**CYPRUS**

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*In conclusion, it is obvious that my vision includes liberal citizens in constant alertness, being involved in political affairs, citizens characterized by altruism and open mindset who work together towards common problems solution. Modern Europe needs citizens who are not prisoners of material possession, intolerance, fanaticism but possess courage, tolerance in diversity and critical thinking. I hope for Europe of the future to lead towards the emergence of conscientious citizens, brilliant personalities and intelligent people. Let us all help each other for a future that heralds auspicious.*

Although we live in the 21st century, far away from the Second World War, the problems plaguing Europe are numerous indeed. More specifically speaking, my beloved Homeland is the only country in Europe that is illegally under foreign occupation. I therefore envisage a Europe united and active, able to eliminate the phenomena of prejudice and corruption. I envisage a Europe capable and worthy of the expectations of its people. After all, Europe is the citizens, the people. Europe is all of us.

Unleashing my vision for the European citizen of the future, I firstly outline the characteristics of the future European citizen. First and foremost, I imagine the citizen of the future living in a society dominated by quality democracy. In particular, there will be respect for the majority, participation of the working class in decision-making, and free expression of each person's beliefs beyond social class and nationality. In this kind of society, those nostalgic for the old civilizations will be absent. Citizens of the future will be actively involved in politics and will contribute to European policy-making by voting for representatives of the European Parliament in order to make their demands known in Europe. They will also express their opinion without hesitation and will be characterized by self-criticism and self-control. Inner knowledge gives self-awareness, while knowledge itself helps people to perceive the things around them.

The European citizen of the future must make urgent changes, in order to reach my expectations. In my view, and in my capacity as a student, I understand that school has a great responsibility in forging active citizens. On this occasion, I propose to establish humanitarian education by enhancing the teaching hours of Modern and Ancient Greek as well as History. Within these lessons, students have the opportunity to sharpen their critical thinking and broaden their spiritual horizons. The modern technocratic perception that prevails in our educational system, even if it helps the professional training of students, does not promote the articulate speech and sharp thinking and expression which are necessary in a person's life.

Reinforcing my view, I dream of European citizens integrating intercultural dialogue into various aspects of their lives. This means communication of people in the context of a modern globalized society in order to form a pluralistic society without, of course, altering the special characteristics of people and individuals. Future citizens will therefore be able to better understand various cultures, religions and traditions from different countries of the world. In addition to the abovementioned, intercultural dialogue promotes peace and peaceful coexistence of citizens being familiar with people of different cultural origins. An immediate consequence would be the minimization of racism, of xenophobia and the development of modern receptive thinking.

This can be achieved through the family - the primary source of children's education. Parents can promote intercultural dialogue, by teaching their children about the value of cooperation between individuals and other people. Parents should underline the need for elimination of racist phenomena and intolerance. They have a duty to nurture their children with the necessary values and virtues in order to enable them to survive unhindered in society in an environment of peace and progress.

As a citizen of the Cyprus and Europe society, I regret to notice that volunteering has been crowded out. Being aware of the importance of this institution, I wish the citizen of the future to participate in non-profit actions. I hope Volunteering gains the value it deserves in the future, spurred by a mental necessity and unadulterated belief in what each person offers. It is a fact that in this impersonal society dominated by individualism there is no evidence of progress. Volunteering must become an integral part of life that will bring about the creation and advancement of the country by erasing the bureaucratic state and transferring those life-giving powers so that society reaches the height of its edge.

In addition, I would like to stress that I dream the future conscious citizen being actively involved in supporting various Voluntary Organizations that aim at raising money, clothing and necessities to support our fellow citizens who need it. The European citizen of the future, being aware of his rights and as a responsible citizen, will support the activities of non-profit organizations, providing financial support and take part in actions (such as tree planting, environment cleaning, assistance to refugees, animal protection strengthening) or demonstrations.

In conclusion, it is obvious that my vision includes liberal citizens in constant alertness, being involved in political affairs, citizens characterized by altruism and open mindset who work together towards common problems solution. Modern Europe needs citizens who are not prisoners of material possession, intolerance, fanaticism but possess courage, tolerance in diversity and critical thinking. I hope for Europe of the future to lead towards the emergence of conscientious citizens, brilliant personalities and intelligent people. Let us all help each other for a future that heralds auspicious.