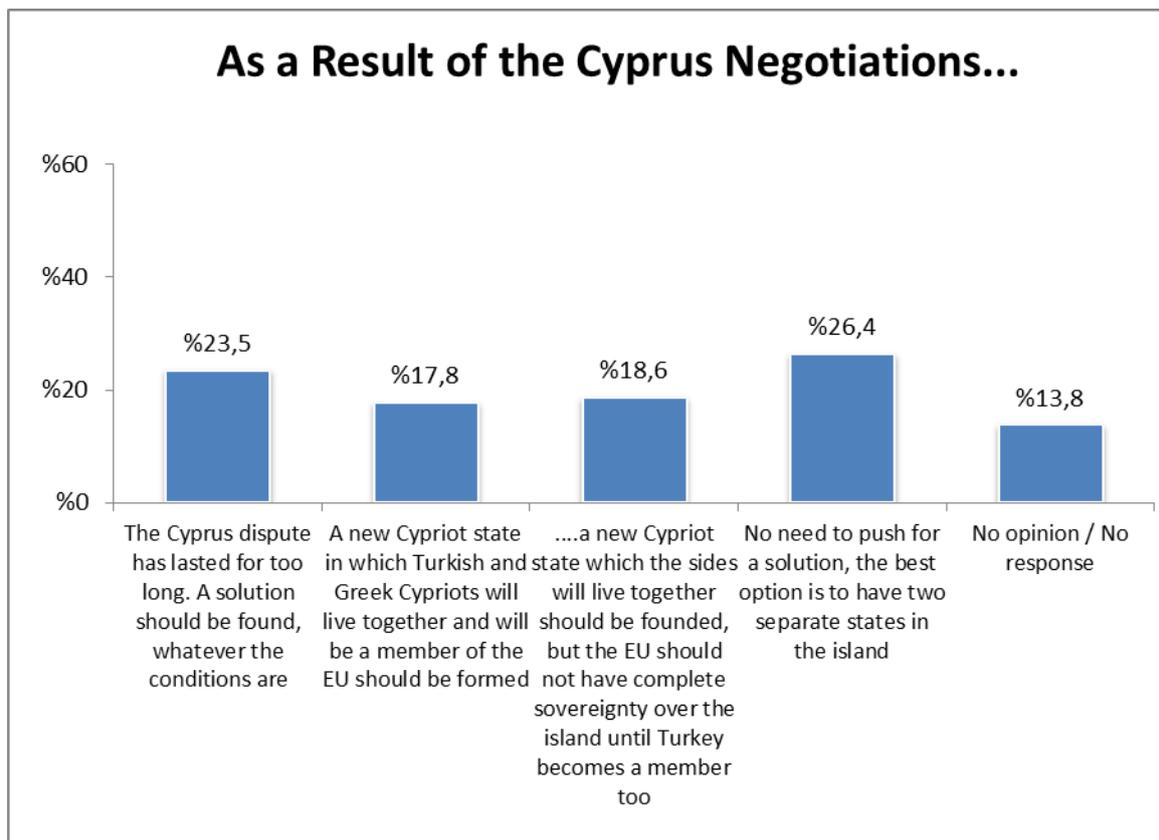


## 40 Years after the Intervention: Turkish Public Opinion on the Cyprus Dispute



EDAM's public opinion poll shows that the Turkish public opinion remains divided concerning the approach to the Cyprus dispute. 24 percent of the participants to the survey said that a solution should be reached "no matter that the conditions are", whereas another 26 percent has argued that "there is no need to insist for a solution".

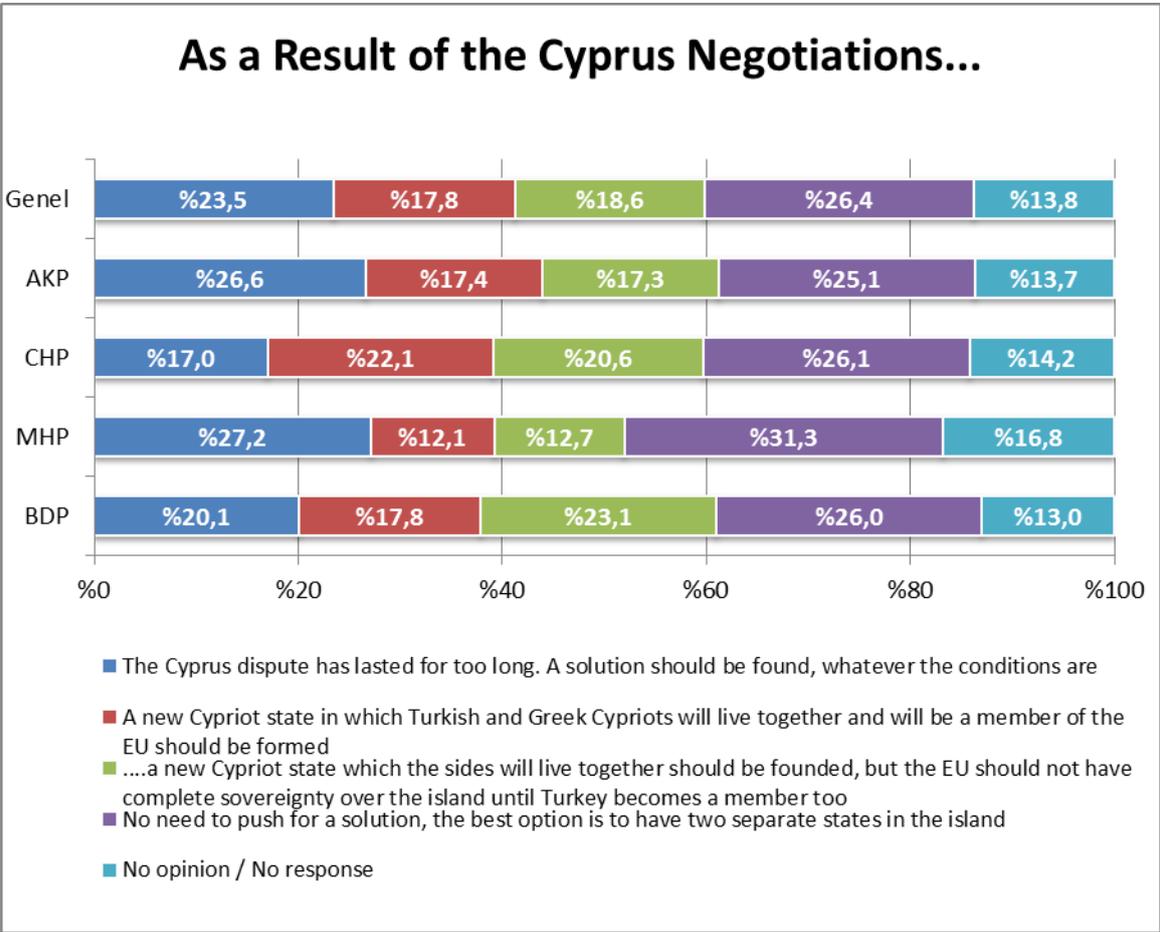
According to the public opinion survey conducted for the Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies – EDAM by TNS throughout Turkey, the share of the Turkish public favoring any solution regardless of the conditions, and the share of the public supporting a two state solution are almost the same. While 18 percent support a united and EU member Cyprus, those that link EU's sovereignty to Turkey's full membership rate at 19 percent. When the two options are aggregated, it can be stated that a EU linked solution remains the favored outcome for 36 % of the Turkish public opinion.

In the public opinion survey that was conducted between the dates of May 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, a sample of 1502 people representing the voters that live in Turkey were inquired

about which of the potential outcomes of the ongoing negotiations in Cyprus they preferred the most<sup>1</sup>.

24 percent of the participants agreed that the Cyprus issue has lasted for too long and that any solution is acceptable at this point; whereas the opposite view – the two-state solution – attracted a similar percentage.

The view that Turkish and Greek Cypriots should live under the same roof in a united Cyprus that is a member of the EU was chosen by 18 percent of the surveyed people. On the other hand, 19 percent of the participants agreed to the formation of a common state but tied EU’s sovereignty over the island to Turkey’s full membership to the Union. When taken together, a EU linked solution has garnered the support of 36 % of the Turkish electorate. This result should therefore give some encouragement to the negotiators that are currently engaged in UN sponsored negotiations to elaborate a solution to the Cyprus problem at a time with the internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus a EU Member State since the botched Annan plan referendum in 2004.

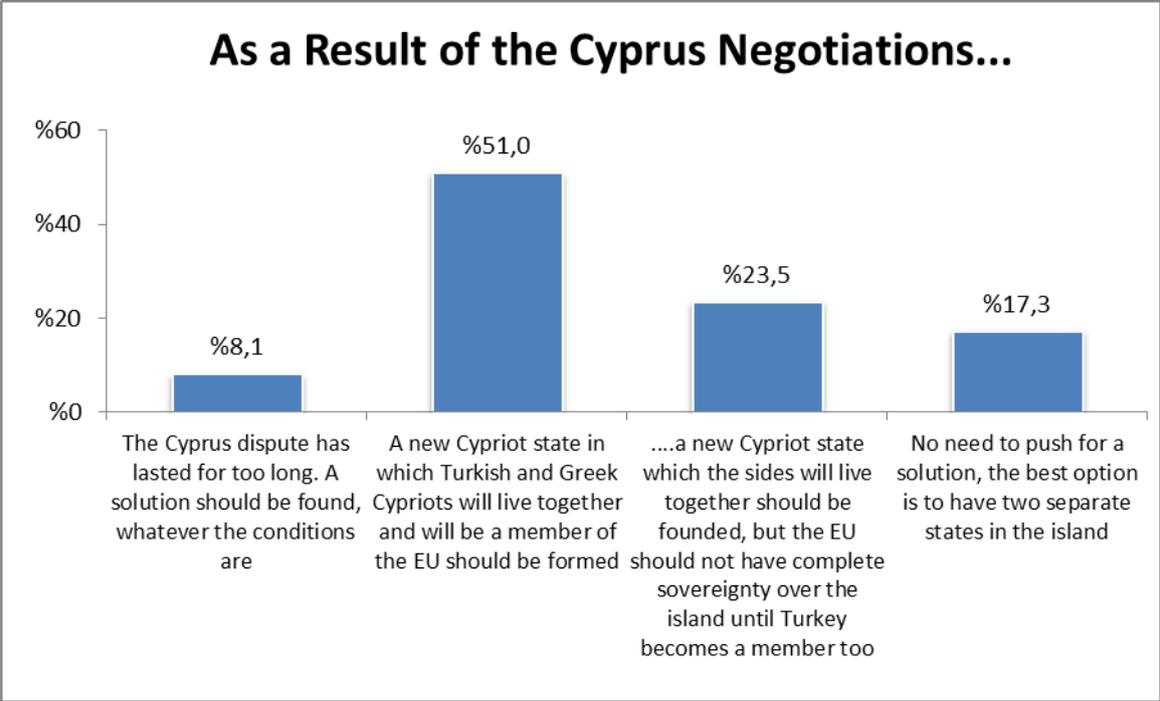


<sup>1</sup> The question was asked in the following manner: “After a long while, the Turkish and Greek sides have restarted negotiations to resolve the Cyprus issue. Which among the following outcomes that I will read out would you like to see reached at the negotiations?”

The results of the survey have shown that there are meaningful differences of opinion both within and among different constituencies. The “two-state solution” is the clearly favored outcome for the more nationalist MHP electorate with a support of 31 percent.

Meanwhile, the fact that 27 percent of the MHP voters that participated in the survey agree to “any solution regardless of the conditions”, suggests that MHP voters are also divided on the Cyprus issue. 27 percent of AKP voters also favor this approach, suggesting that the two constituent groups are congruent in this respect.

The top choice for CHP voters is the “two-state solution” with 26 percent. Meanwhile, participants among the CHP electorate that have favored the common state solution are considerably higher compared to other constituents. Those that prefer this choice unconditionally weigh at 22 percent. Another 21 percent presented Turkey’s full membership to the EU as a precondition.



The same question was posed to a panel of foreign policy experts, more than half of the 92<sup>2</sup> experts chose a Cypriot state in which Turks and Greeks would live together and be a part of the EU. When we add the 24 percent which tied EU’s sovereignty over the island to Turkey’s full membership to the EU, we can see that the foremost choice of the EDAM Foreign Policy Experts Panel is a common state. While only 17 percent chose the “two-state solution”; only 8 percent preferred any solution irrespective of the conditions.

<sup>2</sup> 92 experts participated in the study which was conducted by Infakto RW.