
TURKISH, GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERS OPEN TO NEW CHECKPOINTS ON TRUCE LINE

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Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaders said on Monday that they supported opening more crossing points on the 1974 cease-fire line as an essential step to foster greater confidence-building between their communities on the ethnically divided island.

Nikos Christodoulides, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar discussed the modalities of new checkpoints at a rare meeting hosted by the United Nations in the divided capital Lefkoşa (Nicosia). But they stopped short of announcing additional easings in movement over the truce line, which runs along a roughly east-west trajectory on the eastern Mediterranean island.

"The leaders both believe that the opening of new crossing points is critical to promote people-to-people contacts, strengthen economic ties and build trust," a statement released by the U.N. on behalf of both leaders said.

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