



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



*Chairpersons of National Delegations to the  
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.*

Nicosia, 20 May 2022

Dear Colleagues,

I communicate with you in order to bring to your attention my previous correspondence on this matter, I wish to update you on new developments regarding the fenced area of the occupied town of Famagusta (Varosha).

As you may recall, this area, in the occupied part of Cyprus, has remain uninhabited since the Turkish invasion of 1974, thus being called a “ghost town”. Pertinent UN Security Council Resolutions consider inadmissible the settlement of the town by people other than its inhabitants and call for the return of the town under UN administration. However, to date, this has not materialised, as Turkey continues to provocatively defy the international community’s calls to abide by international law and UN Security Council Resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992).

Instead, Turkey is committing yet another breach of its international obligations by unilaterally opening up another beach front area of Varosha in an attempt to legitimise and cement its control in the occupied area and create new faits accomplis on the ground. Such acts form part of Turkey’s wider partitionist claims for a “two state solution” in Cyprus. This needs to stop. The passage of time cannot negate that Turkey, is committing flagrant violations of international law in Cyprus and seriously undermines prospects for peace on the island.

Famagusta has always been a pivotal issue for the overall settlement of the Cyprus problem. It is deplorable that Turkey rejects all diplomatic efforts aimed at the resumption of negotiations, causing instead more tension on the island and in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Are Cyprus’ sovereign rights and its territorial integrity less important than those of other member states? Is the increased militarisation of the occupied area by Turkey not a source of major concern? Is Turkey’s departure from pertinent UN resolutions and the agreed negotiating framework for an overall settlement of the Cyprus problem based on a bizonal bi communal federation admissible according to Council of Europe’s values and principles? These questions require answers and accountability.

I urge you to exert all your influence and power so that Turkey’s plans regarding Famagusta be reversed. It is now more than ever important to demonstrate the same resolve vis-à-vis member states that persistently fail to honour their international commitments and obligations.

I thank you for your support,

Nicos Tornaritis  
Chairperson of the Cyprus Delegation to the PACE.