Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a House Concurrent Resolution in support of Cypriot accession to the EU. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of that bill.

The people of Cyprus, with their long and rich cultural and political history, deserve to take its rightful place in the community of nations as a strong, unified country with the opportunity to grow and prosper economically, to be afforded the same legal, political and social rights as other nations. Cypriot accession to the EU will provide a much-needed impetus to a political solution. But, what Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash must understand is that it is the EU, not the Turkish Cypriots, that is the key to a political settlement.

The people of Cyprus, with their long and rich cultural and political history, deserve to take its rightful place in the community of nations as a strong, unified country with the opportunity to grow and prosper economically, to be afforded the same legal, political and social rights as other nations. Cypriot accession to the EU will provide a much-needed impetus to a political solution. But, what Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash must understand is that it is the EU, not the Turkish Cypriots, that is the key to a political settlement.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak in strong support of the Cypriot accession to the EU and the on-going division of Cyprus.