

- the need to bring the two communities together in order to build a common Cypriot political identity,
- the value of encouraging and broadening economic and political confidence-building measures between the two communities,
- the continuing importance of the UN and the Secretary General,
- the idea of a united, stronger Europe as a multi-ethnic framework for solving the Cyprus conflict,
- the importance of encouraging economic cooperation between the two communities.

Following Steve Lee's remarks, **Eleni Bakopanos**, MP, welcomed all to the roundtable and expressed her appreciation to those who contributed to the event, including: the CCFPD, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, as well as the members of the Canada-Cyprus Parliamentary Friendship Group. She pointed out that the day's dialogue offered a unique opportunity to reflect and contribute to Canada's role in the peacebuilding process. She saw the roundtable as a forum to air views and an opportunity to learn from each other. She noted the Prime Minister's interest in a "Europe free of dividing lines" and emphasised the value Canadians place on "dialogue."

Eleni Bakopanos also drew attention to the "seismic" diplomacy that took place in the wake of the devastating earthquakes, both in Turkey and Greece, and expressed her belief in the process of rapprochement and dialogue. The changing regional context, Turkey's candidacy for the EU, as well as the UN-sponsored proximity talks all raise hopes that the climate may be shifting toward a concerted effort for a comprehensive resolution, she said. Mrs. Bakopanos briefly outlined key Canadian activities:

- Canada has played an important role in the peacekeeping and conflict resolution process by contributing troops to the UN peacekeeping operations in Cyprus (from March 1964 to January 1993).
- Following a visit to the island, she presented a Motion in the House of Commons on the demilitarisation of Cyprus (June 17, 1996).
- Minister Axworthy visited Cyprus in June 1998. While there, he expressed Canada's full support for a UN brokered solution. He also reiterated Canada's commitment to continue playing a constructive role in seeking a prosperous future and an enduring peace for the people of Cyprus. This commitment includes the possibility of a Canadian project of assistance for the clearance of anti-personnel mines in and along the buffer zone.

She pointed out that Canada's seat on UN Security Council provides an opportunity to promote issues of importance to all Canadians, including respect for human rights and international law. She stressed the value of convincing the U.S. and the international community about the importance of finding a fair and viable solution to the Cyprus issue. She thanked Mr. Michael Bell, Canada's Special Representative on Cyprus, for his past contribution and support of efforts fostering a peaceful settlement.