



## RESOLUTION:

### **GREECE AND CYPRUS HAVE FULL RIGHTS TO EXPLORE THEIR EEZs AND TURKEY MUST SCALE BACK TENSION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

Adopted at the YEPP Council of Presidents  
In Athens, Greece, on the 6th of the December 2014

#### **Recognising:**

- The Charter of the United Nations including respect of international law through commitment to friendly relations, international peace and security, and respect for sovereign equality of States and territorial integrity;
- The annual Resolutions of the UN Security Council regarding the Cypriot matter, including Resolution 2168/2014 which calls upon the international community to intensify its efforts in support of a conclusion of the issue;
- The United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
- The trilateral summit Cairo Declaration between Egypt, Greece and Cyprus of the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2014, with reference to the importance of the respect for the sovereign rights and jurisdiction of the Republic of Cyprus over its EEZ, and its call on Turkey to cease all seismic survey operations underway within the EEZ of Cyprus and refrain from similar activity in the future;
- The European Parliament's resolution, approved on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2014, urging Turkey to show restraint and to respect Cyprus's sovereignty over its territorial sea borders and Cyprus's sovereign rights in its Exclusive Economic Zone, with reference to the 2005 EU declaration stating that "recognition of all Member States is a necessary component of the accession process";
- The Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone (2003, U.N. registration no. # I-44649);
- The Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the State of Israel on the Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone (2010, U.N. registration no. # I-48387);

## **Acknowledging:**

- The YEPP Council in Kiev in September 2011 adopted the resolution on a message of unity and solidarity with Cyprus to Ankara, and the YEPP Seminar in Tirana in February 2013, adopted the resolution on Greece's right to claim its EEZ;
- The ever increasing dependency of the European Union on imports of Natural Gas (increase of over 60% the last 2 decades) and the need to establish a steady supply of energy produced within the EU as well as the reduction of reliance on foreign imports of energy;
- The Cairo Declaration's promotion of closer relationships between the EU and the Arab world through the economic development and utilisation of important hydrocarbon reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Declaration's decision to proceed expeditiously with negotiations on the delimitation of their Exclusive Economic Zones, where it is not yet done.
- That Turkey is a valuable ally to the EU and NATO as a whole, but the ally relationship should be one of mutual benefit and responsibility, not one of unilateral concession.
- The joint statements of President Anastasiadis and Turkish Cypriot leader Eroğlu, to advance negotiations for a resolution on the Cypriot matter, most recently that of the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2014.
- That Greece's territorial waters are set at 6 nautical miles from the coastal baseline since 1936 and 10 nautical miles for national airspace, while Greece, as a signatory to the UNCLOS, retains the right to delimitate its territorial waters to 12 nautical miles and its exclusive economic zone to 200 nautical miles from the coastal baseline.
- That Turkey, although not a signatory to the UNCLOS has extended its territorial waters to 12 nautical miles from the territorial waters in the Black Sea since 1964. However in a resolution of the Turkish National Assembly on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1995 noted that it would interpret Greece's setting of its territorial sea at 12nm as casus belli, a clear violation of the basic principles of the UN Charter referred to in this paper.
- The constant Turkish violations of national airspace and territorial waters of Greece and Cyprus and the Turkey's EU Minister's statement that it will not accept the EU Parliament's resolution to refrain from violating Greece's and Cyprus's territorial waters.
- The negative repercussions of Turkey's behaviour on the stability and economic activity of Greece, Cyprus and the European Union's in the Mediterranean. Besides the unquestionable issue of each state's sovereignty which is under violation, there are serious economic impediments threatening the stability of the European Union as a whole with its increasing reliance on foreign energy. That a resolution on this matter will have phenomenal positive economic results for the EU.

**YEPP:**

- Calls on the European Union, the United Nations and NATO to stand with one voice and reiterate that Greek and Cypriot borders should be respected;
- Calls on EU to underline such provocations will not be ignored, and reminds Turkey that its accession remains dependent upon the fulfilment of all its contractual commitments towards the European Union and all its Member States;
- Calls on the EU Commission to note the scale back of tension created by Turkey, which will facilitate the resumption of the island's unification talks, which is the will of the majority of Cypriot citizens;
- Stresses that the Republic of Cyprus has the full and sovereign right to explore the natural resources within its EEZ, and that the Turkish maritime surveys must be seen as both illegal and provocative.