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## EU and Cyprus at odds

THE European Union and government of Cyprus appeared to be on a collision course last night after EU foreign ministers sent a clear signal that progress on Nicosia's request for EU membership may depend on it agreeing to some involvement of the Turkish Cypriot community in the North.

Cyprus had been promised that negotiations on its application to join the EU could begin six months after the signing of a treaty on closer European union in Amsterdam later this year.

EU governments have not disguised their hope that a political settlement uniting the divided island would precede any agreement to admit Cyprus into the EU. — *John Palmer, Brussels.*

