



The Minister of Foreign Affairs had a meeting with the Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria - 24/03/2011

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Markos Kyprianou had a meeting today with the Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria Dr. Michael Spindelegger.

The two Ministers held talks with the participation of delegations from the Foreign Ministries of Cyprus and Austria.

During the meeting, the bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed. Ways to further develop cooperation between Cyprus and Austria were also examined, with emphasis on the economic and tourism sectors.

Furthermore, the Foreign Minister briefed his Austrian counterpart on the latest developments regarding the Cyprus Problem and the difficulties faced in the negotiations.

The two Ministers discussed Turkey's EU accession course, as well as other EU related issues. In addition, they discussed other international and regional issues of mutual interest, including the developments in the Arab world and particularly the situation in Libya.

At the press conference which followed, Mr. Kyprianou expressed how pleased he was to welcome his Austrian counterpart to Cyprus, pointing out that the relations between the two countries are excellent.

Regarding the Cyprus Problem, the Foreign Minister stated that he reiterated Cyprus' commitment to finding a federal solution, a solution that will end the status quo and the current division of the island.

On Turkey's EU accession process, Mr. Kyprianou said that Cyprus favours Turkey's accession to the European Union, but without any discounts, and provided that Turkey will fulfil all of its obligations to the EU, including those concerning Cyprus. The Minister added that Turkey cannot receive special treatment.

Concerning the developments in Libya, Mr. Kyprianou stated that the aim, based on the relevant UN Resolution, is to achieve a ceasefire and protect civilian population. He reiterated the need for a peaceful solution.

The Austrian Minister for European and International Affairs Dr. Michael Spindelegger stated that this is his first visit to Cyprus in this capacity.

Dr. Michael Spindelegger noted that Cyprus and Austria have much in common and support each other in international fora, since the two countries share common values and views.

As relates to the strengthening of cooperation in the area of tourism, Dr. Michael Spindelegger stated that tourism organizations of the two countries will be encouraged to intensify their advertising campaigns so as to increase the flow of visitors.

The Austrian Minister for European and International Affairs, referring to the Cyprus Problem, stressed that he listened with particular interest to the briefing given to him by Mr. Kyprianou. He added that "the Cyprus Problem is a longstanding issue and we would like of course to see a solution, as do you." Dr. Michael Spindelegger emphasized the need for progress in the negotiations and expressed his support to the efforts for reaching a solution.

Finally, on the developments in Libya, the Austrian Minister stated that Austria, as a member of the Security Council during the previous two years, is particularly interested in the protection of civilians and

called on all partners and especially the Arab League to continue to back this mission.

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