

Rapport de la visite du Groupe d'amitié de l'UIP
Belgique – Chypre à Chypre
23-26 septembre 2008

Verslag van het bezoek van de IPU-sectie België-Cyprus aan
Cyprus 23-26 september 2008

Composition de la délégation :

Président : M. Philippe MONFILS, sénateur

Membre : M. Berni COLLAS, sénateur

Secrétaire de la délégation : M. Thibaut CARDON de LICHTBUER

Samenstelling van de afvaardiging :

Voorzitter : de h. Philippe MONFILS, senator

Lid : de h. Berni COLLAS, senator

Secretaris van de delegatie : de h. Thibaut CARDON de LICHTBUER

Mardi 25 septembre 2008

Dinsdag 25 september 2008

- Dîner informel et de travail en présence de M. Pierre Gillon, chargé d'affaires à l'Ambassade de Belgique, et de MM. Christophe Girod (Committee of Missing Persons) et Wlodek Cibor (senior advisor aux UN/UNFICYP)

- Informeel werkdiner met de h. Pierre Gillon, zaakgelastigde van de Belgische Ambassade, en de hh. Christophe Girod (Committee of Missing Persons) en Wlodek Cibor (senior advisor UN/UNFICYP)

Mercredi 24 septembre 2008

Woensdag 24 september 2008





- Rencontre avec M. le Président Averof Neofytou et les membres du groupe d'amitié Chypre-Belgique à la Chambre des Représentants.
- Ontmoeting met de h. Averof Neofytou, Voorzitter van de vriendschapssectie Cyprus-België en leden in het Cypriotisch Parlement.

(de g. à dr. / vlnr : Berni Collas, sénateur/senator, Skevi Koukouma Koutri, députée chypriote / Cypriotisch kamerlid, Averof Neofytou, Philippe Monfils, sénateur/senator)

Echo de la presse / Krantenknipsel : BELGIUM - MONFILS - TURKEY

Belgian Senator and Chairman of the Belgium-Cyprus Friendship Group at the Belgian Parliament Philippe Monfils said that his country was not in a hurry to see Turkey join the European Union, which he placed at least 13 years into the future.

Monfils expressed hope that direct talks between the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus for a solution to the island's political problem are productive, noting that "it is totally unnatural and unacceptable for Cyprus not to be able to enjoy the same recognition as the other EU member states by a country which aspires to join the EU, such as Turkey."

The Belgian Senator was speaking through an interpreter after a meeting at the House of Representatives in Nicosia with members of the Cyprus-Belgium Friendship Group, who briefed him and the Belgian delegation on the latest developments in the Cyprus problem.

Chairman of the Cyprus-Belgium Friendship Group at the House of Representatives Averof Neophytou said they discussed bilateral relations and the Cyprus problem, and "we reiterated to a true friend of Cyprus the will of the Greek Cypriot community for a viable and functional solution, which will guarantee international law, and European principles and values."





- Rencontre avec l'adjoint du Maire de Nicosie, M. Stelios Ieronymides, visite de la ligne de cessez-le-feu (rue Ledra)
- Onmoeting met de h. Stelios Ieronymides, schepen van de Stad Nicosia, bezoek aan de groene lijn (staakt-het-vuren-lijn in Ledra Street)



- Visite du laboratoire anthropologique du Committee on Missing Persons dans la zone protégée de l'ONU, en présence de M. Christophe Girod
- Bezoek aan het forensisch en anthropologisch laborotarium van het Committee on Missing Persons in de UN protected zone, met de h. Christophe Girod

Plus d'infos / Meer info hierover : <http://www.cmp-cyprus.org>

Jeudi 25 septembre 2008

Donderdag 25 september 2008



- Rencontre avec le Ministre de la Justice et de l'Ordre public, M. Kyros Chrysostomides
- Ontmoeting met de h. Kyros Chrysostomides, Minister van Justitie en Openbare orde



- Rencontre avec le Président de la Chambre des Représentants, M. Marios Garoyian
- Ontmoeting met de Voorzitter van de Kamer van Volksvertegenwoordigers van Cyprus, de h. Marios Garoyian

Krantenknipsel / Echos de la Presse : BELGIAN SENATOR - CYPRUS QUESTION

Turkey cannot join the European Union if it does not recognize beforehand the Republic of Cyprus, Acting President of the Republic and House of Representatives Speaker Marios Garoyian and Belgian Senator and Chairman of the Belgium-Cyprus Friendship Group at the Belgian Parliament Philippe Monfils have said.

In statements after a meeting on Thursday, Garoyian said that there is a common understanding with the Belgian officials that a solution cannot be functional or viable without the withdrawal of Turkish troops and settlers and without creating the preconditions to set up a functional and viable state which will secure all human rights without intervention rights and guarantees which Turkey wants.

He said the meeting concentrated on developments in the Cyprus issue as well as on relations with the two parliaments.

Garoyian said he conveyed to Monfils the positions of the Greek Cypriot side on the progress of negotiations the Greek Cypriot side is facing at peace talks with the Turkish Cypriot community, due to intransigent positions the Turkish Cypriots put forward.

The Acting President said that they discussed Turkey's progress towards EU accession and it was agreed that its accession negotiations cannot continue with opening more chapters if Turkey does not fulfill its obligations and commitments towards the EU and Cyprus, that is, to recognize the Republic of Cyprus and normalize its relations with the country.

He called on Turkey to alter its attitude, and urged the international community to exert pressure towards this direction.

Referring to a draft resolution on Cyprus promoted at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Garoyian said it contains many positive elements but at the same time we do not agree with some

references, such as the reference to so-called direct trade between Cyprus northern Turkish occupied areas and the EU.

Monfils said he fully shares the positions expressed by the Cypriot government on the negotiations.

Belgium has no intention to lecture Cyprus on institutional aspects, he said, adding that the Belgian Parliament has unanimously approved a resolution which stresses that Cypriots should be left by themselves to decide their future, without outside intervention.

By saying this, we refer to Turkey, he noted, speaking through an interpreter, and expressed concern about Turkey's willingness to allow Cypriot negotiators to agree to a solution.

Monfils said that European institutions have an obligation to exert pressure on Turkey, adding that Turkey cannot join the EU if it does not recognize a priori the Republic of Cyprus. We should also ask Turkey, in the framework of the negotiations, to proceed with good will gestures and withdraw its troops, solving the settlers issue. More pressure is necessary at the moment, he added.

Answering questions, Monfils said that there is a great difference between Cyprus and Belgium as far as a federal system is concerned. He said that the two Cypriot communities are trying to set up a central government while Belgium has begun as a unified central state and is moving to increased autonomy for its communities.

He said that in Cyprus, both communities want to be reunited while in Belgium, there is fear that one community wants to break away.

The reunification of Cyprus, he added, will bring benefits and prosperity for everybody within the framework and conditions set out by the Cypriot side. Reunification will be achieved based on proposals for a strong central government because this is the only way to have a federation and not a confederation.

We are talking, under any circumstances, about two states which are to be united to form a confederation and share responsibilities, he stressed.

Monfils said the Belgium-Cyprus Friendship Group will continue, on an EU and international level, to help efforts for a final settlement of the Cyprus issue, stressing that there should not be involvement from third parties which might contort the negotiating procedure.

- Rencontre avec le Secrétaire d'Etat auprès du Président de la République, M. Titos Christofides
- Ontmoeting met de h. , M. Titos Christofides Staatsecretaris toegevoegd aan de President van de Republiek

- Rencontre avec le Maire de Famagouste, M. Alexis Galanos, au Centre culturel de Famagouste et vue de la ville occupée de Famagouste.
- Ontmoeting met de Burgemeester van Famagusta, de h. Alexis Galanos, in het Cultureel centrum van Famagusta en uitzicht op de bezette stad Famagusta.





- Rencontre à Larnaca, avec le Président de la Commission des Affaires européennes de la Chambre des Représentants, M. Nicos Cleanthous
- Ontmoeting in Larnaca met de Voorzitter van de Commissie voor Europese Aangelegenheden, de h. Nicos Cleanthous