



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



Nicosia, 21 July 2021

Dear Colleague,

Following my intervention at the meeting of the Standing Committee early July, regarding Turkey's escalating provocations against the Republic of Cyprus and particularly the illegal opening of the fenced area (Varosha) of the occupied town of Famagusta, I am addressing to you this letter to inform you of further worrisome developments occurring at this very moment in Cyprus.

The Turkish President has paid yesterday an illegal visit to the occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus to "celebrate" the 47th anniversary of the Turkish invasion in Cyprus. A delegation from the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan also attended the "celebrations". On this occasion, Mr Erdogan and the leader of the illegal occupation regime subordinate to Turkey, Mr Tatar, announced the opening of 3,5% land of the "ghost town" of Varosha under Turkish-Cypriot administration. Furthermore, they "invited" the lawful owners of the land in Famagusta, all being Greek Cypriots, to claim the restitution of their properties, only under Turkish Cypriot administration and not under UN administration, as stipulated by relevant UN Security Council Resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992).

We strongly condemn this illegal attempt to alter the established status-quo of the fenced area of Varosa. Such an action constitutes yet another blatant violation of international Law and the pertinent UN Security Council Resolutions by Turkey. This escalation is part-and-parcel of Turkey's expansionist policy against the Republic of Cyprus, through the creation of new *faits accomplis* on the ground and within Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone. Turkey's aggressive and illegal behaviour further exacerbates tension and undermines the stability and security in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

For some time now Turkey openly proclaims the creation of "two states", as a settlement of the Cyprus problem, in blatant disregard of international Law and pertinent UN Resolutions which explicitly reject, along with the European Union and the entire international community, a "two-state" solution for Cyprus. Turkey's partitionist stand severely undermines efforts to find a common ground that will allow the resumption of talks towards achieving a just and viable settlement of the Cyprus problem.

Dear Colleague,

The Helsinki Final Act principles must be strictly adhered to by all participating States, as an essential precondition, so that the OSCE can achieve its aspirations and

goals as the largest regional security organisation. May I also recall that, in its Berlin Final Declaration, the OSCE PA calls upon participating States which, in violation of international law, have occupied areas of other states turning them into ghost towns, to immediately restore the human rights of the lawful inhabitants forcibly expelled from these areas, as well as to respect the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

The UN has reaffirmed that the status of Varosha remains unchanged and is specifically defined by the relevant Security Council Resolutions, while the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has expressed great concern over the possibility of a change of the status of Varosha.

Therefore, I kindly appeal to you to exhibit your solidarity with the Republic of Cyprus, not only by condemning such actions but also by calling upon your Government to invite Turkey to reverse its illegal actions in Varosha and abide by international law and UN resolutions.

Seizing this opportunity to renew our sentiments of appreciation and esteem to you, I remain at your disposal for further communication regarding this or other matters of common concern.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irene Charalambides', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Irene Charalambides,
Head of the Cyprus delegation to the OSCE PA