



LEADING BY
EXAMPLE

Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Leading by Example (LbE) aims to increase dialogue, trust, cooperation and reconciliation between civil societies, including the business communities, throughout Cyprus, as well as to increase the involvement of Cypriot civil society in the decision making process at political level
- LbE Project has organized a high level event on the 8th of July 2015 at Chateau Status with both Community Leaders Mr. Mustafa Akıncı and Mr. Nicos Anastasiades as the main speakers
- Chamber Presidents meet with Commissioner Cretu

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Cypriot Leaders Shared Their Post-Settlement Economic Vision at the Chambers' Event

The Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (KTTO) and the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KEBE) organized a high level event in the framework of the EU co-funded project "Leading by Example" on the 8th of July in Nicosia. The event brought together the leaders of the two Communities, H.E. Mr. Mustafa Akıncı and H.E. Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, as well as very distinguished representatives of the business and diplomatic communities on the island. Both leaders shared their vision for a post settlement economy of Cyprus, and explained that a comprehensive solution will bring economic benefits to both Communities on the island, contributing to the stability in the region. The leaders reiterated their commitment to the solution of the Cyprus problem and endorsed the necessity of the business community's involvement in the ongoing peace process.

Akıncı: EU must support the peace process by helping TCs prepare for accession

Speaking at the event, the Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akıncı praised the Chambers for taking the initiative to organize the event. Explaining that the Cypriots have long suffered due to the Cyprus problem, Akıncı underlined his determination not to pass it to the future generations. The Turkish Cypriot leader said that the EU had an important role to play to support the peace process. Akıncı said "Last week I was in Brussels and I had meetings with high ranking EU officials, including the Presidents of the European Parliament, Council and the Commission. All have expressed their full support for the ongoing talks and I reminded them

that the EU must step up their efforts in helping the Turkish Cypriots to prepare for the eventual EU membership. Within this framework, as Turkish Cypriots, we must also do our homework and speed up passing the necessary EU-compliant legislation and bylaws. In my meetings, I also emphasized the need for financial support that will be required for the successful implementation of the solution. It is with great satisfaction that I witnessed the awareness of EU's high-ranking officials that the cost of the continuation of division is higher than the cost of the solution. Not only the EU, but also other actors in the international community must play their part to support the settlement in order to turn Cyprus into an island of stability in this fragile part of the the world"



**'During the
Chambers'
Event 'Cypriot
Leaders
Shared Their
Post –
Settlement
Economic
Vision'**



Anastasiades: Economic benefits will outweigh the costs

In his address, Greek Cypriot Leader Nicos Anastasiades stressed that the current status-quo is unacceptable and that its prolongation will have negative consequences for both Greek and Turkish Cypriots as also defined in the joint declaration of 11th of February, 2014. Anastasiades explained that a final, lasting, viable and fair settlement that will secure the fundamental EU values and principles, as well as the universal human rights for each and every citizen will "safeguard the full utilisation of our great potential and prospect for economic growth, development and prosperity for all Cypriots, since the combination of political and economic security and stability, our capacity as an EU member-state and also the significant natural gas reserves in the Levantine basin, will further highlight the competitive advantages provided by our geographic position and the geostrategic role that Cyprus can assume as an investment attraction destination." Underlining the economic benefits of the solution, Anastasiades said "I do understand that there is concern as regards the economic cost of a solution to the Cyprus problem, but, based on the above, I am confident that the economic benefits once a solution is to be reached offset and neutralise any temporary or short-term economic costs to be incurred." Anastasiades further stressed that "we should not ignore that a settlement on the basis of what I have already described, will not only be to the best interest of all Cypriots, but to all interested stakeholders and parties, such as Greece and Turkey."

Chamber Presidents visit Vienna

The Presidents of CCCI and KTTO, Phidias Pilides and Fikri Toros respectively, met with the Austrian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Dr Michael Linhartat in Vienna on 14/09/2015. after an invitation of the Austrian government. The Presidents briefed the Austrian Ambassador as well as other officials with whom they met about their joint work and asked their support for their initiatives. The Presidents also explained that post-settlement Cyprus will be an ideal place for investment.





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The Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Fikri Toros and the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mr. Phidias Pilides had a meeting with Commissioner Corina Cretu in Brussels.

At the meeting on 16/09/2015 Corina Cretu has thanked both Mr. Pilides and Mr. Toros for their active involvement in achieving a Cyprus settlement, through economic activities. As the Commissioner for Regional Policy, her mandate includes inter alia the encouragement of Turkish Cypriot economic development and the promotion of contacts between the Cypriot communities. In their meeting, Cretu said 'I want to honour what Mr. Pilides and Mr. Toros have done to build mutual trust and do business together beyond dividing lines.'

Cretu has encouraged Mr. Toros and Mr. Pilides to continue setting the right example.

The Cross Community Exchange Internship Programme

The deadline for the applications from the interns and the host companies has expired and a satisfactory number of applications has been received. The matching is now in progress. The programme is part of the LbE project and has already received very good feedback. The internships are expected to start very soon. We are more than sure that we will be having excellent success stories to share with you in the coming

Leading by Example team members have attended the 'Youth Day' where they gave information on the 'Cross Community Internship Programme'

The EU Info Point has held an event on the 27th of August at Narnia in Nicosia. The purpose of the event was to give information on relevant projects and have a chat cafe for young people. Leading by Example representatives provided detailed information about the cross-community internship programme. Over 100 young people participated. The European Commission, European Union Support Office, Co-ordination Centre for the European Union, the British Council, Magem-Youth Power, and Turkish Cypriot shopkeepers and artisans, have also attended and gave information on their youth



'The Ghost Airport of the divided Capital' documentary shown in the EU Parliament

The screening took place on 15/09/2015 at an event jointly organized by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce. The Presidents of both Chambers have delivered key note speeches at the event on the important role of the business communities of Cyprus in the peace process, the Chambers' joint efforts in preparing the two Communities for a settlement and their vision for a post-settlement economy of Cyprus.