

Meeting between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus and his Serbian counterpart (Belgrade, 3 December 2010)

Caption: On 3 December 2010, Markos Kyprianou, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, meets Vuk Jeremic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, in Belgrade, where he conveys the stance adopted by the Republic of Cyprus on the potential accession of Serbia to the EU. Vuk Jeremic particularly refers to the close relations between the two countries and acknowledges the role of the Republic of Cyprus in the acceleration of his country's process of EU accession.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus. The Minister of Foreign Affairs met with his Serbian counterpart, in Belgrade - 03/12/2010. [ON-LINE]. [Nicosia]: Republic of Cyprus, [06.12.2010] Available at <http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/mfa2006.nsf/All/52300CC7725825E3C22577F1002A04D6?OpenDocument>.

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The Minister of Foreign Affairs met with his Serbian counterpart, in Belgrade - 03/12/2010

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Markos Kyprianou, met today in Belgrade with the Serbian Foreign Minister, Mr Vuk Jeremic. Following the meeting, Minister Kyprianou stated the following:

“I would like to say that I am happy to be here again. We had a constructive and pleasant discussion. The historic bonds and traditionally good relations between Cyprus and Serbia are based on the mutual respect. Relations on the political level are excellent while trade relations and investments are to be improved, what also our two Presidents discussed both in Belgrade and Nicosia.

Cyprus fully supports the European perspective of Serbia and Serbia deserves to be in the EU. We expressed our stance about it in the European Council and one should take into consideration that not only Serbia and the Balkan will benefit out of it but the EU itself also. We are satisfied that although being late the candidature of Serbia was forwarded to the European Commission and we hope that the Opinion will be forwarded as soon as possible. Serbia has our political support and once Serbia gets a status of the candidate country we will share our experience of harmonization with the EU law. The path is hard and demanding.

We also discussed the issue of Kosovo which is important for Serbia but for Cyprus also. The European Union does not have a common stance on Kosovo issue and the recognition of the independence of Kosovo is not a condition that should be introduced to Serbia at any stage. Cyprus has not changed its stance about the unilateral proclamation of independence which represents an illegal act. We fully support the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Serbia and we invite all to respect the international law.”

Concluding, Minister Kyprianou thanked Serbia on the principled position and the support to the Government in Nicosia on the Cyprus issue. Cyprus remains devoted to finding a solution in compliance with the principles of the international law which means the sovereignty and the territorial integrity and the equal rights for all Cypriots, he said, and stressed that the negotiations about solving the Cyprus issue between the two communities are continuing and expressed his hope that a solution will be achieved which will enable Cyprus to be a single state.

On his part Mr Jeremic stated: “It was a pleasure to talk to my good friend and a very good friend of Cyprus. No doubt that Cyprus is our close partner and the best friend of Serbia within the EU. We talked about the worldwide current situation, relations within the EU and EU enlargement.

The Cyprus parliament ratified the Stabilization and Association Agreement. Cyprus is supporting the European path of Serbia and we have agreed, despite all difficulties, to accelerate the process of accession of Serbia into EU.

We have discussed the general situation in the southern province of Kosovo and Cyprus supported our stand. I thanked Cyprus for its strong support on the issue.

We talked about the situation in Cyprus and the occupied territory and once again confirmed the support to the official stance of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Serbia supports a solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality as defined by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions for a single state with one and undivided sovereignty, one citizenship and one international personality.

We hope that all open questions and the problems in Europe should be solved by dialogue and to the interest of all sides; in compliance with the international law and obligatory decisions by the UN Security



Council and in that sense Cyprus will always count on Serbia.”

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