which



for so many years, for 26 years, has remained unimplemented by Turkey.

C) **Thirdly, when we reach a range of agreement on the internal aspects we recommend the arranging of an international summit, which will be summoned by the United Nations with the participation of the five Permanent Members of the Security Council, the EU, the Guarantor Powers, the Republic of Cyprus and the two communities.**

The subject matter of the international summit is the international aspect of the Cyprus problem and the resolution of this aspect, which comprises of security, guarantees, the presence of foreign troops in Cyprus and settlers.

The proposals submitted by the President of the Republic are realistic and balanced and they can be easily implemented. What is also significant is that all the parties involved in the Cyprus problem will benefit from their implementation and this will, of course, assist the prospect of finding a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem.

SEVERAL NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BUREAU

20th of March: Antiracist event under the title “All different all equal”

AKEL had organized on the 20th of March along with PEO, EDON, POGO and EKA an event under the slogan “All different all equal”, in the framework of the International day against the racist discriminations which is celebrated on the 21st of March.

This initiative which was taken by AKEL, is contributing in the general action that has been developed by the Popular Movement for solidarity with the migrants that live and work in Cyprus, against racism.

The event was consisted by Cultural program from music and dancing migrant groups.



21st of May: Installation of a monument dedicated to Jose Marti in Nicosia

On the 21st of May, the Foreign Minister of Cuba, Mr Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, was present in the inauguration ceremony in Nicosia of a monument dedicated to the national poet of Cuba, Jose Marti. The Foreign Minister was having an official visit in Cyprus where he had meeting with the President

Christofias, the leadership of the C.C. of AKEL and other officials.

The installation of the monument was held in the framework of the historical fraternal relations between Cuba and Cyprus. In the ceremony had participated the Ambassador of Cuba in Cyprus, the leadership of the C.C. of AKEL, the Cypriot media and many other members and friends of AKEL.

31st of May: Demonstration outside the Israeli Embassy

AKEL had organized on the 31st of May a mobilization outside the Embassy of Israel, in Cyprus in order to condemn the attack of the Israeli forces on the convoy **"FREE GAZA"**.

As AKEL, we had expressed our solidarity with the heroic

Palestinian people in its struggle for liberation from the occupation and the establishment of an independent and viable Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Furthermore, we express our deep sorrow and unreserved support to the families and beloved ones of those murdered and injured by the Israeli commandos in today's bloody attack against the activists of the "Free Gaza" initiative.



8th of June: Mobilization of solidarity with the Communist Party of Poland

A mobilization was organized on the , **8th of June** from the Central Committee of AKEL outside the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Cyprus, regarding the implementation of legislation banning the use of communist symbols. The mobilization ended with the submission of a resolution of

condemnation of these efforts and expression of our solidarity with the Party. A representation of AKEL and its youth EDON, around 100 persons, have participated in the mobilization which was covered from several Cypriot media. Finally, the Parliamentary Representative, c. Nicos Katsourides and the Head of the International Relations Bureau of AKEL, c. George Loukaides submitted the resolution.



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