

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΝΟΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ
ΔΗΜΟΣ ΖΩΓΡΑΦΟΥ

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
PREFECTURE OF ATHENS
CITY OF ZOGRAPHOU

ΙΑΚΦ

ΙΔΡΥΜΑ
ΔΗΜΗΤΡΗ ΚΙΤΣΙΚΗ DIMITRI KITSIKIS
FOUNDATION

THE DIMITRI KITSIKIS PUBLIC FOUNDATION' S ADDRESS

TO THE CHP YOUTH ROUND TABLE MEETING

Mövenpick Hotel, Istanbul

November 24, 2012

Dear Brothers,

I am delighted to be here today, representing Dimitri Kitsikis Foundation. This conference is an important forum, since it provides us with an opportunity to share our views and discuss a wide range of current issues in our region. Therefore, I want to congratulate CHP and its Youth for their initiative to host this event.

At the outset, I would like to convey to you the warmest greetings of the honorary President of the Foundation, Professor Dimitri Kitsikis, and present a short address of him to the Conference on behalf of the Foundation:

“Devlet Ana!, The Ottoman Empire, our common Motherland of all Balkan Peoples. Kemal Tahir who wrote this book in 1967 was a Marxist who spent 13 years in prison for his ideas. Greek and Turkish youth in particular honour this intellectual fighter of our common Motherland, the Ottoman Empire.

In 2008 (see www.idkf.gr) the Greek State, by establishing the Foundation, honoured me, a Greek Marxist intellectual, who all his life strove for one and only idea: to reunite Greeks and Turks in one state and revive the Ottoman Empire. Today, when the capitalist European Union is collapsing, when Greece will be disentangled from the bonds of the European Union, today there is more hope: from the world crisis will rise again the Devlet Ana. The hatred between the two brothers will stop and the nation of the Rums, under the leadership of a Sultani Rum will reunite Christians, Alevis, Jews and Muslims. The Ottoman Empire was poisoned, like Turgut Ozal was, by the enemies of the Arabölge, the Intermediate Region, and will rise again from the dead.

The Aegean Sea is our common sea, our common blood that we must share. The two lungs of our body, Rumeli and Anatolia were torn apart by the Western imperialists and it is the duty of the young people of Greece and Turkey to fight for this purpose, in the wake of Aziz Nesin, Kemal Tahir and my mother who was condemned to death in 1948 for her Marxist convictions. We, as the Ecumenical Empire, from Alexander the Great, through Rome, Byzantium and the Ottoman Empire, gave civilization to the West, and Europe would not exist without us. We do not belong to Europe. Europe belongs to us. Here, in Istanbul, as in Thessalonike, where the Balkan socialist movement was born in the time of the Ottoman Empire, on behalf of our Foundation, I ask the CHP youth to help us reconstruct the common state around the Aegean Sea.”

While preparing my speech the other day, I was considering how I should address you; As you already noticed, I have decided to use the word “brothers” (Kardeşler) which - informal or ostentatious as it may sounds- encapsulates an deep-seated truth. We are, indeed, the children of a lost common motherland, separated from each other and downgraded from “brothers” to “neighbours” in a externally-imposed destiny. Among others, it is the restoration of this fraternal relationship that DKF is devoted to.

Peace, security, stability and how to achieve them are in the agenda of our round table meeting. However, the general framework –that is, the political edifice- within which we should pursue these goals is not discussed whatsoever. In my opinion, this constitutes a leap in our analysis that circumvents the real matter. If we neglect the fact that the established order of the last two centuries –the system that we still take for granted while discussing for individual issues, as we do today- is rapidly collapsing, we will lose

the forest for the trees. Instead, we should instigate a dialectic for the creation of a new structure which will not only bring transient regional peace, security and stability, but will also serve as our Noah's ark in the forthcoming gale.

Kardeşler, it is clear that we are in a transition period. The political and economic crisis we experience today is just the epiphenomenon of the ongoing collapse of the so-called "western system". The civil/capitalist order which was established in the West in the aftermath of the bourgeois revolutions of the 18th century and was aggressively imposed to the peoples of the Intermediate Region has entered its final self-destructive phase and threatens to drag us to its destruction. Day by day, this order is proven unable to assure peace, security and stability even for its political and economic core and, therefore, it sacrifices what it perceives as its "periphery" in a desperate attempt to perpetuate its parasitic existence. Our region fell in this peripheral status after the aforementioned system violently dissolved the Ottoman Empire and turned us against each other for its own imperialistic ends under the doctrine of nationalism. Now, the same system, which initially used our identities to divide and exploit us, tries to eliminate them in order to absorb us completely under the failing dogma of globalization.

In this highly transformative era, when the continuation of our very own existence is at stake, we should organize a common response of our peoples. We need to re-create a peaceful and stable environment, detached from the West, which will at first stage prevent our political and cultural extinction and, later on, will facilitate the renaissance of our ecumenical distinctive civilization. For this, we must reconsider our Ottoman past, inscribed in the historical memory of our hearts, where the distorted accounts and the nationalist propaganda of the western or "westernized" scholarship cannot reach. The splendid precedent of the harmonious and tolerant multiethnic-multireligious-multicultural-multilingual Ottoman society, a paradise which vanished with the fall of the Ecumenical Empire a century ago, can and must come back. Therefore, our Foundation has always proposed the restoration of the centuries-long *status quo ante* around the Aegean Sea under a new political entity, a Turkish-Greek Confederation which will subsequently embrace the other peoples of the west half of the Intermediate Region. Only when this plan will be realized, permanent peace, security and stability will also return to the Balkans and the Middle East under a new type of *pax Ottomanica*.

It is the historical duty of our generation to construct the premises of this future Confederation, our new *Devlet Ana* which will revive the glorious Ecumenical Empire of the Intermediate Region and will guarantee of our ethnic, religious and cultural florescence in the new era which is dawning.