

referendum posing a clear question demonstrates the will of a province to separate, then secession must be negotiated. **It may prove exceedingly difficult to keep Turkish Cypriots in a marriage against their will.**

Three other points were made regarding the position of the Greek Cypriot side:

1. The parameters which exist now are unacceptable.
2. The current position of the Turkish Cypriots and the Turkish government put forward during the inter-communal talks makes the prospect of a solution very bleak.
3. Accession of Cyprus into the EU, whatever the result of the inter-communal talks, should be perceived as enhancing security.

## COMMON FUNCTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

### Sharing Water

**Jamil Al-Alawi** (World Water Council) compared the situation in Cyprus to that of his native Bahrain. He said that water shortages may provide an impetus for cooperation. Dividing up utilities, such as water desalination plants, is not economical. Moreover, importing water from Turkey is more expensive than building desalination plants. There is a space, therefore, to work together on sharing water resources on the island.

He expressed his opinion that the search of a solution in Cyprus is driven by the political leadership rather than the society and encouraged more public participation.

### The Role of Technologies in Bridging Divides

**Yannis Laouris** (Cyber Kids) said that it is not difficult to argue with the legal side of the Cyprus problem. A true injustice has been committed and the two parts of the island have been isolated from each other. Phone lines were disconnected and internet connections were slow to develop. He drew attention to the asymmetry of power between the two sides. While the Greek Cypriots seem to hold all the cards, they have lost the war. Rapprochement helps people create potential solutions outside of the political framework.

He suggested that many politicians neglect the role of psychological factors in the conflict. He related a story of a Greek Cypriot woman, who lost a house in northern Cyprus, coming face to face with the current Turkish Cypriot owners. Upon seeing her sorrow, the owners promised to return her house once an agreement was reached between the two sides. **He asked "how much power would the politicians have over the solution, if people were allowed to move freely around the island?"** Inter-communal meetings are important because they allow the two communities to:

- express their grievances (bring their feelings out in the open),
- listen to each other,
- appreciate each other better,
- help change deeply held positions.