

Extract from:  
Jean-François Drevet and Andreas Theophanous,  
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## Summary of Jean-François Drevet's contribution

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Contrary to what had been hoped for, **the accession of Cyprus to the European Union in May 2004 has not paved the way for its reunification.** After the rejection of the Annan Plan, which provided for important exemptions from Community law, **negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriots came to nothing.** Henceforth the Union is involved in managing the problems of a divided island part of which is occupied by another country, a unique situation in Europe since the end of the Cold War.

In order to become a Member State like any other, Cyprus must both recover the full exercise of sovereignty and adopt a feasible reunification plan.

### 1. Recovering the full exercise of sovereignty

- The north of the island continues to be **occupied by 35,000 heavily armed Turkish soldiers.**
- Furthermore, **its sovereignty is limited by "unequal treaties"** imposed at the time of its independence in 1960 which was guar-

anteed by Greece, the United Kingdom and Turkey but included the right of intervention for each of these three powers.

- In addition to these constraints, there is the **presence of two British bases**, held in full sovereignty with various facilities, over which the Cypriot government has no scrutiny.

## 2. Adopting a feasible reunification plan

- Current negotiations on the reunification project have defined the **main lines of a political compromise**: the Federal Republic of Cyprus will have a rotating presidency, two elected assemblies based on the German model and a Supreme Court.
- Even though the implementation of Community acquis, currently suspended in the North, is involved in the reunification, the **economic conditions for reunification remain problematic**.
- The Cypriots must also **solve the problem of despoilments of property rights** following the ethnic cleansing carried out by the Turkish Army in 1974 and **define the conditions of residency in accordance with Community law**.
- Finally, the **discovery of a major offshore natural gas field south of Cyprus** will **contribute to a re-evaluation of the geo-political position of the island** and be a **determining factor in financing the reunification**.