



INDEPENDENT DIPLOMAT

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ID's Work with the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Draws to a Close

From June 2007 to April 2010, Independent Diplomat provided expert advice on diplomatic strategy to Mehmet Ali Talat, the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), in his efforts to create a united federal state on the island of Cyprus. This followed the failure of the Cyprus settlement plan proposed by Kofi Annan in 2004; which Talat had successfully urged the Turkish Cypriots to approve, but which the Greek Cypriots had voted against.

In the absence of a formal process after the 2004 referendum, ID helped the TRNC dramatically increase their access to and visibility within the international community, to develop closer links with the EU (which regards northern Cyprus as unfinished business from the 2004 admission of the rest of the island), and to advise on relaxing the isolation imposed over the years on the Turkish Cypriots. By improving the public presentation of its position, the TRNC strengthened its relationship with sympathetic EU member states and officials. In March 2008, however, the Greek Cypriot President who had urged a rejection of the 2004 referendum lost his bid for re-election, and this cleared the way for full-fledged negotiations to start between his successor and President Talat. ID was closely involved in the preparation of Turkish Cypriot negotiation strategy and tactics thereafter, providing research and advice on particular topics as they came up in the talks.

Despite the constructive attitude consistently taken by President Talat, he was unable to make a breakthrough, and lost his bid for re-election in April 2010, effectively ending ID's project with the TRNC. Although the negotiation process has not made much progress since the election, ID wishes success to those who are working for a solution to this long-standing problem.

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Staff Announcement

ID is delighted to welcome two new staff members to the New York office.

- [Lili Birnbaum](#), Executive Assistant
- [Andrew Lewis](#), UN Representative



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