

September xx, 2012

The Honorable Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis  
Foreign Minister  
Republic of Cyprus

We are writing to urge you to revisit the disappointing European Union Council decision not to designate Hizbollah as a terrorist entity despite increasing reports indicating Hizbollah is operating in Europe to finance, plan, recruit, and execute terrorist plots.

Hizbollah has a long and deadly history of carrying out terrorist attacks against European citizens, soldiers and diplomats and targeting Americans and Israelis living, working and travelling in Europe. In the last year alone, Hizbollah and its partners in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) Quds Force, have been implicated or are suspected to be behind attempted and successful terror plots in the United States, Turkey, Pakistan, Thailand, Azerbaijan, India, Georgia, Kenya, Cyprus and Bulgaria.

While you have stated that the Council would revisit the issue with "tangible evidence" of Hizbollah's involvement in terrorist activities, we would submit there is a deep body of evidence and intelligence underlying decisions by the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands to classify in its entirety Hizbollah as a terrorist organization and action by the United Kingdom and Australia to place the "Hizbollah External Security Organization" on their terrorist lists.

Moreover, there is precedent in the European Union for action to isolate Hizbollah over its support for terror and incitement. In May 2002, the European Union froze the assets of seven Hizbollah leaders in its financial sanctions list for terrorism. In March 2005, the European Parliament adopted a resolution recognizing that "clear evidence exists of terrorist activities on the part of Hezbollah," and called on the European Union Council to take "all necessary steps to curtail them." And, France, Spain and Germany have taken measures to restrict Hizbollah's al-Manar media station. The recent Hizbollah plots on EU soil must be met with a response.

Indeed, Cypriot authorities are currently prosecuting an identified Hizbollah operative arrested for an attempted terror attack against Israeli tourists to the island that had strong similarities to the deadly attack executed against Israelis in Bulgaria just two weeks later. Cyprus has long shown leadership in standing up to terrorism, and it would be particularly meaningful for Cyprus - itself a target of Hizbollah's plotting - to take the initiative on this issue in its term as President of the Council of the European Union.

We hope you will act to build the consensus within the European Union Council that is urgently needed to weaken Hizbollah's terrorist infrastructure - an issue that directly affects us all. We look forward to working with you and your counterparts to increase engagement between the United States and the European Union to prevent and deter future Hizbollah-sponsored terrorist operations.

Sincerely,