

Address by H.E. Ambassador Sotos Zakhaios, Permanent-Secretary of  
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus to the Conference on  
Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Vienna, 3 September 2003

Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure to address <sup>this</sup> the <sup>1<sup>st</sup> in the beautiful</sup> ~~third~~ Conference <sup>city of Vienna</sup> ~~on facilitating the~~  
~~entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty~~ and to welcome the  
significant number of distinguished delegates present. Allow me to congratulate you  
on your election and wish you all the best in your endeavours for a successful  
Conference. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations  
for convening this Conference and the Government of Austria for hosting it. ~~Particular~~ <sup>Particular</sup>  
~~appreciation is due to the Under-Secretary General Mr Antonio Costa~~ <sup>appreciation is due to the Under-Secretary General Mr Antonio Costa</sup>  
~~appreciation is due to the Deputy Secretary General, Ms. Louise Frochette, for her~~ <sup>his opening remarks</sup>  
~~presence and remarks, as well as to Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann, Executive~~  
Secretary of the Preparatory Commission, for his efforts in promoting the early entry  
<sup>energetic</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>  
into force of the Treaty.

As has already been stated, the Republic of Cyprus aligns itself with the  
Statement of the European Union and adheres fully to the EU Common Position  
relating to the EU's contribution to the promotion of the early entry into force of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. Cyprus attaches great importance to the  
early entry into force of the Treaty, which it considers as an essential element to the

non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the promotion of international peace and stability in general. The ratification of the Treaty by the Republic of Cyprus on 18 July 2003 highlights our commitment to the entry into force of the Treaty and to ~~the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.~~

Following our Ratification of the Treaty, we look forward to an increasing level of cooperation with the CTBTO.

The commitment of Cyprus to a policy of non-proliferation is further illustrated by the ratification on February 2003 of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as by the recent applications of Cyprus to become a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime and of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

Mr. President, in concluding this statement, would like to state that the Republic of Cyprus fully supports the efforts carried out by the European Union for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and urges those countries that have not done so to ratify the Treaty, and in particular the remaining 12 states whose ratification is required for its entry into force. Pending the entry into force of the CTBT, we urge all states<sup>to</sup> abide by a moratorium on nuclear explosions of any kind and to refrain from any actions that might run contrary to the spirit of the Treaty.

Thank you Mr President