



## CYPRUS SETTLEMENT PROCESS UNDER THE JUNCKER COMMISSION A TIMELINE

**10 SEPTEMBER 2014**

President Juncker decides to transfer the Task Force for the Turkish Cypriot Community from the Directorate General dealing with Enlargement (former DG ELARG, now DG NEAR) to the Directorate General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO).

**16 JULY 2015**

**President Juncker starts his first official visit to Cyprus;**

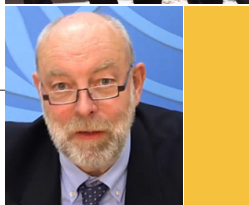
He meets the Greek Cypriot leader, Nicos Anastasiades and the Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akıncı at the green line where he brokers a “Common understanding” on the geographic protection of “Halloumi/Hellim” cheese under EU law which enables ‘Χαλλουμι’ (Halloumi)/‘Hellim’ cheese to receive Protected Designation of Origin status (28 July 2015):

*“This common understanding, which is not a small thing, it is not a thing you can joke about, because it is important for the two communities, it is highly symbolic and it is a strong symbol in fact that confirms the willingness of the two parties to work together with the help of the Commission to build confidence with concrete measures.”*

He appoints Pieter Van Nuffel as Personal Representative to the UN Good Offices Mission in Cyprus who is reporting personally to the President.

**SINCE SEPTEMBER 2015**

On the request of President Juncker, his personal Representative to the UN Good Offices Mission, Pieter Van Nuffel, and his small coordination team are now permanently located in Cyprus and are co-chairing the “Bi-Communal Ad Hoc Committee on EU Preparation” created by the UN in agreement with the two parties to assist the Turkish Cypriot Community with all EU-aspects of the settlement.



**17 JUNE 2015**

President Juncker decides to set up a new service, the ‘Structural Reform Support Service’, placed under his direct authority, with a special unit for Cyprus (drawing on the expertise of the Support Group for Cyprus) to coordinate the Commission’s efforts to support the UN-led process for the unification of Cyprus and provide with technical assistance in implementing growth-enhancing administrative and structural reforms.

**17 JULY 2015**

**During his visit, President Juncker addresses the plenary of the House of Representatives:**

*“I do not say that this process will be an easy one; it will be a very difficult one. Concessions and compromises will be needed. And the weight of the past in the process is heavy. But the past should not stand in the way of progress. The past cannot have a veto when it comes to future. (...) If it was possible on this European continent to make peace, after all these family tragedies, after all these countries and nation tragedies, why should not it be possible to do the same here. You have to do it now, immediately, because this is an enormous window of opportunity and you have to do it, all together, and you will not have to do it alone.”*

*“And after unification - the next time I will come here will be after the reunification - Cyprus will not be left alone when implementing a settlement. The European Union is – I believe and I hope – a Union of everlasting solidarity, so we will help you meet these challenges of reuniting the country. Be assured you will not walk alone.”*

**9 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**President Juncker in his 2015 State of the Union address expresses his wish and hope to see a unified island within a year:**

*“My hope, my ambition and my wish [is] to see the island united next year. After I met for a long talk with Nikos Anastasiades and Mustafa Akıncı in the middle of the Green Line in July, I am confident that, with the necessary vision and political will from the two leaders, this is feasible under the current conditions and with continued good coordination between UN and EU efforts. I will offer all my support and assistance to help achieve this objective. Because I believe that walls and fences have no place in an EU Member State.”*

#### 4 FEBRUARY 2016

During a historical first-ever joint visit to the Commission, President Juncker meets Andreas Mavroyannis and Özdil Nami, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Negotiators in the Cyprus settlement negotiations, to discuss the state of play in the Cyprus settlement talks and expresses readiness of the Commission to continue supporting actively the process at all levels.

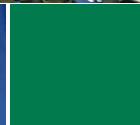


#### 17 FEBRUARY 2016

European Commission places '[Task Force for the Turkish Cypriot Community](#)' under the direct management of President Juncker and Vice-President Dombrovskis integrating it in the Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS).

#### 8 DECEMBER 2016

President Juncker meets Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akıncı in Brussels and reiterates his commitment to help wherever and in all he can in the Cyprus settlement process.



#### 14 SEPTEMBER 2016

In his 2016 State of the Union address, President Juncker recalls the Commission's support for Cyprus' settlement process:

*"To remember that Europe is a driving force that can help bring about the unification of Cyprus – something I am supporting the two leaders of Cyprus in."*

#### 11 OCTOBER 2016

President Juncker participates in the opening of the Bi-Communal exhibition '[The missing lives of Cyprus](#)' at the European Parliament.

#### 15 DECEMBER 2016

[European Council Conclusions](#) on Cyprus confirm readiness of the EU to be present in Geneva:

*"Following a presentation by the President of the Republic of Cyprus on the negotiations on a Cyprus settlement, the European Council reiterated its support to the ongoing process for the reunification of Cyprus. The EU, taking into account that Cyprus is and will remain a member of our Union after the Settlement, stands ready to participate at the Geneva Conference on Cyprus on 12 January 2017".*



#### 16 DECEMBER 2016

President Juncker meets President Anastasiades and declared himself ready to help wherever and in all he can in the Cyprus settlement process.



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#### 12 JANUARY 2017

President Juncker participates in the Geneva Cyprus settlement talks.