

The Ambassadors of EU Member-States
accredited to Cyprus

21 December 2021

Excellencies,

We have the honour of communicating with you in order to apprise you of the initiative that we, the undersigned, have undertaken under the name "*Save Famagusta Initiative*".

We are a group of non-politically affiliated citizens, active members of the civil society, mainly but not exclusively hailing from Famagusta. Given recent adverse developments on the ground, we are gravely concerned about the fate of Famagusta-Varosha, and eventually the whole of Cyprus, in view of the central importance it justly holds in the context of achieving a comprehensive solution that reunifies our country. Considering that every effort, even at this late hour, should be made to save the City -and thereby also safeguard the prospect of a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue- we proceeded with the formation of this informal, civil society initiative for precisely such purpose.

Under this initiative, we formulated the attached *Petition-Proposition* in which we propose ways, means and actions that should be undertaken to, at long last, secure the actual implementation of the provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992) pertaining to Famagusta-Varosha.

At the same time, the Petition calls on the Cyprus government to adopt our Proposal and promote it urgently, as a matter of top priority for the future of Famagusta and of Cyprus as a whole. It also calls upon the leadership of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Communities to endorse and promote this Initiative, positively working for its successful fruition. The same is being asked of the UN Secretary-General, the governments of the Permanent Members of the Security Council, the European Union and all its Institutions and Member-States.

The Petition has already been signed by the Mayor of Famagusta on behalf of the Municipality and Municipal Council of Famagusta. Appropriately, given that the Municipality is the institution/authority that represents, *par excellence*, the City and its people, the Mayor was the very first to sign. The Petition is also being supported and has been signed by all other major institutions, agencies and civil society organizations of Famagusta. The effort to garner even more widespread support continues.

We note with particular interest and appreciation the discussion at the last Foreign Affairs Council on the issue of Famagusta-Varosha, especially the emphasis given on CBM's with regard to Varosha as reflected in the concluding statement of the High Representative: "*The Council considers that ... Confidence Building Measures with regard to Varosha are of key importance and will help for the comprehensive solution of the Cyprus issue.*" We feel encouraged by this promising development -it is very much in the spirit of our Petition- and sincerely hope it will proceed to a fruitful culmination.

In view of the above, and knowing of your interest in the issue, we deemed it appropriate and pertinent to inform you -and through you the governments of your countries- of our Initiative and associated developments. We would be grateful, indeed, if your governments would support our initiative.

In remaining at your disposal in this and every respect, we have the honour to convey to Your Excellencies the assurances of our highest consideration.

Respectfully,



(Pavlos Anastasiades)

for the informal Coordinating Group of "Save Famagusta Initiative"

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