

EPP ARCHIVE

Letter by EPP President Wilfried Martens to Cyprus President Glafkos Klerides

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Mr Glafkos John KLERIDES
President
Presidential Palace
Nicosia
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We are all watching developments in Nicosia with baited breath and growing hopes of a solution ! I feel that if the end of the island's division is to be achieved at all, it will be by you and in this unique period just before Cyprus joins the Union. There are so many difficulties in the way, and we have all been disappointed before. But if not now, then when?

I sense too that, as in Berlin, the divisions could disappear much more quickly than even the most optimistic might imagine. I was very pleased to receive from Mr Charalambous at the Democratic Rally the news of the joint meeting with the Patriotic Unity Movement, and the statement committing both parties to finding a solution to the division of the island. This is exactly the right way to proceed, I think, and classically Christian Democratic.

More and more it seems to me that solving apparently insoluble tangles depends first on personal connections - people talking, as you are now with Rauf Denktash - and on political practice. The idea of a "bizonal, bicomunal federation" is admittedly a very difficult one, and it is reasonable to be sceptical about how it might work. But if it can be agreed you have a framework for simply working together, and communicating about practical things after nearly 30 years of division. That is what is crucial.

I know that there are many difficulties ahead, and probably disappointments. And also that nothing can ever be as it was on the island when you and Mr Denktash were working together in an undivided city. But I feel optimism, and more than that the greatest confidence in you, and I wanted to let you know that, and to wish you all good fortune.

Yours sincerely,

Wilfried MARTENS