

NEWSLETTER

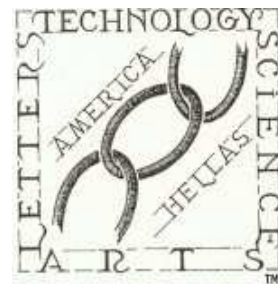
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HELLENIC LINK Midwest

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC
LINK WITH GREECE



Upcoming Events

EU-Turkish Relations: The Prospects for Greece and Cyprus

On Sunday, February 24, 2002, at 3 PM, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents John Sitalides, Executive Director of the Western Policy Center, in a lecture titled: *EU-Turkish Relations: The Prospects for Greece and Cyprus*. This lecture will be held at Four Point Sheraton Hotel, 10255 West Irving Road at Schiller Park (corner of Irving and Manheim by O'Hare airport, phone: 847 671 4230).

In recent years, Mr. Sitalides has traveled frequently to Turkey, as well as Greece and Cyprus, developing unique insights into the geopolitical dynamics which both bring together and push apart these three key countries in the eastern Mediterranean. He will examine the foreign, security, and economic policies of Turkey – especially toward Greece and Cyprus – in the course of its efforts to join the European Union. Though a significant section of the political and military leadership in Ankara are thoroughly committed to Turkey's EU accession course, support within the overwhelmingly Islamic Turkish nation is mixed. Nonetheless, Turkey has made progress in enacting economic, political, and legal reforms required for EU accession that also offer the promise of a more genuinely Western neighbor for Greece and Cyprus.

He will also analyze the results of President Bush's January meetings with Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis and Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, and examine the prospects for a genuine settlement of the Cyprus problem in 2002, among other related issues.

John Sitalides is Executive Director of the Western Policy Center, a public policy corporation promoting U.S. geostrategic interests and Western institutions in southeastern Europe by strengthening the debate on American foreign policy toward NATO allies Greece and Turkey. The Center focuses its activities on Executive Branch agencies such as the National Security Council, the State Department, and the Defense Department, as well as foreign policy institutes, Congress, and U.S. and foreign media.

Mr. Sitalides has testified before Congress on U.S. foreign policy in the eastern Mediterranean. He has been recognized by the State Department's Foreign Service

Institute as a subject matter expert on American Foreign Policy Process, and is a regular lecturer on U.S. foreign policy at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center. He is a frequent panelist at international relations conferences and policy roundtables, and has appeared in national and international media, including CNN International, C-SPAN, National Public Radio, and BBC Radio, and has been published or cited in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The International Herald Tribune*, and other U.S. and international newspapers. He is a member of the Foreign Policy Association, the World Affairs Council of Washington, D.C., and the Academy of Political Science, and is listed in *Who's Who in America*. He served as Executive Assistant for Communications and Legislative Affairs to former U.S. Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-NY). He held senior advisory positions in Senator D'Amato's successful 1986 and 1992 re-election campaigns, and in 1988 managed the first election campaign of New York State Senator Serphin Maltese (R-Queens).

Mr. Sitalides received his Master's Degree in International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in 1986 and his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Queens College in 1983.

Hellenic Heroes and Muses – Greece Celebrates Independence

On Sunday, March 24, 2002, at 4:00 pm, Hellenic Link–Midwest and Concertante di Chicago present a celebratory program for the Greek Independence day at DePaul University Concert Hall, 800 West Belden Street, in Chicago. The program includes: The works of Mikis Theodorakis *Oedipus Tyrannus - Ode*, and *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra; Melodies Grecques* of Petridis, and *Seven Greek Dances* of Skalkotas.

Concertante di Chicago, the brainchild of its Conductor and Artistic Director Hilel Kagan, was born in 1985 and has been providing a unique musical offering to the Chicago area ever since. The performances of Concertante di Chicago have received numerous reviews like: "For listeners who like the combination of musical excellence and novelty, Concertante di Chicago is a permanent gift"; "Imaginative programming has been a Concertante di Chicago hallmark since its founding 11 years ago.."

"Thanks... to Hillel Kagan's esteemed classical music ensemble, Concertante di Chicago..."; "One hallmark of the superior chamber orchestra Concertante di Chicago..."

Hillel Kagan has played in many chamber groups, including the Riga String Quartet and is currently principal second violinist of the Lyric Opera Orchestra in Chicago and a member of the faculty of De Paul University's School of Music.

For tickets, \$30 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$5 for children, please call Constantine Tzanos at 630 790 2939.

In Brief

Çem's UN Address on Greek-Turkish Relations

On November 12, 2001, Turkey's foreign minister Ismail Çem, during his address to the 56th United Nations general assembly, reiterated Ankara's threats for a "very serious crisis" in the event Cyprus accedes to the European Union. He said "The Cyprus issue has remained unresolved for 38 years. This subject is one that is known to the UN. As the dates for some radical changes in Cyprus through Greek Cypriots side's unilateral accession to the EU seem to be approaching, and as Turkey considers these changes potentially dangerous for the two parties and for the whole region, this issue needs further attention. Any artificially imposed solution that is not mutually acceptable to both nations on the island and to the guarantor countries is bound to create a severe crisis. Turkey, as well as the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", aspire to a mutually acceptable solution, sought through all possible means."

Turkish Admiral Comments on Turkey's Cyprus Policy

On November 19, 2001, retired Turkish admiral Attila Kiyat, in an interview with the Turkish newspaper "Radikal", said "The talks we shall have to unite two equal communities under one flag do not mean that we are giving away Cyprus. But Turkey's policy on Cyprus is determined by Denktash. The Cyprus issue was always used in Turkey in an extreme fashion as an object of internal consumption. Those who are following this policy are thinking of their own political future more than the future of Turkey."

He sharply criticized Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit for his recent statements on "genocide and terrorism against the Turkish Cypriots". Admiral Kiyat said: "But we, in 2001, say there is no other solution except for confederation and that otherwise there will be genocide. Shame on you if you claim that there will be genocide in Cyprus. In other words, we shall have one country which shall be a European Union (EU) member state and it shall implement genocide against 200,000 citizens in the north?"

And indeed it shall do this by using terrorist methods? It is terrible for us to remain attached to the past." He further said that the EU itself is a guarantee for the safety of the Turkish Cypriots, and added "the changes which have taken place in the world and on the island are a guarantee."

Cohn-Bendit: A Unified Cyprus is the Only Solution

Daniel Cohn-Bendit, the President of the EU-Turkey joint parliamentary committee, in a statement in Istanbul on November 26, 2001, said: "The only solution which can be found for the Cyprus issue is a unified Cyprus and the common representation of both communities." He made this statement shortly before a dinner given by the Federation of Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen (TUSIAD) for Eurodeputies attending the joint parliamentary committee's 48th session. Cohn-Bendit said that Turkey cannot become an EU member state if the problem of Cyprus is not resolved.

During the dinner, TSIAD's president Tunzai Ozilhan said that TUSIAD "does not consider correct the support provided by Turkey to the intransigent position of (Turkish Cypriot leader) Rauf Denktash" and expressed concern over the possibility of "irreparable harm being done in the relations between Turkey and the EU in the event the Greek Cypriot side joins the EU." He further said that "it is not difficult for one to assume that the most important issue in EU-Turkish relations is the Cyprus issue. We do not consider the linkage of the Cyprus issue to Turkey's accession to the EU correct."

Turkish Foreign Minister Çem, speaking at the opening of the 48th session of the EU-Turkey joint parliamentary committee, said that Turkey "supports the joint solution which will be found by the two nations in Cyprus to enable them to proceed with a new coexistence." He claimed that the Greek side, which will soon become a full EU member, "does not need the solution since a solution has been donated to them by the EU." Referring to what Ankara shall do in the event the Republic of Cyprus joins the EU, Çem said "ties between the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' and Turkey will proceed to the highest level."

Turkey has repeatedly threatened to annex the Turkish occupied northern Cyprus in the event Cyprus would join the European Union.

Turkey Does not Fulfill Criteria for EU Entry

On November 13, 2001, in its annual report for Turkey, the European Commission concluded that Turkey does not fulfill the political and economic criteria of Copenhagen to enter the European Union, and will have to show by actions and without preconditions the necessary spirit of cooperation for the resolution of the Cyprus issue. Turkey

will have to implement immediately the recent constitutional reforms that it ratified.

The report states that the criteria for accession include a strengthened dialogue with Turkey, human rights conditions, the resolution of border issues, and the protection of minorities. On Greek-Turkish relations, the report noted that there is optimism for their further improvement, lauding the efforts of Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou and his Turkish counterpart Ismail Çem. On human rights in Turkey, the report incorporated a detailed account of the conditions of the Kurds, torture practices in prisons, and limitations to the freedom of speech.

The report also noted Turkey's actions that blocked the European Defense and Security System's use of NATO infrastructures, as Turkey insists on its demand to participate in the decision making process of the Union. The Commission called on Turkey to cooperate with the Union to resolve the impasse. The Commission concluded its report by proposing to the Council to grant Turkey a special status, according to which an analysis of the course of the country's adaptation to the *acquis communique* will be issued, without, however, to create any specific obligations for Turkey, but it will not in any way result in any form of negotiations.

EU Commissioner on EU Policy Toward Cyprus and Turkey

On November 13, 2001, EU Commissioner Günter Verheugen, who is responsible for enlargement issues, on the occasion of the Commission's annual report presentation at the European Parliament on progress achieved by candidate countries in their accession course, said: "The accession of a reunited Cyprus to the EU constitutes a strategic target for the Union, while a solution to the political problem is not a precondition for accession. EU and Turkey have unresolved problems in foreign policy. Turkish prime minister's blackmail on Cyprus' accession to Europe is not something new to us. But it is a dangerous policy for Turkey itself. How could they fall in such a trap. We could never fall prey to such blackmail. The will and wish of the Union is to arrive at a political solution before the end of negotiations for Cyprus' entry to

the Union, otherwise the Commission will move on implementing the Helsinki decisions."

Referring to the Turkish Cypriots, he said: "They may question the policies of their community leader Rauf Denktash, because they wish to enter EU. No significant effort has been made by the Turkish side towards a solution, so the outcome is greatly dependent upon the answer of Denktash to the new initiative of the General Secretary of the United Nations. "

The EU report says it is a regrettable fact that the Turkish Cypriot authorities are not participating in negotiations under UN auspices, which should be handled as an opportunity for the adoption of a political solution before the completion of Cyprus' accession negotiations.

Turkish Paper on Cyprus

A report that appeared on November 13, 2001, in the Turkish newspaper "Çumhuriyet" under the title "The Turkish Cypriots apart from Denktash" said: "Denktash has never expressed the views of the majority of Turkish Cypriots. If democratic elections are held (in the Turkish occupied northern Cyprus), it will be impossible for Denktash to emerge victorious from them. However, those who know Cypriot reality even a little, are aware that the election of Denktash is always made possible thanks to the clout possessed by Turkey." The paper also said that it is impressed upon Cypriots that they will be faced with "great difficulties" if Denktash is not elected, while if somebody attempts to run against Denktash he is ultimately obliged to resign. "The Turkish Cypriots do not desire the annexation of Northern Cyprus by Turkey. They are aware that it will not bring about any benefit neither for them nor for Turkey. They want to coexist with the Greek Cypriots, sharing a government which will be secured with peace, and which will provide preconditions for safeguarding their rights."

Another report appearing in the same newspaper and titled "Let us save Cyprus-Let us be saved from Cyprus" favors the accession of Cyprus to the European Union. "The way to save Cyprus and at the same time for Turkey to be saved from Cyprus passes through the accession of Cyprus to the European Union," the report said.

From The Riches Of Our Cultural Heritage

ΑΠΟ ΤΑ '18 ΛΙΑΝΟΤΡΑΓΟΥΔΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΙΚΡΗΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΔΑΣ'

Του Γιάννη Ρίτσου

10. Τό νερό

Τού βράχου λιγοστό νερό, απ'τή σιωπή αγιασμένο
Απ'τό καρτέρι του πουλιού, τή σκιά τής πικροδάφνης..

Κρυφά τό πίνει η κλεφτουριά καί τό λαιμό σηκώνει
Σαν τό σπουργίτη πού βλογά τή φτωχομάνα Ελλάδα

11. Τό κυκλάμινο

Μικρό πουλί τριανταφυλλί, δεμένο μέ κλωστήτιστα
Μέ τά σγουρά φτεράκια του στον ήλιο πεταρίζει.

Κι αν τό τηράξεις μιά φορά θά σου χαμογελάσει
Κι αν τό τηράξεις δύο και τρείς θ' αρχίσει τό τραγούδι.

12. Λιγνά Κορίτσια

Λιγνά κορίτσια στο γιαλό μαζεύουνε τ'αλάτι
Σκυφτά πολύ, πικρά πολύ—τό πέλαο δεν τό βλέπουν.

Κ'ένα πανί, λευκό πανί, τους γνέφει στο γαλάζιο
Κ' απ'το πού δεν το αγνάντεψαν μαυρίζει απ'τόν καημό
του.

13. Τ'άσπρο ξωκκλήσι

Τ'άσπρο ξωκκλήσι στην πλαγιά, καλάγγναντα στον ήλιο
Πυροβολεί μέ τό παλιό, στενό παράθυρό του.

Καί τήν καμπάνα του αφηλά, στόν πλάτανο δεμένη,
Τήνε κουρντίζει ολονυχτίς γιά τού Αη-Λιά τή σκόλη.

14. Επιτύμβιο

Τό παλληκάρι πού'πεσε, μ'όρθή τήν κεφαλή του
Δεν τό σκεπάζει η γής υγρή, σκουλήκι δέν τ'αγγίζει.

Φτερό στή ράχη του ο σταυρός κι όλο χυμάει τ'αψηλίου
και σμίγει τούς τρανούς αητούς και τούς χρυσούς
αγγέλους.

10. The water

From the rock very little water, sanctified by silence,
by the vigil of the bird, by the shade of the oleander.

In secret the Klephtic-band drink it and lifting up their throat
Like the sparrow they're blessing the penniless mother-Greece.

11. The cyclamen

A tiny bird rosy-coloured, tied with a little string,
with its curly little wings is fluttering in the sun.

And if you gaze at it once, it will begin to smile to you
and if you gaze at it two and three times, you will begin
the song.

12. Slender Girls

Slender girls along the seacoast are gathering up the salt,
very bent and very bitter — they do not see the ocean.

And a sail — a white, white sail — beckons to them in
the blue
and because they didn't perceive it, it turns black from
its grief.

13. The White Country-Church

The white country-church on the slope, right opposite to the sun,
is firing gunshots through its own old narrow window.

And its church-bell way up high, being tied to the plane-tree,
is wound all night long for the holiday of Saint Populace.

14. Epitaph

The palikar who has fallen and his head remains upright
is not covered by the damp ground, no worm is touching him.

A wing on his back is the cross and he keeps surging up high
intermingling the mighty eagles and the golden angels.

