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## The next five years will start a new chapter for Turkish Cypriots



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30th January 2026 to 6th February 2026

## Stay Safe at Home with Electrical Fire Safety



By Chris Elliott....

Recently, while frying sausages, I accidentally triggered my smoke alarm and mistook it for the burglar alarm. By the time I realised, a fireman had arrived to check on me.

Impressed by the quick response, I've subscribed to the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service newsletter and would like to share some of their advice with CyprusScene readers.

***"Fire service shares advice on keeping your home safe this Electrical Fire Safety Week"***

***Online home safety check***

*We have an online home safety check that you can fill in to make sure you're keeping your home fire safe.*

*Using our online home safety check, you can carry out your own fire risk assessment to make sure you are keeping you and your family safe from fire. Our online tool takes you through some simple questions about you and your home and provides an action plan that you can download and print.*

*You can carry out a check for yourself, or any family members. Friends, neighbours, registered carers, support workers and partner agencies can all use this tool. In some cases, it may suggest that we attend your property to install safety measures for you.*

*We also provide free Home Fire Safety visits to vulnerable residents around the county. You can find out if you or a family member or friend are likely to be eligible for a free home fire safety check by calling the automated message line on 0800 917 9994 and leave a message including the persons name, address and daytime phone number*

*to receive a call back.*

***Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is reminding communities of the dangers of electrical appliances in homes this Electrical Fire Safety Week.***

*Last year (2025), firefighters attended 10 fires started by an electrical appliance in a kitchen, such as a washing machine, washer dryer, tumble dryer, and dishwasher.*

*One family didn't have smoke alarms and others had been running their appliances overnight or when they were not in the property.*

*Using electrical items is part of a regular routine for many individuals, so making sure to use them when awake and alert is crucial and can lower the risk of fire.*

*Station Commander for Community Fire Safety, Hannah Archdeacon, said: "We are reminding communities of the dangers of electrical items in properties if they are not used safely and with care and attention.*

*"Having working smoke alarms in your property will alert you should a fire occur, so it is important to make sure you have these on every floor and test them at least once a month."*

***A few quick checks will make a big difference in making sure your home is safe from a potential electrical fire:***

*\* Only run kitchen appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers when you are at home,*

*awake, and alert*

*\* Register your appliances with the manufacturer. This will help you to receive safety notices and recalls.*

*\* You can also register your appliances through the link below.*

*\* Charge devices such as mobile phones when awake and alert. These chargers can overheat and cause fire when left plugged in over long periods or overnight*

*\* Make sure to keep electrical fuses, wiring, and sockets well-maintained and do not overload your plug sockets. If you have an electrical item that sometimes trips or has a damaged cable, now is the time to get rid of it*

*\* Do not dispose lithium-ion batteries in your regular household recycling. Doing so can cause fires. Many local shops have a battery bank where you can dispose of them, and recycling centres can also take them*

*\* If you're looking to buy an e-scooter or e-bike, to decrease the chances of buying a unsafe battery, look for a CE mark and buy from a reputable manufacturer.*

*Hannah added: "A lot of your everyday household items will contain lithium-ion batteries, such as wireless earphones, mobile phones, games consoles, rechargeable hoovers and power tools.*

*\* "Please charge these items safely. Make sure you are inside the property and unplug them before you go to sleep.*

*\* "When it comes to purchasing new chargers, make sure to buy these from reputable manufacturers. It may be tempting to buy them cheap to save a few pennies however there is no guarantee these will meet the safety regulations required."*

*Take charge and be safe this Electrical Fire Safety Week. If you are interested in knowing how fire safe your home is, why not use the Service's online home fire safety check to find out.\**

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**For detailed information from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service click below**

<https://www.cambstfire.gov.uk/>

**Register your appliances through the link below**

<https://www.registermyappliance.org.uk>



30th January 2026 to 6th February 2026

## TRNC Slams UN Extending Cyprus Peacekeeping Mandate

### Decision of the United Nations Security Council on the Extension of the Mandate of the Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), pursuant to its Resolution No. S/RES/2815 (2026), adopted on 30 January 2026, extended the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for one year, until 31 January 2027.

### The United Nations ignores the Turkish Cypriots

At a time when the legitimacy and credibility of the United Nations system are increasingly subject to scrutiny, the UNSC's decision to extend the mandate of UNFICYP based on unilateral consent obtained from the so-called "Government of Cyprus," without the consent of the Turkish Cypriot side and despite our explicit objections, constitutes a serious mistake. This approach disregards the existence and will of the Turkish Cypriot people. To date, the sole reason UNFICYP has been able to continue its activities within the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) has been the constructive and good-faith approach of the Turkish Cypriot authorities. Sovereignty within the borders of the TRNC rests exclusively with the Turkish Cypriot people and their State, the TRNC. In this regard, establishing a legitimate legal basis for UNFICYP's activities in the TRNC through the explicit consent of the Turkish Cypriot side has become an urgent and unavoidable necessity.

### UNFICYP 66 years of no Cyprus settlement

UNFICYP, established pursuant to UNSC Resolution 186 of 4 March 1964, has now entered its sixty-second year. Throughout this prolonged period, the Mission has effectively evolved into a de facto guardian of an unsustainable status

quo that is acknowledged by all parties, while failing to fulfil its core responsibilities of impartiality and equitable treatment, and failing to exercise the required diligence in this respect.

The United Nations, both in its Security Council resolutions and in its reports, has continued during the current reporting period its practice of deliberately leaving the identity of the responsible party ambiguous in paragraphs relating to the actions of the Greek Cypriot side. Despite clear realities on the ground and information known to the UN officials, the persistent failure to explicitly identify responsibility reinforces the perception that the obligations of the Greek Cypriot side are systematically obscured. This conduct is incompatible with the principle of impartiality and not only undermines factual accuracy but also serves to encourage the intransigent stance of the Greek Cypriot side.

### Greek Cypriot administration claims sole control of Cyprus

The Greek Cypriot administration, which claims to be the sole owner of the Island, seeks to extend dominance over the buffer zone and beyond. The United Nations refrains from clearly reflecting recent developments on the ground, including buffer zone and border violations committed by the Greek Cypriot side, and persists in adopting a partial approach on numerous issues such as the fenced-off area of Maraş, confidence-building measures, technical committees, Akyar and the Yiğitler–Pile road. The Greek Cypriot side's continued pursuit of long-standing hegemonic ambitions over the entire Island and its lack of engagement in genuine efforts towards a fair, lasting and sustainable settlement with the Turkish Cypriots, is a direct consequence of this unjust treatment that encourages them and is reflected in numerous actions of the United Nations. While the constructive



stance and concrete proposals put forward by the Turkish side are ignored by the UN, the continued use of vague language that conceals the true sources of the fundamental problems is unacceptable.

### UNSC insists on outdated settlement solution

In this context, the insistence in the UNSC resolution on an outdated model, such as "bi-communal, bi-zonal federation," which has repeatedly been proven unsuccessful and whose core principles have never been genuinely accepted by the Greek Cypriot side is unacceptable. At the same time, the attempt to present the never-ending negotiations as a way forward—in other words, condemning the Turkish Cypriots to an unacceptable status quo—constitutes a grave injustice and a profound act of disrespect toward the Turkish Cypriot people.

### Two State Solution is the only Solution

Today, the only realistic and sustainable solution on the Island lies in the development of good-neighbourly relations between the two existing States, based on sovereign equality and equal international status. At this stage, in order to ensure a durable environment of co-operation and stability on the Island, members of the UNSC needs to review their outdated resolutions and adopt a new approach grounded in the reality of two Peoples and two States, each exercising its own sovereign will within its own boundaries.

As with previous UNSC resolutions extending UNFICYP's mandate, the latest resolution, – characterized by the unlawful treatment of the Greek Cypriot side as a "state" and by its continued failure to uphold the principle of impartiality, is unacceptable

Source:

TRNC Public Information Office





30th January 2026 to 6th February 2026

## Erhürman: The next five years will start a new chapter for Turkish Cypriots



**“We will be here again in my second 100 days in office and will maintain the same transparency.”**

“The meetings are ongoing, will continue, and we remain committed to staying at the table”

President Tufan Erhürman marked his first 100 days in office with a press conference held on Monday at the White Hall of the Presidency. During the conference, which included a video presentation, the President outlined the work carried out during this period, shared information on recent developments regarding the Cyprus issue, and presented the First 100 Days booklet to members of the press. President Erhürman stated that such press conferences will be held every 100 days to keep the press informed about the work of the Presidency, adding that English-language social media platforms have been launched and that a Greek-language website will be introduced in the near future. President Tufan Erhürman’s statement at the press conference was as follows:

**“THE PRESIDENCY IS NOT AN INSTITUTION CONCERNED SOLELY WITH THE CYPRUS ISSUE”**

“Distinguished members of the press, first of all, I would like to welcome you. As you know, in

democratic systems it is customary to carry out an overall assessment after the first 100 days in office. As of yesterday, we have completed our first 100 days in office. Since yesterday coincided with a Sunday, we chose to hold this press conference today. You may access the First 100 Days booklet via the QR code. As the first main issue, we addressed developments related to the Cyprus problem. The second focused on relations with the Republic of Türkiye, followed by diplomatic relations with other countries. The fourth main heading -- as we repeatedly emphasised before the elections -- reflects our view that the Presidency is not an institution concerned solely with the Cyprus problem; it is also vested with domestic powers that must be exercised and assumes a coordinating role even in areas where it does not have direct authority. Accordingly, during the election period, we committed to establishing and operationalising certain working groups, which we refer to as working units. Explanations regarding these are included in the fourth section, which I will address shortly.”

**PRESIDENT ERHÜRMAN ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE: “LET US REACH CONCRETE OUTCOMES IN LEFKOŞA FIRST, AND THEN PROCEED TO A 5+1 MEETING”**

“Where does the process regarding the Cyprus problem stand? To evaluate this, it is useful to recall where it was when we took over. As you know, during the past five-year period, the two most prominent points in this regard were the Geneva and New York meetings, which were held in the 5+1 format and considered as informal meetings. Hence, there was no official negotiation process.

Again, as our journalist friends will recall very well -- I made the following statement during the election period. I stated that these issues are matters that, until now, could be grouped under the heading of confidence-building or confidence-enhancing measures. As you know, in my assessments prior to the elections, I stated that “it is not meaningful to address these issues at the 5+1 level in Geneva or New York”. The reason is straightforward: these matters have already been discussed and, in some cases, results have already been achieved. Reaching further outcomes on these issues does not require the UN Secretary-General and the three guarantor countries to be seated at the table. For such matters, the 5+1 format is simply too high-level. Moreover, concluding a 5+1 meeting without tangible results does not serve the prestige of the United Nations, the three guarantor countries, or the two leaders.

At a meeting of this level, it is essential that at least some concrete outcomes be achieved before leaving the table. For this reason, this has been a point we have emphasised from the very first day of our term in office. The 5+1 format is by no means something we seek to avoid. We will participate in any meeting that is necessary. However, in our view, the correct approach is to first reach concrete results in Lefkoşa on the confidence-building measures

already on the table, and only then proceed to a 5+1 meeting -- thereby creating the opportunity to announce positive developments as an outcome of that process. We have consistently maintained this position.”

**“WE PRESENTED OUR FOUR-POINT METHODOLOGY PROPOSAL AT THE FIRST MEETING”**

“Three trilateral meetings have been held between the two leaders under the UN auspices, within three months and ten days. At the first of these trilateral meetings, we presented our four-point methodology proposal, which we had put forward long before the elections. In addition, we proposed ten new confidence-building measures. It goes without saying that the issues discussed in Geneva and New York remain part of the ongoing talks. In addition to these, there are the four-point methodology proposal and a ten-point package of new confidence-building measures, that we have put forward at the first meeting.

One example is the joint visit to the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) — a quite ordinary act, not even a confidence-building measure in our view — but important given the circumstances at the time. Why? You will recall that the European Parliament adopted a decision concerning the construction of a monument solely for Greek Cypriot missing persons. This visit was proposed by us to honour the memories of all missing persons, Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot alike, and to highlight that investigations regarding all missing persons are conducted by the CMP. This visit took place.”

**“AT THE LAST MEETING, WE REMINDED MR.**

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**continued....The next five years will start a new chapter for Turkish Cypriots****CHRISTODOULIDES ABOUT PROVIDING ROAD TAX SERVICE AT BOSTANCI AND DERINYA CROSSINGS**

“You will also recall the long-standing issue regarding the signing of a contract with Bureau Veritas by the Greek Cypriot competent authority concerning the registration of Hellim (Halloumi). We stated that this needed to be completed as soon as possible. Mr. Christodoulides stated that this would be finalised by the end of January. We made proposals to ease congestion at Metehan, including increasing the number of booths to seven and ensuring permanent staffing, as well as providing road tax service at the Bostancı and Derinya crossings. A commitment was in fact made in the presence of Ms. María Holguín Cuellar, Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Cyprus, that results on these issues would be achieved by 31 January. We have observed that seven booths have been installed at Metehan. However, as the road construction on the Greek Cypriot side has not yet been completed, they are not yet operational. In addition, work to provide road tax services at the Derinya and Bostancı crossing points has not as yet been started.

Therefore, we once again reminded Mr. Christodoulides of this at the last meeting. Unfortunately, the contract regarding Hellim has still not been signed.”

**“OUR AIM WAS FOR CHILDREN FROM BOTH PEOPLES TO COME TOGETHER IN A FRIENDLY SPORTS TOURNAMENT”**

“One of our proposals was also a friendly sports match for U14s. For some reason, this proposal sparked considerable debate. Throughout the discussions, we emphasised that it did not have to be football, and that it could equally be basketball, handball, or volleyball. We also

stated that if team participation posed difficulties, individual involvement in athletics or gymnastics would be possible. The underlying aim was to bring children from both peoples together in a friendly sporting event.

At the time, some criticisms appeared in our press, questioning: “Were you able to convince the Republic of Türkiye to play such a match whilst requesting this from the Greek Cypriots?” I am not sure if it was widely noticed, but just a few days ago I attended a handball tournament in Girne. Teams from the Republic of Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Kosovo, and Kazakhstan participated. It was not a U14 event, but U16. This clearly demonstrates that there is no real obstacle to holding such events, and it is equally clear that we do not pursue any political objective through them. Unfortunately, however, our proposal on this matter was not accepted. As we stated before the elections, there is no need for such issues to be addressed at the 5+1 level; they should be resolved in Lefkoşa.”

**“OUR ULTIMATE AIM IS THE RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM”**

“The statement by Ms. Holguín that a 5+1 meeting will not be convened unless progress is achieved on confidence-building measures reflects the position we have maintained since before the elections. The objective is clear: the resolution of the Cyprus problem. We have consistently emphasised that a solution is crucial for ensuring predictability and visibility in this country. Yet more than eight years have passed since Crans-Montana, and no meaningful process of engagement has occurred. Since the first visit of Ms. Holguín, several developments have undermined trust, including the 21 December statement by the Greek Cypriot leader—the first of its kind



—and what I have described as the ‘peering-through-the-hole ritual’ during the EU officials’ visit. Further setbacks include the unfinished implementation of road tax services at the Bostancı and Derinya crossings, as well as the failure to resolve the Hellim issue by 31 January. UN reports state that there is a need to create an environment conducive to a solution. This is the first step. Once achieved, a 5+1 meeting can take place with a positive outcome. Our core objective has always been to achieve tangible results, demonstrate that the two leaders can deliver, and build trust. The four-point proposal is aimed precisely at this core objective, by establishing procedural rules from the outset.”

**“ROTATING PRESIDENCY MUST BE GUARANTEED FROM THE OUTSET”**

“Unfortunately, this is not the first time I am saying this. Today, I came across different assessments in some news reports. Until now, I have not communicated to my people that any progress has been made on any issue beyond the four I just mentioned. I do not agree with the claim that ‘the two leaders are telling their peoples different things, but Ms. Holguín is telling the truth.’ We are very clearly stating the truth: so far, no progress has been achieved.

One of the reasons progress has not been made is that even within those four items -- which were meant to create some level of trust -- there has

been no progress.

By the four items, I mean the road tax and hellim issues. What we have said regarding these four items is very clear. It concerns procedure and methodology. The fact that it is about methodology and procedure is clearly indicated, as in each case we emphasise it in principle. Regarding political equality, I will give the example of the rotating presidency only. What we are very clearly stating is this: We are not yet discussing whether the rotating presidency would be divided two-to-one, three-to-one, or four-to-one, nor are we discussing its content. We are saying that, in principle, if any structure is to be established and political equality is to exist, it must be guaranteed that the two components -- Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots -- can hold the presidency of that structure for certain periods. Can you imagine a structure in which there is political equality, but one of the two components can never hold the presidency of that structure throughout history? This must be guaranteed from the outset. An example of this existed in the 1960 Constitution. In recent times, due to the events of 1963, the letters written by the late [former Turkish Cypriot Leader] Dr. Fazıl Küçük have been republished. If you look at those, you can actually see the cost of not having a rotating presidency, and how it led to rather terrible outcomes.”

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## continued....The next five years will start a new chapter for Turkish Cypriots



through these measures.”

**“THE MEETINGS ARE ONGOING, WILL CONTINUE, AND WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO STAYING AT THE TABLE”**

“Our position, which we have held long before the pre-election period, aligns with the statement of UN Secretary-General António Guterres that this time must be different. However, if it is indeed to be different, what precisely will constitute that difference? We developed our own proposals and stated that if this time is to be different, the methodology must at least be clear from the outset. First, the rules and procedures should be established -- only then can we move on to the substantive issues and discuss the content. This is the point we have reached. Nevertheless, I will state very clearly that I am not personally disappointed or demoralised. The reason is this: a five-year period of stagnation -- but if you look further back, more than five years, 2017 was Crans Montana -- so it has been an eight-year period of stagnation. Since my election, regarding the CMP, the visits conducted by EU officials and considering the issues around 21 December, the meetings have been ongoing and will continue. We will always remain at the table and are not setting any red lines. These are issues that should be implemented in this country as confidence-building measures. If we are serious about a solution, progress must advance

**“THE PROCESS IS CONDUCTED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE”**

“In the last meeting, Mr. Christodoulides put forward five additional points. One of these concerns confidence-building measures, specifically the crossings at Haspolat, Kiracıköy, and Eğlence. Since New York, there has been a map on the table, however Erenköy was not included. In the five points presented by Mr. Christodoulides, Erenköy was added. As a result, the issue has moved to a point even more difficult to resolve. When did this happen? It came up during the third trilateral meeting. We are not at the point we would like to be. But I can say with peace of mind: it has only been three months. Naturally, in three months, some points of disagreement will arise. As someone who has been part of these processes, I know this very well. We are also in a period when the Greek Cypriot side is holding the EU presidency. We are in a period when we know general elections will be held in the South in May. Therefore, it is clear that reaching solutions during this period will require time. In this context, the question arose: how will relations with the Republic of Türkiye develop? Regarding the Cyprus issue, all of our leaders have consistently conducted meetings and processes in close consultation with the Republic of Türkiye. From the outset -- as we

emphasised both before and after the elections -- the process on this matter has been carried out in coordination with Turkish officials. On this matter, the Republic of Türkiye and the TRNC may hold differing positions at various points. What is important is that the consultation process allows diplomatic relations to continue uninterrupted. In this country, if you truly want a solution, that solution involves two leaders and three guarantor countries. You must produce a settlement that all three guarantor countries will approve. As the Turkish Cypriot leader, your responsibility is also to conduct a very serious give-and-take, diplomatic, and consultation process not only with these three guarantor countries -- Türkiye and the Greek Cypriot leadership -- but also, as it has become even more apparent in this period, with many other regionally influential states.”

### **INTENSIVE EXTERNAL CONTACTS AND MEETINGS... CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS OF CHILDREN FROM MIXED MARRIAGES**

“In the past three months, you can see that both I and our Undersecretary, Mr. Mehmet Dâna, have engaged in very intensive external contacts and meetings. By external contacts, I do not mean traveling somewhere but rather receiving foreign ambassadors and representatives here. Among these are states known to be influential in the region, such as the United States, France, and the United Kingdom. In meetings we held with their representatives, we had the opportunity both to put forward our views on the Cyprus problem and to share our perspectives on confidence-building measures. The issue that comes up most frequently in our discussions with them, aside from the Cyprus issue itself, is the citizenship rights of children born of mixed marriages. From the outset, we have

approached this not as a confidence-building measure but as a human rights issue. We continue to share this human rights concern with all our interlocutors, just as we do regarding all the other confidence-building measures.”

### **“EASING THE PROBLEMS AT METEHAN IS NOT IN FAVOUR OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS AND AGAINST THE GREEK CYPRIOTS”**

“I would also like to emphasise the following regarding confidence-building measures. When we first presented these, the following comment was made: ‘Tufan Erhürman proposed a ten-point confidence-building measures package, but these are all in favour of the Turkish Cypriot people. A CBM package should satisfy both sides, a win-win, so that real trust can be built.’ I responded as follows: Easing the problems at Metehan is not in favour of only the Turkish Cypriots and against the Greek Cypriots. Providing road tax services at Derinya and Bostancı is not only in favour of the Turkish Cypriots and against the Greek Cypriots, because it means the burden at the Metehan crossing will be reduced -- the traffic congestion there will be eased. Also, the hellim issue is not in favour of only the Turkish Cypriots and against the Greek Cypriots, because hellim is a jointly registered PDO. Regarding the export of hellim, if it is to be considered in favour of the Turkish Cypriots, you know we are talking about 2026. This is a process that started roughly nine years ago and was initiated by the two leaders.

The reciprocal football matches and friendlies are unrelated to this. There was an assumption that Turkish Cypriots could not organise such sporting events and would need to do this with Greek Cypriots -- but that is not the case. Our U14 team recently travelled to Trabzon, Türkiye, and earlier to Azerbaijan, where they



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**continued....The next five years will start a new chapter for Turkish Cypriots**

played a match against Dinamo. Just recently, a handball tournament was held in Girne. These sports events were not undertaken out of necessity; the aim was to bring children from different peoples together so they could get to know one another more closely. Regarding the crossings, as we have stated, the map was already on the table when we assumed office. In other words, we were not the first to propose Haspolat, Akıncılar, or the Kiracıköy–Eğlence route – that map already existed. According to that map, Haspolat will make life easier for both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots.”

**“A NEW VEHICLE CROSSING IS CLEARLY NEEDED IN LEFKOŞA”**

It is obvious that a new vehicle crossing is needed in Lefkoşa. Additionally, the Kiracıköy–Eğlence route is in fact not for the benefit of Turkish Cypriots but rather proposed for Greek Cypriots who want to reach Lefkoşa from Larnaca more quickly. That is of course not a problem for me -- Greek Cypriot traffic can flow more smoothly. We are putting forward proposals aimed at providing tangible solutions to the problems. As you know, there is even a proposal on the table for a completely new road to be built directly by our side, with the cost covered. What is the purpose? Turkish Cypriots will not be traveling to Eğlence excessively. But we do not see the issue that way. Everybody should benefit. The Akıncılar crossing is not primarily for Turkish Cypriots; it is intended for those traveling from Larnaca. Among the things we proposed, I personally do not feel that there is anything that shows that we view the matter in this manner. Regarding the additional proposals made by Mr. Christodulidis, at the last meeting I went over them one by one and explained that some of the proposals are already being implemented in practice. Discussions on the Haspolat

Wastewater Treatment Plant issue had taken up a significant time period of the second meeting of the two leaders that lasted three hours. Forty-five minutes of that three-hour meeting were spent on the claim that there was a problem at Haspolat. My undersecretary and I were so involved that it became necessary for us to call the mayor of Lefkoşa, Mr. Mehmet Harmancı, thinking that perhaps incorrect information had been conveyed to us. In fact, that telephone conversation was reported by some as though I had called Mr. Fidan [Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye], whereas both I and Mr. Dâna had called Mr. Harmancı. Afterwards, we asked the mayor to organise a meeting with his counterpart present, along with Mr. Dâna and Mr. Menelaou, to discuss this issue, because we knew there was no problem. However, under the assumption that there was an issue, 45 minutes of the three-hour meeting were spent on it, and Haspolat was even included in the joint statement. That meeting took place at our request. During that meeting, Mr. Harmancı, together with his counterpart, stated that there was no problem and that an agreement had already been reached, and the meeting concluded. We experienced this firsthand. That is why, at the last meeting, I went through Mr. Christodulidis’ proposals point by point. For some, I explained that they would be implemented unilaterally; for others, I clarified that there was in fact no practical issue. He did not review our proposals. Instead, he chose to put forward his own, referring to them as ‘forward-looking road proposals.’”

**“THIS CALL IS NOT DIRECTED AT US”**

“Distinguished press members, I would like to remind you of two points from the reports and resolutions of the UN regarding these issues. In paragraph 52, of the



report dated 5 January 2026 by the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, relating to the UN Operation and Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, he states: ‘In their efforts to promote closer cooperation between the communities, local and international actors continue to be confronted with challenges and obstacles linked to the status of the north and concerns relating to “recognition”. While the United Nations policy on Cyprus is maintained and decisions of the Security Council on the matter are upheld, I reiterate that concerns about recognition should not in themselves constitute an obstacle to increased cooperation. As part of efforts to promote closer cooperation between the communities, local and international actors continue to face challenges and obstacles related to the status of the North and recognition. UN policy on Cyprus is being maintained. I emphasise once again that concerns about recognition alone should not constitute an obstacle to further cooperation.’

So, what is Mr. Guterres saying? There will be no legal explanation regarding the issue of recognition of the TRNC, however some cooperation areas are being blocked out of concern that the TRNC might be recognised in practice. The Secretary-General has called on all parties not to obstruct these areas of cooperation, noting that such concerns are unfounded. Yet, even

as we continue to discuss Confidence-Building Measures, we constantly face the approach: ‘you are doing this actually to achieve recognition by implication.’ The Secretary-General is aware of this, and it is not the first time he has written about it in this report; in earlier reports, he also called on parties not to let concerns over recognition become a factor that obstructs cooperation. No doubt you can appreciate that the call is not directed at us, but at the Greek Cypriot leadership.

The second point relates to the latest Security Council resolution. Dated 30 January 2026, the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council, stated that socioeconomic disparity between the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots risks further estrangement on the island and encouraged efforts to address it. The resolution has made clear reference to the socioeconomic disparity, stating that this could potentially affect prospects for a settlement. The report urges efforts to be made to mitigate this through meaningful contacts in particular.

I believe both of these points certainly need to be kept in mind when discussing Confidence-Building Measures.”

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## continued.....The next five years will start a new chapter for Turkish Cypriots



### “18 WORKING UNITS BECAME OPERATIONAL IN THE FIRST 100 DAYS”

“You will recall that in our pre-election programme about what I would do in my first 100 days in office, we stated that approximately 15–20 working units would be established here. Eighteen working units are now operational. Let me give you some data regarding one of them. We established a unit called the Public Administration Monitoring and Evaluation of Citizens’ Complaints Unit. In the first 100 days, this unit received 119 requests or complaints concerning various ministries, public institutions, and offices. Of these, 58 were resolved positively, in line with the citizens’ requests. Eighteen were resolved negatively, with explanations provided to the citizens that the requests could not be legally fulfilled. Forty-three complaints are still under review. Within these 100 days, the Presidency has become an institution where citizens can submit applications, and a mechanism has been activated that can produce solutions to their problems

I will outline the main points regarding the 18 working units. They operate based on two key principles, and include people from different

perspectives. I emphasise that these units have been established solely at the Presidency, aside from the technical committees. The technical committees continue to function; and they are separate from these units. Two objectives stand out. First, units such as the EU Relations Unit, the Property Unit, and the Public Diplomacy Unit focus on long-neglected tasks, particularly international work, and had not been active for some time. Second, units like the Culture and Arts Unit and the Cultural Heritage Unit are designed to take advantage of the five-year stable term of the Presidency. Governments may change, ministers may change, directors may change. It may not be possible to implement medium- and long-term plans under such circumstances. As I mentioned during the election period, the Presidency has a five-year term. The first 100 days have passed; we still have four years and eight months ahead. During this period, these units are designed to present medium- and long-term plans, establish proper diplomatic relations with the current and future governments, and offer a new vision for our society.

We also stated that the Presidency would pay attention to Parliament and government activities. Within the first 100 days, the necessary steps

were taken to ensure the lawful appointment of the Executive Board of the Eastern Mediterranean University. An international protocol was sent to the Constitutional Court for its opinion. A bill sent from Parliament a few days ago was returned to legislature for reconsideration.”

### “WE WILL USE THE FIVE-YEAR TERM AS A PERIOD OF REBIRTH FOR THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE”

“Regardless of what anyone may say, my personal view is as follows: we intend to use this five-year term as a period of rebirth for the Turkish Cypriot people and to fulfil the responsibilities that this entails. All our efforts are directed towards this goal and will continue to be so. By ‘rebirth,’ I mean that meaningful, serious, and results-oriented work on the Cyprus issue will be carried out continuously, focused on achieving a settlement and implementing confidence-building measures.”

Second, regarding relations with the wider world, even greater effort will be made than at present. Additional energy will be devoted to raising the international visibility of the Turkish Cypriot people, and intensive work will be undertaken to ensure that their institutional structures, culture, arts, and identity -- which are currently a source of concern --

become a source of pride within these five years. One thing we categorically reject -- and I have full respect for those who offer criticisms -- is the notion that ‘Nothing can come of this country; we cannot do this.’

That phrase has been removed from our vocabulary, for we can achieve, and we can succeed. The potential of our country and our people is more than sufficient.

However, the weaknesses in our institutional structure, the weaknesses in the economy, and the weaknesses related to development in culture and the arts are, unfortunately, obstacles to what we are trying to achieve externally. Even though they may appear as separate compartments, all of these are transitional and interconnected. By acting on all of them together, one truly makes an effort towards the rebirth of the Turkish Cypriot people.”

### “WE WILL BE HERE AGAIN IN THE SECOND 100 DAYS”

“In the second 100 days in office, we shall again be here. We want to continue the same transparency and mutual exchange with the public. Regarding the press, there was the Turkish-language Presidency website. The English version has also been launched. The Greek version will be launched in a short time. We are preparing for that. If we want a solution in this country, we need to be in contact with the Greek Cypriot people and Greek Cypriot opinion leaders. We will make efforts both for personal contacts and to address them in Greek, and to maintain transparency toward them as well.”

**Source Presidency Of The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus**

[https://cb.gov.ct.tr/en/press\\_office/news](https://cb.gov.ct.tr/en/press_office/news)



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## Famagusta Finishes Tuzla Derin Evler Site Cleanup



Famagusta Municipality's Cleaning Unit continues to reinforce its routine cleaning operations with targeted regional campaigns as part of its commitment to making the city the cleanest in the country. As part of

this effort, an extensive cleaning operation was recently carried out at the Tuzla Derin Evler Site. During the operation, rubble and accumulated waste were removed from the area using municipal trucks,

while sweeper teams conducted detailed roadside cleaning. Both main and side roads were thoroughly swept with road cleaning vehicles, ensuring a high standard of cleanliness across the entire site.

In addition, garbage collection services were carried out regularly, supported by container washing and disinfection vehicles. These measures ensured that waste containers were kept hygienic, strengthening environmental cleanliness and contributing to public health protection.

This latest campaign follows comprehensive cleaning work previously completed in the Çanakkale District and Baykal Region. With the Tuzla Derin Evler Site now completed, the municipality

has fulfilled its scheduled cleaning programme for these areas.

Famagusta Municipality remains committed to maintaining a cleaner, healthier, and more orderly city through planned, continuous, and visible field operations.

**Source (Turkish):**

**Famagusta (Gazimağusa) Municipality**



## Construction Work Begins on Çamlıbel Football Field

Construction has officially begun on the Çamlıbel Football Field, which has remained idle and in disrepair for many years. The municipality has launched the project at an accelerated pace to restore the area for sports and youth activities.

As part of the first phase, excavation and concreting works are being carried out around the field. The area is being enclosed with wire fencing, while the installation of a new lighting system and the germination and grass laying process continue in a

planned and intensive manner.

Work is progressing without interruption, with the goal of bringing the Çamlıbel Football Field back into active use—providing a renewed, modern space for sports and for the young people of the region.

**Source (Turkish):**

**Lapta Alsancak Çamlıbel Municipality**





30th January 2026 to 6th February 2026

## 23rd Orchid Walk Scheduled for April 5, 2026 at Cittaslow Lefke



The Cancer Research Foundation (KAV), in collaboration with the Süleyman Cengiz Eminoğlu Foundation (CENGO V Foundation), will hold its traditional Orchid Walk on Sunday, April 5, 2026, in Cittaslow Lefke. This year marks the 23rd edition of the event, with Telsim once again serving as the main sponsor.

### Information Meeting Held in Nicosia

An information meeting for the 23rd Orchid Walk was held at TaşEV in Nicosia. Participants included Cancer Research Foundation President Prof. Dr. Mustafa Camgöz (joining online from London), CENGO V Foundation President Özge Özbekoğlu, Lefke Mayor Aziz Kaya, Telsim General Manager Sefer Tüz, Dima Discount Deputy General Manager Hasan Çağlar, Girne Con Kahve Director Aslı Şadi, and media representatives Fezile Aziz from BRT and Ali Dervişoğlu from Play FM.

### Prof. Dr. Mustafa Camgöz: “Cancer is a part of life”

Speaking from London, Prof. Dr. Camgöz highlighted promising developments in cancer research, including a new generation drug designed to prevent the spread of cancer, particularly neuroblastoma. Emphasizing that cancer is “a part of

life and the living body,” he stressed the importance of acting with this awareness. A detailed progress report on neuroblastoma research will be shared with participants on the day of the walk.

### Özge Özbekoğlu: “A collaboration that sets an example for the world”

CENGO V Foundation President Özge Özbekoğlu praised the five year partnership between the two foundations, describing their joint work as an example for the world. She thanked Lefke Municipality, BRT (a first time media sponsor), Play FM, Telsim, and all supporting partners.

### Mayor Aziz Kaya: “We are honored to host everyone in Lefke”

Lefke Mayor Aziz Kaya expressed pride in hosting the Orchid Walk for the second time, thanking both foundations and all sponsors. She invited the public to join the event on April 5 in Cittaslow Lefke.

### Sefer Tüz: “A walk that says ‘you are not alone’”

Telsim General Manager Sefer Tüz emphasized that supporting society is a core value for the company. He described the Orchid Walk as a powerful expression of solidarity and hope in the fight against cancer, and

invited everyone to Lefke on April 5.

### Hasan Çağlar: “We are proud to support the walk for 23 years”

Dima Deputy General Manager Hasan Çağlar noted that the Dima family has supported the Orchid Walk since its inception and will continue to do so with the same enthusiasm.

### Ali Dervişoğlu: “We are preparing for an enjoyable day”

Play FM owner Ali Dervişoğlu said preparations are underway to ensure a pleasant experience for all participants, and encouraged the public to join the walk.

### Aslı Şadi: “We hope community awareness continues to grow”

Girne Con Kahve Director Aslı Şadi expressed pride in supporting the event, stating that their commitment to community service remains strong.

### Fezile Aziz: “We are stronger together”

Representing BRT, Head of Broadcast Planning and Supervision Fezile Aziz said they are pleased to be a media sponsor for the first time and emphasized the strength of collective effort.

### Event Details

- **Date:** Sunday, April 5, 2026
- **Start Time:** 09:30
- **Starting Point:** Lefke Atatürk Park
- **Donation Ticket:** 350 TL
- **Ticket Locations:**
  - o Deniz Plaza
  - o Telsim Ortaköy Shop
  - o Magic Touch
  - o TaşEV (Lefkoşa)
  - o Lefke Municipality

### Contact for More Information

**Sevinç Miralay**

Tel: 0548 868 05 11 – 0548 863 49 29

### KAV Address:

Ali Rıza Efendi Cad., Vakıflar İşhanı, Kat 1, No: 2, Ortaköy





30th January 2026 to 6th February 2026

## Meeting An Old TRNC Friend In The UK

**Richard Beale....**

On our short visit back to the UK, it was so nice to catch up with Eaney, a dog we know so well from the TRNC.

We answered an appeal by Rob Astley and provided a foster home for Eaney, who was recovering from an operation following a road accident.

At the time of her recovery process,

Krissy, our eldest daughter, who was visiting us on holiday, fell in love with Eaney and wanted to take her back to the UK.

That was roughly 7 years ago; the rest is history. She is adored and loved by her family.

So on a very cold February morning in 2026, it was so lovely to meet Eaney again; and she did remember us, or maybe it was the treats?



## FAITH and HOPE need a forever home



**By Richard Beale.....**

A New Year message, a new beginning, and we are trying again to find a loving home for FAITH and/or HOPE.

Where is Charity, you may ask? Their other sister?—CHARITY (now renamed Freya) was lucky we managed to rehome her, and she is enjoying a great life in the UK —But we won't give up on FAITH and HOPE.

They have been at the Esentepe shelter now for around 17 months; it's time for them to enjoy life outside that environment.



The sisters have always been shy, gentle, submissive, and timid; it's the nature of that breed of dog.

If I were 10 years younger, I would have taken these dogs to give them a life. When I finished working at the shelter last year, I left with a heavy heart, guilty that I could not find homes for FAITH and HOPE.

### THEIR HISTORY

You may have read this story many times; they were discarded, dumped in a rubbish sack outside the shelter's fence.

3 poor little mites, barely a few months old - at the shelter, there

were no facilities for puppies, no full-time staff. We had no choice but to take them home, hand-feed them every 2-3 hours, care for them, and keep them warm. When they were old enough and strong enough, they were taken back to the shelter and put in the Quarantine cage. Their bloods were checked, treated for fleas, wormed and ticked, and vaccinations were given.

### CHARACTER

They are stunning looking black dogs with bits of white on their paws and belly, thin bodied, long legs, long tail. Pointer /cross both have been spayed and are now around 20 months old.

Unfortunately because of the number of dogs at the shelter and the lack of volunteers there, they spend the majority of the day locked in their cage. Not an ideal situation, but that's what it is.

When you approach them, they roll on their side, tail between their legs, submissive.

A shelter is no place for them, but

they only know shelter life; they would not survive on the streets outside.

As Mary found with their sister CHARITY (Freya) once they trust you and know you will not harm them, they will give you so much love in return

### PLEASE, CAN YOU HELP?

### GIVE THEM THAT LOVING HOME THAT THEY HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED

If you want to come to the shelter to meet FAITH and/or HOPE, please leave a message, and I will arrange with Linda Carpenter at the shelter for you to visit.

If abroad and you are interested, ESENTEPE REHOMING PROJECT can possibly help with the travel arrangements, inoculations, bloods, and documents, etc.

Yes it will be a miracle if they can be found homes together, but if that it is not so, then just one dog finding a home would be fantastic.

**Please contact me via Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/richard.beale.585>



23rd January 2026 to 30th January 2026

Forthcoming Events - TRNC

CyprusScene.com  
The Leisure Line  
"WHAT'S ON WHERE"

Click link to view

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/204052504285085>

Forthcoming Events - UK

PETERBOROUGH  
WIDE HORIZON

Click link to view

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1907026046519625>



Click link to view

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583477646792>



30th January 2026 to 6th February 2026

### Emergency TRNC Telephone

mobile numbers are prefixed 0533 or 0542 or 0548  
landline numbers are prefixed 0392

<b>POLICE</b>		<b>HOSPITAL</b>	
Emergencies	155	Girne	8152266/815 2254
General	228 3411	Lefkoşa	228 5441;
Girne	815 2125	Gazi Mağusa	3662876/3665328
Lefkosa	228 3311	Güzelyurt	714 2125
Gazi Mağusa	366 5310		
Guzelyurt	714 2140	<b>ELECTRICITY</b>	
Lapta	821 8512	Electrical faults	188
		Lefkoşa	225 3436
<b>FIRE</b>		Girne	815 2223
Emergencies	199	Gazi Mağusa	366 5514
Forest Fire	177	Güzelyurt	714 2122
Girne	815 2111	<b>WATER</b>	
Lefkosa	227 1259	Water problems:	
Gazi Mağusa	366 5389	Lefkoşa	228 3315
Guzelyurt	714 2200	Girne	815 2118
		Gazi Mağusa	366 4483
<b>AMBULANCE</b>		Güzelyurt	714 3516
Emergencies	112		

### 8-day TRNC Weather Forecast

#### 15th February to 8th February 2026

Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	Wed 11
20° 10°	20° 10°	19° 10°	18° 9°

Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14	Sun 15
18° 13°	19° 10°	19° 10°	18° 9°

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## CRUCIAL WIN FOR THE GAS!

**Results: Bristol Rovers 3 Newport County 0**

By Richard Beale...

On a short visit to the UK, I managed to see an absolutely crucial 6 pointer match with my beloved Bristol Rovers beating fellow strugglers Newport County 3-0.

After 9 successive home defeats and 17 defeats in 19 matches, this was a vital win for the Gas.

2 brilliant goals from young Tottenham loanee YUSUF AKHAMRICH and a typical clinical finish from top goalscorer FABRIZIO CAVEGN gave the Gas a deserved win against a poor Newport team.

Yusuf looks like a class act and looks destined for better things.

A cracking atmosphere made my visit memorable.

With 2 successive home matches to come, this is a platform for the Gas to move away from the relegation zone.

Sadly, I won't be there, but with the Rovers winning, City losing 0-5 to Derby, and Esentepe winning 2-1, it's been a great weekend.





## BRILLIANT COMEBACK BY ESENTEPE

**RESULT: ESENTEPE KSK 2 KARŞIYAKA SK 1**

By Richard Beale....

Esentepe trailed at the break but came back strongly in the last 25 minutes to snatch victory, and earn a crucial victory.

**Saturday, January 31, 2026: AKSA SUPER LEAGUE: Esentepe Erdal Barut Stadium.**

I wasn't present at the match as I was on a short UK visit, but with Bristol Rovers winning today in the UK and Esentepe in the TRNC, it's been a great Saturday.

Can't stress how important this win was for Esentepe; it was a 6-pointer, and it keeps Karşıyaka below us; they are 9 points behind now!

Scorers: Esentepe: Hasan Kanlı own goal (69), Salih Karal (75)

Karşıyaka : Andy Okpe

**PHOTOS - courtesy of USALMEDYA.**





### Peterborough Museum



To read the CyprusScene article about Peterborough Museum, click the link below

<https://cyprusscene.com/2025/08/14/uk-shout-a-visit-to-peterborough-museum/>

Click the link below to watch a video about Peterborough Museum

<https://youtu.be/mC2faRRwMsY>