

Comrades, Dear friends

Due to a sudden personal problem the president of EDEK S.D.P. could not attend the session against his will.

I have therefore the pleasure to present his intervention. BEFORE doing this, please allow me to express our gratitude to our comrades of CHP for the excellent hospitality and the state of Art Organisation of this session, which takes place in this beautiful, historical and inspirational city of this great Country.

Please also allow me to stress that we the Socialists hate or Dislike NO people nor any country. On the contrary, we Do love and respect Every Single Human Being and Stand by him/her no matter his nationality, religion or belief.

This is the reason why we were pleased meeting here in Istanbul our compatriots, Turkish Cypriots. This is also the reason why we, the Cyprus' Socialists do love and respect the Turkish people, the Kurdish people, the Americans, the Israelis and the Palestinians, the peoples of Europe, Asia, Africa and Americas. This is finally the reason FOR OUR TAUSIM SOLIDARITY.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
Istanbul, Turkey, 11-12 November 2013

**Intervention by the President of the House of Representatives of the
Republic of Cyprus,
Mr. Yiannakis L. Omirou.**

**"Reaffirming the centre-left vision for the global economy with an emphasis
on growth, jobs and equality, and for a new development agenda"**

Distinguished members of the Socialist International Council,

Dear friends,

Comrades,

States and peoples are currently faced with acute challenges, ranging from the economic and political fields to every aspect of everyday life. Immediate, effective and well-coordinated action is essential in order to break the vicious cycle of recession, curb budgetary constraints and acute unemployment, which especially affects the youth.

As the notion of the "global village" becomes a reality, we are confronted with the negative side of globalization that reveals a problematic global financial system in desperate need of reform. Our goal must be to ensure that the real economy prevails against speculation. That democracy, the rule of law and good governance are reflected in a sound system of checks and balances and greater regulation and surveillance of the markets. We , the Socialists, are called upon to maintain a balanced approach, away from neoliberal and state-planned models, which have led to deadlocks and collapse; to find solutions to the pressing problems that plague citizens' daily lives by adopting a man-centered approach, responding to the society's needs; replying to the younger generation's motivated criticism.

As you might be aware, Cyprus, along with several other EU member- states, has been dealing with the consequences of the financial crisis. Drawing on our experience, as well as on the example of other EU partners, allow me to note that the crisis afflicting Europe is not just economic, but deeply political, institutional and social in nature. Strict austerity measures alone, resulting in a sharp fall of demand and an even sharper rise of unemployment, prove to be disastrous anti-growth measures. Rigid sustainability

policies imposed by the Troika, irrespective of peoples' needs and affecting their quality of life, deepen the recession even further and recycle the crisis.

The rapid disintegration of Cyprus' economy's structure has affected society in a series of ways, as a significant percentage of the population is plunged in the vicious cycle of unemployment, lack of resources and poverty. Cyprus' so far experience proves that strict austerity measures imposed by Europe's stronger North, only serve to exacerbate the problems and weaken further the ailing economies and troubled societies of South Europe. We the Socialists, have an obligation to defend policies oriented towards a welfare state that aims at the wellbeing of citizens, cutting through the vicious cycle and providing impetus for growth.

This crisis has highlighted the need for a parallel adoption of fiscal consolidation measures, as well as measures for a sustainable economic recovery leading to the acceleration of structural reforms, to improved competitiveness conditions and to the creation of new jobs. The strategies adopted should successfully encompass economic and financial policies, along with employment and social policies.

All of us here today represent progressive political forces that are in tune with the sensitivities and concerns of the peoples. We must therefore ensure that support and development assistance is provided to developing and least developed countries, as a first but significant step in combatting the inequality and unfairness of the current global economy system.

For us, the Socialists, equality in all levels is the ultimate ideal of an ordered, just and prosperous democratic society. It is always coupled with the ideal of freedom, which is also considered to be supreme and ultimate. There can be no social system seeking equality to the detriment of freedom in all its senses. This is the reason why the Socialists can not cope with the oppression of the weakest; that is also the reason why the Socialists can not compromise with the aggression or military occupation whether in Cyprus or Middle East or elsewhere; this is why we can not tolerate post modern slavery in Africa and in Asia or poverty around the world.

Referring to my country, I am not going to tell you more than that the political situation remains the same as nearly forty years ago; the division of the island, the occupation of

38% of its territory by the Turkish troops remains unchanged. The U.N. resolutions, the European Principles upon which the E.U. was founded, the values of the I.S. for which we are all present here today and the implementation of the Human Rights must be the base which lead to a just and viable solution of the Cyprus Problem.

Returning to our discussion, one can stress out that redressing inequalities and stimulating growth can only be achieved through common global action and solidarity in freedom. We should never forget that long term economic hardship, has on many occasions caused, and is still causing, severe political instability, specially where weaker democratic institutions and traditions function. Spillover effects or risks should not be underestimated. There are no more bastions in the globe.

I am confident that being rigid and stable with our values and ideals our collective efforts and solidarity, will not allow to all these dangers to prevail and we will soon be facing a brighter picture in the world.