

WRITTEN QUESTION P-7064/08  
by Panayiotis Demetriou (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Active involvement of the EU in the Cyprus conflict

Direct talks between the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities have been in progress for a number of months in Cyprus, under the auspices of the UN, in an attempt to find a solution to the Cyprus conflict. The progress achieved is not satisfactory owing to fundamental differences between the two sides over, inter alia, the principle of transforming the Republic of Cyprus into a bicomunal, bizonal federal state, full implementation of the Community *acquis* and the values of the European Union, particularly human rights.

Since Cyprus is a Member State of the EU and resolving the Cyprus problem is a European matter, it is imperative that the Union is involved to facilitate the two sides' efforts to find a workable and sustainable solution. The European Union cannot be a passive observer of the Cyprus conflict.

The President of the Commission, Mr Barroso, has recently shown a keen interest in the progress of the talks. However, the European Union's interest should be more substantial and effective. To that end, will the Commission give its views on the following proposals?

1. A visit by the Commission President to Cyprus to meet the two leaders and the UN Secretary-General's representative in order to obtain full information and exchange views.
2. The appointment of an observer to monitor the talks at close quarters and keep the Commission constantly updated.
3. Deployment of a team of technical experts to assist the two sides to resolve constitutional issues and implement the Community *acquis*.