**Joint Statement by the Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Mustafa Akıncı and the Greek Cypriot leader Mr. Nicos Anastasiades**

NICOSIA, 20 December 2015 - Today, the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Mustafa Akıncı, and the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, held the last leaders’ meeting of 2015.

They evaluated negotiations since talks began on 15th May 2015 and expressed their satisfaction with the progress that has been achieved to date. While acknowledging that the tasks ahead remain difficult, the leaders are determined to maintain the positive momentum of the talks, with their next meetings planned for 7th, 14th and 29th January 2016.

The leaders held constructive deliberations on all of the outstanding issues and provided further guidance to the negotiators.

Keeping in mind that a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus will be an example for the broader region, the leaders express their sincere hope that 2016 will bring peace, security and prosperity in Cyprus and beyond.

They thank all members of the working groups, technical committees and other parties who are working towards their shared goal of reaching a comprehensive settlement as soon as possible. Lastly, the leaders would like to take this opportunity to wish a happy and prosperous new year to all.