



Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus

Working Session 14

Statement by the Delegation of Cyprus in exercise of its Right of Reply

Yesterday, Cyprus delegation had the opportunity to explain the reasons why some of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic have been rendered inactive. Therefore, we will limit ourselves to an issue related to our today's discussions regarding democratic elections.

The abnormal situation on the island renders, inter alia, impossible the operation of constitutional articles providing for separate election from the Greek and Turkish Cypriot Community, the voters of which are registered in separate electoral lists.

As a consequence, a small number of Turkish Cypriots, having their usual residence in the Government controlled area of the Republic, had not been able to exercise their right to vote and to stand for election.

For the aforesaid reason, the House of Representatives adopted in January 2006, a temporary law for the exercise of the right to vote and stand for election by members of the Turkish Cypriot community with usual residence in the Government controlled area of the Republic.

The aforesaid law was also adopted in the context of Cyprus obligation according to article 46 of the European Convention of Human Rights, in order to

comply with the Convention and the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Aziz v. Cyprus. The said judgment dealt with the violation of the right to elect and be elected in the last parliamentary elections, of the T/C applicant Mr. Aziz, who resided in the Government controlled area. The Republic of Cyprus adopted those legislation measures, so that, for the duration of the abnormal situation, citizens of the Republic, like Mr. Aziz, who belong to the T/C community and have their usual residence in the free area of the Republic, are able to exercise as individuals, their right to elect and stand for election in parliamentary and EU elections.

This is an example of what we have been discussing the last days; despite the level of democratization and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, there is always room for improvement in order for the participating states to fully implement their commitments.

The delegation of Cyprus wishes to reiterate in this framework, the commitment of the Government to effectively address the legitimate concerns of all its citizens, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots alike.