# Resolution on Cyprus

2004/2535(RSP) - 21/04/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Cypriot referenda on 24 April. It pointed out that the final settlement plan has been negotiated between the two sides on the island of Cyprus with the involvement of Greece and Turkey and has been finalised under the authority of the UN Security Council by the UNSG Kofi Annan. This final document constitutes a historic compromise which would end one of the longest-running conflicts in Europe and could serve as a shining example for handling equally difficult international issues. Parliament acknowledged - although it would unreservedly welcome a united Cyprus as a member of the European Union - the right of Cypriots to decide for themselves on the plan in a referendum without pressure from the outside. It would respect such a decision, but it pointed out that a broad, fact-based information campaign is still necessary. The final revised plan institutionalises a functional federal system of government which is able to ensure that a reunited Cyprus can speak with one voice and fully play its role in the framework of the European institutions. Parliament called on all parties to fulfil their obligations with honesty and openness. It took note that the proposed Act of Adaptation of Protocol 10 does not contain permanent derogations from the acquis communautaire, but only transitional periods. Parliament called on the Commission to rigorously discharge its responsibilities for reviewing the application of the provisions of the Act. It went on state that it understood that the population of Cyprus had numerous questions regarding many extremely complex elements of the plan. However, any difficulties which may arise in the implementation of the agreement can be solved with the assistance of the EU institutions, especially with respect to property restitution and the re-establishment of the 1974 refugees. Both sides on the island were reminded that the EU, through the involvement of the Commission, has underlined its support for the process leading towards the final shape of the peace and reconciliation plan. Gradual demilitarisation of the island will facilitate mutual understanding between the two communities and pave the way for their full reconciliation. Parliament shared the Commission's view that it is not a question of making a choice between the Annan plan and another plan, but of choosing between this plan and no alternative for a long period of time. It called on the citizens of Cyprus to be fully responsible, consistent and committed to their status as EU citizens, and to seize this historic opportunity to reunify their country in a peaceful way. It offered reassurance to the citizens of Cyprus that the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission are willing to provide financial support for the implementation of the settlement and the acquis communautaire.