



H.Res. 405 – Expressing the strong support of the House of Representatives for implementation of the July 8, 2006, United Nations-brokered agreement between President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus

Floor Situation

H.Res. 405 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) on May 15, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs whereupon it was agreed to be considered under suspension of the rules.

H.Res. 405 is expected to be considered by the House of Representatives on October 9, 2007.

Summary

H.Res. 405 expresses its support for the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006, agreement regarding the reunification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

H.Res. 405 also calls upon the United States Government to fully support the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006 agreement in its entirety and without deviation from that process.

Background

Cyprus is a divided country joined together by a minimal federal government apparatus. The two components are the Greek Cypriot State and the Turkish Cypriot State.

Cyprus was declared an independent state on August 16, 1960. Prior to that Cyprus was a part of Greece. In 1974 a coup was launched in Greece to try and reunify the country. Due to a treaty, Turkey intervened and in the end Cyprus was split between the Turks and the Greeks.

On July 8, 2006, the President of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat, agreed to a set of principles to begin a process of bi-communal discussions.

This agreement will allow the two sides to begin a re-unification of the country. The reunification of the country is important because Cyprus has applied to be part of the European Union (EU), but because of its split government the membership has been routinely denied.

The two sides have met several times, but have not yet agreed to a method of reunification.

Staff Contact

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