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Turkish and Greek Cypriot workers celebrate Labour Day together on 1 May

# Let us work together for a common homeland

A delegation from the Cyprus Turkish Revolutionary Federation of Workers' Unions (Dev-İş) participated in the celebrations organized in South Cyprus by PEO. At the same time, representatives from PEO attended the Labour Day celebrations in the North. A single message was issued to all workers: Let us work together for a common homeland!

The Labour Day celebrations this year were organized by PEO and Dev-İş together, within the framework of an agreement signed between the sister trade unions.

Representatives of the trade unions organized two separate press conferences one day before the celebrations, and expressed the wish that from now on, Labour Day would be celebrated in a reunified Cyprus.

The first of the press conferences which conveyed joint messages to the workers was held at 10 o'clock at the PEO headquarters in South Cyprus on 30 April. The second was held on the same day at the building of the Cyprus Turkish Public Sector Workers' Union at 12:30. Here a joint poster prepared by Dev-İş and PEO in memory of the great mining strike of 1948 was presented to the public.

Each trade union sent representatives to the Labour Day celebrations on both sides of the divide where they all delivered rousing speeches, in which they rallied all



PEO Secretary General Andreas Bimbişis and Dev-İş General Secretary Mehmet Seyis made calls for peace and friendship during their joint press conference.

workers to unite and increase their solidarity.

### MAIN GOAL IS THE REUNIFICATION OF THE ISLAND

The meetings on both sides of the island highlighted the same primary goal of reunification in Cyprus and issued the following message:

"We state our commitment to create a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation that will ensure the reunification of the two communities and the country, under conditions of peace and security. We praise the decision by Christofias and Talat for implementing the 8 July agreement and creating a positive

environment on the island. We also praise the opening of Lidasra (Lokmaci) Street which we believe is a step which has contributed to this positive environment."

The following messages delivered by PEO to both Turkish and Greek Cypriots also attracted attention: "We are today celebrating the 60th anniversary of the heroic strike of 1948. We commemorate the pioneering Turkish and Greek Cypriots, who regardless of the threats and investigations against them, struggled for the introduction of the fundamental right to organize and influence working conditions. During the heroic struggle of 1948, through combined efforts to create a common vision and common goals, relations between Turkish Cypriots and PEO strengthened and deepened. We want the principles of international law and human rights to be dominant so that we might take our rightful place alongside the other progressive forces of the world."

PEO, which praised the election of Demetris Christofias to the Presidency, said the following in its statement: "The election of Demetris Christofias has renewed and rekindled hopes for a just solution to the Cyprus problem and has created an optimistic horizon for a better life for workers. However, the good will of Mr. Christofias and the Greek Cypriot side is not sufficient to solve the Cyprus problem."

