

I am pleased to be able to convey my support for the Famagusta Rally. I am sorry that I cannot attend in person due to family commitments and am grateful for my friend Marina Savva for presenting this message.

As Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Cyprus may I reaffirm our support for all the efforts to reunite Cyprus and its people. It has been 36 long and painful years of division and occupation where the injustice is no where more visible and real than in Famagusta. The village has been frozen in time and bears witness to the tragic loss of lives, properties and justice.

Politicians talk about 'confidence building measures' but little action resulting in real confidence. Famagusta provides the opportunity to provide confidence by opening trade under the auspices of the EU and allowing for the return of Famagusta's legitimate inhabitants. I welcome the support in the European Parliament for this proposal and will be urging the British Government to give its support.

Britain has a historic and legal special responsibility and duty to Cyprus. As a guarantor power of Cyprus' independence and territorial integrity Britain cannot stand idly by or walk on the other side. Combined with its membership of the UN Security Council and founding member of the European Union and Commonwealth, the reunification of Cyprus must be a key priority.

It is therefore of great regret and concern to note Ankara's encouragement of a European Parliament decision to adopt a regulation permitting direct trade between those areas of Cyprus controlled by the Turkish army since 1974 and other EU member states. The proposal for direct trade must be vigorously opposed since it would destroy the

negotiating process. It also flies in the face of justice with Famagusta remaining occupied and frozen from trade.

There is understandable mistrust of Turkey's intentions cynicism about Turkey's willingness to allow an agreement to be reached by Cypriots for Cypriots. If Turkey wants to restore some trust and a future for a united and free Cyprus then it should be serious about giving Famagusta back its freedom. Turkey should be concerned not so much about direct trade but free trade for Famagusta. Only Turkish troops occupy Varosha and it is up to Turkey to allow for the return of the people of Varosha. Turkey should keep to the High Level Agreement of May 1979 which pledged the return of Varosha before a settlement. This would be the first important step towards restoring trust and confidence that promises can be kept and give important momentum towards the reunification of Cyprus.

My best wishes for a successful rally today which I sincerely hope will be the last before Cyprus and Famagusta is united and free.

David Burrowes MP

Member of Parliament for Enfield Southgate  
Chairman of the Cyprus All Party Parliamentary Group