

**Speech of Pambis Kyritsis, General Secretary of the Pancyprian
Federation of Labour PEO, at the ceremony to deliver
Thematic Memoranda of the All-Cyprus Trade Unions Forum to the
Leaders of the two communities**

14th January 2016

Your Excellences leaders of the two communities,

As has already been said, the All-Cyprus Trade Unions Forum Cyprus is firmly committed to the struggle to promote a just solution of the Cyprus problem and the reunification of our common homeland.

It considers the existing partitionist status quo as unacceptable and incompatible with the principles of International and European law and as constituting a permanent threat to peace, security and the demographic balance on the island.

The All-Cyprus Trade Unions Forum has always supported consistently the peace process to solve the Cyprus problem through serious and substantive negotiations.

Consistent to this position, we support actively the ongoing negotiations between the leaders of the two communities and work actively and jointly in both communities to create the best possible preconditions among the working people so that we can help the procedure and the two leaders to achieve the result for which we have always been fighting for.

Of course the All-Cyprus Trade Unions Forum's support towards the negotiations and negotiators by no means a passive stance and the distant observation of the negotiation process. We believe that this is not our role as the working people's representatives. As a trade union movement, we are demanding to participate actively and constructively in the process by submitting positions and proposals so that the result of the negotiations and the final agreement that will solve the Cyprus problem will contain those parameters which correspond to the basic principles and values the trade union movement has always been defending. The solution must certainly contain all the necessary preconditions for the creation of a single economy and labour market in order to guarantee the socially just distribution of wealth.

In line with this approach, we have proclaimed for twenty years, and we reaffirm today too, our joint demand that the solution of the Cyprus includes a uniform system of labour relations and employment, wages and salaries, as well as a single social security scheme, with full respect for the right of association, freedom of movement and choice of employment and employer in any area of Cyprus.

Your Excellences,

In seeking to implement as the representatives of the working people, in a more concrete way our decision for an active and creative participation in the negotiating procedures under way, we have held over the past year significant,

multifaceted and collective bi-communal work within the framework of the activity of the All-Cyprus Trade Unions Forum in a dialogue with society on the future of our country, which was supported by the "Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area". We are preparing concrete proposals and positions, which in our view should be utilized by the leaders of the two communities so that the dimension of the solution with regards social protection and labour rights, as well as a broader economic and social cohesion is ensured and that will provide a satisfactory response to working people's demands and aspirations.

Through a process of specialised Trade Union conferences with the participation not only of trade unionists, but also experts, as well as representatives and other social forces and groups and non-governmental organizations, the Memoranda we have concluded are the result of a broad convergence and consensus and express working people's collectively processed will and priorities in both communities.

These relate to seven Thematic Memoranda on the freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining, social insurance and social protection, policies for employment and its protection, the issues of gender equality and the combating of discrimination and access to education and health care in a reunified Cyprus.

We deliver these Thematic Memoranda to you today, together with the political declaration upon which the Forum bases its activity.

The request, but also our well-intentioned demand, is that you duly study these positions and proposals and that they be used creatively. They are the result of serious collective work, based on scientific data and accumulated experience

As regards the All-Cyprus Trade Unions Forum and its member-organizations, we want to assure you that we are at your disposal at any time, to contribute in all possible ways to the promotion of the common goal of a peaceful, reunited and federal Cyprus, without any foreign dependencies and foreign military presence, a common homeland for all its children, Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots, Armenians, Maronites and Latins.