



## Greens of Turkey: "Yes to Peace in Cyprus"

**Istanbul, 16/04/2004** – Greens of Turkey support "yes" for referendum in Cyprus for Annan plan. Greens of Turkey declared that "Saying "YES" in referendum means saying "YES" to a common and peaceful life in spite of all its difficulties. On the other hand, "No" s will just lead to record the long separation between the two societies and make the weapons settled on the island. As Greens of Turkey we are supporting people saying "YES" to the Annan Plan and the reconciliation in Cyprus."

Full text of the press release is following:

### Press Release from Greens of Turkey for Annan Plan Referandum in Cyprus

With the Cyprus-wide Referendum on 24<sup>th</sup> of April, the "Reunification Plan", that reached its latest shape by the UN General Secretary Kofi Annan after the Quartet Meetings in Switzerland, will be put forward to public voting.

This plan has been prepared with the experience of 30 year long lasting debates and it is a comprehensive plan that is tending a fair balance between the two sides.

Without a doubt, the federal structure that will show up after a possible admission of the plan will limit the independent actions of both states widely and will include some properties which will make the one state pay attention to the situation and thoughts of the other one during its "decision making" process.

It should be remarked that not only the challenging property regulations but even the necessity to think and act together seems to be a reality which the rulers of both sides still couldn't get over.

However, reconciliation of both sides and acceptance to live together is a necessity for the "peace" in Cyprus. In fact, it is not just a necessity for Cyprus, but also for Aegean, East-Mediterranean and Middle-East area and on account of that for the whole "world peace".

Simply because peace can not be achieved by the usage of military forces! The ones claiming to have peace in Cyprus in the shadow of weapons are actually presenting excuses for their own hegemony. It has also been shown by an experience of 40 years that the problems between the two societies couldn't be solved by military power and that they even got worse and appeared to be a complicated situation without a concrete solution.

Now, at this moment, reconciliation and rapprochement is the only way to provide peace in Cyprus. A long time ago the moment has come to leave the mistakes of the past aside and get together for achieving the aim of creating a "common" future.

To our mind peace can only be achieved by trust; respect for law; development of cooperation; solidarity and reinforcement of freedom and democracy. Just as the nature accounts borders as "nothing", so does the peace culture...Rulers who don't want to share their power, military forces and barbed wires might divide Cyprus, but not the peace... In a "divided" Cyprus no one can talk about peace.

We, as the Greens of Turkey, are supporting the ones saying "YES" to the Annan Plan, because we see it as a first step to half-open the door to the "real" peace in Cyprus. We would like to see a "greener" Cyprus, where societies are not divided by barbed wires and walls of stone, but brought together by common gardens, green fields, smiling faces and recognition instead of tolerance...

"Yes"es are at the same time "YES" to the achievement of world peace and mediatorship of United Nations. In a world, where unaccepted regimes are changed by military methods and where unexpected democracies are created by higher authorities, the meaning of "YES to PEACE" is really important.

According to us, including the British Military Base, the island should be emptied from all military forces and Cyprus should be changed into an "Island of Peace". In fact, we don't need "another Brick in the Wall"!

Saying "YES" in referendum means saying "YES" to a common and peaceful life in spite of all its difficulties. On the other hand, "No" s will just lead to record the long separation between the two societies and make the weapons settled on the island. As Greens of Turkey we are supporting people saying "YES" to the Annan Plan and the reconciliation in Cyprus.

**Yeşiller (Greens of Turkey), 16.04.2004**