



## PLATFORM OF SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT, CYPRUS

---

### OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GREENS/EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE GROUP OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

#### **Ecological Catastrophe in northern part of Cyprus**

July 7, 2007

Dear MEP,

European Parliament's only way of contact with northern part of Cyprus is the High Level Contact Group set up two years ago. However this group is only concentrating on the isolations and embargoes on the northern part of Cyprus and is unaware of the ecological catastrophe going on here.

As a Member of the European Parliament please note that there is an ecological catastrophe going on in this part of the island and the continuation of this disaster will prolong the settlement of the Cyprus Problem. .

As a representative of a supranational institution whose policies are based on sustainable development and safeguarding ecology at the same time, do you know that thousands of olive and carob trees are cut down and villas are been built in northern Cyprus, just for monetary profits?

Historical and ecologic areas are destructed either to create new building sites or to mount flag posts. (eg. 7000 year old Kastros settlement area at Cape Andreas)

Are you aware of that the old village and town structures, part of our heritage are pulled down under the pretences of cleanliness?

Are you aware of the fact that contrary to the Law, while the touristic and commercial investments are continuing our forests which are public property are rapidly diminishing?

Our underground water reserves are fed by rivers; are you aware that the due to the encroachment to the river beds the quantity and quality of our water reserves will considerably decrease?

Do you know that quarries at the Kyrenia mountain range will soon physically change and adversely affect our ecological sustainability?

Do you know that solid and liquid wastes are damped irrespectively at river beds, shores and untamed dump areas?

Do you know that there is a public awareness in the northern part of Cyprus that these ecological crimes must be stopped but the local authorities are not responding?

Do you know that our precious natural resources have been shared by the local/overseas companies and the current situation is misleading and very soon due to the irrespective building boom, we shall be just like MALTA?

Are you aware of that, during past two and a half years 41 thousand people had migrated to our island and that this number constitutes 16.2% of the announced de-facto population and this is a grave situation from the local people's point of view?

Are you aware of that constructions like the "Northern Shore Highway" are continuing irrespective of their need and consequences and are threatening our ecological and cultural heritage?

Finally, do you know that one of the most important biological diversity region of the Mediterranean, historical and archeological site and national park area also recently designated in line with the ER regulations as Special Protected Area, Dipkarpaz is under great threat because of the power supply project supported by the authorities?

Dear MEP,

Should this ecological catastrophe is continued, it is obvious that our small island will be ecologically uninhabitable and most importantly it will adversely affect the already complex Cyprus problem and hinder an early settlement.

We believe that this situation is against all the efforts of harmonizing laws with the Acquis and irrespective of the suspension of the Acquis in the north the European Commission should intervene and save a part of the EU territory.

We, the Turkish Cypriot Non-Governmental Organisations, demand your support to our struggle to stop these ecological crimes and at least accept the mission of to exert pressure on relevant EU institutions to initiate the necessary steps to end this catastrophe.

Yours Truly,

**Members of the "PLATFORM OF SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT":**

- Association of Women to Support Living
- Baraka Cultural Center
- Biologists Association
- Chamber of City Planners
- Cyprus Educational Sciences Association
- Cyprus EU Association
- Cyprus Turkish Secondary Teachers Union
- Cyprus Turkish Teachers Union
- Cyprus Turkish Tourism and Travel Agent's Association
- Cyprus Turkish Tourist Guides Association
- Environmental Society of Lefka
- Federation of Hunters
- Friends of Karpas
- Friends of Nature, Cyprus
- Green Action Group
- HASDER Folk Arts Foundation
- Management Center
- Mediterranean Wind Association
- Northern Cyprus Hoteliers Association
- Olive Tree Protecting and Searching Association
- Yenibogazici Cultural and Arts Association