



DEMOCRATIC RALLY

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

**Mr Manfred Weber
President
European People's Party**

Nicosia, 9 April 2025

**Dear Manfred,
Fellow EPP Leaders,**

As we continue discussions on strengthening our continent's security architecture, I wish to highlight a European issue that remains central to any credible vision for a strategically autonomous Europe and continues to profoundly impact our collective security framework.

As you know, we have consistently maintained that no European security architecture can be complete while a Member State remains under foreign military occupation. The continued occupation and division of Cyprus, more than fifty years after the illegal Turkish invasion, is not merely a national issue. It is a European one that strikes at the core of the EU's values: sovereignty, the rule of law, and fundamental rights.

In this context, and as we deepen efforts to strengthen strategic autonomy, we must remain principled in shaping partnerships with third countries and in their participation in EU-funded defence initiatives. As unanimously agreed in the 'European Defence & Security' Leaders' Statement of March 2025: "Any cooperation with external partners in matters of security and foreign policy must fully consider the sensitivities of all Member States and be firmly grounded in respect for their sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity. Upholding EU law, values, and principles is a fundamental prerequisite for establishing meaningful partnerships that contribute to a strategically autonomous European security architecture."

Moreover, as the EPP has repeatedly reaffirmed in its political manifestos, resolutions, and most recently in the Leaders' Retreat Statement 'Our Priorities for 2025', the settlement of the Cyprus problem must be based on the agreed UN framework, consistent with EU principles and the *acquis communautaire*. Any deviation from this, such as the partitionist and unacceptable position of Turkey advocating for a "two-state solution" in Cyprus, is entirely incompatible with the UN framework and our EPP's collective position.



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Cyprus, located at the heart of the Eastern Mediterranean, offers strategic value to the EU's security vision. But this strategic importance must never come at the expense of sovereignty or serve to legitimize revisionist or unlawful conduct. It is therefore essential that Europe leverage the strategic value of Cyprus to strengthen collective security and prosperity.

The EPP has always stood firm in its support for a unified Cyprus, and we must ensure that no strategic dialogue or defence cooperation undermines this effort. **Let us be clear: any cooperation with Turkey within the EU's security framework must be strictly conditional upon Turkey's behaviour and upon its sincere readiness to resume negotiations for the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem with measurable developments.**

I kindly request that you share this letter with our fellow EPP leaders.

Sincerely,

Annita Demetriou
President of Democratic Rally (DISY)