

Forty five years of Cyprus Democracy

On the 1st of October, 45 years have been completed from the creation of the Cypriot Democracy. Logically when we are in front of any anniversaries we should make an evaluation of the situation in which we are at the given moment based on past experiences and program our next steps. To reassess our short term targets and draft our strategy and tactics in service our vision.

Where are we; Cyprus is unique in the context that while it has managed to become a member of the European union, that it has not as yet found a solution to its political problem. It still suffers :

- From the occupation of a big part of its territory from Turkey
- The change of its demographic character with continuous flow settlers from Turkey
- The division of its society, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot on a national basis

Concerning the political issue we are facing an new deadlock, for which for the first time the Greek Cypriot side is considered responsible. After the stand of the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey during the referendums, Turkey has been considered innocent from world community for its responsibilities for the Cyprus problem, and at the same time the Greek Cypriot side is considered the black sheep of the case.

Developments as they are being formulated at the part of Cyprus which is under occupation are negative, while the isolation of the two communities, which had been overcome before the referendum, has started gradually to return, making difficult the possibilities of removing the deadlock. Formulation of the conditions after the referendums is leading us to a direction which leads towards 'operational and viable' division, as it has been characterised, rather than an 'operational and viable european solution'. In every international political problem, various factors seeking different outcomes are being involved. For the solution of problems, not only common interests must exist, but there should also exist comprising dispositions for compromising solutions, on the basis of realistic evaluations.

Relevant initiatives must be taken and theresponsibilities must be taken and risks. If we expect a solution without any risks, there will be no solution. And all the risks will be with wisdom and being steady with the vision that can be brought into life. Single dimensional approaches will not be fruitful. Not even of course the attempt of enforcing one side on the other. Approaches that always the foreigners are to blame, nor the others are not helpful. Not even all this conspiracy talk. Key to the viability of any solution is the development of trust and removal of all suspiciousness. Our main power could and can be the right and realistic policy, with the relevant strategy and tactics for the proper use of right times. World experience, teaches that politics is the art of what is achievable. In our case, while we sometimes agreed to what is achievable, at this moment we aim and act in a vacuum for a new wishful aim, the result being that we are leading to continuous troubles and deadlocks and not being able to arrive to a new beginning, even from a lower point.

How do we proceed? At this phase where we are now, standstill and expectation with the pretence of good preparation, do not lead anywhere. Relevant political awareness and initiatives and actions are needed, such as:

- Setting as our main target the commencement of talks between the two communities for the finding of a solution. Using up all our efforts for recognition does not lead to unification.
- To give signs that we are ready for a compromising solution.
- To determine our requests for amendments to the solution in a realistic way, and not in a way that leads to the removal of the Anan Solution Plan and the presentation on the negotiation table of a totally new solution plan. However wishful as it may be, the gradual integration and return of Turkish Cypriots to the 1960 Democracy, it is not possible.
- Arranging of a meeting of the leaders of the two communities with the presence of the General Secretary of the United Nations. Communication never brought any harm, it is the opposite that is harmful.
- If the Cyprus government does not make drastic moves, no third party will do so. The Cyprus problem has not become a E.U. problem as opposed to what was the belief. If we do not manage to resolve our political problem soon, as time goes by, we will have to face even worse and maybe not reversible conditions.