

NEWS UPDATE

October 1998 Issue 1

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The **FORUM**

For Friendship
& Co-operation
Between Greek Cypriots
And Turkish Cypriots

Campaign I.

ONE FUND FOR PEACE IN CYPRUS (OFFPIC)

The take up of the OFFPIC Scheme has so far exceeded our expectations. The intake of subscribers on in the first month of the campaign was greater than set by our modest but realistic campaign organisers.

As well as subscriptions coming from individuals, some as far as Canada and USA, we have also been successful in achieving contributions from British trade unions.

Through the success of the Scheme we intend to establish a permanent base for the FORUM and ensure that we are in a position to appoint at least 2 part time persons on a professional capacity for us. This inevitably would lead to the FORUM being able to implement and achieve most of its objectives.

We call upon those of you yet to complete a standing order form to subscribe to the Scheme to do so soon. Your support is needed now. For £5.00 a month (equivalent of £1.25p a week) you could help the FORUM achieve the necessary resources to operate on a much more effective way

Subscription Standing Order are available either through the FORUM's Website or by contacting the FORUM's Secretary on 0181 693 9729.

End of year one target stands at 250, which should bring the FORUM annual income of £15,000.

Campaign II.

ACTION FOR PEACE IN CYPRUS NOW

The growing threat of conflict between Turkey and Greece, the ongoing activities and provocation of chauvinists and nationalists of both sides has become

a major concern to all progressive and democratic people of Cyprus.

The continuing threat of war and conflict hanging over the heads of the two communities in Cyprus is doing nothing to help build confidence and a lasting peace on the island.

The FORUM sincerely believes that the great majority of Cypriots, Turkish and Greek Cypriots alike, wish to see a lasting peace on the island and between the two communities.

To demonstrate this the FORUM has begun a petition to raise 5,000 signatures, primarily from both sides of the community but not exclusively, as we also seek support to this campaign from non-Cypriot progressive and democratic minded people.

The right wing nationalists from both sides have already thrown a challenge to us with the start of this campaign that we shall not be able to or allowed to collect no more than 100 signatures let alone 5,000. They claim the great majority of the Cypriots wish to keep things as they are (their words).

We know otherwise and we intend to prove it.

Organisations in Cyprus, from both sides of the island have already gathered hundreds of signatures. By february we intend to reach our target figure and beyond.

Please get a petition form if you haven't already done so and get those signatures....

Petition Forms are available from the WEBSITE or by contacting 0181 693 9729...

Campaign III.

FRIENDSHIP, CO-OPERATION & PEACE ON LINE - FORUM Website

The FORUM's Website has now been Online for over a month. However, the construction of pages are still going on with final version expected to be complete by September 1999.

We also expect to have all the pages available and accessible in Turkish and Greek as well as English by that September.

We are currently in touch with 6 Cypriot organisations in Cyprus, 3 from the south and 3 from the north. Following a close dialogue with these organisations we have established a protocol. All of these organisations share the FORUM's vision and objectives and have expressed interest in close co-operation and collaboration.

Within the next 6 month, by April 1999 we intend to link up with these organisations through the WEBSITE. This will include establishing and constructing pages for each of these organisation on our WEBSITE.

Until the construction is complete please accept our apologies for frustration caused...

Calendar of Events

Following a number of suggestions and input from many of the FORUM's members and associates, the Executive Committee of the FORUM have now been able to put together a programme of events and an action plan for the forthcoming year.

A calendar of all the planned activities with details of dates, venues and the names of lead persons for each activity will shortly be send to each FORUM member.

For further details or comments on the proposed calendar contact the Chair on 0181 371 8257

**THREATS AGAINST THE FORUM
WILL ONLY SERVE TO
STRENGTHEN US!**

EUROPEAN YOUTH EXCHANGE SCHEME

In conjunction with two partner organisations from Cyprus - 1 from north and 1 from south - the FORUM is involved in a youth exchange project. The Project will involve approximately 30 youths (under 25) and 9 adults, with 10 youths and 3 adults from each of the partner organisations in the Scheme.

A preliminary meeting is arranged for December where 8 representatives of the organisations will gather in London to discuss the details of the Scheme.

The Scheme itself will be in run in April 99 (in Cyprus) and September 99 (in London).

Watch this space for more details or surf the FORUM's WEBSITE.

YOUNG EUROPEAN'S for SECURITY in EUROPE (YES)

Following the successful launch of the 3 **Campaigns** in September, amongst the numerous support messages and interest was a message from **YES** expressing support and interest in establishing close links with the FORUM.

The positive liaisons with this organisations resulted in the FORUM being invited to attend their Conference at the beginning of November. The theme of the Conference is Cyprus. Friends from **YES** have asked us to give a key note speech on the FORUM's Vision and objectives as well as the practical achievements and lessons of its history.

More exciting information will be available in the next News Update.

THE NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE
FORUM'S WEBSITE SO FAR: **1,658**
(30 Oct 98)