



TURKISH INDUSTRIALISTS' AND BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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**TUSIAD invites the EU's and Turkish political authorities  
to adopt a more rational and constructive approach on the Cyprus question**

The recent developments regarding the Cyprus issue signal a critical turning point for the future of the island. Any formulation of solution on Cyprus should take its likely ramifications for Turkey's EU membership process into consideration.

The EU policy towards Cyprus ignores the legal basis of the issue and disregards crucial historical facts, which in turn exacerbates the ambiguous situation in the island. The stalemate in Cyprus question serves the interests of xenophobic attitudes towards Turkey within the EU as well as anti-EU groups within Turkey, who aim to exploit the problem to block Turkey's EU membership. The EU, therefore, should adopt a more constructive and balanced approach regarding Cyprus, taking into account all aspects of the problem, and the concerns of the Turkish Cypriots as well as Turkey.

Turkey's national interests call for the attainment of full EU membership as early as possible. While paying utmost attention to protecting the rights of the Turkish Cypriot community, Turkey needs to put forward ever elaborate and comprehensive policies, and a more effective communication strategy in order to better contribute to the settlement of the Cyprus problem.

The latest agreement between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaders on the resumption of negotiations is an encouraging step to this direction.

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