

## **Cyprus Business Communities committed to back up the re-launch of the negotiation process**



*From left to right: Günay Çerkez, Arnaldo Abruzzini and Phidias K.Pilides*

Following the re-launch of the Cyprus negotiations on 11 February 2014, the President of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce, Mr Phidias K.Pilides and the President of the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce, Mr Günay Çerkez met today in Brussels under the auspices of EUROCHAMBRES' Secretary General, Mr Arnaldo Abruzzini.

The two Chambers are committed to discuss how they could together concretely contribute to the success of the negotiations.

The following joint statement has been adopted at the end of the meeting:

### **JOINT STATEMENT**

*The Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce being the leading representatives of business and economic activity in Cyprus met today in Brussels in the presence of **EUROCHAMBRES** and have reaffirmed their conviction expressed in their recent joint statement that a comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem will bring considerable benefits to all sectors of the economy and consequently enhance the welfare and prosperity of all Cypriots.*

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*In this direction they applaud the agreement of the two leaders to resume the talks for the settlement of the Cyprus problem based on their joint declaration of 11 February 2014. The status quo is indeed unacceptable and its prolongation will have negative consequences for the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. The Chambers agree that a settlement would have a positive impact on the entire region, while first and foremost benefiting Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, respecting democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as each other's distinct identity and integrity and ensuring their common future in a united Cyprus within the European Union.*

*Finally the two Chambers reiterate their commitment to contribute to the process and are ready to support the efforts of the political leadership. They can particularly contribute to the creation of a positive atmosphere and the efforts of implementing confidence building measures, as these are areas the two Chambers have been working on for some years now. We have ahead of us a great opportunity to achieve a lasting, **just**, viable and functional **solution to the Cyprus problem** and we owe it to the future generations of our country to do so. The two Chambers will do their utmost not to fail them.*

**ENDS**

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