

## PRESS RELEASE

### The Internet, a catalyst for the reunification of Ledra Street



More than 70 shopkeepers, members of POVEK (Cyprus Federation of Professional Craftsmen and Shopkeepers) and KTEZO (POVEK's Turkish Cypriot equivalent) attended an Internet Education Seminar organised under the project e-Ledra.

Other than discussing interesting and useful facts about the Internet covered successfully by Mr Dinos Konis of Ithaki Consulting, member of the e-Ledra project team, the shopkeepers, Greek and Turkish Cypriots, expressed the hope and their determination that the project would act as a catalyst to the physical re-opening of Ledra Street.

In particular, Mr Osman Çakkol, President of KTEZO, stated that the Turkish Cypriot shopkeepers have already taken several steps towards the reunification of Ledra Street, which remains divided for more than 30 years. The fact that so many Turkish Cypriots are attending the seminar demonstrates the determination of the Turkish Cypriot shopkeepers and they call upon their Greek Cypriot counterparts in a common struggle to ensure the reunification of Ledra Street. The opening of Ledra Street will help in the commercial growth and revitalisation of Nicosia within-the-walls. Mr George Ellinides, the Vice President of POVEK, welcomed their Turkish Cypriot counterparts and stated that "POVEK and the Greek Cypriot shopkeepers of the area are positively responding to their call for common efforts towards the reunification of Ledra Street". "It is time", Mr Ellinides said, "that we fight for the physical reunification of the commercial centre of our town and not just its reunification on the Internet."

The two federations affirmed their decisiveness for common efforts and actions towards all directions including the United Nations, for the opening of Ledra Street and the reunification of the commercial centre of Nicosia. The Woolworth Stores, which are co-sponsors of the e-Ledra project, share the same aim.

E-Ledra is an innovative project that aims at the cooperation of the two communities and revitalizing the Greater Ledra Street, divided since 1963, through its presence on the Internet. E-Ledra is supported and funded by the EU through the UNDP/UNOPS programme 'Partnership for the Future' and the Woolworth Stores.

---

For more information please contact Mr Melios Georgiou, Secretary General of POVEK, Tel: 22 753862.