



## Youth issues in Cyprus

A resolution on international co-operation

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*Adopted by the Council of Members,  
21-22 November 2003 - Rome (Italy)*

According to the Statutes, the European Youth Forum and its member organisations aim to:

- “Be a consultative body for international institutions (EU, CoE, UN, etc.) on all issues relevant to young people and to youth organisations ;
- Increase the participation of young people and youth organisations in society as well as in the decision-making process;
- Promote the exchange of ideas and experiences, mutual understanding and equal rights and opportunities among young people in Europe.”

Taking into consideration these pre-defined orientations and aims of the European Youth Forum, as well as the concrete and particular situation on Cyprus, the Youth Forum needs to make clear that it stands and supports all UN Resolutions<sup>1</sup>, Secretary General reports<sup>2</sup> and Council of Europe decisions and recommendations<sup>3</sup>, European Union’s Commission Reports on the Accession Process<sup>4</sup>, the European Court of Human Rights decisions<sup>5</sup> on the’ situation of the Republic of Cyprus and its young citizens.

Young Cypriot people of both communities are getting seriously affected by the current regime with the presence of the Turkish military force. For this we call the European Union and the United Nations to:

- Secure the freedom of movement and establishment and acquisition of property and promotion of human rights to all young Cypriots;
- Secure the right to live peacefully and to security of all young Cypriots;
- Promote and protect the human rights of the opponents to the illegal regime in the occupied area;
- Ensure the freedom of speech and expression in the occupied area;
- Provide the right for democratic participation and freedom of assembly in the occupied area.

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<sup>1</sup> i.e Security Council Resolutions 353/74, 367/74, 541/83, etc. General Assembly Resolutions (unanimously adopted). UN Commission on HR Resolution 4 (XXXII)/74, etc. For the complete outlook of UN resolutions, [www.un.int/cyprus](http://www.un.int/cyprus)

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Security Council Report of the Secretary General on the situation in Cyprus S/2002/1243, November 2002

<sup>3</sup> CoE Parliamentary Assembly 1608 (2003), DOC 9799 (2003), etc : <http://assembly.coe.int/documents/adoptedtext/TA03/EREC1608.htm>

<sup>4</sup> « Cyprus Membership Application to the EU », A5-0261/2001 : [http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/docs/ep\\_resolution/cyprus.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/docs/ep_resolution/cyprus.htm)

<sup>5</sup> « Judgement in the case of Cyprus v. Turkey”, 25781/94: [www.Echr.coe.int/eng/press/2001/may/cyprusv.turkeyjudpress.htm](http://www.Echr.coe.int/eng/press/2001/may/cyprusv.turkeyjudpress.htm)  
“Chamber Judgement in the case of Djavit v. Turkey” 20652/92: [www.Echr.coe.int/eng/press/2003/feb/dfjavitv.turkey20feb2003judeng.htm](http://www.Echr.coe.int/eng/press/2003/feb/dfjavitv.turkey20feb2003judeng.htm)  
“Judgement in the case of Loizidou v. Turkey”, Article 50/98: [www.Echr.coe.int/eng/press/1998/jul\\_aug/arr%20loizidou%20\(art.%2050\)%20e](http://www.Echr.coe.int/eng/press/1998/jul_aug/arr%20loizidou%20(art.%2050)%20e)

Therefore, respecting the very nature of our Forum and the need to address the specific problems the Cypriot Youth has been facing for the past thirty years, we need to reaffirm our active commitment towards the principle of solidarity, peace and justice for all Cypriot citizens.

Feeling that a final settlement should be achieved in political terms - which will guarantee one citizenship, one sovereignty and one international personality for Cyprus and its citizens - and in a peaceful manner, we are reaffirming our commitment towards a peaceful political agreement for the solution of the problem, under UN auspices, fully based on the Acquis communautaire, the European Convention on Human Rights, the Constitutional Charter and the resolutions of the United Nations.

Therefore, we call for the occupying forces to be withdrawn in order to facilitate this process.

In this context we hope that the enlargement of the European Union will be a catalyst for finding the final solution.

The European Youth Forum recognises and supports the important role of youth organisations in Cyprus, which are in the process of attaining peace on the island, under the spirit of co-operation and recognition of the International Law. It is vitally important for Cypriot youth with different ethnic, political, religious, cultural and social backgrounds to meet and openly discuss their common challenges in order to build their common views and work on the common future. Youth NGOs shall be free to continue to contribute to the understanding and co-operation between their members.

The European Youth Forum and its member organisations on their behalf commit themselves to contribute to this co-operation by providing:

- Support and by promoting and participating in activities which leverage the co-operation among the Cypriot Youth, at the political and social level;
- The necessary conditions for the undertaking of a delegation to Cyprus, to study the situation of young people and their representation, produce a report and strengthen the dialogue with the youth actors engaged;
- Support the development of the cyprus youth policy review organised by the Council of Europe;
- Support young people from both communities to work with each other for peace under the spirit of mutual respect and understanding, defending them against any violation of their human rights, whenever this may be needed.

The European Youth Forum expresses its full support to young Cypriots working for peace individually or within organisations engaged in bi-communal co-operation for peace and understanding.