

Mediterranean, including Cyprus.

However, as **David Long**, Carleton University, pointed out Turkey's candidacy for the EU also created a possible source of tensions as both Cyprus and Turkey are candidates. The EU has made it clear that while a solution to the Cyprus problem prior to accession is preferable, it is not required.<sup>3</sup> So far, Cyprus has completed 11 of the 31 sector reforms necessary for EU accession and is at the front of applicant countries. However, the free movement of goods and people remains a problem.

Cyprus' accession should be seen in the context of EU enlargement and the "unstated" need for settlement. While a settlement is not a precondition for accession, the EU will consider "all elements" in accession negotiations, including the island's continuing divisions. The EU would not like to include another problem within its borders, said Long. The EU may include both sides – the south and the north, in negotiations or admit the Greek south alone with a potential for a future settlement/unification. Contemporary circumstances favour the latter since the north is not ready for membership and a two-state option is not preferable for the EU. In general, the EU remains ambiguous about a political settlement in Cyprus and supports the UN-sponsored negotiations.

Another factor in the accession of Cyprus is the EU enlargement process in general. The EU's institutional capacity is over-stretched. The accession process is becoming increasingly complex as more countries at different stages of development wish to join (including Turkey). As popular resistance against EU enlargement mounts, governments become more reluctant to admit new countries (i.e., the Joerg Haider phenomenon). Nevertheless, the EU is committed to admit some countries by 2002. Without a settlement, Cyprus will most likely not be among them. Cyprus' accession should be considered a long-term goal. Still, the EU may be useful on the Cyprus issue through its foreign policy (i.e., High Commissioners) as well as inducements and pressures it can exert during accession negotiations.

**John McDonald**, Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, emphasised the role of non-governmental organisations and private citizens in social peacebuilding. He complimented the CCFPD for its role in involving private citizens in foreign policy activities. Building on the work of CIIPS, his Institute has been actively engaged in Cyprus, together with other American organisations such as the Conflict Management Group and the World Peace Institute. The Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy is often invited into a conflict situation at a private citizen level to help people develop conflict resolution skills. According to McDonald, while many conflicts are deep, none are intractable.

Constructive engagement in a conflict situation requires responsiveness to particular

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<sup>3</sup> This notwithstanding provision raises some fears that the accession of southern Cyprus, prior to a solution and/or prior to Turkey's accession, may tip the balance in favour of Greece.