

CYPRUS FRIENDSHIP PROGRAMME

Teens in the European Parliament – Strasbourg



Student representatives from 23 other EU-member states came to the European Parliament under the umbrella of Euroscola to represent their schools and countries.

What Lara and Marinos did, on the other hand, was to go up to that stage to represent our Cyprus Friendship Programme and the hope for peace we share on our island. Our 24 teens, 12 Greek Cypriot and 12 Turkish Cypriot, then worked with peers from all over Europe to have discussions about some very important yet controversial topics related to the EU.

Andrew was chosen to present his group's vision of the role EU should play in the context of migration and integration, which he did better than many adults could ever have.

Anna was appointed chairperson for her group and did an excellent job on the subject of what the European Union's policy should be on development.

It was a proud day for the CFP family, at the end of which our motto, "In a Country Divided, People United", echoed inside the parliament. Congratulations CFP!

The Cyprus Friendship Programme, an all-volunteer bicomunal programme in its ninth year of operation, brings together teens and their families from both sides of the divide and builds trust and understanding between them.

Each teen from one community is 'paired' with another of the same gender from the other community. Each pair is then hosted in July for four weeks by a family in the US.

Our CFP camp in Ayios Nicolaos in the Paphos district is in its fifth year and has successfully hosted hundreds of our youth.

An important aim of the residential and camp is to further advance leadership and peace building skills which had been promoted following the teens' selection and before their US residential or camp.



This is done through formal programme activities such as team building, conflict resolution training, community service and civic engagement.

The Cypriot coordinators and alumni, parents' and friends' associations and NGO's of the programme organise activities and projects for the members all year round. Our aim is to spread the message that reconciliation is possible and that these young people are living examples of this truth.

Presentations for the summer of 2017 will begin in November 2016 and applications can be submitted electronically not later than 26 February 2017. For more information you can visit www.cyprusfriendship.org or call 0035799327178 or 0096428564828.

