

**LETTER DATED 7 JULY 2004 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE
TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS ISSUED ON 17 MAY 2004**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus issued on 17 May 2004 in reference to the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on 1 May 2004, the latter of which was circulated as a document of the Conference on Disarmament with reference CD/1738 dated 25 June 2004.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its Annexes circulated as a document of the Conference of Disarmament.

(Signed):

James Droushitotis
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus*

17/05/2004

With reference to the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on 1st May 2004, entitled “Statement regarding the Membership of Cyprus to the EU”, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus states the following:

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus is the internationally recognized Government in Cyprus, with competence and authority to represent the State, notwithstanding the de-facto division of the island as a result of the 1974 Turkish invasion. The illegality of the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus”, has been consistently reaffirmed inter alia by the U.N. Security Council, by the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Communities. U.N. Security Council Resolution 541 (1983) states that the Council “deplores the declaration of the Turkish Cypriot authorities of the purported secession of part of the Republic of Cyprus” and “considers the declaration as legally invalid and calls for its withdrawal”. In addition in resolution 550 (1984), the Security Council expresses its grave concern about the “secessionist acts in the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus” and calls upon “all states not to recognize the purported state of the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” and calls upon them not to facilitate or, in any way, assist the aforesaid secessionist entity”. Moreover the European Court of Human Rights (case Loizidou Vs Turkey), describes the “TRNC” as a subordinate local administration to Turkey.

As from May 1, 2004 the Republic of Cyprus is a full member of the European Union, on the basis of the Treaty of Accession signed on 16th April 2003 and ratified by the 15 Member States and the then 10 acceding countries to the EU. Protocol 10 of the Treaty provided for the terms of Cyprus’s accession to the Union in the event that a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus Problem had not been reached by the date of accession. In this event and even though the entire territory of the Republic of Cyprus becomes part of the EU, according to the provisions of the Protocol, the application of the *acquis* is suspended in the areas, in which the Government of the Republic does not exercise effective control.

It is with great regret and disappointment that we continue to witness the insistence of Turkey, a country aspiring to join the European Union, on not recognizing the Republic of Cyprus, a Member state of the Union. Turkey should also fulfill the specific obligations, relating to Cyprus, arising from her Customs Union Agreement with the EU, as well as by international law.

Turkey constitutes a unique example of a country that aspires joining the EU, while maintaining an occupying military force in a member state.

*/ Originally issued as document of the General Assembly and the Security Council under the symbol A/58/803-S/2004/398 of 18 May 2004.

The fact that the Turkish Cypriots accepted the proposed Plan for a solution of the Cyprus problem, as finalized by the UN Secretary General on 31 March 2004, while the Greek Cypriots, following a democratic process, could not approve it, does not alter the fact that the division of the island is caused by the Turkish invasion and subsequent occupation, which still continues, of part of the island. The Greek Cypriots have not rejected the solution of the Cyprus problem. They merely did not approve this particular Plan. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus remains firm and consistent with the objective of achieving a viable, functional, negotiated settlement of a bizonal, bicomunal federation, which will ensure security, progress and prosperity for all Cypriots.

With the aim of facilitating the reunification of Cyprus, the Republic of Cyprus announced to the European Union, on 26 April, its intension to expand the package of measures to the benefit of the Turkish Cypriots, being implemented since last year, to include trade, subject to the procedures and rules of the European Union, of wholly obtained goods as well as the intra-island trade of manufactured goods produced in the occupied area. Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus has advocated that the 259 million euros for the years 2004-2006, earmarked by the European Union for the Turkish Cypriots in the event of a Cyprus settlement, be made available as from now.
