

Leadership Meeting of the
ALL CYPRUS TRADE UNIONS FORUM (ACTUF)

Nicosia, 26 October, 2015

Common Statement

The Trade Unions of Cyprus, SEK, PEO, PASYDY, ETYK, POED, OELMEK, DEOK, POAS, OLTEK, ESK, TÜRK-SEN, DEV-İŞ, KTAMS, KTÖS, KTOEÖS, KOOP-SEN, BES, BASIN-SEN, representing the whole spectrum of the working class of Cyprus, on the Leadership Meeting of the ALL CYPRUS TRADE UNION FORUM, held in Nicosia on the 26th of October 2015, unanimously:

1. Reaffirm the previous unanimous declarations of the "ALL CYPRUS TRADE UNION FORUMS" of 18th January 1995, 19th March 1997, 29th May 1999 and 12th of November 2004 in their full context, and reiterate their expectation for a speedy and just solution of the Cyprus problem, on the basis of the high level agreements and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Organisation, that provide for bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality, as this is defined in the relevant UN decisions and with a single sovereignty, single citizenship, international personality **and European principles and values**.
2. Recognise that the current status quo is unacceptable, incompatible with the principles of international and European law and permanent source for disruption of demographic balance and security on the island. The lifting of the current status quo presents a common struggle objective of our country's entire trade union movement, so as Cyprus to become an island of prosperity, economic and social progress, aiming at providing to its children a secure perspective and at definitively healing the wound of overseas migration.
3. Observe with anxiety and concern the ongoing instability in the wider region of Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, the war conflicts and foreign military interventions that the peoples of the region pay dearly with blood and refugee.
4. Express their solidarity with refugees who seek for protection in Europe and call on European governments to respond jointly and effectively to this humanitarian crisis, turning the Mediterranean Sea into a vast cemetery of persecuted people.
5. Deem that the Cyprus problem can be resolved solely through the process of substantial negotiations aiming at satisfying the genuine interests of the people of Cyprus as a whole, lifting the divisionary status quo and recovering the full application of human rights for all citizens of Cyprus.

6. Underline with emphasis that the resolution of the Cyprus problem with full demilitarisation of the island can transform Cyprus into a bridge of peace and understanding in the wider region of Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East.
7. Support the ongoing negotiations between the leaders of the two communities and call them to **intensify their efforts** and work with faithfulness towards a speedy and comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem. The reunification of Cyprus on the basis of a just and functional solution shall strongly contribute to addressing the developmental, economic and social problems and the adversities the two communities are currently faced with due to the economic policies imposed from abroad.
8. Reiterate with determination that the solution of the Cyprus problem shall ensure all necessary conditions for the existence of a single economy and labour market, having at its epicentre the strengthening of prosperity for all Cypriots and the guarantee for the socially just distribution of wealth produced.
9. Recall in this respect their previously formulated demands and stress the necessity to secure in the reunited Cyprus, the following:
 - a) Application of a unitary labour relations system and employment standards.
 - b) Application of a unitary Social Security Scheme.
 - c) Application of a unitary wage and salary setting system.
 - d) Full respect of the right of freedom of movement, freedom of association and choice of employment in any part of Cyprus.
 - e) Complete prohibition of discrimination in respect to employment or pay, on the ground of ethnic origin, religion, colour, sex **or sexual orientation**.
 - f) **Application of an educational system that should play a catalytic role in creating an environment of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and mutual respect.**
10. ACTUF members reaffirm their consistent willingness to work closely together and in cooperation with the rest of the society in order to support the efforts which will create the necessary conditions for reaching a just and viable solution to the Cyprus Problem reuniting the country and its people. **They claim the effective participation of the All Cyprus Trade Unions Forum in consultation procedures aiming at finding solutions for issues related to labour, economy, social security, social protection and health care insurance, in order to make possible the elaboration and adoption of solutions that are both realistic and socially beneficial for all of our people.**

Nicosia, 26/10/2015