

Special points of interest:

- The Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry participated in a panel discussion at the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London.
- Civil Society in Action IV Week.
- Cross Community Internships
- The LbE project staff members were trained on Social Media and on Opinion Polls.
- What is next ?
 - ◊ Internships - Launch Event .
 - ◊ Mediation workshop.

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Panel Discussion at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (TCCC) and the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) have participated in a panel discussion that was held on the 2nd of March 2015 at the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office on the benefits of a settlement in Cyprus and the relevant initiatives of the two Chambers. The event was addressed by the British Minister for Europe David Lidington, while the main speakers were Mr Phidias Pilides, President of CCCI and Mr Fikri Toros, President of TCCC.

"The UK remains among the strongest advocates of a Cyprus settlement and the Chambers' work demonstrates that business can play an

important role in building trust and cooperation between the two communities and in highlighting how a settlement would bring economic benefits to all Cypriots" the British Minister for Europe David Lidington stressed in his welcome to the Presidents of the two Chambers.

In addition to the delegations from the two Chambers, the event brought together members of the Cypriot diaspora in the UK, British Parliamentarians and the Stelios Philanthropic Foundation, who participated in a lively discussion after the presentations of the Presidents of the Chambers.

Phidias Pilides, President of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry made an extensive reference to the benefits that a just, functional and sustainable solution to the Cyprus problem would bring to both communities in Cyprus, as well as to the wider region that encompasses Greece, Turkey and the Middle East. "Such a solution would certainly expedite remarkably the economic recovery of Cyprus, its exit from the economic crisis and will establish Cyprus as the most stable economy in the area" Pilides stressed.

He went on to highlight the benefits for investment, market exploitation and employment, not to mention those for particular sectors such as shipping, international business, energy, education, tourism, construction, agriculture and real estate. "Whatever problems will come about, will be temporary and will be overcome by the optimism about the future that a fair and viable solution will bring.



Panel Discussion at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office

On the other hand, the middle and long term benefits will be immense. The reunification of our country will bring economic benefits to both Communities while the absence of a solution benefits no one” Pilides stated. He then provided a number of figures to support his statements such as an increased annual average growth, the elimination of the per-capita income disparity between the two Communities and the drastic decrease of unemployment.

Fikri Toros, President of the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce, elaborated on the multi-sided cooperation between the two Chambers, with particular emphasis on the Green Line trade; joint bi-communal projects for enhancing economic cooperation; production of joint short films about the benefits of a comprehensive settlement; alleviation of problems caused by two re-

cent tragic incidents such as the power plant explosion in the GCC and the oil spill in the TCC; the formation of bi-communal business leaders groups; the founding of the Nicosia Economic Forum comprising of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey and the Union of the Hellenic Chambers of Commerce and Industry, aiming at finding ways to support the political process for a just and sustainable solution to the Cyprus problem.

“It is now high time to solve this problem and set an example to the rest of the world. We strongly believe that economics will have a huge positive impact, hence the necessary political blessing must be granted” Toros stated, and concluded by stressing that “Mindful of the

important role of economics and economic cooperation in the confidence building and peace-building processes, the two Chambers are determined to continue their collaboration. Our initiatives are pivotal for the success of the peace process in Cyprus, and thus need your support”.

This was the first time that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had hosted an event in London that brought together the two communities in this way.

David Lidington commended the Chambers for their work and explained how the UK was supporting other practical initiatives to build trust between the communities. In addition, he stressed his strong support for the UN-led settlement negotiations and the importance of the resumption of the negotiations promptly.



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gramme**



LEADING BY
EXAMPLE

The Civil Society in Action IV Week

A Civil Society in Action IV Week took place during the week commencing the 24th of February. The main purpose was to introduce the winner projects of the Civil Society in Action IV call for proposals. A chat cafe was held where all the project teams had the opportunity to provide information regarding their projects and also hand out brochures and other relevant material. Particular themes were also presented during the week. On the 25th the theme of the day was 'Be Green' covering environmental issues. The day included the presentation of a number of highly interesting and informative documentaries on various environmental issues. On the 26th the theme of the day was 'Rights for all'. The last day of the Civil Society in Action IV week involved folkdancing as well as the announcement of the Civil Society in Action V Grant Programme which again provides opportunities for bi-communal cooperation. The priority sectors are environment and human rights.



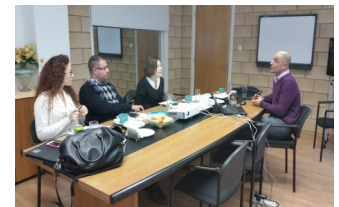
Cross Community Internships

Work has started for the organisation of cross community internships that are foreseen by the Leading by Example project. Specifically, the project entails providing internships to young unemployed professionals in both communities. 12 Turkish Cypriots will be provided with internships in Greek Cypriot companies and 12 Greek Cypriots will be provided with internships in Turkish Cypriot companies for three months. The costs of the internships that inter alia involve a €500 allowance per month for each intern will be covered by the project. The internships scheme will be announced on the 15th of May 2015.

Training for the LbE project team

Within the framework of the Leading by Example Project, two training

workshops were organized for the project team members at the end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015. The first workshop was organized on the 20th of November 2014 and dealt with the conduct of market research and opinion polls. The workshop was delivered by Mr. Christos Marangos who explained the relevant techniques to the team members and how to use them when conducting relevant surveys in both communities. The second workshop was organized on the 9th of January 2015 and dealt with the use of Social Media. The workshop was delivered by Ms. Raziye Nevzat who explained to the team members how to use the Social Media to reach the targets and goals of bi-communal projects in general and those of the Leading by Example project in particular.



What is Next?

Internships - Launch Event

The next event of the project will be the Launch Event on Internships which will take place at **Chateau Status** on the **15th of May 2015, in the morning from 10:00 - 11:30 hrs.**

'Come to Mediation'

Another event of the project will take the form of a workshop on Mediation. The workshop which will take place on the **21st of May 2015** will explain the process and the benefits of Mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism and will present a relevant bi-communal success story. It will take place at the **Home for Cooperation in the afternoon from 16:00 - 18:30 hrs.**