



Australian Hellenic Council

A coordinating body for the Australian Hellenic community

POSITION PAPER

CYPRUS

The Australian Hellenic Council expresses its appreciation for the Australian Government's continued and steadfast support for the independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus and for the efforts of the Cyprus Government to achieve a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Australia's continued commitment to a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem has also been demonstrated by its support of the UN Resolutions on Cyprus, the appointment of Special Envoys and its contribution to the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus since 1964, which the Australian Hellenic community appreciates.

In July 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus and occupied over one-third (36.2 per cent) of its sovereign territory in violation of all norms and principles of international law and the United Nations Charter. As a result of Turkey's invasion, about 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly expelled from their homes and properties. To this day, they are still deprived of their right to return and enjoy their homes and properties.

More than 160,000 settlers from Turkey have illegally colonised the occupied part of the island. Turkey continues to occupy part of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Cyprus, a member State of the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the European Union, maintaining illegally 43,000 Turkish troops in the occupied areas. Turkey continues to refuse to cooperate in ascertaining the fate of the missing persons, a purely humanitarian problem.

The AHC calls upon the Australian Government to continue its steadfast support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. The AHC calls upon the Australian Government to continue its steadfast support for the efforts of the Cyprus Government to achieve a just, viable and functional solution to the Cyprus problem based on the United Nations resolutions on Cyprus and compatible with international and European Union law.

The AHC calls upon the Australian Government, in full compliance with mandatory UN Security Council resolutions on Cyprus and, in particular UNSC Resolutions 541/83 and 550/84, to avoid taking any actions which may facilitate or in any way assist the illegal secessionist entity in the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus.

The AHC calls upon the Australian Government to support a settlement in accordance with the agreed basis of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with a single sovereignty, a single citizenship and a single international personality, that provides for the withdrawal of all Turkish occupation troops and illegal Turkish settlers and allows the return of all refugees to their homes and properties unconditionally and without discrimination.

The solution should restore and safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots. It should be just, viable and functional in order to be fully compatible with the EU *acquis communautaire* as well as with the principles of international law and the principles on which the European Union is founded.

The AHC urges the Australian Government to exert all its influence on Turkey to:

- put an end to the destruction and looting of Cypriot religious, historical and cultural heritage;
- fully implement the Additional Protocol to the European Union – Turkey Association Agreement including the opening of Turkish ports and airports to Cypriot vessels and aircraft; and
- terminate the systematic and illegal exploitation of the Greek Cypriot properties in the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus, a large number of which are owned by Cypriot Australians.

The AHC urges the Australian Government to exert all its influence on Turkey, with whom the key to a solution lies, to demonstrate the necessary political will and constructively cooperate in the direct negotiations under the UN auspices currently under way in order to reach a just settlement of the Cyprus problem.

Prepared by the Federation of Cypriot Associations of Australia and
the Pan-Australian Justice for Cyprus Committee.