

**OPEK (ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL REFORM)
& GLOPOL (GLOBAL POLICIES CENTRE)
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Will the Cyprus settlement remain quarantined?

The pandemic sets new priorities for people in the world. It's a challenge and an opportunity to review existing differences to find the way forward based on the real needs in the 21st century. It's time to reshape policies and search for opening of diplomatic channels for peace.

OPEK and GLOPOL took the note that normalisation of daily life has started on the both sides of the island due to the reduced numbers of cases.

Having this positive development in mind, we support the need to seize the opportunity and address the needs of all Cypriots, by creating the environment to solve the Cyprus issue and bring about peace and cooperation in the whole region of Eastern Mediterranean.

GLOPOL and OPEK consider that the pandemic gives Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots a unique chance to prepare the ground for a solid common future, in terms of mutual benefit, cooperation, and solidarity.

The top priority concerns the resolution of the Cyprus problem: Negotiations for the reunification of the island as a Bicomunal, Bizonal Federation based on the political equality as described in UN resolutions. End the myths and "alternatives" on natural gas that push us on collision course. Who can now insist on such narratives and other practices that keep our island in quarantine for more than a half of a century?

OPEK and GLOPOL recalls the commitments of the Leaders to work towards resuming the UN talks last November in Berlin as well as the repeating to establish confidence and informing their citizens on the benefits of unification.

The global health crisis has indeed affected almost every individual Cypriot in a negative way. While striving to cope with the difficulties, the leaders of the two Communities will have to discuss also a roadmap for the reopening of the crossing points and set the appropriate timeframe.

In the meantime, they need to work towards easing the difficulties caused by the closure that particularly affecting certain parts of the communities: physical contacts of Greek Cypriot and Maronite communities residing in the north with their families in the south, Turkish Cypriot employees to go back to their jobs in the south etc. It is imperative that the leaders agree on sets of measures that will address these concerns.