

## His Excellency President Rauf Raif Denktash of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus speech notes at Crans Montana Forum on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2004

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At Crans Montana Forum in Switzerland (25.06.04), H. E. President Rauf Raif Denktash participated as a speaker at a plenary session on 'Enlarging Europe: Which format and which architecture?'

H.E. President Denktash referred to the architecture of the European Union as a house built on 25 pillars embedding certain standards of democracy, justice, peaceful co-existence and fairness. He then said that in Cyprus, the 'Republic of Cyprus' was established in 1960 as a partnership – a pillar composed of two equal parts. However, this was demolished by the bigger partner, the Greek Cypriots who hijacked the name of the government of Cyprus and refused to re-establish the partnership a new. Since 1964, efforts to re-build this pillar of partnership has failed. Due to the fact that Turkish Cypriots part of the pillar, is expected to accept the Greek Cypriot part as the legitimate government in Cyprus which it is not under the rule of law.

H.E. President Denktash then continued explaining that the Turkish Cypriots are struggling for a partnership on equal rights and that the treatment by the world of the Greek Cypriots as the government of Cyprus has left no motivation for the settlement of the problem. He added that the Greek Cypriots are using the European Union as a tool to achieve their objectives that is "ownership of the whole island at the expense of co-owner Turkish Cypriots".

Furthermore, H.E. President Denktash confirmed that people of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus would like to become a member of the European Union as long as one pillar of two equal parts is created. This has been our priority he said 'to establish a new partnership prior to entry in to the EU'. He then called upon the EU as well as all international organisations and bodies: "Please help us to achieve this and tell the Greek Cypriots they are not the government of Cyprus and they do not represent the Turkish Cypriots!"

He then referred to the UN initiative, the 'Annan plan' offered to both communities on the island which was based on two equal parties creating a solution (unification) and joining the EU together which didn't work out due to the 76% 'no' vote by the Greek Cypriots against 65% 'yes' vote by the Turkish Cypriots. He added that he initially advised his people to vote 'no' as he has been very long dealing with this matter and could foresee how things would develop. He continued by saying that: "Turkish Cypriot people listened to the promises made by the EU and other international entities and voted 'yes' and I respect their decision and expect everyone to respect this". However, as can be seen, none of the promises made have been kept so far. Some of these promises were for:

- direct flights,
- sovereign rights,
- lifting of trade embargoes and all the isolations.

H.E. President Denktash continued by saying "Words spoken, words forgotten! Even though half of the pillar entered the EU, it is treated as a full pillar. With this, Greek Cypriots retain their bargaining power and they would like to take more of our rights through the EU. Greek Cypriots are not entitled to represent us. The EU currently consists of 24½ members and it will only have 25 members when it includes us: the Turkish Cypriots".

He continued his words stating that the referenda in April 2004, once again, proved that there are two separate peoples in Cyprus and that this is very important. Although the Turkish Cypriots voted 'yes' they are the ones left out of this union whereas the Greek Cypriots who voted 'no' are in the EU. Therefore, he asked where the justice and democracy is in view of the result and realities of this referendum and H.E. President Denktash requested that the EU treats both people of the island equally in view of these facts.

Following the referenda, Greek Cypriots do not have the right to judge on how the EU should relate to the Turkish Cypriots neither from a legal, political or economic perspective.

President's final words highlighted the fact that the Greek Cypriots are not to dictate anything on Turkish Cypriots and they are not in a position to speak on behalf of them. He also pointed out that Turkey did her best in resolving the Cyprus problem and Cyprus issue should no longer appear as a condition on the Turkey – EU agenda.