



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

PRESIDENTIAL PALACE
The President

Nicosia, 22 July, 2019

Excellency,

I am contacting you following the letter sent to Your Excellency by the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Mustafa Akinci, dated 13 July, 2019, through which he conveyed a "Proposal on the Issue of the Hydrocarbon Resources around the Island", which was also sent to me on the same day via the UN Good Offices Mission in Cyprus, and I would like to point out the following:

First and foremost, I would like to express my deep regret that the said proposal is in stark contrast to convergences achieved on the issue of hydrocarbons within the framework of the negotiating process for reaching a comprehensive settlement on the Cyprus Problem. Convergences which provide the following:

1. Federal Cyprus, following the settlement, will continue being a contracting party to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and all matters pertaining to the maritime zones will be regulated by the said Convention.
2. Territorial waters, continental shelf, contiguous zone and Exclusive Economic Zone (with the meaning ascribed to them by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), as well as maritime delimitation and settlement of any disputes regarding these maritime areas with neighboring states, fall within the federal government's competences.
3. All natural resources of Cyprus, including hydrocarbons, will constitute federal resources managed by the federal government and, consequently, any revenues accrued from the exploitation of the state's natural resources will be allocated to the federal government.

The aforementioned convergences establish a complete framework within which all matters relevant to hydrocarbons have already been agreed.

The Turkish side has never contested those convergences. It is for this exact reason that the issue of hydrocarbons was never raised during the intense negotiating process from 2012 till July 2017 in Crans Montana.

His Excellency
Mr. Antonio Guterres
United Nations Secretary – General
New York.



I would also like to note that, as a result of the above-mentioned, Your Excellency never deemed it necessary to include the issue of hydrocarbons in your six-point Framework, an agreement on which would have paved the way forward for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus Problem.

The said proposal allegedly aims to safeguard the rights of the Turkish Cypriots, which is invoked by Turkey as a pretext for its unlawful activities within the maritime zones of the Republic of Cyprus.

To this end, and in addition to what I have already mentioned, I would like to recall that the Republic of Cyprus, taking into account the need to secure the rights of the Cypriot people as a whole, has entered into force, through a relevant legislation, the National Sovereign Fund, based on the Norwegian model, for the management of any future revenues accruing from hydrocarbon exploration.

The aforesaid legislation ensures that the revenues will be reserved for the future generations of all Cypriots and any use of the revenues either for repaying public debt or their utilization by the Government as a guarantee for securing loans is strictly prohibited.

Turkey's assertions are also revoked by the fact that, contrary to the convergence achieved that following a comprehensive settlement federal Cyprus will continue being a party to the Law of the Sea Convention and all matters pertaining to maritime zones will be governed by the said Convention, their claims reduce and limit the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus by 44%, at the expense of the rights and interests of the Cypriot people, both Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

I would also like to recall, as I have informed You in writing as well, the invitation extended by the Republic of Cyprus to Turkey to enter into negotiations for the delimitation of our respective maritime zones in accordance with international law, an invitation which the European Union reiterated and welcomed in the European Council's Conclusions dated 15 July, 2019, and which Turkey still refuses to accept.

Moreover, as regards safeguarding the rights of the Turkish Cypriots, further to the convergences reached and the establishment of National Sovereign Fund, I am willing to examine additional safeguard mechanisms to the benefit of the Turkish Cypriots from the revenues, when and if accrued, from hydrocarbon exploration, in the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus Problem.

Your Excellency,

There are numerous other reasons I could refer for rejecting the proposal by the Turkish Cypriot leader, but I will avoid doing so, since I consider that the most important issue of essence is to reach a settlement on the Cyprus Problem, which will undoubtedly provide answers to all unresolved issues resulting from the unacceptable status quo.



In this regard, what comes first is establishing the necessary conditions for the resumption of meaningful negotiations which will lead to the settlement of the Cyprus problem.

In this context, I would like to express my satisfaction for the fact that Mr. Akinci, contrary to the proposal on hydrocarbons submitted on the July 13, 2019, in his letter addressed to Your Excellency, dated 10 July, 2019, suggested to convene an informal Conference in the format of Crans Montana, adopting in essence one of the proposals which I have suggested in writing to my letter to Your Excellency dated 14 June, 2019.

As I have repeatedly publicly stated, I am ready to meet the Turkish Cypriot leader, either in private or in the presence of Ms. J.H. Lute, in order to discuss the conditions for convening an informal and of a procedural nature Conference, in the format and composition of Crans Montana, with the hope that such an informal Conference, thoroughly and properly prepared, will lead to the resumption of meaningful negotiations.

Of course, resuming the negotiations entails that Turkey will actively contribute to creating an appropriate and conducive to holding talks climate, by ending its unlawful activities in the territorial sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone / continental shelf of Cyprus, as well as its plans concerning the fenced city of Famagusta, for which I have referred in my letter addressed to Your Excellency, dated 26 June, 2019.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above the name Nicos Anastasiades.

Nicos Anastasiades