



Eastern Mediterranean Think Tank

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At last, light at the end of the tunnel

Publication of a relevant letter received from the European Commission

With modesty and a positive predisposition, we take the courage to suggest to the presidential candidates as well as to the political parties of Cyprus, that the restoration of Cyprus' international credibility and the elimination of the climate of pessimism that currently prevails among Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, are not goals that can be attained with grandiose promises or empty-of-content slogans.

To move forward, it is necessary that all presidential candidates and political parties adopt an attitude of honesty, trustworthiness, decency, fairness and dependability. They must put aside their personal ambitions and aspirations and demonstrate the true patriotism demanded by the prevailing circumstances. Journalists must show a similar spirit of patriotism, by being objective and by having a zero tolerance for politicians who seek to mislead the electorate, by cultivating a climate of frustration and complacency.

However, in the prevailing bleak climate, there are developments that justify a feeling of cautious optimism, provided that these developments are properly evaluated, are fully exploited and are not allowed to lead to a final and irrevocable deadlock.

Responding to the call of the United Nations Secretary-General to civil society to mobilise, 12 citizens have formed the **Eastern Mediterranean Think Tank** and have formulated and published a comprehensive and detailed proposal for a solution to the Cyprus Problem, which is an approach that has already received a very favourable response from the European Commission. Added to these favourable comments was the commitment to accompany the whole process in the most constructive way. The relevant letter from the Director-General of the European Union's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support, on behalf of the President and two Vice-Presidents of the European Commission, is attached.

We beg the politicians and the political parties of Cyprus to rise to the occasion. We beg the journalists to assist and support our efforts aiming at a fair and objective briefing of the Cypriot people. We also ask our fellow countrymen to embrace and support what is probably the last opportunity to secure the political future of Cyprus.

Read the full proposal of the 12-member Think Tank, which is set on the web, at <https://www.eastmed-thinktank.com>. The membership of the Think Tank consists of (in alphabetical order): *Aikin Esra, Atai Serdar, Bahas Marios, Charalampous Charalampos, Hadjidemetriou Takis, Ierodiakonou Leontios, Stylianos-Syrimis Olympia, Vassiliou Androula, Yücel Mine, Zaphiropoulos Panayiotis (Takis), Zavallis Lakis*, with *Panayiotides Christos* acting as Rapporteur and Coordinator of the Tank.