Europe

17. The situation in Cyprus

During the year 2020, the Security Council held three meetings, adopted two resolutions and issued one presidential statement concerning the situation in Cyprus. All three meetings were held for the adoption of a decision.\textsuperscript{477} More information on the meetings, including on invitees, speakers and outcomes is given in the table below. Council members also held a private meeting and a closed videoconference with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to resolution \textit{1353 (2001)}.\textsuperscript{478} In addition to meetings and videoconferences, Council members also held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Cyprus.\textsuperscript{479}

On 30 January 2020, further to the reports of the Secretary-General,\textsuperscript{480} the Council held a meeting at which it unanimously adopted resolution \textit{2506 (2020)}, extending the mandate of UNFICYP for a period of six months, until 31 July 2020.\textsuperscript{481} In the resolution, the Council expressed concern at the deterioration of the law and order situation in Pyla, and urged both sides to continue to work with UNFICYP to establish effective measures to tackle criminal activities.\textsuperscript{482} The Council welcomed the trilateral meeting of the leaders and the Secretary-General held on 25 November 2019 in Berlin, at which both sides reaffirmed their commitment to a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality.\textsuperscript{483}

Recalling its resolution \textit{2483 (2019)}, the Council called upon the two leaders to, inter alia, reaffirm their political support for all Technical Committees and improve their performance.\textsuperscript{484} The Council also called for the establishment of an effective mechanism for

\textsuperscript{477} For further information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.
\textsuperscript{478} The private meeting was held on 16 January and the closed videoconference on 16 July in connection with the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop-and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B”; see \textit{S/PV.8705} and \textit{S/2021/9}.
\textsuperscript{479} See \textit{A/75/2}, part II, chap. 1. See also \textit{S/2020/258}.
\textsuperscript{480} See \textit{S/2019/883} and \textit{S/2020/23}.
\textsuperscript{481} Resolution \textit{2506 (2020)}, para. 10. For further information on the mandate of UNFICYP, see part X, sect. I.
\textsuperscript{482} Resolution \textit{2506 (2020)}, eighth preambular paragraph.
\textsuperscript{483} Ibid., para. 1.
\textsuperscript{484} Ibid., para. 5.
direct military contacts between the sides and the relevant involved parties, and urged UNFICYP, as facilitator through its liaison role, to submit proposals in that regard.\textsuperscript{485} In addition, the Council expressed serious concern at the increased number of violations of the military status quo along the ceasefire lines, and called on the sides and all involved parties to respect the mandated authority of UNFICYP in the buffer zone.\textsuperscript{486} The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit by 10 July 2020 a report on his Good Offices, in particular on progress towards reaching a consensus starting-point for meaningful results-oriented negotiations leading to a settlement and a report on the implementation of the resolution.\textsuperscript{487}

On 25 July 2020, further to the report of the Secretary-General,\textsuperscript{488} the Council adopted resolution \textit{2537 (2020)}, extending the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months, until 31 January 2021.\textsuperscript{489} On the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council recognised its impact on the island as well as the efforts made by both communities to suppress the spread of the virus and mitigate its effects.\textsuperscript{490} The Council also recognised that the COVID-19 pandemic had restricted opportunities and capacity for negotiation, while expressing concern that the uncoordinated decisions to close the crossing points along the Green line in response to the pandemic had prevented most bi-communal engagement, and that the prolonged closure of the crossing points threatened to set back the progress made since 2003.\textsuperscript{491} Recalling its resolution \textit{2506 (2020)}, the Council called on the two leaders to ensure effective coordination and cooperation on health matters, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases which had island-wide implications, including through the effective use of the expertise available in the bi-communal Technical Committees on Health, Crisis Management, Humanitarian Affairs and Economic Matters.\textsuperscript{492} While noting that the opening of the crossings since 2003 had been an important confidence-building measure between both communities and one which was essential for the settlement process, the Council also called for the reopening of all the crossing points and

\textsuperscript{485} Ibid., para. 6.
\textsuperscript{486} Ibid., para. 11.
\textsuperscript{487} Ibid., para. 17.
\textsuperscript{488} See S/2020/682.
\textsuperscript{489} Resolution \textit{2537 (2020)}, para. 11.
\textsuperscript{490} Ibid., eighth preambular paragraph.
\textsuperscript{491} Ibid., ninth preambular paragraph.
\textsuperscript{492} Ibid., para. 5(c).
the return to the operating status that existed prior to 29 February 2020 as soon as practically achievable, and for any continuing restrictions on movement across the island to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to be coordinated, and not go beyond what was necessary to protect public health.493 Furthermore, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit by 10 January 2021 a report on his Good Offices, in particular on progress towards reaching a consensus starting point for meaningful results-oriented negotiations leading to a settlement and to also submit a report on implementation of the resolution.494

On 9 October 2020, at its 8766th meeting, the Council issued a presidential statement,495 by which it reaffirmed the status of Varosha as set out in previous Council resolutions, including resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992) and reiterated that no actions should be carried out in relation to Varosha that were not in accordance with those resolutions.496 The Council expressed its deep concern regarding the announcement in Ankara on 6 October to open the coastline of Varosha and called for the reversal of that course of action, and for the avoidance of any unilateral actions that could raise tensions on the island.497 The Council also stressed the importance of full respect and implementation of its resolutions, while reaffirming its commitment to an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement in accordance with the wishes of the Cypriot people, and based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in relevant Council resolutions. In that regard, the Council called on the Cypriot sides and the Guarantor Powers to engage in dialogue constructively and with a sense of urgency following the electoral process in the Turkish Cypriot community.498 The Council further reiterated its support for the Secretary-General, including his intention to convene a meeting as agreed between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders in their meeting with the Secretary-General in November 2019.499

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493 Ibid., para. 8.
494 Ibid., para. 18.
496 Ibid., first paragraph.
497 Ibid., second paragraph.
498 Ibid., third and fourth paragraphs.
499 Ibid., fifth paragraph.
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