



8<sup>th</sup> of February 2017

### Press Release

## **Sir Stelios Haji-loannou announces the launch of the 9<sup>th</sup> Stelios Bi-communal Awards in Cyprus Cash prizes of €750,000 to be won for lasting peace on the island!**

Sir Stelios Haji-loannou, founder of Stelios Philanthropic Foundation, **easyJet** and **easyGroup**, announces the launch of the Stelios Bi-Communal Awards 2017, to be held for the ninth consecutive year in Cyprus. The launch of the awards follows the historic talks that have taken place in Switzerland last month between the two communities and the foreign ministers of the UK, Greece and Turkey in order to find a solution to the 43 year old problem that divides the island.

The objective of Sir Stelios' philanthropy is to strengthen the socio-economic ties between the two communities on the island and to encourage cooperation between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots. This year, Sir Stelios will be offering €750,000 (the highest ever annual sum and a 50% increase on the sum offered last year), rewarding 75 bi-communal teams with €10,000 each. Since 2009 a grand total of €2.75 million has now been awarded with the aim of promoting a lasting peace on the island.

In 2016 the Awards attracted the highest number of applications yet, with more than 200 teams applying for one of 50 prizes.

In line with past practice introduced last year, applications are only accepted on [Stelios Philanthropic Foundation](#)'s Facebook page. '[Stelios Cyprus Bi-Communal Awards 2017](#)' Facebook Group counts nearly 2000 members providing direct and easy communication between the two communities.

All forms of cooperation between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots are eligible, including business, arts, sport, NGO work and "partners in life".

The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony in October 2017 in Nicosia.