



The Republic of Cyprus

# AN OVERVIEW





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**Editor:** Miltos Miltiadou

**Research/Editorial Assistance:** Maria Georgiou, Chloe Philippou

**Design:** Telemachos Aloneftis

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# Preface

This annual publication offers, as the title suggests, only an overview of the Republic of Cyprus. More extensive information can be found on the internet (useful websites are provided in the text) and in other, issue specific publications produced by the Press and Information Office (PIO) and other government agencies.

The PIO website at **[www.moi.gov.cy/pio](http://www.moi.gov.cy/pio)** is a convenient, comprehensive guide to current developments, updates and background information. It also provides links to other government agencies as well as to other institutions and organisations.

The reader is urged to explore this valuable resource.





# Republic of Cyprus





# Republic of Cyprus

Cyprus became an independent country in 1960 and joined the European Union in 2004. On 20 July 1974 Turkey invaded the Republic of Cyprus with massive military force in violation of the UN Charter and fundamental principles of international law. The pretext was a coup against the elected President of Cyprus, which was instigated by the military junta ruling Greece at the time.

In a two-phase invasion and despite calls by the UN Security Council, Turkey occupied nearly forty percent of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Cyprus and forcibly divided the country along ethnic lines.

## Government

Cyprus is an independent sovereign Republic with a presidential system of government. Under the 1960 Constitution, executive power is exercised jointly by the President (Head of State and Government) and the Vice-President, elected by direct universal suffrage (by the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities respectively) for a five-year term of office, through a Council of Ministers appointed by them (seven and three ministers respectively). The office of the Vice-President, to be held by a Turkish Cypriot as provided by the Constitution, remains vacant because of the refusal of the Turkish Cypriot leadership to participate in the government of the Republic of Cyprus since 1964. For the same reason, the ministries and public service positions allocated to Turkish Cypriots are, out of necessity, held now by Greek Cypriots. More information on the presidency and the government ministries is provided on the websites below:

Presidency:

**[www.presidentcy.gov.cy](http://www.presidentcy.gov.cy)**

Ministry of Defence:

**[www.mod.gov.cy](http://www.mod.gov.cy)**

Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment: **[www.moa.gov.cy](http://www.moa.gov.cy)**

Ministry of Justice and Public Order: **[www.mjpo.gov.cy](http://www.mjpo.gov.cy)**

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism: **[www.mcit.gov.cy](http://www.mcit.gov.cy)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: **[www.mfa.gov.cy](http://www.mfa.gov.cy)**

Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance: **[www.mlsi.gov.cy](http://www.mlsi.gov.cy)**

Ministry of Interior: **[www.moi.gov.cy](http://www.moi.gov.cy)**

Ministry of Finance: **[www.mof.gov.cy](http://www.mof.gov.cy)**

Ministry of Education and Culture: **[www.moec.gov.cy](http://www.moec.gov.cy)**

Ministry of Communications and Works: **[www.mcw.gov.cy](http://www.mcw.gov.cy)**

Ministry of Health: **[www.moh.gov.cy](http://www.moh.gov.cy)**

## Legislature

Legislative authority is exercised by the House of Representatives. Its members are elected for a five-year term. At the time of its establishment the House consisted of 50 members, 35 of whom were to be Greek Cypriots and 15 Turkish Cypriots. Through a constitutional amendment in 1985, the number of seats was increased to 80, 56 allocated to Greek Cypriot members and 24 reserved for Turkish Cypriot deputies.

Following the parliamentary elections of 22 May 2011, the seats in the House were allocated as follows: Democratic Rally 20; AKEL 19; Democratic Party 8; Social Democrats Movement 5; European Party 2; the Ecological Environmental Movement 1; Independent 1 (expelled from DIKO after the elections). Mr Yiannakis Omirou, President of the Movement of Social Democrats EDEK, was elected new President of the House. Given the vacancy in the Vice-President's office, the House President serves as Acting President of the Republic in the case of temporary absence or temporary incapacity of the President of the Republic.

Following the withdrawal of the Turkish Cypriot members in 1964 the House has been functioning only with the Greek Cypriot members. According to the 1960 Constitution the Maronite, Armenian and Latin religious groups, who opted to belong to the Greek Cypriot community, also elect representatives who attend House meetings without a right of participation in the deliberations. These non-voting Representatives are consulted in matters concerning particular affairs of their respective religious groups.

## Judiciary

The administration of justice is exercised by the Republic's separate and independent judiciary. Under the 1960 Constitution and other legislation in force, the following judicial institutions have been established:

The Supreme Court, The Assize Courts and District Courts.

## Independent Officers and Bodies

There are also independent officers and bodies which do not come under any ministry: the Attorney-General and the Auditor-General who head the Law Office and Audit Office respectively; the Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus; the Ombudsman (Commissioner

for Administration); the Public Service Commission; the Education Service Commission; the Planning Bureau; the Treasury; the Commission for the Protection of Competition; the Office of the Commissioner of Electronic Communications and Postal Regulation; the Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority; the Cyprus Agricultural Payments Organisation; the Office of the Commissioner for Personal Data Protection; the Cooperative Societies Supervision and Development Authority; the Internal Audit Service; the Office of the Commissioner for State Aid Control; the Tenders Review Authority; the Law Commissioner; the Tax Tribunal; the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission; the Cyprus Radiotelevision Authority; the Reviewing Authority of Refugees and the Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights.

## International Relations

On foreign policy issues the Cyprus government aligns itself with the European Union position in the context of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. Since 1974 the government's efforts have naturally focused primarily on ending Turkey's military occupation and forcible division of the country. Cyprus has long identified itself with the West, but has also developed close relations with the rest of the world, including with Russia and other eastern European countries; India, China, Japan and other countries in Asia; Latin America; the Arab world and Israel. Cyprus is a member of many international organisations including:

**World Trade Organisation (WTO) (1995)**

**Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (1975)**

**The Commonwealth (1961)**

**The Council of Europe (CoE) (1961)**

**The United Nations (UN) (1960) and its specialised agencies**

**The World Bank**

**The International Monetary Fund**

*For further information and updates please refer to:*

*Press and Information Office: [www.moi.gov.cy/pio](http://www.moi.gov.cy/pio)*

*House of Representatives: [www.parliament.cy](http://www.parliament.cy)*

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [www.mfa.gov.cy](http://www.mfa.gov.cy)*

# Geography

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, after Sicily and Sardinia, with an area of 9.251 sq km (3.572 sq miles).

It is situated at the north-eastern corner of the Mediterranean, at a distance of 300 km north of Egypt, 90 km west of Syria, and 60 km south of Turkey. Greece lies 360 km to the north-west (Rhodes-Karpathos).

Cyprus lies at a latitude of 34°33'-35°34' North and longitude 32°16'-34°37' East.

The country has two mountain ranges: the Pentadaktylos range which runs along almost the entire northern coast, and the Troodos massif in the central and south-western parts of the island which culminates in the peak of Mount Olympus, 1.953 m. above sea level. Cyprus' coastal line is indented and rocky in the north with long sandy beaches in the south. Between the two ranges lies the fertile plain of Messaoria.

## Climate

Cyprus has a Mediterranean climate: hot, dry summers from June to September and mild, wet winters from November to March, which are separated by short Autumn and Spring seasons of rapid change in weather patterns in October, April and May.

Sunshine is abundant during the whole year, particularly from April to September when the daily average exceeds eleven hours. Winds are on the whole light to moderate. Gales are very infrequent and heavy storms rare.

Snow hardly falls in the lowlands and on the northern range, but is a frequent feature every winter on ground above 1.000 metres in the Troodos range. From December till April snow is usually in evidence there, but hardly continuous. Yet during the coldest months it lies in considerable depth for several weeks, attracting skiers.

## Flora and Fauna

With its approximately 1.800 species, subspecies and varieties of flowering plants, Cyprus is an extremely interesting place for nature lovers and has all the attributes which make it a botanist's paradise. Being an island, it is sufficiently isolated to allow the evolution of a strong endemic flowering element. At the same time, being surrounded by big continents, it incorporates botanical elements of the neighbouring land masses. About 7% of the indigenous plants of the island - 140 different species and subspecies - are endemic to Cyprus.

The fauna of Cyprus includes some seven species of land mammals, 26 species of amphibians and reptiles, 365 species of birds, and a great variety of insects, while the coastal waters of the island give shelter to 197 fish species and various species of crabs, sponges and echinodermata.

The largest wild animal that still lives on the island is the Cyprus moufflon (*Ovis orientalis ophion*), a rare type of wild sheep that can only be found in Cyprus. Cyprus is used by millions of birds as a stopover during their migration from Europe to Africa and back. The main reason for that is the existence on the island of two wetlands, with unique and international importance, namely the Larnaka and Akrotiri salt lakes. From the numerous wild birds of Cyprus, birds of prey are the most fascinating and among them the Eleonora's falcon (*Falco eleonora*) and the imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) are the jewels in the crown. The island's sea creatures include seals and turtles. Two marine turtles, the Green turtle (*Chelona mydas*) and the Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) breed regularly on the island's sandy beaches and are strictly protected. The main forest plant species are the Brutia pine (*Pinus brutia*) and the Black pine (*Pinus nigra*) found in the Troodos mountain area. The Cyclamen (*Cyclamen cyprium*) has been declared Cyprus' national plant while the Golden oak (*Quercus alnifolia*) has become the island's national tree.

## Historical Sketch

The history of Cyprus is among the oldest in the world. The first signs of civilisation traced in archaeological excavations and research date back 11.000 years to the 9<sup>th</sup> millennium BC.

The discovery of copper in Cyprus in the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC brought wealth to the island and attracted commerce from its trading neighbours. Yet, although geographically placed at the crossroads of three continents - Europe, Asia and Africa - and a meeting point of great world civilisations, Cyprus has developed and for centuries maintained its own civilisation.

The Mycenaean-Achaean Greeks settled in the island between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century BC. They introduced the Greek language and culture, both of which are preserved by Greek Cypriots to this day.

At the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC Cyprus became part of the kingdom of Alexander the Great. The Hellenistic period ended in 30 BC when the Romans came and stayed until the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, making Cyprus part of the Roman Empire.

In 330 AD Cyprus formed part of the Eastern Section of the Roman Empire and later of the Byzantine Empire, and remained so until the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD. Then came Richard the Lionheart, followed by Guy de Lusignan who established a French dynasty lasting until the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1489 Cyprus was passed on to the Republic of Venice and in 1571 it was conquered by the Ottomans.

After 307 years of Ottoman rule, Cyprus was ceded to Britain by the Turks in 1878, in return for a British promise to protect Turkey against any move by Tsarist Russia involving the borders of the Ottoman Empire. An annual "Tribute" to the Ottomans was also agreed. But the money actually went to Britain to service an old Ottoman debt!

In 1914 Britain annexed the island and in 1923, under the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey relinquished all claims on the island.

In 1925 Britain declared Cyprus a crown colony.

In 1955 the Greek Cypriots launched a liberation struggle against British colonial rule and the island won its independence in 1960.

In 2004 the Republic of Cyprus joined the European Union.



# Demography

## Current Population

The population of Cyprus is estimated at 952.100 of whom 681.000 belong to the Greek Cypriot community (71,5 percent), 90.100 (9,5 percent) to the Turkish Cypriot community and 181.000 (19,0 percent) are foreign citizens residing in Cyprus.

The capital of the island is Lefkosia (Nicosia) with a population of 245.900 in the sector controlled by the Cyprus government. It is situated roughly in the centre of the island and is the seat of government as well as the main business centre. It is the only divided capital in the world due to Turkey's military occupation of part of Cyprus, including part of Nicosia.

The second largest town is Lemesos (Limassol), on the south coast, with a population of around 184.600 inhabitants. Since 1974 it has become the island's chief port, an industrial centre and an important tourist resort.

Larnaka, also on the south coast of the island, has a population of 86.400 and is the country's second commercial port and an important tourist resort. The Larnaka International Airport (the main airport of Cyprus since 1974) is located to the south of the city.

Finally, Pafos, on the south-west coast, with a population of 63.900, is a fast-developing tourist resort, home to the island's second international airport and an attractive fishing harbour.

The towns of Ammochostos (Famagusta), Keryneia (Kyrenia) and Morfou as well as a part of Lefkosia (Nicosia), have been under military occupation since the Turkish invasion of 1974. The Greek Cypriot inhabitants of these towns were forced to flee to the government-controlled area. In their place the Turkish authorities installed settlers, mostly from Anatolia, Turkey.

The language of the Greek Cypriot community is Greek and the community adheres predominantly to the Autocephalous Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus. Under the Constitution of 1960, the Armenian, Maronite and Latin religious groups had to choose to belong either to the Greek Cypriot or Turkish Cypriot community. These groups, which belong to other Christian denominations and constitute one percent of the population, opted to be part of the Greek Cypriot community.

The language of the Turkish Cypriot community is Turkish and the community adheres predominantly to Islam.

## 1. Population

The table below provides the breakdown of the Cyprus population for the years 1960 (the year of the independence of Cyprus), 1973 (the last year before the military invasion of Cyprus by Turkey), and 2011 (the most recent census year). Because of Turkey's military occupation of 37 percent of the northern part of Cyprus (where the vast majority of Turkish Cypriots have been residing since 1974) the population figures for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2011 are only best estimates. They are not based on the official census taken for that year for the rest of the population, since the Cyprus government authorities could not carry out a census in the areas under military occupation by Turkey. It should be noted that the population figures of the Greek Cypriot community include the Armenian, Latin and Maronite "religious groups" (designated as such by the 1960 Constitution), which opted to belong to the Greek Cypriot community through a referendum in 1960.

In 1960, when Cyprus became an independent country, its estimated population was around 573.000, with the ratio of Greek Cypriots to Turkish Cypriots being at about 82:18. When the 1963 intercommunal crisis broke out, the Turkish Cypriots were living interspersed throughout the island, as before, with no majority or particular concentration in any administrative district. There were Turkish Cypriot quarters in all the main cities. Of the villages, 392 were exclusively Greek Cypriot, 123 Turkish Cypriot, and 114 of mixed population, all three types of villages being situated throughout the island.

	1960		1973		2011	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Greek Cypriot Community	447.901	78,20	498.511	78,9	681.000	71,5
Turkish Cypriot Community	103.822	18,13	116.000	18,4	90.100	9,5
Others	20.984	3,66	17.267	2,7	181.000	19,0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>572.707</b>	<b>99,9</b>	<b>631.778</b>	<b>100,00</b>	<b>952.100</b>	<b>100,00</b>

*Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus*

The Census of 1973 showed the population of Cyprus to be 631.778, giving an average rate of growth of 0,8 percent between 1960 and 1973. The ethnic distribution of the population did not change over this period and the proportion of each community remained stable while birth rates declined and Cyprus lost a part of the natural increase of its population through emigration.

The impact of Turkey's 1974 military invasion on the population was devastating. The Greek Cypriots living in what is now the occupied area, about one third of the total Greek Cypriot community, were forced by the Turkish troops to flee to the southern, government-

controlled area, while the Turkish Cypriots, who were scattered throughout the island, were compelled by Turkey to move to the Turkish occupied area in the north. This was part of Turkey's policy to cleanse the area under its military control of the presence of ethnic Greeks, and to impose a total segregation of the two communities. After the invasion, the total population also declined and for a number of years remained below the figure of 1974. Gradually, with birth, death and emigration rates of Greek Cypriots becoming more normal, the population picked up and started growing again. Even so, it was only by the end of 1984 that finally the total population of Cyprus exceeded the highest figure reached in mid-1974. However, while the population of Greek Cypriots increased gradually since 1976 and at a faster rate since 1990 due to the repatriation of Greek Cypriots, the population of the Turkish Cypriot community has been decreasing since 1985. This difference in the population growth of the two communities is exclusively due to differing migration movements, as both fertility and mortality are about the same for the two communities.

### *Population of Cyprus between 1974-2011 (in thousands)*

YEAR	TOTAL	Greek Cypriot Community	Turkish Cypriot Community	Others
1974	622	501	116	5
1976	598	494	101	3
1982	628	516	104	8
1990	687	574	100	13
1995	747	615	91	41
1999	779	633	88	58
2000	785	636	88	61
2001	793	639	88	66
2002	803	643	87	73
2003	818	647	88	83
2004	837	651	88	98
2005	854	656	88	110
2006	868	660	89	118
2008	885	669	89	128
2009	892	673	89	130
2011	952	681	90	181

**Source:** Statistical Service of Cyprus

## 2. Population of Turkish Cypriots, Illegal Settlers from Turkey, and Foreign Citizens in the Occupied Areas

The population estimates for the occupied areas in Cyprus are shown in the table below. The first figures given for March 1975 are clearly the true figures which agree with those available to the government of Cyprus at the time. From then on they diverge considerably as the table clearly shows.

### Total Population in the Occupied Areas (000s)

1975 (March)	115	2000	210
1975 (October)	127	2001	212
1980	150	2002	215
1985	160	2003	218
1990	171	2004	256
1998	205	2005	257
1999	208		

**Source:** Statistical Service of Cyprus

The higher figures given by the Turkish occupation authorities as compared to those given by the Cyprus government indicate the introduction of illegal settlers or colonists from Turkey to the occupied area of Cyprus with the aim of altering the demographic structure of the country.

Demographic analysis and examination of the statistical data on arrivals and departures of Turkish Cypriots as well as Turks from Turkey clearly show a fall in the number of indigenous Turkish Cypriots due to their emigration abroad and their replacement by an even greater number of illegal settlers from Turkey.

According to statistical evidence, press reports and comments by Turkish Cypriot politicians, Turkish Cypriots, faced with the problems of unemployment, economic uncertainty and pressure from Turkish settlers who are given many special privileges, continue to emigrate. It is estimated that about 58.000 Turkish Cypriots emigrated in the period 1974-2005.

Given the continuing reports of emigration of Turkish Cypriots and the fact that the population increase in the occupied areas every year is greater than the birth and death rates would justify, it is obvious that the number of illegal settlers from Turkey is much higher.

According to estimates of the Statistical Service, which are also supported by statements by Turkish Cypriot politicians, the number of settlers from Turkey is estimated at around 160.000 while the Turkish Cypriot population is estimated at about 88.700. During 2004-2005 alone, it is estimated that about 43.000 settlers were transferred to the occupied areas. The crucial issue, however, is not just the number but the illegality of the presence of these settlers from Turkey in the occupied areas and the extremely negative impact this development has on the search for a solution to the Cyprus problem.

### **3. Displaced Population**

When in 1974 Turkish troops occupied the northern part of Cyprus, they evicted all but about 20.000 of more than 200.000 Greek Cypriots\* living in that area. Since then, most of the Greek Cypriots remaining in the occupied areas have also been forced to leave their homes and move to the government-controlled area.

The latest count reveals that less than 450 Greek Cypriots, mainly elderly persons, now remain in the occupied area.

*\* References to the Greek Cypriot population include the Maronites, Latins and Armenians.*

**For further information and updates please refer to:  
Statistical Service of Cyprus: [www.mof.gov.cy/cystat](http://www.mof.gov.cy/cystat)**



# The Cyprus Problem



## Excerpts from the Statement by the President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr Demetris Christofias, at the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York, on 25 September 2012

...

Cyprus still faces the consequences of foreign intervention and of the Turkish invasion and occupation. More than one third of the territory of my country is still under military occupation by Turkey, a fellow member state of this revered organisation. Our participation in the UN requires engagement in the struggle for the protection of human rights. We share a "commitment to the rule of law" and we are proponents of peace and security in the world.

...

Yet Turkey, after invading Cyprus in 1974, continues to occupy, for 38 years, the northern part of the island, maintaining a strong military force and continuing the mass transfer of settlers from Turkey, pursuant to its policy for demographic alteration of the population of my country. Turkey continues to violate human rights and fundamental freedoms of tens of thousands of displaced persons, including the usurpation of their property, the rights of the enclaved and the people who lost their loved ones and continue to search for them.

Since the assumption of my duties as President of the Republic of Cyprus in 2008, I took the initiative, in collaboration with the UN Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, to end the stalemate and start a new process of direct negotiations with the then leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mr Mehmet Ali Talat, on the basis of a bicomunal, bizonal federation with a single sovereignty, single citizenship and single international personality. These we had agreed with Mr Talat. This process commenced under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations and is being facilitated by his Good Offices Mission on the island.

I believe that the Turkish Cypriot side, under Mr Talat, shared the vision for a solution for the benefit of all Cypriots, for the termination of the occupation and the creation of conditions of lasting peace and security on the island. We had then, despite the difficulties posed by the occupation, achieved a number of important convergences.

Since 2010, the current Turkish Cypriot leadership under Mr Dervish Eroglu, despite committing itself before the Secretary General to continue the talks from where they were left off, it has broken this joint commitment and retracted from all the convergences achieved with the previous Turkish Cypriot leader. In addition, since last March, the Turkish Cypriot leadership with the support of Turkey, in response to the assumption of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union by the Republic of Cyprus, has abandoned the negotiations.



On our part, we remain committed to Resolution 2026 of 2011 which provides that an accord on the internal aspects of the Cyprus problem must be achieved before convening an international conference with the consent of the two communities for the international aspects of the problem. Our commitment remains unchanged: Return to the negotiating table, continue the negotiations in good faith and respect in practice and not just words the agreed basis for a solution of a bicomunal, bizonal federation with a single sovereignty, single citizenship and single international personality, with political equality as defined in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

We are grateful to the Secretary General who, despite the many challenges this international organization faces, willingly devoted time and effort having invested in this process. I call on the Turkish Cypriot leadership to return to the table and to share our vision for a united and peaceful Cyprus.

For a solution to the Cyprus problem to be achieved the support of all concerned parties is vital. Turkey's positive contribution and practical support for the two communities to take the process forward, is sine qua non. Instead, Turkey has been pursuing "gunboat diplomacy" with oft-repeated display of its military strength around Cyprus.

Turkey's alarming behaviour has been escalating since last September when Cyprus proceeded with exploration activities in its Exclusive Economic Zone, within the rights accorded to it by international law and particularly the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982.

Turkey has not signed the aforementioned Convention and does not abide by the relevant customary international law. To the contrary, Turkey engages in unilateral actions in respect of sea areas that are patently beyond any reasonable geographical or legal limits of its own continental shelf and potential Exclusive Economic Zone and clearly falling within the Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus.

Turkey behaves as if the Republic of Cyprus does not exist on the map of the region. This behaviour, by a country seeking to become a Member State of the EU and a country who is supposedly seeking to have "zero problems with its neighbours", cannot and should not be tolerated by the international community. I call on Turkey, before this esteemed body, to cease its provocative behaviour. I repeat at the same time that in a reunified Cyprus the natural resources, including hydrocarbons, will be common wealth for all Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots alike.



# The Cyprus Problem\*

Cyprus became an independent sovereign state in 1960 following an anti-colonial liberation struggle against British rule from 1955-1959. The 1959 Zurich and London Agreements that formed the basis for the independence of Cyprus were negotiated by Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom. Although they eventually signed these Agreements, the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities had no serious role in their drafting or in the drafting of the Constitution for the new state. In fact, the very people who would be affected most by these documents were never given the opportunity to vote on them. In effect, both the Agreements and the Constitution of the nascent Republic were imposed on the people of Cyprus.

As a result, the fate of the new Republic was jeopardised in vitro. The Agreements were to establish and guarantee the independence and sovereignty of the island, and the Constitution was to provide for the smooth democratic governance of the state and the welfare of the people of Cyprus.

However, certain provisions of the Agreements and the Constitution, rather than promoting peace and respect for the sovereignty of the new Republic, proved conducive to domestic conflict and foreign interference. The Constitution itself emphasised differences between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, thereby thwarting integrative and encouraging divisive tendencies between the two communities.

Relations between the two communities had for centuries been peaceful and amicable. Following independence Greek Cypriots were determined to strengthen the unity of the state but the Turkish Cypriot leadership, at the strong urging of Turkey, sought ethnic segregation and geographic separation. This led to brief intercommunal clashes during 1963-1964 and 1967, air attacks and threats to invade by Turkey. Turkish Cypriots ceased to participate in the government, the legislature and civil service. UN sponsored intercommunal talks to reach a settlement were held during 1968-1974.

\* For more background information see **"The Cyprus Question: A Brief Introduction"**, Fifth Edition, Press and Information Office, Nicosia, 2011. To follow new developments visit [www.moi.gov.cy/pio](http://www.moi.gov.cy/pio)

## Military Invasion and Occupation by Turkey

On 15 July 1974, the military junta then ruling Greece, with the collusion of Greek Cypriot collaborators on the island, carried out a coup to overthrow the democratically elected government of Cyprus. On 20 July, Turkey, using the coup as a pretext, and in violation of international law, invaded Cyprus purportedly to restore constitutional order. Instead, it seized 36,2 percent of the sovereign territory of the Republic in violation of the UN Charter and fundamental principles of international law. Turkey's military aggression against Cyprus continues unabated for nearly four decades in spite of UN resolutions calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Cyprus.

## Consequences of Turkey's Aggression

Turkey's invasion and occupation are in violation of the UN Charter, fundamental principles of international and European Union law, and many UN resolutions. The dire consequences of Turkey's aggression are still felt today by the people of Cyprus:

- Over one third (36,2 percent) of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Cyprus remains occupied by Turkey.
- About 180.000 Greek Cypriots, a third of the total population at the time, were forcibly expelled from the occupied northern part of the island where they constituted around 70 percent of the population; they are still deprived of the right to return to their homes and properties. The Turkish Cypriots living in the free areas were forced by Turkey and their leadership to move to the occupied areas.
- Approximately 1.400 persons (among them several hundred civilians) are still missing, but the Turkish side refuses to fully co-operate in ascertaining their fate.
- About 450 Greek Cypriots, including Maronites, enclaved in their villages in the occupied areas are still living under oppression, deprivation and intimidation. (At the end of 1974, there were 20.000 enclaved people in Turkish occupied Cyprus. Most of these enclaved Cypriots were subsequently forced to move to the government-controlled areas).
- A force of more than 43.000 Turkish troops, supported by Turkey's air force and navy, are still in the occupied areas of Cyprus.
- More than 160.000 settlers from Turkey have illegally colonised the occupied areas, as part of Turkey's policy to alter the demographic structure of the island.
- More than 57.000 out of 116.000 Turkish Cypriots have emigrated from the occupied areas since the invasion, according to Turkish Cypriot sources, because of the economic, social and moral situation prevailing in the occupied areas.

- There has been systematic usurpation, misappropriation and exploitation of properties belonging to Greek Cypriots who were forcibly displaced by the Turkish invasion in 1974.
- Turkey and the illegal occupation regime have systematically eradicated the cultural and historical heritage of 11.000 years in the occupied areas.

Indicative of its policy towards Cyprus, Turkey, in 1983, instigated an attempted secession of the occupied areas through a “Declaration of Unilateral Independence” by the Turkish Cypriot leadership. This secessionist act was immediately and categorically denounced by the international community, which still refuses to recognise the illegal regime established in occupied Cyprus.

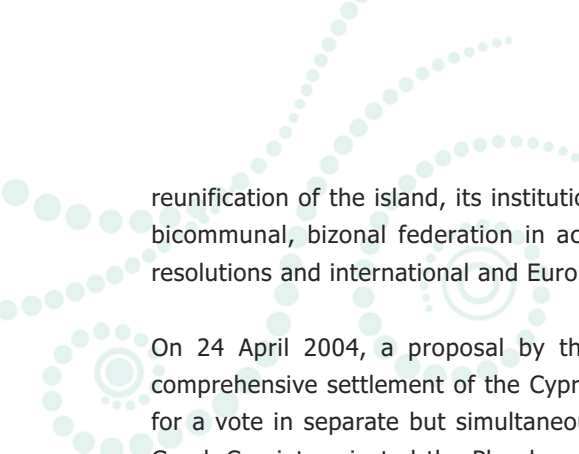
## International Reaction

A series of UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions as well as resolutions adopted by numerous other international organisations, reflect the universal condemnation of Turkey’s invasion and all subsequent acts of aggression against Cyprus; demand the return of the refugees to their homes in safety and the tracing of the missing persons; demand the withdrawal of foreign forces and settlers from Cyprus; and call for respect for the human rights of all Cypriots as well as for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus. Notably, the Security Council in its Resolution 541 (1983) states that the Council “deplores the declaration of the Turkish Cypriot authorities of the purported secession of part of the Republic of Cyprus” and “considers the declaration as legally invalid and calls for its withdrawal.” In addition, in Resolution 550 (1984) the Security Council expresses its grave concern about the “secessionist acts in the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus” and calls upon “all states not to recognise the purported state of the ‘Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus’ and calls upon them not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity.”

Moreover, the European Court of Human Rights has found the government of Turkey responsible for gross and systematic violations of human rights in Cyprus.

Regrettably, most of the resolutions and court decisions remain unimplemented as Turkey continues to defy the will of the world community and the rule of law.

Successive rounds of UN-sponsored talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities to resolve the Cyprus problem have been unsuccessful. The government of Cyprus and the Greek Cypriots, however, have remained committed to the goal of the



reunification of the island, its institutions and its people, under a viable and functional, bicomunal, bizonal federation in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and international and European law.

On 24 April 2004, a proposal by the UN Secretary-General (Annan Plan V), for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, was put before the two communities for a vote in separate but simultaneous referenda. A clear majority of 75,8 percent of Greek Cypriots rejected the Plan because they considered it was not balanced and did not meet their main concerns regarding security, functionality and viability of the solution. By their vote, Greek Cypriots did not reject the reunification of Cyprus, which remains their top priority. They could not accept the particular and seriously flawed Plan that was put before them because it did not lead to the genuine reunification of the island and the reintegration of its territory, people, institutions and economy.

## New Initiatives Yield Results

The overwhelming rejection rendered the Annan Plan null and void, in accordance with the plan's own provisions. Nevertheless, the government of Cyprus has remained committed to the Secretary-General's mission of good offices and to a sustained process that will facilitate a comprehensive settlement. It has therefore tried to revive the peace process to find a solution that addresses the concerns of all the people of Cyprus and to find a framework that is acceptable to and agreed upon by the two communities on Cyprus themselves because, as President Demetris Christofias said in 2008, any attempt to impose or import a non-Cypriot inspired model for a settlement, will be rejected by the people of Cyprus. The President emphasised that:

*The problem has not been solved due to Turkey's refusal to accept a solution that would be to the benefit of the people of Cyprus, [...] the time has come for a just, viable, and functional solution to the problem and for the restoration of the principles of international law, principles that Turkey has been violating through the invasion it carried out in 1974 and through the occupation of a large part of our homeland.*

For the solution to be viable and to withstand the test of time, it must be perceived as fair by the people who will have to live with it. The solution, therefore, must be democratic, just, workable, financially viable and compatible with European Union principles, laws and democratic norms, as well as with the Convention on Human Rights

and key UN resolutions. Under the terms of such a settlement, Cyprus must remain a unified state and enjoy full sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence, and there should be no foreign intervention or interference in the internal affairs of Cyprus.

Consistent with this outlook, the Cyprus government has worked hard to create the necessary conditions for substantial and constructive negotiations between the two communities, under UN auspices, which will in turn lead to an agreed, functional and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem within the new context created by the accession of Cyprus to the European Union.

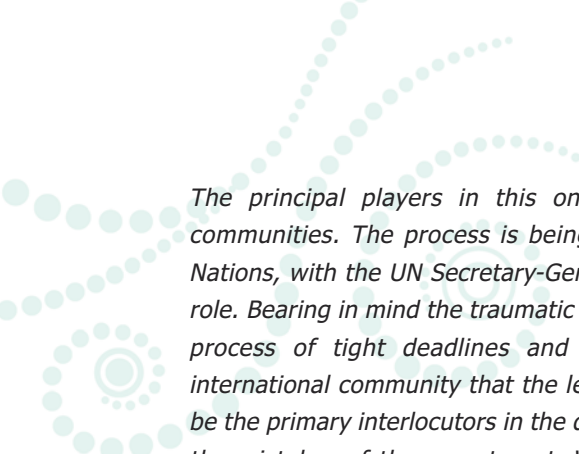
On 8 July 2006, President Tassos Papadopoulos and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community Mehmet Ali Talat agreed on a "Set of Principles". They reaffirmed the commitment of the two communities that had been agreed to since the late 1970s, to reunify Cyprus on the basis of a bizonal, bicomunal federation. This agreement was reiterated by President Christofias, who succeeded Mr Papadopoulos in 2008, and Mr Talat again in 2008, while Technical Committees and Working Groups started work to facilitate the commencement of formal full-fledged negotiations. As a result, full-fledged direct negotiations between the two leaders for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem have been going on since 3 September 2008.

In his remarks at the beginning of the direct talks on 3 September 2008, President Christofias called on the Turkish Cypriot leader "to take joint action and to respond to the call of history; to realise the vision of a reunified homeland, belonging to its people, the people of Cyprus, able and wanting to decide their own destiny, without third parties and so-called guardians of our communities." He also said that "the solution must respect and implement the principles on which the European Union is founded."

## Commitment to Solution Revives Peace Process

The agreement to launch direct talks was the result of major initiatives by President Christofias, who sought to re-engage both the Turkish Cypriot side and the international community in a well-prepared peace process, based on well-defined principles, and on the basis of the agreements that had been reached by the leaders of the two communities.

The President declared his determination to seek a settlement and articulated the parameters of the solution he envisions right from the outset. He stated that:



*The principal players in this ongoing process are the leaders of the two communities. The process is being carried out in the framework of the United Nations, with the UN Secretary-General and his collaborators playing an assisting role. Bearing in mind the traumatic experiences we went through in 2004—with the process of tight deadlines and arbitration—we have made it clear to the international community that the leaders of the two communities will continue to be the primary interlocutors in the dialogue. In this way, we will all avoid repeating the mistakes of the recent past. We are pursuing a settlement by Cypriots for Cypriots, and this is understood by the international community as well.*

He also clarified that the settlement sought would provide for the transformation of the unitary Republic of Cyprus into a federal republic, stating that:

*I categorically reject certain ideas promoted by Turkey and others for a so-called 'virgin birth' or of a 'new partnership state.' Cyprus' EU membership is an added reason, while there are many more, as to why it cannot be a virgin birth or a new partnership between two states. What is actually realistically feasible to expect is the continuation of the Republic of Cyprus, which will evolve into a federal state within the agreed framework of a bizonal, bicomunal federation.*

Meanwhile, in order to emphasise the significance attributed by the UN to the peace negotiations UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paid a visit to Cyprus from 31 January to 2 February 2010 to express his personal support for the talks and to encourage the two leaders to bring these talks to a successful conclusion. The Secretary-General pointed out that "this process belongs to Cyprus. The UN is here at the invitation of both sides to assist. Your destiny is in your hands. You have taken responsibility for finding a solution. You are the ones driving the process and the ones who will benefit from tremendous benefits and opportunities a settlement will bring to this island."

In April 2010, Dervish Eroglu succeeded Mehmet Ali Talat as leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. Due to the questioning of the agreed basis of the solution by Mr Eroglu and because of the proposals he submitted at the negotiating table, there was a marked slowdown of the negotiation process.

President Christofias, sensing the need to give a new boost to the process made a three pillar proposal in July 2010. It provided for the return of the fenced city of Varosha to its lawful inhabitants in conjunction with opening the port of Famagusta to international



traffic and the conduct of restoration study of the medieval city of Famagusta. This proposal aimed at restoring confidence between the two communities in order to facilitate the climate for reunification. Secondly, the proposal aimed at speeding up the talks by linking the negotiation on the interrelated Chapters of Property, Territorial Adjustment and Asylum and Citizenship (settlers). It also provided for an international conference to deal with the international aspects of the Cyprus problem to be convened once convergences were achieved on all internal aspects. Unfortunately, the Turkish side did not accept the proposal.

On 18 November 2010, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with President Christofias and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Dervish Eroglu, in New York. In a statement after the meeting, the UN Secretary-General said that there was a constructive exchange of views on the core issues, including governance and power-sharing, economy, EU matters, property, territory and security. He noted that he had invited the leaders to meet with him because the "peace talks on Cyprus were losing momentum and needed a boost if the two sides are to reach a settlement." He pointed out that only the leaders can give that boost and the United Nations can support them stressing that "the United Nations respects these talks as a Cypriot-led process." He further noted that "serious differences remain" but, he said, both leaders expressed their commitment to "move more quickly and decisively" toward a settlement. The Secretary-General added: "Specifically, the leaders agreed today to intensify their contacts in the coming weeks in order to establish a practical plan for overcoming the major remaining points of disagreement."

President Christofias expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting and stated: "We want a solution to the Cyprus problem; we do not want talks for the sake of talks... And we will do whatever is possible in order to break the deadlock."

On 24 November 2010, the UN Secretary-General submitted his report on his mission of good offices in Cyprus to the UN Security Council. Referring to the on-going talks the Secretary-General said that "the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a bizonal, bicommunal federation" adding that "the methodology adopted for the negotiations, as agreed by the leaders, was based on the principle that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed" and that "the agreed solution will be put to separate simultaneous referenda."

The Secretary-General also pointed out that "now is the moment to dedicate all efforts to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion" and reiterated: "The United Nations stands ready to maintain its enabling role of a Cypriot-led, Cypriot-owned process."

The Cyprus Government Spokesman commenting on the Report said:

*It is a positive fact that the basis for the solution of the Cyprus problem is outlined in the Report. A solution of a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality as described in the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, providing for a single state with one and single sovereignty, single citizenship and single international personality. Additionally, another positive element is the reference to the UN resolutions on Cyprus, including Resolution 186 (1964) and the two joint press releases of the leaders of the two communities, on 23 May and 1 July 2008.*

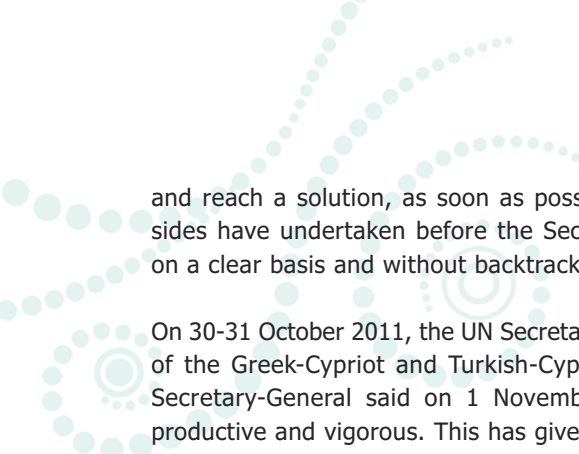
*The framework of the procedure being followed at the negotiations is reaffirmed in the Report. Namely, that the procedure is Cypriot owned and led and that the aim of the talks is the achievement of a mutually agreed solution, which will be submitted for approval by the two communities of Cyprus in simultaneous and separate referenda. This procedure excludes the existence of strict time frames and arbitration. The Report also asserts that the entire methodology of the negotiations is based on the principle that "nothing is considered agreed until everything is agreed.*

On 26 January 2011, the UN Secretary-General held a new meeting in Geneva with President Christofias and Mr Eroglu. In his remarks to the press after the meeting, the Secretary-General said: "Since the New York meeting the two leaders worked to move closer together through a range of bridging proposals, notably in the Chapters of Economy, EU Matters and Governance and Power Sharing." Nevertheless, he noted that "more work needs to be done to reach further convergences on outstanding issues." The Secretary-General announced that "the leaders have discussed the outstanding key issues in a more integrated fashion since a settlement proposal will need to consist of an integrated package across Chapters."

In his report of 4 March 2011 to the UN Security Council on the progress of the talks, the UN Secretary-General reaffirmed the basis of the talks. He stated that "Since the beginning of full-fledged negotiations in September 2008, the talks have proceeded on the basis of United Nations parameters, relevant Security Council resolutions and joint leaders' statements made on 23 May 2008 and 1 July 2008. I am satisfied that the two leaders are committed to the basis for the negotiations as they have confirmed that the talks will continue on the agreed-upon United Nations basis." He also reaffirmed that the UN "respects the talks as a Cypriot-led and Cypriot-owned process and that it is precisely for this reason that we expect the two sides to assume responsibility for driving the process forward."

The Secretary-General held a third meeting with President Christofias and Mr Eroglu in Geneva on 7 July 2011. He characterised the meeting, immediately afterwards, as “useful and productive”. He added that although “both sides have worked steadily to take the negotiations forward...progress has been far too slow,” and “some important areas have remained untouched.” He further noted that “some of the difficulties that stand in the way of a comprehensive agreement” have been identified and that the “leaders have agreed to enter into an intensive period of negotiations on the core issues” and “will focus on finding a way through the difficult core issues.” He also stated that the two leaders accepted his offer for “an enhanced United Nations involvement,” in the “Cypriot-led and Cypriot-owned” negotiations in a manner that does not prejudice “this central principle.” He added that he “took the opportunity to remind both leaders of the parameters of the agreement we are striving to reach as set out in relevant Security Council Resolutions.” He also expressed the expectation that by October 2011, the two leaders “will be able to report that they have reached convergence on all core issues, and we will meet that month in New York.” That, he added, will take the negotiations “close to their conclusion” and would pave the way for him to work “towards convening a final, international conference.” The Cyprus Government Spokesman on 10 July stated that: “We came out of the Geneva meeting with one objective: the discussion of all core issues of the Cyprus problem so as to achieve convergences. The discussion of all the core issues was something that we have been constantly raising. The Turkish Cypriot side must also give its views on these issues.” He added that President Christofias, “as the negotiator of the Greek Cypriot side, is always proceeding with very specific positions about the solution of the Cyprus problem, positions that are founded upon the agreed basis for a bizonal, bicomunal federation and are always in line with the UN resolutions on Cyprus. We expect the Turkish Cypriot side to act in the same way in order to pave the road towards the resolution of the Cyprus problem.”

In his address to the 66<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly on 22 September 2011, President Christofias reaffirmed the agreed basis of the talks that have been going on since 2008. However, he expressed regret that the Turkish Cypriot leader had “retracted from previous agreements of fundamental importance.” The President said that: “During these three years of direct negotiations between the leaders of the two communities convergences have been reached on various aspects of the Cyprus problem. We work hard, and lately intensively, in order to reach more convergences on the core issues. It is with regret that I note that – lately in particular – the Turkish Cypriot side is retracting at the negotiating table, including from previously found convergences. This change in the Turkish Cypriot leadership’s stance feeds on the recent negative and provocative policy of Turkey in the region.” He went on to underline that: “We believe that the only way to move forward



and reach a solution, as soon as possible, is by upholding the commitments that both sides have undertaken before the Secretary-General. Negotiations must be carried out on a clear basis and without backtracking.”

On 30-31 October 2011, the UN Secretary-General held a two-day meeting with the leaders of the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities in Long Island, New York. The Secretary-General said on 1 November 2011, that “discussions have been positive, productive and vigorous. This has given me confidence that a comprehensive settlement can be achieved.” In a statement regarding the talks, President Christofias said, on the same date, that “unfortunately, during the meeting it was not possible to make that great leap to allow for a turning point in the efforts to solve the Cyprus problem.” The President added that “it is for this reason that the Secretary General, evaluating the results of the meeting and the intensive phase of negotiations, suggested that we meet again around mid-January. The aim then is to bridge the gap that separates the two sides on the various fundamental aspects of the Cyprus problem, something which is difficult, bearing in mind the differences.” He also stated on 6 November that the meeting highlighted the difficulties encountered at the negotiating table, noting that the statement of the Secretary-General demonstrates that the progress achieved on the major issues discussed in New York, namely the issues of governance, property, territory and citizenship was very limited to nonexistent. He added: “Progress was achieved on the issues of the economy, internal security and the European Union, which were discussed here in Cyprus and not in New York.” While pointing out that “the course of the talks is full of obstacles and difficulties”, President Christofias reiterated that “we will exhaust all possibilities available within the existing agreed process to achieve freedom and the reunification of Cyprus.”

On 23-24 January 2012, the UN Secretary-General met again at Greentree, Long Island, New York with the leaders of the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities. The Secretary-General stated, on 25 January 2012, that “discussions were robust and intensive, although limited progress was achieved” and that he reminded the leaders that “this process is Cypriot-owned and Cypriot-led and that the UN is not here to impose solutions upon the sides.” In a statement regarding the talks, on 26 January 2012, President Christofias expressed disappointment that “in essence, no progress was achieved on the various issues,” adding that “significant progress, which would solve the internal aspects of the Cyprus problem was needed” before the issue of convening an international conference, as provided by Security Council Resolution 2026 (2011), could be discussed. He also underlined, on 12 February 2012, that despite the difficulties in the negotiations, “we continue to seek a settlement for the benefit of all Cypriots, which will put an end to Turkey’s occupation and safeguard the human rights and basic freedoms of the people of Cyprus, in a state with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship.” Two days later, President Christofias reiterated that on the basis of Security Council Resolution 2026 (2011), it is necessary to achieve convergences on the internal aspects of the negotiations and to secure the consent of both sides before the UN Secretary-General calls for the convening of an international conference that is to deal with the international aspects of the Cyprus problem.

In his March 2012 report to the Security Council on the status of the negotiations in Cyprus, the Secretary-General noted that "From the outset, the United Nations has safeguarded the principle that this process is, and has always been, Cypriot-owned and Cypriot-led. The role of the United Nations has been to facilitate the talks and provide assistance, at the specific request of the sides." Even though a number of convergences were reached between President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Talat in the early stages of the negotiations, points of agreement have subsequently come under question by the Turkish side through Mr Eroglu, the new leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. Moreover, as the Secretary-General pointed out, "the negotiations on the 'core' issues that remain to be agreed are close to deadlock." And even though he urged the two sides to "focus their efforts on resolving the outstanding challenges," and the Greek Cypriot side was always willing to continue the negotiations, the process of direct negotiations was interrupted in the spring of 2012 when the Turkish side refused to cooperate.

## Positive Engagement Necessary for Success

The international community has warmly welcomed the positive, constructive, cooperative, and conciliatory spirit brought to this new peace effort by the President of Cyprus and the Greek Cypriot side, directed towards the success of the negotiation process. It is hoped that as the peace process moves on, the Turkish side will reciprocate this forward looking approach, which can lead to a mutually agreed comprehensive framework for the reunification of Cyprus. It is also hoped that the international community will work constructively to help the people of Cyprus achieve such a settlement and bring reunification and permanent peace on the island.

The government of Cyprus remains firmly committed to a settlement of the Cyprus problem which will allow Greek and Turkish Cypriots alike, to fully enjoy the benefits and advantages of European Union membership. Such a settlement will allow Cyprus to function effectively within the EU, ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots, and provide for a peaceful, prosperous, and secure future for all its citizens. The political will of both communities is necessary for this to be achieved. Also needed, is the positive engagement of other important players who, for historical reasons, have been part of the problem and must now become part of the solution.

*For further information and updates on new developments please refer to:*

*Press and Information Office: [www.moi.gov.cy/pio](http://www.moi.gov.cy/pio)*

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [www.mfa.gov.cy](http://www.mfa.gov.cy)*



# Cyprus in the European Union







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On 1 May 2004 the Republic of Cyprus became a full member of the EU completing a long journey that lasted more than three decades. The President of the Republic of Cyprus signed the Accession Treaty on 16 April 2003 in Athens, Greece and on 14 July of the same year the House of Representatives unanimously ratified the Treaty of Accession. In his speech during the celebrations marking Cyprus' accession, President Papadopoulos stated:

*This moment signals a momentous milestone in Cyprus' history. It is the second most important historic landmark after the proclamation of the Republic of Cyprus 44 years ago. This moment marks the successful conclusion of a long effort and the hopeful beginning of a new course and a new era for Cyprus. As from this moment, the Republic of Cyprus formally becomes a member of the European Union. It becomes a full, integral and inseparable member of the great European family.*

*Our great joy for our accession to the European Union is overshadowed by our grief of not being able to celebrate this moment together with our Turkish Cypriot compatriots, as well as by our great disappointment for the lack of a solution to our national problem. We do not want to enjoy the benefits of accession on our own. We want to share them with the Turkish Cypriots. They are also entitled to these benefits and this joy as legitimate citizens of the Republic of Cyprus. We are expecting them. Their place is here with us, so that we can embark, hand in hand, on the new course commencing today in the interest of all of us, for the benefit of our common country. A reunited homeland.*

*Our accession to the European Union does not only create rights. It also entails obligations and responsibilities. We will claim and enjoy those rights. At the same time we will fulfil our obligations and undertake our responsibilities. Our aim and ambition is not to be a recalcitrant member of the Union, but a constructive and creative partner.*

One of the protocols on Cyprus annexed to the Treaty provides for the suspension of the application of the *acquis* in the northern Turkish-occupied part of the island to be lifted when a solution is found. It also states that the EU is ready "to accommodate the terms of a settlement in line with the principles on which the EU is founded" and expresses the desire that the accession of Cyprus should benefit all Cypriots.



The President, along with the other EU leaders, signed the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe in Rome, on 29 October 2004. The Treaty was ratified by the House of Representatives on 30 June 2005.

Two years later, on 13 December 2007 the President of the Republic of Cyprus, together with the EU leaders, signed the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community. The Treaty of Lisbon entered into force on 1 December 2009, following ratification by all 27 member states of the EU, in accordance with their national constitutions. Cyprus ratified the Treaty of Lisbon by parliamentary vote on 3 July 2008.

## Adoption of the Euro

On 1 January 2008, Cyprus and Malta became the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> member states of the EU to join the Eurozone after fulfilling all the necessary criteria, following the decision of the European Council in June 2007.

## Cyprus EU Presidency (July-December 2012)

Another important milestone for Cyprus was set on 1 July 2012. Cyprus took over the helm of the Council of the European Union for six months for the first time after its accession to the EU. Being a small state, one of the smallest in the Union, and a rather young member state, it is quite a formidable challenge to undertake. The Presidency entails an important role of coordination, promotion of the European policies in several important issues raised in the Union, especially in such a difficult time for Europe and the rest of the world.

During its Presidency, Cyprus worked towards a better Europe, more relevant to its citizens and to the world, meaning a more effective Europe, contributing to growth and job creation; a European Union working on the basis of the underlying principle of solidarity, committing itself to a better future, promoting social cohesion and providing hope to its citizens; a European Union, with an enhanced role on the international scene. All efforts would be directed to bequeath a better Europe to the younger generations.

Cyprus had set four main priorities for its six month presidency, which were presented on 4 July 2012 by the President of the Republic of Cyprus before the plenary session of the

European Parliament, in Strasbourg. He emphasised that “produced wealth should be distributed in a more fair way. More Social Europe that is what we need.”

The Priorities of the Cyprus Presidency pertained to the following four focal points:

- A Europe that is more efficient and viable
- A Europe with more efficient economy, based on growth
- A Europe that means more to its citizens, with Solidarity and Social Cohesion
- Europe in the world and closer to its neighbours


In a reference to Turkey's threats against the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU, President Christofias pledged that “we will not spare any effort and we will not allow the problems that the occupying power may try to create in order to disorient us from exercising a thoroughly European Presidency.”

*For a comprehensive coverage of the Cyprus EU Presidency please refer to:  
Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union: [www.cy2012.eu](http://www.cy2012.eu)*

## EU Measures for the Turkish Cypriot community

The “Green Line Regulation” [Council Regulation (EC) No 866/2004 on a regime under Article 2 of Protocol 10 to the Act of Accession] was adopted on 29 April 2004 and came into force along with the accession of Cyprus in the EU. It establishes specific rules concerning the crossing of goods, services and persons via the line between the areas under the effective control of the government of the Republic of Cyprus and those areas in which the government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control, while stipulating that the line does not constitute an external border of the EU. The Regulation is intended to further facilitate the movement of goods and persons across the line, thus contributing to the integration of the island.

On 27 February 2006 the Council adopted the “Financial Aid Regulation” (EC) No 389/2006, initiated by the European Commission on the basis of a proposal submitted originally by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. The Regulation provided a sum of 259 million euros as a financial aid to the Turkish Cypriot community, with the overall objective of providing assistance to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, on improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU.



The Regulation stipulates that the Commission will consult with the government of the Republic of Cyprus on the major aspects of the implementation of the Regulation. It further states that: "In the implementation of actions financed under the Regulation the rights of natural or legal persons including the rights to possessions and property shall be respected" and that "nothing in this Regulation is intended to imply recognition of any public authority in the areas other than the government of the Republic of Cyprus."

## Turkey's EU Accession Process and the Cyprus Problem

On 17 December 2004, the European Council invited the EU Commission to present a proposal for a framework for negotiations with Turkey with a view to opening negotiations on 3 October 2005. The European Council also welcomed Turkey's decision to sign the Protocol regarding the adaptation of the Ankara Agreement, taking account of the ten new member states, prior to the actual start of accession negotiations.

On 29 July 2005, Turkey signed the Additional Protocol for the extension of the EEC-Turkey Association Agreement to the ten new members of the European Union. At the same time, Turkey issued a declaration stating that signature of the Additional Protocol did not amount to recognition of the Republic of Cyprus.

As a response to the Turkish declaration, on 21 September 2005, the European Community and its member states, in a declaration adopted by the Council, recall that only the Republic of Cyprus is recognised as a subject of international law. The European Community and its member states also agreed "on the importance of supporting the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to bring about a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem in line with relevant UNSC resolutions and the principles on which the EU is founded, and that a just and lasting settlement will contribute to peace, stability and harmonious relations in the region." Furthermore, it is stressed that the European Community and its member states expect full, non-discriminatory implementation of the Additional Protocol. Lastly, it is underlined that the recognition of all member states is a necessary component to the accession process and it is important that the relations between Turkey and all EU member states are normalised as soon as possible.


The Negotiating Framework for Turkey, as presented on opening of Accession Negotiations on 3 October 2005, set among the requirements that Turkey should support efforts to achieve "a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem within the UN framework and in line with the principles on which the Union is founded, including steps to contribute

to a favourable climate for a comprehensive settlement and progress in the normalisation of bilateral relations between Turkey and all EU member states, including the Republic of Cyprus.” Furthermore, Turkey should fulfil its obligations under the Association Agreement and its Additional Protocol, extending the Association Agreement to all new EU member states.

In December 2005, the Council adopted the Accession Partnership for Turkey which was revised in February 2008. The requirement for Ankara to support efforts to find a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem within the UN framework and in line with the principles on which the EU is founded, is set out as a short term priority for Turkey. Turkey is also called to fully implement as soon as possible the protocol adapting the Ankara Agreement to the accession of the new EU member states, including removal of all existing restrictions on Cyprus-flagged vessels and vessels serving the Cyprus trade and to take concrete steps for the normalisation of bilateral relations between Turkey and all EU member states, including the Republic of Cyprus.

On 16 June 2006, the European Council stated that in line with previous conclusions, the current negotiations are based on each country’s own merits and that their pace will depend on each country’s progress in preparing for accession measured against the requirements set out in the Negotiating Framework. This includes the fulfillment of Turkey’s obligations under the Association Agreement and under its Additional Protocol, full implementation of which will be evaluated in 2006 as agreed in the Declaration of the European Community and its member states of 21 September 2005, as well as the implementation of the revised Accession Partnership. The European Council recalls that the Council will ensure, in the course of 2006, a follow-up on the progress made on all the relevant issues included in the above mentioned Declaration.”

On 8 November 2006, the European Commission submitted to the Council the 2006 Progress Report for Turkey as well as the Enlargement Strategy Paper. In the progress report, the Commission, in addition to noting the slowdown of the reform pace in Turkey, clearly states Turkey’s refusal to implement the Additional Protocol regarding all member states of the European Union. The report also refers to the lack of progress in normalising Turkey’s relations with the Republic of Cyprus and the continuation of Turkey’s policy to veto Cyprus’ membership of certain international and regional organisations. On 29 November 2006, the Commission submitted to the Council a set of recommendations for measures to be taken against Turkey because of its refusal to fulfill its obligation for full and non-discriminatory implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Ankara Agreement.



On the basis of the EU Declaration of 21 September 2005 and the Commission's recommendations of 29 November 2006, the General Affairs and External Relations Council of 11 December 2006 decided on a number of measures to be taken against Turkey for not fulfilling its commitments related to the Additional Protocol.

Specifically, the Council decided that eight negotiating chapters relevant to Turkey's restrictions regarding the Republic of Cyprus will not be opened until the full and non-discriminatory implementation of the Additional Protocol by Turkey and the rest of the negotiating chapters will not be provisionally closed until the fulfillment of the same precondition. The Council also decided to follow up and review progress made on the issues covered by the Council Declaration of 21 September 2005 and called upon the Commission to report on this in its annual reports, in particular in 2007, 2008 and 2009, as appropriate.

Additionally, the EU General Affairs Council in its conclusions on the enlargement strategy adopted during its 7-8 December 2009 meeting in Brussels, recalling its conclusions of 11 December 2006 and the declaration of 21 September 2005, "notes with deep regret that Turkey, despite repeated calls, continues refusing to fulfil its obligation of full non-discriminatory implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Association Agreement." It adds that in the absence of progress on this issue the Council will maintain its measures from 2006, which will have a continuous effect on the overall progress in the negotiations.

Moreover, the Council found that Turkey has not made progress towards normalisation of its relations with the Republic of Cyprus and "invites the Commission to monitor closely and specifically report on all issues covered by the declaration of the European Community and its member states of 21 September 2005 in its forthcoming annual report." The conclusions add that: "On this basis, the Council will continue to closely follow and review progress made, in accordance with its conclusions of 11 December 2006. Progress is now expected without further delay."

The General Affairs Council also noted that: "As emphasised by the Negotiating Framework, the Council also expects Turkey to actively support the ongoing negotiations aimed at a fair, comprehensive and viable settlement of the Cyprus problem within the UN framework, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in line with the principles on which the Union is founded. Turkey's commitment and contribution in concrete terms to such a comprehensive settlement is crucial," the Council concludes.

In addition to the above, the Republic of Cyprus announced during the December 2009 Council Meeting that six negotiating chapters on Turkey, whose contents relate with Turkey's obligation for normalisation of relations with Cyprus, recognition of the Republic of Cyprus and support to the efforts for a settlement of the Cyprus problem, cannot progress until Turkey fulfils these obligations.

Turkey's negative stance towards the Republic of Cyprus is also reflected in the European Commission's 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 Progress Reports on Turkey, which state that Turkey has made no progress towards fully implementing the Additional Protocol and that it is urgent that Turkey fulfils its obligation.

Moreover, the 2011 Report points out:

*As emphasised by the negotiating framework and Council declarations, Turkey is expected actively to support the negotiations aimed at finding a fair, comprehensive and viable settlement of the Cyprus problem within the UN framework, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in line with the principles on which the EU is founded. Turkey's commitment in concrete terms to a comprehensive settlement is crucial.*

*Despite repeated calls by the Council and the Commission, Turkey still has not complied with its obligations outlined in the declaration of the European Community and its member states of 21 September 2005 and in the Council conclusions, including the December 2006 and December 2010 conclusions.*

*It does not meet its obligation to ensure full, non-discriminatory implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Association Agreement and has not removed all obstacles to the free movement of goods, including restrictions on direct transport links with Cyprus.*

The 2011 Report also points out that:

*There was no progress on normalising bilateral relations with the Republic of Cyprus. Turkey has not lifted its veto of Cyprus' membership of several international organisations, including the OECD and the Wassenaar Arrangement on export controls for conventional arms and dual-use goods. The Republic of Cyprus reported violations of its territorial waters and airspace by Turkey. Senior representatives of the Turkish government have stated that relations with the EU*

*Presidency will be frozen for six months as of 1 July 2012 in the absence of a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue when Cyprus takes over the Council presidency.*

The Report's positions were reflected in the General Affairs Council meeting of the EU, on 5 December 2011. The Council noted "with deep regret that Turkey, despite repeated calls, continues refusing to fulfil its obligation of full, non-discriminatory implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Association Agreement towards all member states," which "could provide a significant boost to the negotiation process." The conclusions recalled also that:

*Turkey has still not made progress towards the necessary normalisation of its relations with the Republic of Cyprus." The Council also noted that "as emphasised by the Negotiating Framework," it expected "Turkey to actively support the ongoing negotiations aimed at a fair, comprehensive and viable settlement of the Cyprus problem within the UN framework, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in line with the principles on which the Union is founded," characterising Turkey's commitment and contribution in concrete terms to such a comprehensive settlement as "crucial". In addition, the Council expressed its regret over "Turkey's statements to freeze its relations with the EU Presidency during the second half of 2012," a position which was also echoed by the European Council of 9 December 2011. In its conclusions, the European Council "with regard to Turkish statements and threats," expressed "serious concern" and called for "full respect for the role of the Presidency of the Council, which is a fundamental institutional feature of the EU provided for in the Treaty.*

Similar positions are also reflected in the European Parliament resolution of 29 March 2012 on Turkey's 2011 Progress Report, which strongly supports the ongoing negotiations on the reunification of Cyprus under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations; stresses that a fair and viable settlement of the Cyprus issue must now be reached as a matter of urgency and calls on Turkey and all the parties concerned to work intensively and with good will for a comprehensive agreement; calls on the Government of Turkey to begin withdrawing its forces from Cyprus and to transfer Famagusta to the United Nations in accordance with Resolution 550 (1984) of the United Nations Security Council.

In addition, the resolution "encourages Turkey to intensify its support for the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, in particular by facilitating its access to military zones and archives, and to take all other appropriate action, in accordance with the findings of the European Court of Human Rights, on the humanitarian issue of missing persons."



The resolution also “calls on Turkey and the Turkish-Cypriot authorities to refrain from any new settlement of Turkish citizens on the island, as this would continue to change its demographic balance and reduce the allegiance of its citizens to a future common state based on its common past.”

Moreover, the resolution “emphasises that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has been signed by the EU, the 27 member states and all the other candidate countries and that it is part of the *acquis communautaire*; calls, therefore, on the Government of Turkey to sign and ratify it without further delay.” This is particularly important in view of Turkey’s provocations and threats of use of force against Cyprus since the latter started in 2011 exploratory offshore drilling for hydrocarbons in its Exclusive Economic Zone, in accordance with International Law and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The exclusive, non-negotiable sovereign right of Cyprus with regard to hydrocarbons exploration and exploitation in its Exclusive Economic Zone is universally recognised and has been publicly acknowledged and endorsed by the international community including the EU, the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the United States of America, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Greece and many others.

Similar positions are also reflected in the 2012 Progress Report on Turkey of 10 October, which emphasises that:

*Turkey decided to freeze its relations with the Presidency of the Council of the EU during the second half of 2012 and not to attend meetings chaired by the Cyprus EU Presidency. The European Council expressed serious concerns with regard to Turkish statements and threats and called for full respect for the role of the Presidency of the Council, which is a fundamental feature of the EU provided for in the Treaty. Moreover, Turkey announced its intention not to align with any declaration or statement of the EU in the framework of international organisations during the Cyprus Presidency.*

The 2012 Report also points out that:

*Turkey continued to issue statements objecting to drilling operations carried out by the Republic of Cyprus and threatening Turkey continued to issue statements objecting to drilling operations carried out by the Republic of Cyprus and threatening retaliation against oil companies that would participate in Cypriot*



*exploration, following Cyprus's announcement that it would launch a second round of off-shore exploratory licences. The EU stressed the sovereign rights of EU Member States which include, inter alia, entering into bilateral agreements, and to explore and exploit their natural resources in accordance with the EU acquis and international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Turkey and representatives of the Turkish Cypriot Community signed a 'Continental shelf delimitation agreement' and Turkish company TPAO supported on-shore exploratory drilling activities in an area near Famagusta.*

The EU has taken a firm position regarding the Cyprus problem that respects the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the country, and for a solution to the Cyprus problem in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the high-level agreements between the two communities and in line with the principles upon which the Union was founded. The support by the EU for the ongoing efforts for a settlement is highly significant since the Union is in the position to exert the necessary pressure on Turkey to contribute in concrete terms to a settlement and abandon its intransigent stance.

***For further information and updates on new developments please refer to:***

***Press and Information Office: [www.moi.gov.cy/pio](http://www.moi.gov.cy/pio)***

***Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [www.mfa.gov.cy](http://www.mfa.gov.cy)***

# The Economy





# The Economy

## Basic Economic Characteristics\*

The economy of Cyprus can generally be characterised as small, open and dynamic, with services constituting its engine power. Since the accession of the country to the European Union on 1 May 2004, its economy has undergone significant economic and structural reforms that have transformed the economic landscape. Interest rates have been liberalised, while price controls and investment restrictions have been lifted with a full liberalisation of the foreign direct investment regime in Cyprus. Moreover, other wide-ranging structural reforms have been promoted, covering the areas of competition, the financial sector and the enterprise sector.

The tertiary sector (services) is the fastest growing area and accounted for about 80,5% of GDP in 2011. This development reflects the gradual restructuring of the Cypriot economy from an exporter of minerals and agricultural products in the period 1961-73 and an exporter of manufactured goods in the latter part of the 1970s and the early part of the 80s, to an international tourist, business and services centre during the 1980s, 1990s and the 2000s. The secondary sector (manufacturing) accounted for around 17,1% of GDP in 2011. The primary sector (agriculture and fishing) is continuously shrinking and only reached 2,4% of GDP in 2011.

The economy of Cyprus is open, as shown by the share of total imports and exports to GDP being around 91% in 2010. The major trading partners of Cyprus are the EU member states, especially Greece and the United Kingdom.

The private sector, which is dominated by small and medium-sized enterprises, has a leading role in the production process. On the other hand, the government's role is mainly to support the private sector and regulate the markets in order to maintain conditions of macroeconomic stability and a favourable business climate, via the creation of the necessary legal and institutional framework and secure conditions of fair competition.

Cyprus has significant comparative advantages that have contributed towards Cyprus becoming an important international business and shipping centre, already showing a track record in FDI. As a member state of the EU, Cyprus has exhibited macroeconomic stability and a successful economic performance. Its geographical location makes it an

\* **Source:** Ministry of Finance



ideal place for expansion in new markets and it possesses a highly educated labour force, advanced infrastructure (airports, ports and transport and telecommunication networks) and a well developed banking sector along with a broad range of quality business services. It has the lowest corporate tax rate in the EU of 10% and a generally simple and favourable tax system. In addition, Cyprus possesses a stable and reputable political and legal system.

During the last years, Cyprus has exhibited rising living standards, as shown by the high level of real convergence with the EU. The per capita GDP stood at around 92% of the average for the EU27 in 2011. However, the international economic crisis, which has deepened intensely since September 2008, has had a major impact on the Cyprus economy, in accordance with world growth and the EU. Construction, Manufacturing, Real Estate and Tourism were the sectors hit the most. The global economic crisis has also affected the labour market in Cyprus. The unemployment rate reached around 7% in 2010. According to the Labour Force Survey, in 2011 unemployment increased further to 7,7%, and reached 11,3% in the second quarter of 2012.

The government adopted a number of fiscal measures to support the real economy in line with the wider European effort for economic recovery. The continued economic crisis, with the second wave of global recession, unavoidably, led to a deterioration of public finances, due to the significant deceleration of the economy, as well as the previous expansion. As a consequence, fiscal deficit came up to -6.3% of GDP and public debt increased to around 71,6% in 2011. At the same time, the structural fiscal problems that surfaced during the crisis, made it imperative to focus efforts in 2011 on fiscal consolidation. As a result, the budget of 2012 is one of the most tight in recent years and includes a range of spending restraining measures, of mostly permanent nature, as well as revenue boosting measures.

Fiscal consolidation and restoration of normal lending in the economy are key for ensuring sustainable long term growth. However, largely due to negative economic developments in Greece, Cypriot banks faced large re-capitalization needs, an issue that led the government to resort to the support mechanism and negotiations with the "Troika" (the EU Commission, the Central Bank and the IMF) in the second half of 2012.

The global economic crisis revealed additional structural problems, particularly with regard to the competitiveness of the economy, which must be addressed. However, it is widely accepted that structural changes are slow in having an impact on the real economy. The

Government, recognising the need for an immediate growth boost, has already started to implement a series of development measures. These measures focus on encouraging employment, attracting foreign investment, support tourism, encouraging land development and green growth, facilitating the financing of SME's and stimulating investment.

Furthermore, natural gas explorations that have recently taken place in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus have revealed significant reserves of natural gas which are estimated to have significant revenue implications. The Government is currently in the process of exploring options of best conduct regarding economic policy surrounding the exploration, discovery and exploitation of natural gas in Cyprus.

## Key Policy Objectives

The overriding objective of the economic policy of the government is to enhance long-term growth and the standard of living of all citizens, maintain macroeconomic stability, implement structural reforms which improve the functioning of the market mechanism and ensure that the government sector provides services to the public adequately and efficiently.

### *Monetary and Exchange Rate Policy*

Since the accession of Cyprus to the Eurozone in January 2008 the Central Bank of Cyprus has become part of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB). Together with the European Central Bank (ECB), it conducts monetary policy for the whole Euro-zone, based on conditions prevailing in this region.

### *Fiscal Policy*

Fiscal policy is geared towards consolidating public finances, with a view to reducing further public debt and thus addressing the long-term sustainability of public finances. Particular emphasis is placed on the need to curtail current expenditure and restructure public spending, in favour of capital expenditure, research and education, which can boost the economy's growth potential. Emphasis is also attached to targeted social spending.



## **The fiscal policy is based on four key pillars:**

- The implementation of a Medium-Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF), which will institutionalise expenditure rules, give more independence to spending ministries and, at the same time, increase their accountability for achieving important quantifiable targets.
- The reform of the social welfare system in favour of those who are in greater need.
- The modernisation of the public sector, which will result in leaner and more productive public services.
- The improvement of tax collection, within the present system, by focusing on tackling tax evasion and improving tax administration.

## ***Structural Reforms***

The promotion of further structural reforms will enable Cyprus to develop a robust and flexible economy, exhibiting the desired resilience to external shocks, while enhancing the efficiency of the market mechanism and raising the production potential of the economy. The programme of structural reforms aims at boosting productivity and competitiveness that will deliver high growth and living standards for the citizens of Cyprus.

## **Ongoing reforms include:**

- Reforms in the labour market, aiming at boosting the supply of labour among females and addressing the high gender pay gap, increasing employability and labour force adaptability particularly through lifelong learning and raising the employment level. The enhancement of physical and human capital is also a key factor in increasing productivity and boosting the economy's potential growth since the development of human capital is especially important in an economy, dominated by the services sector.
- Reforms aimed at strengthening competition, especially in the professional services sector, improving the overall business climate, streamlining the regulatory framework and cutting red tape.
- Reform of the social security and of the healthcare provision systems which are crucial for tackling the long-term sustainability of public finances.
- Implementation of policies aimed at upgrading the physical infrastructure and improving the functioning of network industries will be intensified, taking into account environmental concerns.



## Challenges

A number of challenges must be addressed in the coming years, such as the improvement of productivity. In addition, the heavy administrative burden of regulations must be reduced, the use of modern technology and equipment must be further encouraged and more resources must be devoted to research, development and innovation.

Cyprus also faces a major challenge of achieving short-term fiscal consolidation (given the deterioration of the public finances due to the global economic crisis) and long-term sustainability, in view of the budgetary impact of an ageing population. The projected demographic changes, with the old-age dependency ratio doubling over the coming decades in the EU and Cyprus, have led to growing concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of the public finances. Moreover, as a result of the global economic crisis, Cyprus faces a number of challenges in the tourism and construction sector, given that these areas depend to a large extent on foreign demand.

## Main Economic Indicators

	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>GDP (in € mln)</b>	17,157.1	16,853.5	17,333.6*	17,931
<b>Rate of growth of real GDP (%)</b>	3,6	-1,9	1,1*	0,5
<b>Per capita GDP in PPS, (EU-27=100)</b>	99	100	99	92
<b>Rate of Inflation HICP (%)</b>	4,7	0,3	2,4	3,3
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	3,7	5,3	6,2	7,7
<b>Employment Growth (%)</b>	1,3	-0,4	1,0	0,5
<b>Fiscal Position (% GDP)</b>	0,9	-6,1	-5,3	-6,3
<b>Public Debt (% GDP)</b>	48,9	58,5	61,5	71,6

*Estimate\**

**For further information and updates please refer to:**

Central Bank: [www.centralbank.gov.cy](http://www.centralbank.gov.cy)

Ministry of Finance: [www.mof.gov.cy](http://www.mof.gov.cy)

Planning Bureau: [www.planning.gov.cy](http://www.planning.gov.cy)



## Currency

On 1 January 2008 the Republic of Cyprus joined the euro area and in so doing introduced the euro as its official currency, replacing the Cyprus pound. Thus, euro banknotes and coins are the country's legal tender and the Cyprus pound ceased to be legal tender as from 1 February 2008.

The euro banknotes are exactly the same in all euro area countries. The euro coins have a side which is common to all euro area countries and a national side with country-specific designs. As with banknotes, euro coins can circulate in all euro area countries irrespective of the issuing country.

## The Banking System

Cyprus has a well-developed banking system which offers a wide range of services catering for the needs of businesses and individuals. Cyprus' banking system comprises the Central Bank of Cyprus (CBC) and banks which offer the full range of banking services. It also encompasses the co-operative credit institutions, the main activities of which are the collection of savings and the extension of loans to their members. The latter are supervised by the Co-operative Societies' Supervision and Development Authority.

The CBC was established in 1963, about three years after Cyprus gained its independence, as an autonomous institution in accordance with the Central Bank of Cyprus Law, 1963. In July 2002, a new Central Bank of Cyprus Law was introduced to ensure the independence of the CBC and compatibility with the other relevant provisions of the *acquis communautaire* (i.e. the Treaty establishing the European Community as well as the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank). This law was amended with effect 1 January 2008, to ensure the legal integration of the CBC into the Eurosystem.

As regards independence, the institutional and financial independence of the CBC is enshrined in the amended law. Since 2002, the primary objective of the CBC has been to ensure price stability, in line with the *acquis communautaire*. The financing of the public sector by the CBC is prohibited.

## The main tasks of the CBC include:

- contributing to the definition and implementation of the European Central Bank's monetary policy;
- holding and managing the official international reserves;
- supervising banks;
- promoting, regulating and overseeing the smooth operation of payment clearing and/or settlement systems;
- safeguarding the stability of the financial system;
- acting as banker for the government.

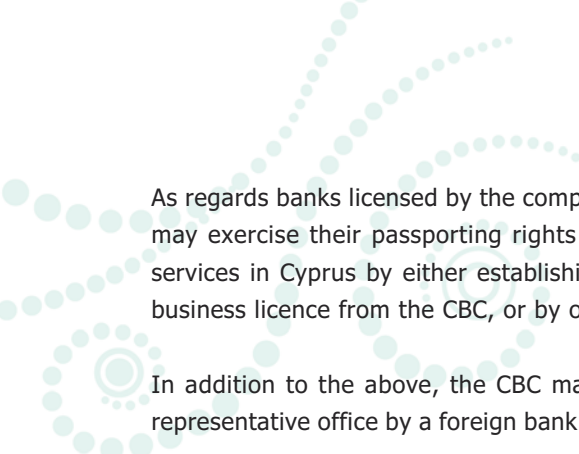
*For further information and updates please refer to:*

Central Bank: [www.centralbank.gov.cy](http://www.centralbank.gov.cy)

## Applications for the Conduct of Banking Business

The CBC is the licensing and supervisory authority for banks in Cyprus. The procedure and requirements for the granting of a licence for the pursuance of banking business is laid down in the Banking Law, 1997 as subsequently amended. In accordance with the provisions of the law, a banking business licence may be granted to: (a) a legal person incorporated in Cyprus or (b) a non-EU bank wishing to establish a branch in Cyprus.

Foreign banks from either an EU or from a non-EU member state wishing to incorporate a subsidiary bank in Cyprus as well as foreign banks from non EU member states wishing to register a branch in Cyprus, are expected to be institutions enjoying a good reputation internationally with an established track record of business growth and profitability. These banks should originate from jurisdictions which, in the opinion of the CBC, enjoy a stable economic and political environment, have a proper licensing and banking supervision regime and the banking supervisory authorities of which subscribe to all the recommendations/principles embodied in the various papers issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. In addition, applicant banks should, inter alia, have a widespread and transparent beneficial ownership, a strong capital base and, preferably, be listed on a recognised stock exchange and enjoy high ratings by a recognised credit assessment institution. There are also minimum standards that have to be fulfilled with regard to the suitability of the managers, directors and controllers of the prospective bank.



As regards banks licensed by the competent authorities of other EU member states, they may exercise their passporting rights and, therefore, provide banking and investment services in Cyprus by either establishing a branch, without having to obtain a banking business licence from the CBC, or by offering their services on a cross-border basis.

In addition to the above, the CBC may grant authorisation for the establishment of a representative office by a foreign bank incorporated either in the EU or in a third country.

A representative office is defined as an office in Cyprus from which the interests of the entity to which it belongs are promoted or assisted, but from which no banking business or the business of accepting deposits is carried out.

*For further information and updates please refer to:*

Central Bank: **[www.centralbank.gov.cy](http://www.centralbank.gov.cy)**

## New Tax Regime

The Cyprus tax legislation and its regulation is generally predictable and straight forward in nature. Relations between the business community and the tax authorities are excellent and ensure the efficient taxation of the commercial and financial sector. By providing a transparent and efficient environment, the tax system enhances Cyprus' competitiveness and contributes to making Cyprus an attractive jurisdiction in which to structure international operations.

Cyprus has a corporate income tax rate of 10%, which is one of the lowest corporate tax rates in the European Union. The personal tax rates are progressive and reach a top marginal tax rate of 35% on income in excess of €60.000 per annum.

Cyprus also boasts an extensive network of double tax treaties, currently with more than 40 countries, including countries in North America, Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, the Middle East as well as emerging markets such as China, India and Russia. Generally, most treaties provide for reduced or zero rates of withholding tax on dividends, interest and royalties paid out of the treaty country and the avoidance of double taxation in the case where a resident in one of the treaty countries derives income from the other treaty country.

The tax year for the purpose of the Income Tax Law coincides with the calendar year. Where an individual is a resident in the Republic for tax purposes, tax is imposed on income accruing or arising from sources both within and outside the Republic. Where an individual is not a resident in the Republic for tax purposes, tax is imposed on income accruing or arising only from specified sources within the Republic. Resident in the Republic for tax purposes is an individual who is present in the Republic for a period or more, which in aggregate exceed 183 days in the same tax year.

*For further information and updates please refer to:*

Ministry of Finance: [www.mof.gov.cy](http://www.mof.gov.cy)

Inland Revenue Department: [www.mof.gov.cy/ird](http://www.mof.gov.cy/ird)

## Legal Form of Entities

### Companies

**The laws of Cyprus** – based on the 1948 Companies Act of the United Kingdom and the subsequent amendments – provide for two categories of companies:

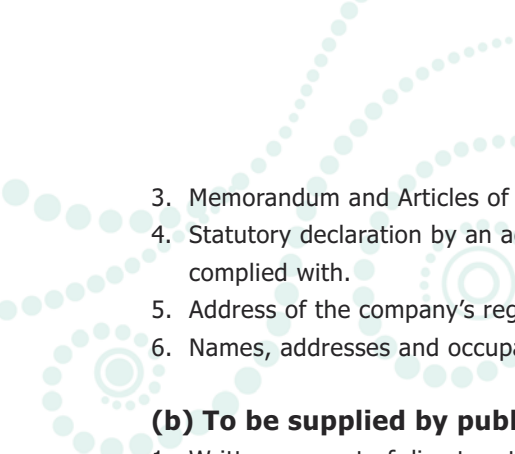
**A Private Company** – requiring one or more founding members, is limited to 50 shareholders, but cannot offer shares for public subscription and the transfer of shares is restricted.

**A Public Company** – The main feature of a public company is the power to extend an invitation to the public to subscribe to its shares and the existence of a minimum of seven members.

The two categories are obliged to register with the Registrar of Companies. The following information is required:

**(a) To be supplied by all companies:**

1. Application for the proposed name.
2. "Limited" or "Ltd" being the last word for private companies, "L.L.C" for private limited liability lawyers company, "Public Limited" or "Public Ltd." or "Public Company Limited" or "PLC" or "Public Co. Limited" or "Public Co. Ltd." or "Public Company Ltd.", the last words for public companies and SE for European Public Companies.

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3. Memorandum and Articles of association.
  4. Statutory declaration by an advocate that all the requirements of the Law have been complied with.
  5. Address of the company's registered office.
  6. Names, addresses and occupation of the company's directors and secretary.

**(b) To be supplied by public companies only:**

1. Written consent of directors to act in that capacity.
2. The minimum capital must be at least €25.685 (subscription capital), and €120.000 for a European Public Company.

## Partnerships and Business Names

**There are two kinds of partnerships:**

1. **General Partnership**, in which every partner is liable jointly with the other partners for all debts and obligations of the firm incurred while he is a partner.
2. **Limited Partnership**, in which one or more general partners are individually and collectively accountable for the liabilities of the partnership and one or more limited partners whose accountability for such liabilities is limited to their contribution to the partnership.

### **Business Names**

Every person (individual or legal person) having a place of business in Cyprus and carrying out business under a name which is not his name or the company's registered name must be registered.

## Overseas Companies

Overseas companies may establish a place of business in Cyprus, provided that they file with the Registrar within 30 days of such establishment the following for registration:

- (a) Certified copy of the charter, statutes or memorandum and articles of the company and also of any amendments with a certified translation in Greek.
- (b) List of names and addresses of company directors and the secretary of the company.
- (c) Name and address of Cyprus resident or residents with power to accept service of documents on behalf of the company.

- (d) A written report showing the following:
- (i) the name and the legal form of the foreign company, and also the name of the place of business, if this is different from the name of the foreign company,
  - (ii) the registered office and the address (postal or other) of the foreign company and also the address (postal or other) of the place of business,
  - (iii) the purpose and the object of the business of the foreign company and of the place of business,
  - (iv) where this is the case, the register overseas (with the particular registration number) of the foreign company, where its basic particulars were filed,
  - (v) its issued capital, where this exists,
  - (vi) where this is the case, relevant particulars to the winding up of the foreign company, the appointment, the personal particulars and the powers of the liquidators, as well as the completion of the liquidation, the bankruptcy, the bankruptcy arrangement or other appropriate procedure which the foreign company is subject to,
  - (vii) where it is foreign company of a non EU member state, in addition the law of the state by which the company is governed.

A European Public Limited Liability Company (SE): This kind of company can be registered in Cyprus either by merger between two Public Companies which are registered at least in two different European countries, or by formation as a new company, under certain circumstances or by transformation of an existing Public Company into European Company.

Redomiciliation of Companies: A company registered in Cyprus may redomicile to another country provided that the jurisdiction of this country authorises or allows that companies registered in that other country may redomicile in Cyprus.

Cross-Border Mergers: As from the end of 2007, it is possible to have a merger of a Cyprus company with one or more companies from the European Union and the resulting company may register in Cyprus or in an EU country or alternatively two or more companies from the EU can merge and register the resulting company in Cyprus.

***For further information and updates please refer to:***

*Department of Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver*

*Website: **[www.mcit.gov.cy/drcor](http://www.mcit.gov.cy/drcor)***

*E-mail: **[deptcomp@drcor.mcit.gov.cy](mailto:deptcomp@drcor.mcit.gov.cy), [eterion@drcor.mcit.gov.cy](mailto:eterion@drcor.mcit.gov.cy)***

# Cyprus: An International Business Centre

The Republic of Cyprus has justly gained its international reputation as an ideal place for conducting business activities, given its robust and stable economy and its numerous comparative advantages, the most important of which are:

- Member of the Eurozone since 2008
- Public finances on a sustainable path
- Relatively high GDP per inhabitant (about 99% of the European Union average, and the highest of the 12 new EU members)
- Low inflation levels (core inflation around 3%)
- Sound regulatory system
- Efficient and modern tax system
- Increasing diversification, with rapidly expanding financial intermediation, business services, private education and private health care sectors
- Well-positioned as a quality tourist destination
- Modern and simple tax system based on low tax rates (lowest in Europe)
- Compliance with OECD guidelines on tax transparency
- Cyprus is an attractive location to do business at the crossroads between Europe, Middle East and Africa
- Well-developed ties with the Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe
- Stable and adaptable economy
- Well-developed infrastructure in airports, ports and telecommunications
- Operation of a sound banking system
- Cyprus legal system is modelled on the English legal system and European Law; also practises Common Law
- Cyprus has a strong reputation as a Financial Service Centre with strong regulation and supervision
- Cyprus has established itself as a high quality service provider as it possesses high-calibre professionals (accountants, lawyers, tax experts, banking and other financial services)
- Potential investment opportunities in the energy sector as well as in health, education, shipping, tourism and trade
- Existence of One-stop shop
- Fully liberalised foreign investment regime both for EU and third country residents
- Fully liberalised capital regime.



The government of Cyprus, taking into consideration the numerous challenges arising from increasing competition, globalisation and the recent global financial crisis, is promoting a number of measures and initiatives to further establish Cyprus as an attractive investment destination. For the elimination of the unnecessary red tape, a number of measures are being promoted, relating to "Better Regulation". Also, efforts are being undertaken towards the removal of regulatory barriers for the setting up of enterprises. Moreover, the government intends to maintain its low taxation system and further expand the avoidance of double taxation treaties with more countries. The establishment of the "Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency" contributes dynamically and flexibly to the effective promotion of Cyprus as an international investment and business centre, as well as to the infusion of foreign investments in the targeted sectors.

*For further information and updates please refer to:*

*Ministry of Finance: [www.mof.gov.cy](http://www.mof.gov.cy)*

## Establishing a Business in Cyprus

Cyprus has been transformed into one of Europe's most advanced international business and financial services centers that feature a dynamic economy and a strong infrastructure. Apart from being the gateway to three continents, it offers access to various of the key global investment markets including the large EU markets, the Russian market as well as the emerging economies of the Middle East, Eastern Europe, China, India and North Africa.

Cyprus has a modern, free-market economy, where in conjunction with its effective transparent regulatory framework, offers international investors confidence to invest, grow and prosper. Moreover, the full liberalisation of the capital market presents new promising opportunities for foreign investors.

Foreign investors may establish any of the following legal entities in the Republic of Cyprus, on equal terms as local companies:

- Companies (private or public);
- General or limited partnerships;
- Business/trade name;
- European Company (SE);
- Branch of overseas companies.

## **The procedure for establishing a company is:**

- Initially, (except in the case of a branch) the application for approval/change of name is submitted by hand or by mail to the One Stop Shop or to the Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver.
- After securing the company's name, the relevant documents for registering a legal entity must be submitted, through a lawyer, to the Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver or to the One-Stop Shop. In the case of a partnership registration, the involvement of a lawyer is not mandatory.

Thereon, according to the nature of the business activity pursued, subsequent licences are to be obtained, by the competent authorities.

## **One-Stop Shop**

In order to facilitate, accelerate and simplify the process of setting up a business, the government operates a One Stop Shop under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, for both local and foreign based companies. Administrative procedures for establishing a company have been simplified reflecting the importance placed by the Government on the country's development as an international business centre.

## **A wide range of services are offered to the investors. The Center's activities include:**

- Information/guidance to potential investors
- Registration of a company, partnership, Business name, European Company (SE), and Branch of overseas companies
- VAT registration
- Income tax registration
- Issuance of residence and work permits.

## **Point of Single Contact**

Within the scope of harmonisation with the Services Directive, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism has established the Point of Single Contact (PSC Cyprus) in order to facilitate the establishment of businesses in the services sector and the cross border provision of services within the internal market.

The PSC Cyprus Portal ([www.businessincyprus.gov.cy](http://www.businessincyprus.gov.cy)) provides comprehensive information regarding the administrative procedures and formalities required for the access to, and exercise of, service activities that fall within the scope of the Services Directive ([http://www.businessincyprus.gov.cy/mcit/psc/psc.nsf/permits\\_en/permits\\_en?OpenDocument#H](http://www.businessincyprus.gov.cy/mcit/psc/psc.nsf/permits_en/permits_en?OpenDocument#H)), including the horizontal procedures and formalities for setting up of a business in the Republic of Cyprus, such as income tax registration, VAT registration, Social security registration, and Registration of Companies.

In parallel, through the PSC Cyprus Portal, the online submission of application forms as well as the tracking of the ongoing administrative procedures is offered for a number of registrations/authorizations, related to:

- the establishment of a business, such as VAT Registration, Tax payer's Registration, Social Insurance Scheme Registration;
- the access to and exercise of service activities, such as the establishment of a catering establishment, the engineering science practise;
- the temporary provision of services across border, such as the temporary provision of veterinarian services.

***For further information and updates please refer to:***

*Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism*

*One-Stop Shop: **[onestopshop@mcit.gov.cy](mailto:onestopshop@mcit.gov.cy)***


*Point of Single Contact: **[pscscyprus@mcit.gov.cy](mailto:pscscyprus@mcit.gov.cy)***

*Website: **[www.businessincyprus.gov.cy](http://www.businessincyprus.gov.cy)***

## Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency (CIPA)

CIPA is a registered not-for-profit company limited by guarantee fully funded by the Government of Cyprus with a threefold mandate:

- To promote Cyprus as an attractive international investment centre in key priority growth sectors
- To advocate reform in Cyprus required to improve the regulatory and business environment and infrastructure
- To provide investor support with after care and further development services.



CIPA takes the lead in attracting foreign direct investment in conjunction and partnership with the private sector and related government organisations and agencies.

CIPA has established its membership with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), ANIMA Investment Network and the Mediterranean countries' Investment Promotion Agencies Network. Memberships in these and other fora provide a platform for best practices sharing and learning in the area of FDI promotion and strategy implementation.

CIPA is actively involved in advocating key reforms to remove hurdles and improve the regulatory and business environment in Cyprus which is a fundamental requirement to attract and retain foreign direct investment, especially in an increasingly competitive global economic environment.

The CIPA team is dynamic and tightly knit with a broad array of expertise both locally and internationally. CIPA encourages foreign businesses to explore opportunities for investment in Cyprus.

***For further information and updates please refer to:***

*Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency*

*Website: **[www.cipa.org.cy](http://www.cipa.org.cy)***

*E-mail: **[info@cipa.org.cy](mailto:info@cipa.org.cy)***

## Direct and Portofolio Investment

Investment policy in Cyprus is liberal and allows 100% foreign participation in most sectors of the economy not only for EU citizens but also for investors from third countries. All restrictions concerning maximum allowable percentage of foreign participation, as well as minimum level of foreign investment in any enterprise in Cyprus, have been lifted as from January 2000 for EU citizens and from 1 October 2004 for non-EU citizens unless otherwise stated in the separate law or regulations e.g. the establishment or acquisition of broadcasting corporations.

There is no longer any distinction between onshore and offshore companies and anyone can benefit from the numerous incentives and low tax regime by using Cyprus as a base for their investments.

Companies can register directly with the Registrar of Companies or with the “One-Stop Shop” without acquiring previous permission.

As regards portfolio investment in companies listed on the Cyprus Stock Exchange (CSE) stockbrokers and public companies may carry out the relevant transactions according to the legislation of CSE which applies to everyone including Cypriots.

*For more information and updates please refer to:*

*One-Stop Shop, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism*

*Website: **[www.mcit.gov.cy](http://www.mcit.gov.cy), [www.businessincyprus.gov.cy](http://www.businessincyprus.gov.cy)***

*E-mail: **[onestopshop@mcit.gov.cy](mailto:onestopshop@mcit.gov.cy)***

## Insurance Business

Any company formed and registered under the Companies Law of the Republic of Cyprus with a view to engaging in insurance business in or from Cyprus, is required to apply to the Superintendent of Insurance for a license, which is granted provided the company satisfies the requirements of the Law on Insurance Services and Other Related Issues 2002-2011.

*For further information and updates please refer to:*

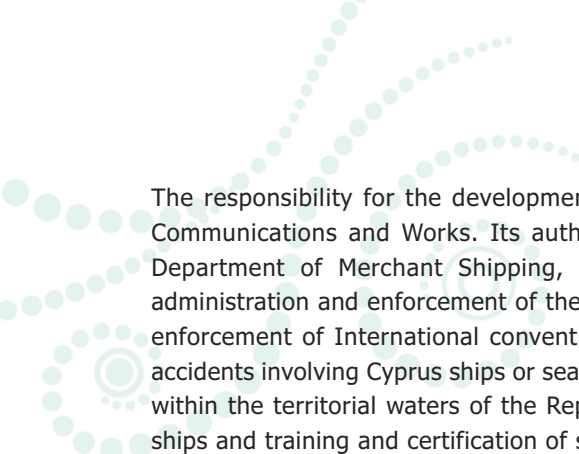
*Ministry of Finance*

*Website: **[www.mof.gov.cy](http://www.mof.gov.cy)***

*E-mail: **[insurance@mof.gov.cy](mailto:insurance@mof.gov.cy)***

## Shipping

Cyprus, located at the crossroads of three continents, recognised as early as 1963 the political, economic and social importance of shipping. Since then, successive governments implementing the correct policy, managed to develop the island into a fully-fledged shipping centre combining both a sovereign flag and a resident shipping industry, which is renowned for its high quality services and standards of safety.



The responsibility for the development of maritime activities lies with the Ministry of Communications and Works. Its authority and jurisdiction are exercised through the Department of Merchant Shipping, whose activities include: registration of ships, administration and enforcement of the Merchant Shipping Laws, control of shipping and enforcement of International conventions ratified by the Government, investigation of accidents involving Cyprus ships or seamen serving on those ships or foreign ships sailing within the territorial waters of the Republic, resolving labour disputes on board Cyprus ships and training and certification of seafarers.

The new tonnage tax system offers favourable benefits to owners of Cyprus ships, owners of foreign ships, charterers and ship managers. The respective Merchant Shipping (Fees and Taxing Provisions) Law of 2010 (Law 44(I)/2010) provides for favourable tax features to those who enter the tonnage tax system and to their shareholders, including total exemption from income tax on:

- Income from the operation of a ship or from the provision of crew and/or technical management services to a ship
- Dividends paid directly or indirectly out of such income
- Interest earned on working capital or for the financing, operation or maintenance of the ship or for the payment of expenses arising out of the charter party or for the payment of expenses relating to the management of the ship
- Income from the sale of a ship.

Under the Cyprus Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships, Sales and Mortgages) Laws of 1963 to 2005, a ship may only be registered under the Cyprus flag if:

- A) More than fifty percent (50%) of the shares of the ship are owned by Cypriot citizens or by citizens of member states of the EU or of the European Economic Area who in the instance of not being permanent residents of the Republic will have appointed an authorised representative in the Republic of Cyprus, or
- B) The total (100%) of the shares of the ship are owned by one or more corporations, which have been established and operate:
- in accordance with the laws of the Republic and have their registered office in the Republic of Cyprus, or
  - in accordance with the laws of any other member state and have their registered office, central administration or principal place of business within the European Economic Area and which will have either appointed an authorised representative in Cyprus or the management of the ship is entrusted in full to a Cypriot or a Community shipmanagement company having its place of business in Cyprus, or

- outside Cyprus or outside any other member state but controlled by Cypriot citizens or citizens of member states and have either appointed an authorised representative in Cyprus or the management of the ship is entrusted in full to a Cypriot or a Community shipmanagement company having its place of business in Cyprus.

Registration procedures are completed promptly provided that all the necessary documents are in order and payment of the relevant fees have been made. Cyprus consuls posted in countries all over the world may carry out registration procedures following the written instructions of the Registrar of Cyprus Ships.

The Cyprus Registry has shown phenomenal growth in the last thirty years. In the early 1980s Cyprus ranked thirty-second on the list of leading maritime nations. It now ranks tenth in the world with a merchant fleet exceeding 22 million gross tons. Also, the Cypriot merchant fleet ranks third in the European Union with a percentage of about 12% of the total fleet of the 27 EU member states.

The Cyprus Government has been taking a series of measures in order to improve the safety standards of the Cyprus merchant fleet and to minimise the number of marine accidents, thus eliminating sub-standard shipping and minimising the environmental impact of maritime transport. To this end, age limits have been imposed for the registration of certain categories of ships and strict requirements have to be fulfilled at the time of registration. Furthermore, a network of independent inspectors provides adequate coverage of inspections globally. The effective implementation of these measures enabled Cyprus to achieve a 'White List' status in the flag assessment system maintained by the Paris and the Tokyo MOUs on port state control and to be removed from the "List of Targeted Flag States" of the U.S. Coast Guard, resulting in fewer inspections of the ships and less delays at the ports of both MOUs and of the US. With regard to the US Coast Guard, our next objective is to enter the Qualship21 programme.

The Cyprus Government attaches considerable importance to the improvement of living and working conditions of seafarers on board Cyprus ships in accordance with safety practices and International conventions currently in force. These become increasingly more important and in the near future all ships will have to be certificated under the Maritime Labour Convention of 2006.

At the same time, action is taken for the continuous improvement of the existing infrastructure, the incentives available to both residents and non-residents and the enhancement of the international reputation of the Cyprus flag as a flag of progress.

***For further information and updates please refer to:***

*Department of Merchant Shipping*

*Website: **[www.shipping.gov.cy](http://www.shipping.gov.cy)***

*E-mail: **[maritimeadmin@dms.mcw.gov.cy](mailto:maritimeadmin@dms.mcw.gov.cy)***





# Chronology





# Chronology

**9th millennium BC**  
**5800 BC**

Early phase of the aceramic neolithic period. Chirokitia settlement; architectural remains found here are indicative of well-organised communities with an advanced standard of living.

**3900 – 2500 BC**  
**2500 – 1050 BC**

Chalcolithic period; first appearance of copper. Bronze Age; intensification of copper trade and flourishing of arts and crafts.

**2nd and 1st millennium BC**

Mycenaean-Achean Greeks settle in Cyprus bringing Greek civilisation to the island.

**mid 9th century BC**

Phoenician settlers begin to arrive, concentrating mainly in the coastal city of Kition.

**8th – 4th century BC**

City-kingdoms of Cyprus come under foreign domination by the Assyrians (8th - 6th century BC), the Egyptians (560 - 525 BC) and the Persians (525 - 333 BC).

**499 BC**

Cyprus joins the Ionian Revolt against Persian Rule.

**411 – 374 BC**

Evagoras I, King of Salamis, transforms Cyprus into one of the leading political and cultural centres of the Greek world.

**332 BC**

City-kingdoms of Cyprus welcome Alexander the Great and participate in his expeditions.

**336 BC**

Birth of Cypriot philosopher Zeno of Kition, the founder of the Stoic school of philosophy; he died in 264 BC.

**294 – 58 BC**

Cyprus a part of the Ptolemaic Empire.

**30 BC – 330 AD**

Cyprus a province of the Roman Empire.

**45 AD**

Christianity introduced to Cyprus by the Apostles Paul and Barnabas. The latter is the founder of the Church of Cyprus.

**330 – 1191**

Cyprus a province of the Byzantine Empire.

**488**

Emperor Zeno grants "Autocephaly" (jurisdictional self-government with the right to choose its own leader) and several special privileges to the Archbishop of the Church of Cyprus, including the right to sign his name in red ink. Period characterised by Arab invasions of the island.

**649 – 965**

Period characterised by Arab invasions of the island.

**1191**

King Richard I of England, the Lionheart, captures the island and sells it to the Order of the Knights Templar.

**1192 – 1489**

Frankish period: Cyprus under the French Lusignans.

**1489 – 1571**

Venetian rule of Cyprus which ends with the siege and capture of Nicosia and Famagusta by the Ottomans.

**1571**

Cyprus comes under Ottoman rule.

**1821**

The Archbishop, bishops and other prominent Greek Cypriots suspected of planning participation in Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire are executed by order of the Ottoman Governor of Cyprus.

**1878**

Cyprus leased by the Ottoman Empire to Britain.

**1914**

Cyprus annexed by Britain following Turkey's alignment with Germany in WWI.

**1923**

Under the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey relinquishes all rights to Cyprus.

**1925**

Cyprus declared a Crown Colony by Britain.

<b>1931 – 21 October</b>	First Greek Cypriot uprising against British rule; Government House is burnt down and the constitution is revoked.
<b>1950 – 15 and 22 January</b>	Plebiscite, organised by the Church of Cyprus, among the Cypriot Greek Christian Orthodox on the issue of “enosis” (union with Greece); 96 percent vote in favour.
<b>1950 – 20 October</b>	Makarios III, bishop of Kition, is elected Archbishop of Cyprus.
<b>1954</b>	Greece brings the issue of self-determination for Cyprus to the UN General Assembly.
<b>1955 – 1 April</b>	Greek Cypriot armed anti-colonial struggle begins through the EOKA organisation.
<b>1956</b>	Archbishop Makarios is exiled by Britain to the Seychelles.
<b>1957</b>	Turkey creates the Turkish Cypriot clandestine organisation TMT headed by a military officer from Turkey; TMT intimidates Turkish Cypriot community, incites intercommunal unrest and advocates the partition of Cyprus.
<b>1959 – 19 February</b>	Cyprus granted independence under agreements negotiated in Zurich and London by Greece, Turkey and Great Britain.
<b>1959 – December</b>	Archbishop Makarios elected first President and Dr Fazil Kuchuk elected first Vice-President of the Republic of Cyprus.
<b>1960 – 16 August</b>	Proclamation of the Republic of Cyprus.
<b>1963 – 30 November</b>	President Makarios submits constitutional amendments to “remove obstacles to the smooth functioning and development of the state,” which are rejected by Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership. Atmosphere on the island becomes tense and volatile.
<b>1963 – 21 December</b>	Intercommunal clashes erupt.
<b>1964 – 4 March</b>	UN Security Council adopts Resolution 186 whose basic provisions have guided international actions on Cyprus ever since (good offices mission of the UN Secretary-General; creation of the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus; reaffirmation of the independence, sovereignty and existence of the Republic of Cyprus and the Cyprus government).
<b>1964 – March-May</b>	Arrival of UN peacekeeping force (UNFICYP) in Cyprus.
<b>1964 – August</b>	Turkey launches air attacks on Cyprus while USA President warns Ankara against invading the island.
<b>1965 – 26 March</b>	UN Mediator Galo Plaza, in his report to the Security Council, rejects Turkish position for geographical separation of Cypriot communities.
<b>1967 – 21 April</b>	Military junta takes over in Greece.
<b>1967 – 15 November</b>	Intercommunal clashes break out in Cyprus, and Turkey prepares to invade the island; crisis diffused after United States mediation.
<b>1968 – 2 June</b>	Launch of UN-sponsored talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.
<b>1974 – 15 July</b>	Coup against the government of Cyprus organised by the military junta of Greece; President Makarios survives attack against the Presidential Palace and escapes to safety.
<b>1974 – 20 July</b>	Turkey launches first stage of invasion of Cyprus with massive sea and air military forces.

- 1974 – 20 July** UN Security Council adopts Resolution 353 that “demands an immediate end to foreign military intervention in the Republic of Cyprus.”
- 1974 – 23 July** Coup regime collapses and constitutional order is restored in Cyprus.
- 1974 – 14 August** Turkey launches second stage of military invasion of Cyprus and occupies 36,2 percent of its territory.
- 1974 – 1 November** Unanimous UN General Assembly Resolution 3212 (including the vote of Turkey) calls for withdrawal of foreign troops from Cyprus, respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic, cessation of interference in its internal affairs, and return of refugees to their homes under conditions of safety.
- 1977 – 12 February** Four-point agreement on a Cyprus settlement reached between President Makarios and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash.
- 1977 – 3 August** Death of President Makarios, who is succeeded by Spyros Kyprianou.
- 1979 – 19 May** Ten-point agreement on a Cyprus settlement reached between President Kyprianou and Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash.
- 1983 – 15 November** “Unilateral Declaration of Independence” (UDI) by the Turkish Cypriot leadership to establish the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” (TRNC) in areas of Cyprus under military occupation by Turkey.
- 1983 – 18 November** UN Security Council condemns the “UDI” declaration, calls it “legally invalid,” calls for its withdrawal, and calls upon all states not to recognise it and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus (Resolution 541/1983).
- 1990 – 4 July** Cyprus applies for membership in the European Economic Community (EEC).
- 1992 – 27 April** Council of Europe Rapporteur Alfons Cuco’s report on the demographic structure of the Cypriot communities verifies the extensive colonisation of the occupied area by illegal settlers from Turkey.
- 1996 – 18 December** The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) of the Council of Europe—following an application against Turkey, lodged by a Greek Cypriot, Titina Loizidou, for violating her right of access to her property in the Turkish occupied town of Kyrenia—rules that Turkey is accountable for the violation of human rights in the Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus.
- 1998 – 31 March** Accession negotiations start between Cyprus and the European Union (EU).
- 1999 – 11 December** The Helsinki European Council Presidency conclusions stress that the prior solution to the Cyprus problem is not a precondition for Cyprus’ accession to the EU.
- 2001 – 10 May** European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe finds Turkey guilty of gross human rights violations in the areas of the Republic it has occupied since 1974.

**2002 – 11 November**

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan submits plan for comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem.

**2002 – 13 December**

The European Council decides in Copenhagen to admit Cyprus as a member of the European Union on 1 May 2004.

**2003 – 16 April**

Cyprus signs the EU Treaty of Accession in Athens.

**2003 – 23 April**

Turkish occupation regime announces partial lifting of restrictions imposed by the Turkish side since 1974 on the movement of persons across the UN ceasefire line.

**2004 – 24 April**

Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities vote on the Annan Plan: 75,83 percent of Greek Cypriots vote "No" to the plan while 24,17 percent vote "Yes"; 64,91 percent of Turkish Cypriots vote in favour of the plan while 35,09 percent vote against; Annan Plan fails and is rendered null and void.

**2004 – 1 May**

Cyprus formally accedes to the European Union.

**2006 – 8 July**

The President of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leader agree on a set of principles (The 8 July Agreement) to guide peace process on Cyprus.

**2008 – 1 January**

Cyprus adopts euro as official currency.

**2008 – 3 September**

The President of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leader launch direct, full-fledged negotiations on the Cyprus problem.

**2009 – 28 April**

Court of Justice of the European Communities rules that a judgment of a Court in the Republic of Cyprus must be recognised and enforced by the other EU member states even if it concerns land situated in the Turkish occupied areas of Cyprus.

**2009 – 10 September**

Launch of second round of direct negotiations between the President of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leader.

**2009 – 18 September**

ECHR delivers final verdict on missing persons case and finds Turkey guilty of "failure to effectively investigate their fate."

**2010 – 11 January**

The President of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leader launch first round of intensive talks in the context of the ongoing direct, full-fledged negotiations on the Cyprus problem.

**2010 – 13 January**

In a letter to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the Heads of the EU member states, President Christofias expresses regret over the proposals submitted by the Turkish Cypriot side in the ongoing UN led negotiations for a solution to the Cyprus problem, noting that such proposals, which contravene the agreed basis for a Cyprus settlement cannot be accepted by the Greek Cypriot side.

**2010 – 19 January**

The British Court of Appeal rules that a decision by a Cypriot Court in connection with claims relating to Greek Cypriot owned property in the areas of Cyprus occupied by Turkey must be executed. The decision came after an appeal by the Orams couple to the British Court of Appeal on a decision by a Cypriot court ordering the Orams to pay compensation to Meletis Apostolides, demolish the holiday home they had built on his property in the village of Lapithos occupied by Turkey, halt all intervention on the said property and deliver it to its legal owner. Apostolides had taken the Orams couple to court, claiming his property rights over his property in the occupied area where the Orams had built, illegally, a holiday home.

**2010 – 25 January**

Second round of intensive talks begin within the context of the ongoing direct full-fledged negotiations on the Cyprus problem.

**2010 – 31 January**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrives in Cyprus for a three-day visit to express his personal support to the talks and to encourage the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities to bring these talks to a successful conclusion. On 1 February 2010 he reads out a statement on behalf of the two leaders stressing that they have worked on the basis of the approach that is "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed." The statement adds: "Good convergence has already been achieved in some Chapters."

**2010 – 10 February**

The European Parliament adopts a resolution on Turkey's Progress Report 2009 calling on Turkey to facilitate a suitable climate for negotiations by immediately starting to withdraw its forces from Cyprus, by addressing the issue of the settlement of Turkish citizens on the island and also by enabling the return of the sealed-off section of Famagusta to its lawful inhabitants in compliance with Resolution 550 (1984) of the United Nations Security Council. The resolution also calls on the government of Turkey to cease hindering civilian vessels prospecting for oil on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean; Furthermore, the resolution deplores the fact that, for the fourth consecutive year, the Additional Protocol to the EEC-Turkey Association Agreement has not been implemented by Turkey.

**2010 – 18 February**

The Cyprus House of Representatives approves a resolution expressing support for the restoration of the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. "In the united Republic of Cyprus, member state of the EU, there should not be provisions for guarantors or guarantees," the House resolution says.

**2010 – 5 March**

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) delivers its decision on the case of "Demopoulos v Turkey and 7 Others" that the so-called immovable property commission (IPC), which was set up in the areas of Cyprus illegally occupied by Turkey, constitutes an effective domestic remedy. The decision clarifies that the IPC constitutes a domestic remedy of the government of Turkey and not of the illegal regime in occupied Cyprus. According to the Court's decision, Greek Cypriots will first have to resort to the Turkish IPC before resorting to the ECHR. The Cyprus Government Spokesman states that the judgment will be respected but that it is a negative development, pointing out that the Court cannot refer property owners to means which are essentially the product of illegality, if they want to seek restitution of their right to their property in the areas illegally occupied by Turkey.

**2010 – 29 March**

President Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat attend a ceremony to mark the launch of construction works for the opening of the Kato Pyrgos-Limnitis crossing point on the UN ceasefire line linking the remote Pyrgos area to Nicosia through the buffer zone.

**2010 – 30 March**

The last meeting between President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Talat is held after which a joint statement is issued, which points out that the two leaders have been encouraged by the important progress made so far on the Chapters of Governance and Power Sharing, EU Matters and the Economy and that they are convinced that with perseverance a comprehensive settlement can be achieved. Dervish Eroglu succeeds Mehmet Ali Talat as leader of the Turkish Cypriot community.

**2010 – 18 April**

**2010 – 28 April**

The UN announces that Mr Taye-Brook Zerihoun, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, since April 2008, has been appointed as the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs in the UN Department of Political Affairs. Mr Zerihoun will be replaced by Lisa Buttenheim, Director of Asian and Pacific Affairs at the UN.

**2010 – 20 May**

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon submits his report on his mission of good offices in Cyprus to the UN Security Council covering developments from 25 November 2009 to 30 April 2010. In his report the Secretary-General says: "The talks must resume within the established framework of a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions" and "must build on the convergences achieved since the fully fledged negotiations began on 3 September 2008."

**2010 – 26 May**

Direct intercommunal talks resume between President Christofias and Mr Dervish Eroglu.

**2010 – 4-6 June**

His Holiness the Pope Benedict XVI visits Cyprus at the invitation of the President of the Republic. Referring to the Cyprus problem, the Pope says that truth and reconciliation, together with respect, are the soundest foundation for the united and peaceful future of this island, and for the stability and prosperity of all its people.

**2010 – 13 July**

The President of the Hellenic Parliament, Philippos Petsalnikos, pays an official visit to Cyprus and is received by President Christofias. Mr Petsalnikos stresses that the solution of the Cyprus problem "must be found through dialogue, must be functional and viable and must be based on the decisions of the United Nations and the principles and values of the *acquis communautaire*."

**2010 – 21 September**

President Christofias meets with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in New York and expresses the readiness of the Greek Cypriot side to continue the dialogue and to move forward towards the solution of the Cyprus problem the soonest possible.

**2010 – 24 September**

President Christofias addresses the UN General Assembly in New York and repeats his call to the leadership of Turkey to meet with him, parallel to the negotiating process for a solution of the Cyprus problem, so that he can share with them his vision for a solution, which would serve the interests of all Cypriots, Turkey and Greece, as well as peace and security in the region.



**2010 – 28 September**

President Christofias opens the Exhibition "Cyprus: Crossroads of Civilisations" at the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington DC. In his address, he says that Cyprus' cultural heritage is one of the richest in the world and the approach of the Cyprus government towards the protection of its cultural heritage is one of an island-wide approach. "As such, Cyprus is one of the most diligent countries in actively pursuing the return of its plundered culture," he added.

**2010 – 1 October**

President Christofias addresses celebrations marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cyprus' Independence and notes that the government of Cyprus and the Greek Cypriot side will exhaust every possibility offered at the ongoing UN-led negotiations for a solution to the Cyprus problem. He underlines, however, that if Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership undermine the progress for a solution, they should be held responsible.

**2010 – 7 October**

The President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, arrives in Cyprus for an official visit. During the visit, 15 bilateral agreements and memoranda are signed. Mr Medvedev points out that: "Russian business people prefer to do business in Cyprus, to use Cyprus for investments, and this is apparent from the volume of investments from Cyprus in the Russian economy, which exceeds 50 million dollars." Referring to the Cyprus problem President Medvedev says that Russia's stance "remains unchanged for a united state with a single sovereignty and a single international identity," adding that "we will cooperate to achieve this aim."

**2010 – 11 October**

Cypriot Economist Dr Christoforos Pissarides of the London School of Economics is awarded the 2010 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences jointly with Peter A. Diamond and Dale T. Mortensen of the USA. Professor Pissarides currently teaches at the University of Cyprus where he holds the Marfin Laiki Bank Chair in European Studies.

**2010 – 14 October**

Opening of the Kato Pyrgos-Limnitis crossing point on the UN 1974 ceasefire line linking the remote Pyrgos area to Nicosia through the buffer zone.

**2010 – 18 October**

The European Parliament Committee on Legal Affairs approves the opinion of the Council Legal Service, that the legal basis of the regulation on direct trade between the EU and the areas of Cyprus under occupation by Turkish troops is wrong and that the proper legal basis is Article 1(2) of Protocol No 10 on Cyprus to the Treaty of Accession of April 2003. According to a European Parliament press release, EU trade with the occupied areas should be governed directly by EU single market and customs union rules and not by the EU's rules for international trade. Possible trade with the occupied areas "based on article 207 of the Lisbon Treaty on international trade would wrongly imply that it is not part of the EU," said the Legal Affairs Committee.



**2010 – 4 November**

President Bashar al-Assad of Syria pays an official visit to Cyprus and underlines the significance of the geographical position of Cyprus and the fact that it is able to convey to the EU the issues of the region. Referring to the Cyprus issue, President al-Assad said that he was briefed by President Christofias on his initiative, which, as he noted, is based on dialogue and the peaceful settlement of the issue.

**2010 – 18 November**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon meets in New York with President Demetris Christofias and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community Dervish Eroglu. After the meeting, the Secretary-General announces that the two leaders "have agreed to intensify their contacts in the coming weeks in order to establish a practical plan for overcoming the major remaining points of disagreement," and that they agreed to meet with him in Geneva at the end of January 2011.

**2010 – 24 November**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon submits his report on his mission of good offices in Cyprus to the UN Security Council. Referring to the ongoing talks the Secretary-General says that "the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a bizonal, bicomunal federation" adding that "the methodology adopted for the negotiations, as agreed by the leaders, was based on the principle that 'nothing is agreed until everything is agreed'" and that "the agreed solution will be put to separate simultaneous referenda."

**2011 – 11 January**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel pays a working visit to Cyprus. Referring to Cyprus' efforts to solve the Cyprus problem, Chancellor Merkel says: "we will support you as much as we can in this path. We are aware that this path is not an easy one and that the solution must come from the people of Cyprus. The United Nations can only support and play a catalytic role along the way." Referring to Turkey's EU accession process Chancellor Merkel says that "we have set many restrictions in the accession negotiations. As long as Turkey does not implement the Ankara Protocol, it cannot close any chapters." Mrs Merkel added: "We see that you are making a lot of steps and we also see that the Turkish side is not duly responding to your steps, which demonstrate that you are ready for a compromise."

**2011 – 26 January**

The UN Secretary-General holds a new meeting in Geneva with President Christofias and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. In a statement after the meeting the Secretary-General says that since the New York meeting "the two leaders worked to move closer together through a range of bridging proposals" adding that "they discussed the outstanding key issues in a more interrelated fashion, since a settlement proposal will need to consist of an integrated package across chapters."

**2011 – 25 February**

Major General Chao Liu of China officially assumes his duties as Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

**2011 – 4 March**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon submits his report on his mission of good offices in Cyprus to the UN Security Council. In his report, the UN Secretary-General reaffirms the basis of the talks: "Since the beginning of full-fledged negotiations in September 2008, the talks have proceeded on the basis of United Nations parameters, relevant Security Council resolutions and joint leaders' statements made on 23 May 2008 and 1 July 2008. I am satisfied that the two leaders are committed to the bases for the negotiations as they have confirmed that the talks will continue on the agreed-upon United Nations basis," he says. He also reaffirms that the UN "respects the talks as a Cypriot-led and Cypriot-owned process and that it is precisely for this reason that we expect the two sides to assume responsibility for driving the process forward."

**2011 – 14-15 March**

President Christofias pays an official visit to Israel and the Palestinian National Authority, has meetings with the President of Israel, Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the President of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmud Abbas and signs bilateral agreements and protocols between Cyprus and Israel and between Cyprus and the Palestinian National Authority.

**2011 – 12-13 April**

The President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, arrives in Cyprus. After his meeting with President Christofias Mr Van Rompuy says that: "The EU continues to fully support the efforts of the leaders of both communities in Cyprus and the UN to achieve a comprehensive settlement as soon as possible" adding that "he encouraged the leaders of both communities to act in a spirit of compromise and find common ground on the remaining issues."

**2011 – 9 May**

President Demetris Christofias attends a meeting in Warsaw of the Heads of Government of Cyprus, Poland and Denmark, the so-called "Trio", namely the three countries which will assume by a six-month rotation the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from July 2011 until December 2012. During the meeting, the three countries undertake to start negotiations for the new Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU to be implemented after 2013.

**2011 – 22 May**

Elections are held for the House of Representatives. Allocation of seats: Democratic Rally Party 20; AKEL 19; Democratic Party 8; Social Democrats Movement 5; European Party 2; the Ecological Environmental Movement 1; and Independent 1 (expelled from DIKO after the elections). The incumbent non-voting representatives of the three religious groups (Armenians, Latins and Maronites) are re-elected.

**2011 – 25-30 May**

President Christofias pays an official visit to Australia and meets with the Prime Minister of Australia, Julia Gillard, during which the Prime Minister expresses Australia's support for a solution to the Cyprus problem, based on the UN Security Council's resolutions. In a joint statement the Australian Prime Minister reaffirms Australian support for the sovereignty and



territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and stresses that Australia “recognises the Republic of Cyprus as the only legitimate authority on the island.” The Prime Minister commended President Christofias’ efforts and underlined the importance of achieving a comprehensive solution. President Christofias also meets with the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Quentin Bryce, and with the Speaker of the House of Representatives Harry Jenkins and the President of the Senate John Hogg, with the leader of the country’s opposition Mr Tony Abbott as well as with members of the Cypriot community and Greek brotherhood. In Adelaide he meets with the Governor of the State Kevin Scarce and the Prime Minister of South Australia Mike Rann. In a statement after the meeting, Mr Rann stresses that the military occupation of Cyprus continues to be illegal and that “Turkey has to abide by human rights including the decisions of the European Human Rights Court.” President Christofias and Mr Rann also attend an event at the Cypriot community building in Adelaide. In Melbourne President Christofias meets with the Premier and Governor of Victoria Ted Baillieu and Alex Chernov respectively. In Sydney President Christofias meets with the Governor of New South Wales Marie Bashir, the Archbishop of Australia Stylianos and addresses an event organised by Cypriot organisations.

**2011 – 2 June**

Mr Yiannakis Omirou, President of the Movement of Social Democrats EDEK is elected new President of the House of Representatives following the parliamentary elections of 22 May 2011. He succeeds Marios Garoyian, President of the Democratic Party.

**2011 – 6-7 June**

Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic of Serbia pays an official visit to Cyprus and meets with President Christofias and other high officials. The two leaders reaffirm the close relations between the two countries based on the friendship of their people. President Christofias reiterates Cyprus’ strong support for Serbia’s efforts for accession to the EU.

**2011 – 18 June**

New Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece Stavros Lambrinidis pays a visit to Cyprus shortly after assuming his duties and meets with President Christofias and Foreign Minister Markos Kyprianou. At a joint press conference the two Ministers reiterate the special relationship and close cooperation between the two countries. Minister Kyprianou expresses the gratitude of the people and the government of Cyprus for the “the continuous support and solidarity provided by Greece and the Greek Government for our efforts to solve the Cyprus problem.”

**2011 – 4-5 July**

President Christofias pays an official visit to Ukraine accompanied by his wife and a high level delegation including the Minister of Foreign Affairs Markos Kyprianou, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Antonis Paschalides, and Government Spokesman Stefanos Stefanou. He meets with

**2011 – 7 July**

Ukrainian president Victor Yanukovich and other high state officials, including the Speaker of the Parliament Volodymyr Lytvyn and Senior Vice Prime Minister Andriy Klyuev. Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding are signed between the two countries. President Christofias inaugurates the Embassy of Cyprus in Kiev and is awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy by the University of Mariupol. He also addresses, through Minister Paschalides, a Business Forum at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine in which businessmen from both countries participate.

Meeting of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with President Christofias and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community Dervish Eroglu in Geneva. The Secretary-General announces that the "leaders have agreed to enter into an intensive period of negotiations on the core issues." He also expresses the expectation that by October 2011 the two leaders "will be able to report that they have reached convergence on all core issues, and will meet that month in New York."

**2011 – 8 July**

President Christofias meets with Archbishop Demetrios of America who is paying a visit to Cyprus. The Archbishop expressed gratitude to President Christofias for the substantive briefing on the Cyprus problem and other issues.

**2011 – 11 July**

A massive explosion occurs at the "Evangelos Florakis" naval base near Mari village in the Limassol district. Thirteen people, National Guard members and firemen, are killed, while dozens are injured. The Vassilikos power station –the largest on the island– suffers extensive damage, severely limiting electricity production. After the deadly blast Minister of Defence Costas Papacostas and National Guard Chief of Staff Petros Tsalikides submit their resignations to President Christofias. The President accepts the resignations, extends his condolences to the families and relatives of the victims and points out that "Material damages, as extensive as they might be, can be repaired, but human losses cannot be retrieved."

**2011 – 14 July**


In a state address President Christofias expresses his "sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families of our children who were so needlessly lost" and calls "on everybody to face the situation that has been created united." Moreover, the President announces that the Council of Ministers decided to appoint a single-member Commission of Inquiry to investigate with speed and effectiveness all aspects and events of the tragedy.

**2011 – 18 July**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Markos Kyprianou submits his resignation to President Christofias "for reasons of political sensitivity," following the blast at the naval base.

**2011 – 19 July**

Minister of National Defence of Greece Panagiotis Beglitis meets in Cyprus with President Christofias, House President Omirou, Minister of Defence Demetris Eliades and other political leaders, while representing Greece at the events to condemn the military invasion of Cyprus by Turkey.



**2011 – 19 July**

At an event at the Presidential Palace to condemn the criminal coup against the president of Cyprus and the military invasion of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974 President Christofias states: "We condemn the treacherous, fascist coup d'état of the Athens Junta and EOKA B, as well as the Turkish invasion and the occupation of half our homeland. We condemn once again the continuous policy of colonization of settlers and the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriot citizens, regardless of their ethnic origin, by occupying Turkey." Moreover, he points out: "The bleak mournful July is even heavier in our hearts this year. The reason is the shock and grief we have all experienced after the tragic explosion at the Naval Base at Mari last Monday. Throughout the centuries, our people have cultivated compassion and solidarity as supreme values. It is at times of ordeal in our country and among our people that these values emerge in the most impressive way. We all feel devastated by the loss of 13 compatriots who lost their lives in vain in the line of duty. During these difficult times, reminiscent of our dead, our thoughts are with the bereaved families of the people who perished."

**2011 – 21 July**

President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, appoints M. Jorge César das Neves as his new personal Representative to the Good Offices Mission of the United Nations in Cyprus.

**2011 – 26 July**

President Christofias pays a working visit to Paris where he meets with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and thanks the leader of France "for his crystal clear positions on the Cyprus problem, positions of principle, which are very important for us because, as you know, France, a steadfast friend of Cyprus, is a Permanent Member of the Security Council and a country that plays a decisive role in EU affairs and the region of the Mediterranean."

**2011 – 3 August**

The Democratic Party pulls out of the coalition government and its Ministers submit their resignations to President Christofias.

**2011 – 5 August**

New Council of Ministers is appointed by President Christofias: Minister of Foreign Affairs: Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Minister of Finance: Kikis Kazamias, Minister of Interior: Neoklis Sylikiotis, Minister of Defence: Demetris Eliades, Minister of Education and Culture: Giorgos Demosthenous, Minister of Communications and Works: Efthymios Flourentzos, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism: Praxoula Antoniadou, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment: Sophocles Aletraris, Minister of Labour and Social Insurance: Sotiroula Charalambous, Minister of Justice and Public Order: Loucas Louca and Minister of Health: Stavros Malas.

**2011 – 8 August**

Government Spokesman Stefanos Stefanou characterises the statements by Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu concerning "the Republic of Cyprus and the exploitation of its

natural resources as unacceptable and condemnable,” adding that “Turkey continues to repeat itself and continues to threaten. The Cyprus issue cannot be resolved with threats. It can be resolved with the respect and the implementation of the UN resolutions on Cyprus, which Turkey defiantly ignores and does not implement.” He concludes that: “The Republic of Cyprus, however, has the sovereign right to exploit its natural resources and this is what it does always in the framework of international law and international legality.”

**2011 – 11 August**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis meets in Athens with her Greek counterpart Stavros Lambrinidis and briefs him on the latest developments in the direct negotiations on the Cyprus problem. They also discuss Turkey’s EU accession course, the new support package for the Greek economy, the current situation in the Middle East, as well as the preparation of Cyprus for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2012.

**2011 – 18 August**

Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Praxoula Antoniadou meets with the Director and Deputy Director of US company ‘Noble Energy’ in Cyprus, Messrs John Tomich and James Cronkhite respectively, concerning their exploratory drilling for hydrocarbons in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus.

**2011 – 5 September**

President Christofias appears before the Commission of Inquiry to look into the circumstances that have led to a massive explosion at the Naval Base near Mari.

**2011 – 12 September**

The European Commission urges Turkey to refrain from any kind of threat against EU member states, including the Republic of Cyprus. The Commission underlines once again “the urgent need to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue. Ahead of the crucial phase of Cyprus talks this autumn, it is essential that all parties concerned exert restraint and do their utmost to ensure a positive climate that will facilitate a successful completion of the process.”

**2011 – 18 September**

‘Noble Energy,’ a company from the United States of America, begins exploratory drilling for hydrocarbons in block 12 (“Aphrodite”) in Cyprus’ EEZ.

**2011 – 19 September**

President Christofias, meets in New York, on the sidelines of the 66<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations, with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and raises, among other issues, the exploration of hydrocarbons by Cyprus and the related threats by Turkey against Cyprus.

**2011 – 21 September**

President Christofias meets in New York with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov. They exchange views on problems and issues of common interest. After the meeting Mr Lavrov states: “We discussed the problem of the Cyprus settlement. As in many other cases, Russia is firmly in favour of reaching an agreement on the basis of internationally agreed principles. In this case we speak about Security Council resolutions and that those



resolutions outline parameters for finding a settlement which would be subject to the agreement by both communities in Cyprus, would be sustainable and would be subject to strong international support. In the case of survey for oil and gas, just like in other case again, we base our position on international law and in this particular case, the Law of the Sea Convention of 1982. We strongly hope and we encourage all parties to avoid any steps which could aggravate the situation and we encourage everyone to remain within the legal framework, the framework of the Law of the Sea Convention.” The President also meets with the Presidents of Kazakhstan Abishevich Nazarbayev, Kyrgyzstan Roza Otunbayeva, Hungary Pal Schmitt and Montenegro Prime Minister Igor Luksic.

**2011 – 22 September**

President Christofias addresses the UN General Assembly and calls on the UN Security Council to make clear to the Turkish leadership that any threat to or violation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, or any continuing violation of international and European law, will not be tolerated. He also reiterates his commitment to a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem and expresses regret for the “backtracking” by the Turkish side at the negotiations.

**2011 – 22 September**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis, attends the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, and speaking at the Ministerial Action Group of the Commonwealth, expresses satisfaction over the excellent level of cooperation between the Cyprus Government and the Commonwealth both on a bilateral and a multilateral level, as well as appreciation for the Commonwealth’s steadfast support of Cyprus. The Minister also raises the issue of the recent provocative statements and threats against Cyprus by Turkish officials and the new illegal secessionist actions which seriously imperil regional and international peace and security and undermine the ongoing negotiation process for a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem. She calls on all member countries to show solidarity and support towards Cyprus whose sovereignty and territorial integrity are being threatened, and to send a powerful message to Turkey to respect international legality.

**2011 – 23 September**

President Christofias holds separate meetings with the Presidents of the Czech Republic Vaclav Klaus and the Republic of Serbia Boris Tadic, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. They exchange views on issues of mutual interest and review bilateral relations.

**2011 – 24 September**

President Christofias has a working lunch with the Representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. He briefs them on the provocative actions of the Turkish side and the threats by senior officials of against Cyprus, for its decision to exercise its sovereign right and conduct explorations within its EEZ for the exploitation of its



**2011 – 30 September**

natural resources. The Representatives express their support to the efforts made under the auspices of the Secretary-General for the solution of the Cyprus issue.

The Menil Collection in Houston, Texas announces the return in 2012 to the Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus of the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Byzantine frescoes that have been one of the museum's main attractions for more than a decade. The Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus thanks the Menil Foundation "for its commitment to return the frescoes and, especially, for its unique initiative in promoting those symbols of Christian faith and masterpieces of Byzantine art, as well as for their first rate preservation and maintenance." The frescoes were stolen from Turkish occupied Cyprus following the 1974 military invasion of Cyprus by Turkey. Through an agreement with the Church of Cyprus the Menil bought, restored, maintained and exhibited the frescoes in a specially built consecrated Byzantine Chapel for a number of years.

**2011 – 1 October**

In his message on the occasion of the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus, President Christofias points out that: "Independence constitutes the highest accomplishment of our people. Many sacrifices were necessary for its achievement. Even more numerous are the sacrifices that were necessary to protect it. To safeguard the territorial integrity of our homeland. To defend democracy and legality in the country. All those who fought on behalf of the people and the homeland deserve all the honors. We honor the struggles and the sacrifices of our people, in practice, through the intensification of the endeavor to achieve a solution to the Cyprus question." The President reiterates that Cyprus' sovereign right to explore and exploit hydrocarbons in its EEZ is non-negotiable. He also says that the issue of hydrocarbons is a challenge and an opportunity to solve the Cyprus problem the soonest.

**2011 – 4 October**

The plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg, adopts with overwhelming majority Resolution 1832 (2011), which calls, inter alia, on all the member states of the Council of Europe "to refrain from recognising or supporting in any way the de facto authorities of territories resulting from unlawful secessions, in particular those supported by foreign military interventions". It also stresses that conflicts that result from military interventions "should be solved exclusively by peaceful means on the basis of international law." Moreover, it states "that military interventions such as those by Turkey in Cyprus in 1974, have themselves led to numerous human rights violations and have not produced lasting solutions for the underlying problems." It also states that "bilateral guarantees such as those in the context of the independence of Cyprus have not prevented conflicts."



**2011 – 12 October**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis meets in Nicosia with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjorn Jagland, who participates in the 7<sup>th</sup> Forum for the Future of Democracy entitled "The Interdependence of Democracy and Social Cohesion: strengthening representation and democratic participation through public dialogue and civic engagement," held in Cyprus. Issues relating to the reform of the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the Neighbourhood Policy of the CoE, are discussed. Special reference is made to the cooperation between the Republic of Cyprus and the Council of Europe in establishing a program of restoration of cultural heritage sites in Cyprus.

**2011 – 17 October**

President Christofias appoints Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis to the position of Deputy Minister to the President for European Affairs. The President underlines the importance of the assumption of the Presidency of the European Council by Cyprus.

**2011 – 28-30 October**

President Christofias is represented by Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Perth, Australia. In the Final Communiqué, the previous Commonwealth Communiqués on Cyprus are reaffirmed and full support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus is expressed. It also expresses support for the efforts of the two communities, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission, to bring about a comprehensive Cyprus settlement, based on the UN Charter and the relevant Resolutions of the UN Security Council. The Commonwealth also extends full support and solidarity to the Republic of Cyprus in the exercise of its sovereign rights under international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to explore and exploit the natural resources in its Exclusive Economic Zone.

**2011 – 30-31 October**

The UN Secretary-General holds a two-day meeting with President Christofias and the leader Turkish-Cypriot community Dervish Eroglu in Long Island, New York. On 1 November 2011 he says that: "discussions have been positive, productive and vigorous." However, he notes that: "there is still work to be done." President Christofias points out, on the same date, that: "unfortunately, during the meeting it was not possible to make that great leap to allow for a turning point in the efforts to solve the Cyprus problem." The President adds that "it is for this reason that the Secretary-General, evaluating the results of the meeting and the intensive phase of negotiations, suggested that we meet again around mid-January. The aim then is to bridge the gap that separates the two sides on the various fundamental aspects of the Cyprus problem, something which is difficult, bearing in mind the differences."

**2011 – 1-2 November**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis pays an official visit to Egypt and meets with the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Egypt's Armed Forces, Commander-in-Chief Mohamed Hussein Tantawi with whom she discusses the prospects of bilateral cooperation and a proposal by the President of the Republic of Cyprus regarding the establishment of a structured dialogue between the two governments. She also holds talks with her Egyptian counter-part Mohamed Kamel Amr and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Nabil El-Arabi and has a meeting with the Imam of Al-Azhar Dr Ahmed Al-Tayeb, whom she briefs on the situation in Cyprus with special reference to the destruction of cultural heritage in the occupied areas. She also meets with the Coptic Pope Shenouda III, the Patriarch of Alexandria Theodore II and representatives of the Cyprus overseas community of Cairo and Alexandria.

**2011 – 3-4 November**

The President of the State of Israel Shimon Peres pays a two-day state visit to Cyprus, the first ever by an Israeli President. Following a private meeting with President Christofias, official talks are held between delegations from the two countries followed by the signing of three Agreements and a Memorandum of Cooperation. In statements to the press President Christofias mentions that: "Together with President Peres we have decided to establish a joint committee on our Mediterranean vision for peace and for the relations between the European Union and all the states in the region. This was a very creative proposal on behalf of President Peres and we have accepted it. I hope that the realisation of our vision will be completed before the Republic of Cyprus assumes the EU Presidency, because this will be very helpful to our EU Presidency. With President Peres we also discussed the latest developments in the energy map of our region. The hydrocarbon reserves that have already been confirmed for Israel, and the confirmation of which we expect for the Cyprus Republic, should be utilised in the best possible way for the prosperity of the peoples of the two countries and for peace in the region." At the state dinner in his honour President Perez states: "My visit today, Mr President, is a continuation of an ancient tradition of cultural and trade relations between our peoples. Almost two thousand years ago we were neighboring people living on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. We convene around the same sea today and share, under the Mediterranean sunlight, not only the horizons above us, but also the values amongst us. We are both democracies. We are pursuing peace and believe that peace will come. Israel and Cyprus share a wide range of common interests and goals. During your last visit to Israel, Mr President, I told you



**2011 – 8 November**

I hope we could use our geographical proximity for political affinity. My visit today serves as a symbol of that spirit. A spirit of good relations between close neighbors. I come bearing Israel's blessing for Cyprus." During his visit the Israeli President also meets with Archbishop Chrysostomos II, as well as with the President of the House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou and with the President of the Democratic Rally Party Nicos Anastasiades.

**2011 – 8 November**

During an official visit to the United Kingdom, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis briefs Foreign Secretary William Hague on the current developments on the Cyprus issue and on Turkey's threats against Cyprus regarding its sovereign right to explore for hydrocarbons within its EEZ. She also discusses the preparations for the Cyprus EU Presidency. Minister of Defence, Demetris Eliades, on an official visit to France meets with his French counterpart, Gérard Longuet, who reiterates the firm positions of France for the solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of the international and European law and the United Nations resolutions. The French Minister emphatically stresses the recognition of Cyprus' sovereign rights for exploration in its Exclusive Economic zone and the need to respect international law. Finally, the two Ministers reaffirm the excellent relations between the two countries and the excellent cooperation between the two Ministries of Defence and agree to intensify it further in view of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU.

**2011 – 8-9 November**

During an official visit to Brussels President of the House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou meets with the President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek and with the President of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament Martin Schulz. Following their meeting, Mr Buzek states that: "We have to switch from the national reflex to European reflexes. But one of the most important points, if we switch to European reflex, is also to solve the Cyprus problem and the division of the country. We are very supportive for a united Cyprus in the future. I have reassured Mr Omirou that we see the future of Cyprus in a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality as defined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions comprising a federal government with a single international personality for the benefit of all islands' citizens. We would like to have a mutual and satisfactory solution, which serves the interests of all."

**2011 – 10 November**

President Christofias receives former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali, who briefs him on the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Centre which will be based in Limassol and will deal with issues regarding the solution of disputes in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

**2011 – 15 November**

President Christofias denounces the illegal 1983 unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) in Turkish occupied areas of Cyprus and emphasises that “We expect the international community to condemn in a stronger manner Turkey’s intransigence. We also expect pressure to be exerted on Turkey more effectively so that we reach an agreed solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of UNSC Resolution 1251, which the UN Secretary-General himself has repeatedly mentioned during our tripartite meetings.”

**2011 - 15 November**

President Christofias receives the Vice President and Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, who is paying an official visit to Cyprus. The President of the Republic and the Vice President of Kenya have a private meeting which is followed by extended talks between the two countries’ delegations. In statements to the press the Kenyan Vice President points out that: “With regard to bilateral relations and cooperation, we are happy to note that our two countries work very closely together at the level of the UN and of course Kenya does support the conclusions, in particular the resolutions of the UN with regard to the resolution of the Cyprus problem, a problem we very well understand and we applaud the efforts of President Christofias in trying to work towards the implications of Cyprus.”

**2011 – 17-18 November**

The new Greek National Defence Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos visits Cyprus and is received by President Christofias, House President Omirou and Minister of Defence Eliades. He states that: “Greece, for another one time, publicly states that it guarantees the integrity, security and independence of the Republic of Cyprus”, and points out that the economic crisis has not undermined the Greek system of defence. “Our country is a guarantee for Cyprus and its future”, he adds.

**2011 – 21 November**

President Christofias visits Noble Energy’s “Homer Ferrington” platform which is engaged in exploratory drilling for hydrocarbons in Cyprus’ EEZ and points out that “My presence here underlines the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus, which we are determined to exercise.” He adds that: “I want to tell our Turkish Cypriot compatriots that I hope that this effort succeeds and to stress that this is also a challenge for Turkey: to change its stance, to solve the Cyprus problem the soonest possible...The actions of the illegal state and Turkey are outside international law. We act strictly in the framework of international law and this is what we are doing also with Noble and with everybody we cooperate with.”

**2011 – 22 November**

The new Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece Stavros Dimas visits Cyprus and meets with President Christofias, as well as with Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis. He states that Greece supports the Republic of Cyprus with all its power and the efforts of President Christofias for the solution of the Cyprus issue noting, at the same time, that Turkey must review its actions, in order to achieve progress at the talks.



**2011 – 22 November**

Minister of Interior Neoklis Sylikiotis meets in Brussels with MEPs members of the Committee of Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament and coordinators of their political groups on these issues, within the framework of the preparation of the Ministry of Interior and of the better coordination and cooperation with the political groups in the European Parliament, in view of the assumption of the Presidency of the Council of the EU by Cyprus, during the second half of 2012.

**2011 – 26 November**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis pays an official visit to the Palestinian National Authority, and meets with the Prime Minister Dr Salam Fayyad and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Riad Malki and briefs them on the latest developments on the Cyprus issue, as well as on Turkey's threats and provocative actions with regard to explorations in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Cyprus.

**2011 – 26-27 November**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis pays an official visit to Jordan, where she meets with the Prime Minister Mr Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Nasser Judeh, the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, as well as with the President of the Senate Taher Al Masri. The two sides exchange views on bilateral relations as well as on international issues.

**2011 – 29-30 November**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis pays an official visit to Berlin, at the invitation of Germany's Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Guido Westerwelle. She briefs her German counterpart on the current phase of the talks for the solution of the Cyprus issue. The EU-Turkish relations and Turkey's accession course are also discussed, along with Turkey's threats against Cyprus in relation to the hydrocarbon explorations by Cyprus EEZ. Moreover, European and international issues of common interest are reviewed, including Cyprus' Presidency of the EU Council in 2012. The Minister also attends a working breakfast with the Chairman of the German-Cypriot Parliamentary Friendship Group of the German Bundestag Dr Dieter Bartsch and members of the presidium. Moreover, Dr Marcoullis meets separately with the Advisor on Foreign and Security Policy to Chancellor Angela Merkel, Dr Christoph Heusgen, at the Chancellery, as well as with the Chairman of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union of the German Bundestag, Mr Gunter Krichbaum.

**2011 – 6 December**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Markoullis participates in the 18<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), held on 6 and 7 December, in Vilnius, Lithuania. She holds a meeting with her Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, with whom she reaffirms the excellent relations between the two countries and Russia's firm support for Cyprus' vital interests. They also discuss EU-Russia relations.

**2011 – 7 December**

President Christofias has a telephone communication with the Prime Minister of Greece Lucas Papademos, who briefs the President on the visit of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden to Greece and on their discussions on the Cyprus issue.

**2011 – 7 December**

President Christofias receives the Advisory Group of Experts on Hydrocarbons. After the meeting Government Spokesman Stefanou, states that: "the Advisory Group has been set up to advise the President and the Government regarding issues of strategic planning on hydrocarbon matters."

**2011 – 7 December**

Government Spokesman Stefanou expresses the government's satisfaction with the Conclusions of the EU General Affairs Council that concern Turkey, noting that "the Government has strived and worked specifically for a text of Conclusions, which would send the correct messages to Turkey for its refusal to fulfill its Cyprus-related obligations and for its hostile behaviour towards the Republic of Cyprus regarding the research that our country is conducting for the exploration of hydrocarbons in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). According to the Conclusions, the Council expects Turkey to actively support the ongoing negotiations aimed at a fair, comprehensive and viable settlement of the Cyprus problem. We also note the dissatisfaction of the Council with regard to Turkey's intention to freeze its relations with the EU Presidency during the second half of 2012 when the Republic of Cyprus will assume the Presidency."

**2011 – 8 December**

President Christofias attends a meeting of the European Council in Brussels, and meets with the President of the Socialists and Democrats Group in the European Parliament, Martin Schulz. Mr Schulz expresses anger for Turkey's threats against Cyprus and the fact that it has sent ships to the Mediterranean to prevent the Republic of Cyprus from exercising its sovereign right for the exploration and exploitation of natural gas deposits within its EEZ and notes that Turkey must realise that it is unacceptable for a candidate country to threaten a member state of the European Union.

**2011 – 12 December**

Meeting of President Christofias with the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community Dervish Eroglu in the framework of the direct talks on the Cyprus issue. President Christofias characterises the meeting as "a failure and we have to let the people know, unfortunately. This is also the conclusion of the United Nations."

**2011 – 12 December**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis pays an official visit to Sofia, at the invitation of her counterpart Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria Nickolay Mladenov. She briefs Mr Mladenov on developments on the Cyprus issue and discusses issues of European and international interest, enlargement of the EU, the Western Balkans, EU-Turkey relations as well as Turkey's threats against the right of Cyprus to search for hydrocarbon reserves in its EEZ and Cyprus' preparation for



**2011 – 14 December**

the Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second semester of 2012. A Memorandum of Understanding for the exchange of officers of their Diplomatic Services is signed.

Renewal of the mandate of UNFICYP by the UN Security Council. Deputy Government Spokesman Christos Christofides notes that "we consider UN Security Council Resolution 2026 on the renewal of the mandate of UNFICYP sufficiently balanced."

**2011 – 15 December**

President Christofias receives the Representative of the Grand Mufti and Imam of Hala Sultan Tekke in Larnaka, Mufti Shakir Alemdar. Mufti Alemdar tells the press: "we both wish that our island becomes a peaceful example for the whole world. The President briefed us on his efforts towards this direction and we told him that we support his efforts."

**2011 – 16 December**

President Christofias receives the Director of the Office of the President of the United Arab Emirates, Dr Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, who is visiting Cyprus at the invitation of the Cyprus Centre for Thalassaemia. After the meeting Dr Al Nahyan says that "I came here to share with Cypriot experts views and ideas to combat thalassaemia."

**2011 – 18 December**

Municipal/Community elections are held.

**2011 – 19-20 December**

German Deputy Defence Minister Thomas Kossendey in Cyprus to visit the German contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). He meets with Minister of Defence Demetris Eliades, with whom he discusses the defence cooperation between the two countries.

**2011 – 19-21 December**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis pays a working visit to Washington where she meets with the US Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, addresses prominent think tanks and meets with members of Congress, representatives of the Jewish, Greek and Cypriot-American leadership and briefs the media.

**2011 – 22 December**

President Christofias signs the book of condolences for the death of former President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel.

**2011 – 23 December**

Minister of Finance Kikis Kazamias and the Deputy Finance Minister of the Russian Federation, Sergey Storchak, sign a bilateral loan agreement of 2,5 billion euro from the Russian Federation to Cyprus.

**2011 – 28 December**

President Christofias expresses his satisfaction with the positive results of the exploratory drilling carried out by Noble Energy International at off-shore Block 12 in the EEZ of the Republic of Cyprus and notes: "We are certain that this productive cooperation will continue in the next stages as well. The discovery of natural gas in the Exclusive Economic Zone of our country creates great prospects for Cyprus and its people that we will exploit with prudence and in a collective spirit, in the service of the public interest. The discovery of natural gas creates great and long-term prospects for economic development from which both the present as well as the next generations will benefit. The exploitation of



hydrocarbons can become an incentive for a solution to the Cyprus problem, a solution that will terminate the illegal occupation and the illegal colonization that will reunify our country and our people.”

**2012 – 10 January**

President Christofias receives representatives of the Turkish-Cypriot trade unions. The head of the Turkish-Cypriot trade union platform, Ahmet Kaptan, tells the press: “We represent the Turkish-Cypriot trade unions, which through their joint action express the unabated hope of the T/C community for a solution to the Cyprus issue.”

**2012 – 11 January**

President Christofias departs for Copenhagen to participate in the official opening ceremony of the Danish Presidency of the EU, with the leaders of the EU Trio: Poland, Denmark and Cyprus. He meets with the Prime Minister of Denmark, Helle Thorning-Schmidt.

**2012 – 16 January**


President Christofias presides over a meeting of the National Council. Government Spokesman Stefanou expresses the National Council’s disappointment that no progress has been made in the UN talks, since the last meeting with the UN Secretary-General. The National Council decides by majority the framework in which the President of the Republic must move during the upcoming meeting in New York. The framework includes the non-acceptance of deadlines, arbitration or convening an international conference without an agreement on the core issues that concern the internal aspects of the Cyprus problem.

**2012 – 18 January**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis meets separately in Geneva with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Dr Navanethem Pillay, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Jakob Kellenberger, the Director General of the International Migration Organization, William Swing, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres. They discuss the prospects of cooperation, especially in view of the assumption of the Presidency of the Council of the EU by the Republic of Cyprus and issues of mutual interest such as the developments in the Middle East and North Africa. The Minister also briefs her interlocutors on the course of the UN negotiations on the Cyprus problem.

**2012 – 19-20 January**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis pays a working visit to Tripoli, Libya. She meets with Prime Minister Abdurrahim El Keib, her counterpart Ashour Saad Bin Khayal, and Deputy Health Minister Adel Mukhtar Abushoffa. She briefs her interlocutors on the developments on the Cyprus problem while they exchange views on the situation in the Middle East and especially the countries of the Arab Spring. She expresses Cyprus’ support for the efforts of the transitional Government of Libya to reconstruct the country and Cyprus’ desire to assist at this critical period that the country is going through.



**2012 – 24-25 January**

Meeting of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with President Christofias and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community Dervish Eroglu in Long Island (Greentree), New York. Following the meeting, the UN Secretary-General states that: "Discussions over these two days were robust and intensive, although limited progress was achieved. I reminded the leaders that this process is Cypriot-owned and Cypriot-led. The UN is not here to impose solutions upon the sides. In terms of next steps, I have proposed that the sides complete the exchange of data on property within the next two weeks to which they agreed." President Christofias expresses his disappointment and notes that "I would like to state sincerely that I leave, not being satisfied...unfortunately, no progress was achieved."

**2012 – 25 January**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis pays a working visit to London, where she meets with the Minister of State responsible for European Issues, David Lidington, whom she briefs on developments on the Cyprus problem, including the tripartite meeting held in New York. She also meets with the UK Committee of Relatives of Missing Persons as well as the Shadow Minister for Europe, Emma Reynolds and speaks at the London School of Economics on "The Geostrategic Importance of Cyprus: Long Term Trends and Prospects."

**2012 – 30 January**

President Christofias participates in the Informal Meeting of the European Council in Brussels. EU leaders examine issues concerning the handling of the economic crisis with emphasis on the promotion of growth and employment and the need to take initiatives for the promotion of growth and the creation of job positions for young people. They agree to intensify their efforts for the general fiscal consolidation in the EU, and mainly in the Eurozone. Also, a political agreement on the draft of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union, to be forwarded for signature at the March Meeting of the European Council, is noted. Moreover, it is confirmed that the Treaty for the creation of a European Stability Mechanism is ready for signature and the goal is for this to enter into force in July 2012.

**2012 – 1 February**

President Christofias receives the Vice-President of Noble Energy Inc., Terry Gerhart, who briefs him on the progress concerning the exploratory drilling for hydrocarbons the company is carrying out in the EEZ of Cyprus.

**2012 – 2 February**

President Christofias briefs the National Council on developments regarding the UN meeting in New York. Government Spokesman Stefanou tells the press that: "The President of the Republic, at Greentree, set out clearly the positions of the Greek Cypriot side, as he does at every meeting, and also made it clear that the process of discussion on the Cyprus problem does not provide for, nor do we accept, arbitration or deadlines, and that the UN resolutions provide for specific terms and preconditions regarding the convening of an

international conference for the resolution of the international aspects of the Cyprus problem, after an agreement is achieved on the internal aspects of the Cyprus problem.”

**2012 – 14 February**

The European Parliament adopts a Declaration on the return of the sealed-off section of Famagusta to its lawful inhabitants. The written declaration calls on Turkey’s Government to act in accordance with Resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992) of the UN Security Council, as well as the recommendations of the report of the European Parliament on Famagusta, and return the sealed-off town of Famagusta to its lawful inhabitants so that they can resettle there under conditions of security and peace.

**2012 – 16 February**

Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, accompanied by the Minister of Energy of Israel Uzi Landau, pays a working visit to Cyprus and meets with President Christofias. During the visit (the first by an Israeli Prime Minister to Cyprus), a bilateral agreement is signed between the two countries on the Coordination of Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Services. President Christofias briefs the Prime Minister on the latest developments on the Cyprus problem. The two leaders exchange views regarding the peace process in the Middle East and the situation of the world economy and discuss the energy-related developments in the region. The Prime Minister of Israel points out that: “What Israel and Cyprus seek is a peaceful development of mutual relations for the benefit and prosperity of their people as well as the entire region.”

**2012 – 21-23 February**

President Christofias meets in Brussels with the College of Commissioners in the framework of preparations for the assumption of the Presidency of the Council of the EU by Cyprus in the second semester of 2012. He meets with the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, with whom he discusses a range of issues including the challenging economic situation, the Multiannual Financial Framework, the youth unemployment as well as the Cyprus settlement process and relations with Turkey. Mr Barroso also expresses his full support to the UN process and notes that: “the European Union, not only the Commission, will support Cyprus as a member of our Union in its role as Presidency of the Council.”

**2012 – 24 February**

President Christofias receives the European Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn, who visits Cyprus to prepare the upcoming Cypriot Presidency of the EU, which will have to play a major role in the adoption of the new proposals for Cohesion Policy after 2013. In statements to the press, Mr Hahn notes: “The President informed me about the state of play concerning the negotiations and I hope that there will be progress because the country will benefit from it. We also discussed the new explorations and I also informed him about our intentions concerning the next financial period and what the structural funds could contribute to Cyprus.”

**2012 – 28 February**

Government Spokesman Stefanou describes statements made by Turkish Cypriot leader Dervish Eroglu on the Cyprus problem as provocative and disrespectful. Mr Stefanou underlines that: "It is not the Greek Cypriot side that fails to meet its commitments towards the UN Secretary-General and reneges from previously agreed positions; it is the Turkish Cypriot side."

**2012 – 1-2 March**

In view of the assumption of the Presidency of the Council of the EU by Cyprus during the second semester of 2012, President Christofias pays an official visit to the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg. He holds a round table discussion with Judges of the EU Court and the General Court of the EU.

**2012 – 6 March**

In view of a statement by the Turkish Minister for European Affairs, Egemen Bagis, that the solution of the Cyprus problem might be the annexation of northern Cyprus to Turkey, the European Commission notes that for the EU there is only one solution to be considered and that is the reunification of the island, based on a bicommunal, bizonal federation, and all efforts from all sides should be focused on reaching a comprehensive solution of this issue and calls on all sides concerned to focus their energies on reaching this solution.

**2012 – 7 March**

President Christofias presides over a meeting of the National Council. He reaffirms his commitment to the joint statement issued after the National Council meeting of 18 September 2009 and points out that his proposals and handling of the Cyprus problem are fully in line with the provisions of the joint statement. In addition, he notes that he will continue the efforts for the achievement of a solution based on the UN resolutions, the principles of international law and the High Level Agreements of 1977 and 1979.

**2012 – 8-9 March**

Vice President of the European Investment Bank Ploutarchos Sakellaris pays an official visit to Cyprus where he presents the fiscal results of the European Investment Bank and a review of its activities in Cyprus for 2011. Moreover, an agreement is signed for a 130 million euro loan and guarantee for the funding of Unit 5 of Vasilikos Power Plant.

**2012 – 12 March**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon submits his report on his Mission of Good Offices in Cyprus to the Security Council. The Secretary-General points out that: "At the moment the negotiations on the "core" issues that remain to be agreed are close to deadlock. Despite the leaders' repeated commitments to intensify the negotiations and push for a conclusion as soon as possible, the fact that there has been such limited movement towards convergence on core issues in recent months is a matter of concern." He calls on the leaders "to make decisive moves that will demonstrate that agreement is indeed within their grasp. They must focus their efforts on resolving the outstanding challenges. In particular,

they must find a way to move beyond the existing deadlock on the election of the executive and advance more definitively on property and citizenship.”

**2012 – 20 March**

President Christofias proceeds with a partial reshuffle of the Government: Vassos Shiarly is appointed as Minister of Finance, Neoklis Sylikiotis as Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism and Eleni Mavrou as Minister of Interior.

**2012 – 26 March**

Government Spokesman Stefanou, commenting on a press report by the Turkish newspaper ‘Milliyet’ concerning the fenced off city of Famagusta, states that: “Actions or moves, which aim to create impressions and are outside the decisions of the international Organisation or violate them, are not acceptable by the Greek Cypriot side.” He adds that: “the United Nations have a specific decision as regards the fenced city of Famagusta, which Turkey does not implement. The United Nations, with resolution 550 of 1984 call for the transfer of this area to the United Nations. The aim is the return of the legal inhabitants to the area.”

**2012 – 29 March**

A meeting between President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Eroglu is held in the framework of direct, full-fledged negotiations on the Cyprus problem. President Christofias notes that the very significant differences and the distance of positions between the two sides remain and expresses the full readiness of the Greek-Cypriot side to continue the talks until a common solution is found.

**2012 – 5-6 April**

Prime Minister of Greece Loucas Papademos pays an official visit to Cyprus accompanied by a high level delegation including Minister of Foreign Affairs Stavros Demas and other government officials. President Christofias briefs the Prime Minister on the course of the preparations for the forthcoming assumption of the Presidency of the Council of the EU by Cyprus and on the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency, stressing that Cyprus will fulfill its institutional role so that it can contribute as Presidency to the EU’s effort of addressing the challenges before it. He also expresses his disappointment with the way in which Turkey reacts to the assumption of the EU presidency by Cyprus, threatening to freeze relations between the EU and Turkey in the second semester of 2012. Mr Papademos notes that the forthcoming assumption of the Presidency of the Council of the EU gives Cyprus the opportunity to play a leading institutional and functional role in the European Union and pledges Greece’s full support. They also review developments on the Cyprus issue.

**2012 – 17 April**

In the framework of the rapid development of relations between Cyprus and Israel, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis meets with her Israeli counterpart Avigdor Liberman who is paying an official visit to Cyprus. They exchange views on various areas of cooperation and discuss



**2012 – 18-19 April**

regional issues including the Middle East, the Cyprus situation and the threats from Turkey, as well as the situation in a number of countries of the Arab Spring.

Prime Minister of Poland, Donald Tusk, pays a working visit to Cyprus, in the framework of the assumption of the Presidency of the Council of the EU by Cyprus on 1 July 2012. Regarding Turkey's threats to freeze its relations with the EU during the Cyprus Presidency, Mr Tusk notes that: "There should be no threat against the presiding country of the EU, and the EU itself must not accept any threat from Turkey against Cyprus." He also expresses the hope that there will be no move on the part of Turkey to destabilize Cyprus, because, as he notes this would be perceived as destabilizing the EU. President Christofias points out that: "We believe that these threats of Turkey are equal to adventurism and the international community cannot and should not remain a spectator, and certainly the EU, of which Turkey wants to become a member." He further notes that Cyprus supports Turkey's accession course, but on the precondition that Turkey will behave like a European country and not like an imperialistic occupation force, which threatens an EU member state, and underlines that: "Our position is clear: Turkey should comply with international and European Law. Otherwise, it is not worthy to be even a candidate country for accession to the EU."

**2012 – 27 April**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis meets with the President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Werner Hoyer. Issues such as the strengthening of the basis of EIB fund, the contribution of each state to the fund, as well as the current situation in the bank sector at a pan-European level is discussed. Reference is made to energy issues and the help provided by the Bank for the promotion of energy infrastructure projects, especially in the field of Renewable Energy Resources. Other issues of international interest are also discussed. Mrs Kozakou-Marcoullis also meets with the European Parliament rapporteur on Turkey, Ria Oomen-Ruijten. The Cyprus issue, EU-Turkey relations and Turkey's accession process are the main issues of discussion. Views are also exchanged on the stance of Turkey towards the upcoming Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU.

**2012 – 9 May**

Presentation ceremony of the Logo of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union takes place in Nicosia. The vision of the Cyprus Presidency is one for a Better Europe, more hospitable but also more efficient in facing today's challenges.

**2012 – 10-11 May**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis pays an official visit to Finland at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Erkki Tuomioja. The Minister holds extensive talks on ways to enhance cooperation and further improve the very good relations that exist between the two countries. She briefs Mr Tuomioja about recent developments on the Cyprus

problem as well as Turkey's threats against Cyprus' sovereign right to explore for hydrocarbon reserves in its EEZ, and the preparations and priorities regarding the upcoming Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU.

**2012 – 15 May**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis meets in Luxembourg with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn, whom she briefs on the latest developments on the Cyprus issue, as well as on issues regarding the EEZ of the Republic of Cyprus and Turkish threats against Cyprus' sovereign rights to explore for hydrocarbon reserves. In addition, the Foreign Ministers discuss the upcoming Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU.

**2012 - 18 May**

President of the Swiss Confederation Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf pays an official visit to Cyprus (the first by a President of the Swiss Confederation). President Christofias briefs the Swiss leader on the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the EU and on major issues expected to be on the Agenda of the Cyprus Presidency. He also, expresses the gratitude of the people of Cyprus for the positions of principle of Switzerland on the Cyprus problem.

**2012 – 19 May**

President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz meets with President Christofias in Nicosia. Among the issues discussed are the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency, Turkey's threats against Cyprus and the latest developments on the solution of the Cyprus problem. Concerning Turkey's threats, Mr Schulz notes that: "I will raise the issue also during my visit to Turkey. I will discuss this with my Turkish friends and I will draw my conclusions. What is certain is that threats are the opposite of what we need. We need mutual respect and understanding and therefore threats are never meaningful."

**2012 – 21-22 May**

During an official visit to Austria, President Christofias meets with the Federal President of the Republic of Austria, Heinz Fischer, whom he briefs on developments regarding the Cyprus problem and expresses gratitude for Austria's longstanding contribution to the Peacekeeping Force of the United Nations in Cyprus. Among the issues discussed are the economic crisis and issues regarding the Eurozone, the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the enlargement of the EU, Turkey's EU accession course and the developments in the Middle East. President Christofias holds separate meetings with the President of the National Council of Austria, Mrs Barbara Prammer, the Federal Chancellor of Austria Mr Werner Faymann and the Mayor of Vienna, Mr Michael Haupl. He also addresses a Business Forum organised by the Economic Chamber of Austria in Vienna.

**2012 – 28 May**

President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, pays an official visit to Cyprus, where he reiterates the strong support of the European Council to the upcoming Cypriot Presidency and points out that the EU stands ready to provide the necessary support with regard to the solution of the



**2012 – 1-4 June**

Cyprus problem. Mr Rompuy notes that: "The EU continues to attach utmost importance to the continuation of the negotiations and calls on both sides to make every effort to pave the way for a comprehensive settlement. The status quo is in no one's interest. Although this is a Cypriot-led process, the EU stands ready to provide all necessary support. The ultimate goal is a united Cyprus in the European Union."

President Christofias briefs the President of the European Council on the hardships the Cypriot economy is facing as well as on recent developments in the Cyprus settlement talks. President Christofias meets with Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia Quentin Bryce in the framework of her state visit in Cyprus. President Christofias expresses deep gratitude for Australia's positions of principle and for its support to the UN resolutions on the Cyprus issue, as well as for the hospitality the Cypriot community of Australia enjoys, and thanks Australia for its long-term participation in the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. Ms Bryce reaffirms Australia's staunch and enduring support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus noting that: "The Australian Government supports efforts toward a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus issue, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions which would reunify Cyprus in a bizonal, bicommunal federation."

**2012 – 7-8 June**

President Christofias pays a working visit to Malta. He meets with the President of Malta, George Abela, with whom he discusses issues pertaining to Cyprus' EU Presidency, bilateral relations, developments in the Cyprus problem and also Turkey's threats concerning Cyprus' explorations in its EEZ. The President also meets with the Prime Minister of Malta, Lawrence Gonzi, and the Mayor of Valetta, Peter Sant Manduca.

**2012 – 18 June**

Cyprus takes over from Denmark the negotiation of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment, Sofoclis Aletraris, thanks his Danish counterpart for the important work she has done and underlines the Cyprus Presidency's readiness to promote the adoption of proposals for CAP's reform to the greatest extent possible by the end of the year.

**2012 – 19 June**

In view of the upcoming Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic Miroslav Lajčák pays an official visit to Cyprus at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus. Minister Kozakou-Marcoullis briefs her Slovak counterpart on the internal situation on the island and the settlement talks on the Cyprus issue as well as on the programme of the Presidency of the Republic of Cyprus, the next Multiannual Financial Framework and on enlargement issues. In a statement to the press, the Slovak Foreign Minister states that: "We are real friends. The timing of the



visit was also very important because it takes place one-two days after important elections in several countries in the neighbourhood and a few days before the Republic of Cyprus takes over the Presidency of the EU. We wish the Presidency every success and we stand firmly behind your Presidency. We joined the EU at the same time, so we belong to the same group of countries.”

**2012 – 19 June**

In view of the upcoming Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union, President Christofias receives the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle. In a statement to the press, Mr Füle expresses his confidence in the preparations for the upcoming Presidency and looks forward to it. Mr Füle also meets with Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis.

**2012 – 19 June**


President Christofias receives the President of the Political Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Hannes Swoboda. Issues pertaining to the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU, the developments in the Cyprus problem, Turkey’s threats against the Republic of Cyprus, as well as issues that concern the European economy are discussed. Mr Swoboda points out that: “The Cypriot Presidency is not something about Cyprus. It is a European Presidency. Turkey cannot expect from Europe compromises if it doesn’t respect the decisions of the EU,” noting that President Christofias is not representing only Cyprus, he is representing the Union in these six months. He also adds: “My group always supported President Christofias from the beginning. We were not disappointed because he did and still does a great job and will do a great job in this country and for Europe. We are disappointed by the activities of Turkey and the non-respect of Turkey of Cyprus and its Presidency. This is not a way to put things forward and to promote the reconciliation, reunification process in Cyprus.”

**2012 – 25 June**

The Press and Information Office announces the launch of the official website of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU ([cy2012.eu](http://cy2012.eu)), a useful information tool for EU citizens, media representatives and the general public around the world.

**2012 – 29 June**

President Christofias meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Brussels on the sidelines of the deliberations of the European Council, in view of the assumption of the Presidency of the Council of the EU by the Republic of Cyprus. The German Chancellor is briefed by the President on the main objectives and the issues that Cyprus wants to promote in the next six months. President Christofias makes special reference to the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework, the policies for growth and social cohesion, the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy as well as the South Neighbourhood Policy of the EU. Turkey’s negative stance towards the Cyprus Presidency is also discussed.



**2012 – 1 July**

Assumption of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union. President Christofias, in his message notes that: "The first of July 2012 is an historic day for our country. As of today the Republic of Cyprus assumes the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the next six months. Assuming our institutional role, as a presiding country, is a great honour, recognition and prestige. Our goal is to exercise an absolutely successful European presidency. Exercising successfully the first Cyprus Presidency of the Council will undoubtedly have significant positive repercussions for our future course in the European Union, as well as in other fields. It will lend even more prestige to Cyprus, especially within the European and international environment in which we live and work."

**2012 – 1-2 July**

President Christofias receives the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, Dimitris Avramopoulos, who is paying an official visit to Cyprus at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis. In a statement to the press, Mr Avramopoulos expresses his belief that Cyprus will be completely successful in the promotion of its historic first Presidency of the EU.

**2012 – 2 July**

President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso appoints the Legal Advisor in the Commission's Legal Service, Pieter Van Nuffel, as his new Personal Representative to the Good Offices Mission of the United Nations in Cyprus. Mr Pieter Van Nuffel will provide legal advice to the UN Good Offices Mission on EU-related matters and act as liaison between the UN Good Offices Mission and the Commission.

**2012 – 4 July**

An opening ceremony to mark the assumption of the presidency of the EU Council by the Republic of Cyprus takes place at the Ancient Theatre of Kourion. President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, and Vice President of the European Parliament Annie Podimata on behalf of the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz, address the ceremony.

**2012 – 5 July**

Prime Minister of Denmark Helle Thorning Schmidt hands over the Presidency of the Council of the EU to President Christofias in Nicosia. They discuss issues relating to the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU as well as the legislative dossiers Cyprus has inherited from the Danish Presidency. President Christofias congratulates Thorning-Schmidt for the successful completion of the Danish Presidency and thanks her for the close cooperation the two countries have.

**2012 – 13 July**

US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip Gordon meets with Minister of Foreign Affairs Kozakou-Marcoullis in Nicosia. They sign the Extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Republic of Cyprus and the United States of America, concerning the

Imposition of Import Restrictions on pre-Classical and Classical Archaeological Objects and Byzantine and post-Byzantine Period Ecclesiastical and Ritual Ethnological Material. This bilateral agreement contributes significantly to the protection of the cultural heritage of Cyprus. It was first signed in 2002 and extended, with revisions, for another five years in 2007, and again in 2012.

**2012 – 17 July**

President Christofias meets in Nicosia with the Chairman of the Committee of External Affairs of the European Parliament (AFET), Elmar Brok. The course of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU so far, the developments in the Cyprus problem as well as the developments in the region are among the issues discussed.

**2012 – 19 July**

At an event to condemn the military coup against the President of Cyprus, and the military invasion of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974, President Christofias points out that: "Faced with Turkey's intransigence, we have to support and promote with consistency the solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of a bizonal bicomunal federation. Through our consistency, we do not allow Turkey to legalize the occupation faits accomplis and at the same time we expose its refusal to respect and to implement the decisions of the international organisation." He underlines that the fact that the international community recognises the sovereign right of the Republic of Cyprus is being appreciated but it is not enough. "It must be firmly pointed out to Turkey that it cannot disregard international law and the UN decisions. In Cyprus, the Cyprus problem is testing the reliability of the international community, the UN, the EU, which has been compromised many times by the tolerance and even the complicity of some who implement a policy of double standards," the President of the Republic notes. He further says that: "It is obvious that Turkey seeks to consolidate the faits-accomplis of the invasion and occupation through the unproductive passage of time. With its negative and many times provocative stance, Turkey is trying to establish in people's consciousness that there is no prospect of a solution. It suggests that the best way out as regards the Cyprus problem is the compromise with de facto partition. However, we very well know that partition does not augur anything good for the present and future of our country and people. My message to our people from the stand of this event to commemorate the black anniversaries is that if Cyprus is partitioned, this will be a big victory of our country's enemies. It will be a big victory of chauvinism and intolerance and a major defeat of our entire people, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Partition will make Turkish presence in Cyprus permanent. Such a development will allow the occupation force to continue its policy of Turkish colonization in the occupied areas, something that will lead to the disappearance of the Turkish Cypriot community. Along



**2012 – 2 August**

with its policy of colonization, Turkey will exercise its dominance over the entire island and it will forever question the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus. The presence of tens of thousands of occupation troops and settlers will constitute a constant source of danger for Cyprus and the entire region."

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Palestinian National Authority Dr Riad al-Malki, pays an official visit to Cyprus. Foreign Minister Kozakou-Marcoullis reassures her Palestinian counterpart that Cyprus remains ready to assist both bilaterally and internationally the further development of the Palestinian welfare and society and expresses the commitment that Cyprus will continue being at the forefront and systematically support the rights of the Palestinian people in international fora and in the European Union as a matter of principle. The Palestinian Foreign Minister states that: "The fact that Cyprus today presides over the Council of the EU is a great benefit and a great opportunity for Palestine, because Cyprus will try to do justice. And to take advantage of the fact that it is really presiding over the Council, we feel very much empowered. And we know from the statements and the positions, which Cyprus have had over the time, that Palestine is in good hands and during the Presidency of Cyprus we do expect progress to be made at the level of the EU."

**2012 – 5 August**

Cypriot athlete Pavlos Kontides wins the first ever Olympic medal for Cyprus after finishing second in the singlehanded Laser sailing class during the 2012 London Olympics.

**2012 – 5-6 September**

President Christofias pays an official visit to Jordan and meets with King Abdullah II. They discuss bilateral relations, ways to strengthen Jordan-EU cooperation, as well as international and regional issues of common interest. President Christofias also meets with the President of the Senate Taher Masri, with the President of the Lower House of Representatives, Abdel Karim Doughmi, and the Prime Minister of Jordan Fayez al-Tarawneh.

**2012 – 7 September**

British Foreign Minister William Hague meets with President Christofias in the framework of his visit to Cyprus for the meeting of the EU Foreign Ministers. In statements to the press, Mr Hague notes that: "It is a great pleasure to be here in Cyprus, for the first time actually, that I have been here as Foreign Secretary. The UK has a very close and important relationship with Cyprus. I had a very valuable discussion with President Christofias both on the excellent work his officials are doing on the EU Presidency, which I think is being handled well and which we are doing our best to help with, and of course as always on the shared vision of the benefits for all Cypriots that flow from a resolution to the Cyprus problem, something that we always have in our minds. So, I look forward to developing my contacts with all of those who can

**2012 – 15 September**

help make that vision a reality. I know that much is always expected of Britain here and quite rightly and we are ready to maintain and deepen our active involvement in the future.” President Christofias receives European Commissioner for European and Monetary Affairs Olli Rehn. Mr Rehn states that: “it is important to maintain social fairness while Cyprus is in the middle of economic reforms and fiscal adjustment,” and expresses the support of the European Commission to overcome the challenges that Cyprus is currently facing.

**2012 – 24 September**

President Christofias meets in New York with the Representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. He briefs them on the situation in Cyprus and the standstill on the Cyprus issue due to the stance of the Turkish-Cypriot side and Ankara, and notes Turkey’s threats concerning exploration for hydrocarbons and against the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU. He also stresses that the Greek-Cypriot side has repeatedly shown its goodwill and notes that all Cypriots will benefit, in the framework of a reunited Cyprus, from the natural resources discovered in the Cyprus EEZ.

**2012 – 24 September**


On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, President Christofias meets with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and thanks him because “he has shown an unabated personal interest in the solution of the Cyprus problem at a time when many fires were underway in many regions of the planet and in our region as well. We established a friendship between us. I have promised the Secretary-General that even after the Presidential elections, as a politician, I will continue to struggle for the reunification of Cyprus, for peace on the island, liberation from occupation and of course for the creation of brotherly relations with our Turkish Cypriot compatriots, in a reunited peaceful Cyprus.” The President also meets with the President of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmoud Abbas, the President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic, the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergei Lavrov.

**2012 – 25 September**

President Christofias addresses the UN General Assembly and reiterates the commitment of the Greek Cypriot side to a negotiated settlement in Cyprus. He notes that: “Our commitment remains unchanged: Return to the negotiating table, continue the negotiations in good faith and respect in practice and not just words the agreed basis for a solution of a bicomunal, bizonal federation with a single sovereignty, single citizenship and single international personality, with political equality as defined in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.”

**2012 – 1 October**

In his message on the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus, President Christofias underlines that: “Independence is the most important



accomplishment of our people. It created great prospects for growth, progress and advancement. Through hard work, our people have achieved a great deal during the years of independence. All that we have achieved should normally fill us with pride and confidence. However, the situation of occupation and division of our country since 1974 threatens the accomplishments of our people and compels us to be prudent, circumspect and vigilant...It is the duty of all of us, and in particular of the political leadership of the country, at all times, to draw the right lessons from the modern history of Cyprus. We are called upon to continue the struggle with realism and commitment to principles, in order to terminate the occupation and to reunify Cyprus within the framework of a just, under the circumstances, viable and functional solution...The inability to reach an agreement is not the result of the agreed basis for a solution. It is due to the refusal of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership to cooperate towards such a solution. It is due to their philosophy to promote a solution of two states in Cyprus."

**2012 – 2 October**

President Christofias pays an official visit to Greece and meets with Prime Minister Antonis Samaras. Mr Samaras states that: "The exploitation of hydrocarbons in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone constitutes an inalienable sovereign right of the Republic of Cyprus," reiterating at the same time the determination of Greece to oppose any challenge to the sovereignty of the island. On his part, President Christofias stresses that in a reunited Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots have nothing to lose, but only to gain from the exploitation of the country's natural resources and calls on Turkey to withdraw its troops from Cyprus' northern occupied areas and abandon its unacceptable and intransigent stance on the Cyprus issue. President Christofias meets also with his Greek counterpart Karolos Papoulias.

**2012 – 17 October**

President Christofias holds separate meetings in Rome with the President of Italy Giorgio Napolitano and with Prime Minister Mario Monti. Issues that concern the European agenda, the economic crisis in the Eurozone, the Cyprus problem as well as regional issues are discussed. During his visit, President Christofias and his Italian counterpart inaugurate an exhibition of Cypriot antiquities entitled "Cyprus, the island of Aphrodite."

**2012 – 19 October**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark Villy Søvndal pays an official visit to Cyprus at the invitation of his Cypriot counterpart and in the framework of the current Trio Presidency of the Council of the EU, composed of Poland, Denmark and Cyprus. The ongoing Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Cyprus problem, bilateral issues, the developments in the Southern Neighbourhood, as well as the EU's enlargement are among the issues of discussion. Minister

Kozakou-Marcoullis notes that: "we are very thankful for the support we get from Denmark in the efforts for the solution of the Cyprus problem, but also in a number of multilateral fora, such as the United Nations and the Council of Europe, especially in the area of human rights." Mr Søvnndal congratulates Cyprus for its ongoing Presidency of the Council of the EU, which was handed over by Denmark to Cyprus. The Danish Foreign Minister notes: "I think most people are very impressed how you manage this, as a small country."

**2012 – 25 October**

President Christofias pays an official visit to the Holy See and meets with Pope Benedict XVI. During the meeting, the President presents Pope Benedict with a reproduction of an olive tree made of silver noting that Cyprus is a land of the blessed olive tree and this tree constitutes a symbol of peace. The President also meets with the Cardinal Secretary of State, Tarcisio Bertone.

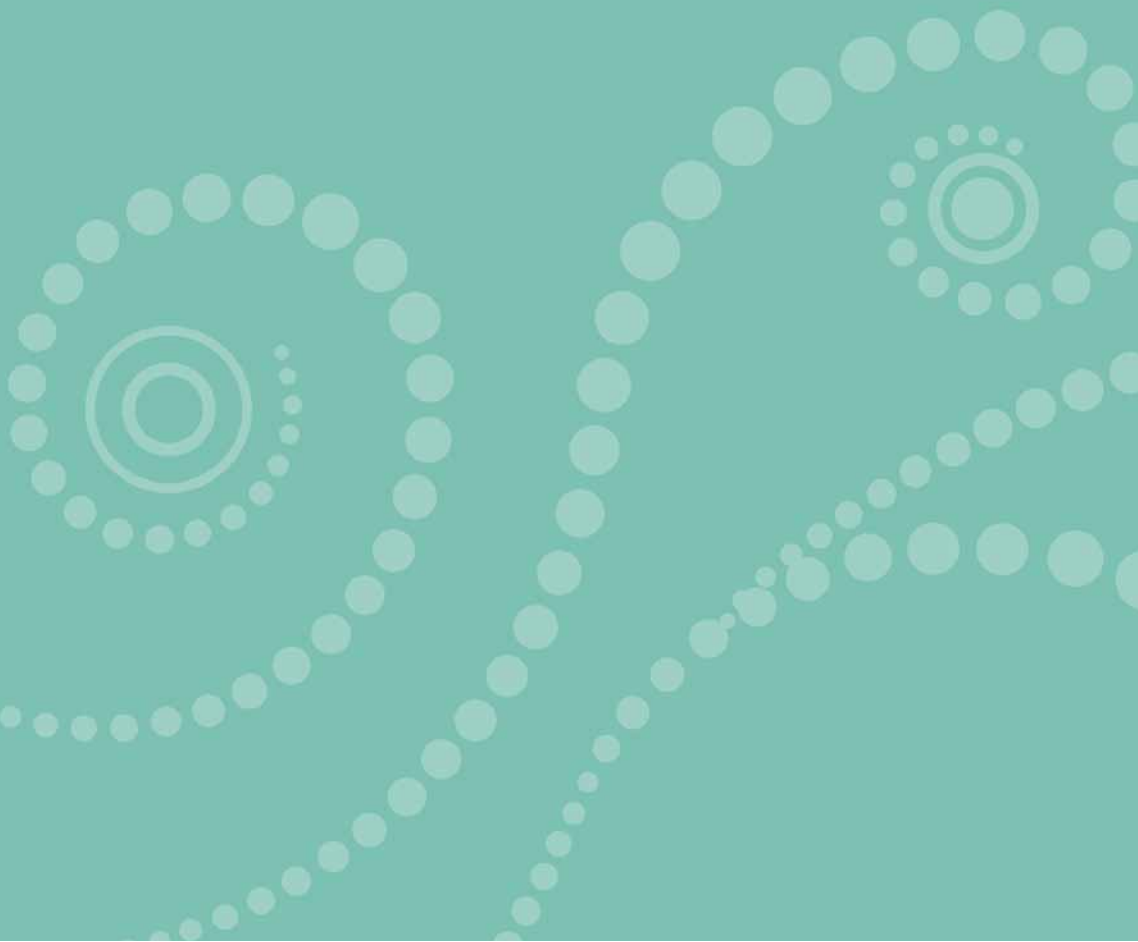
**2012 – 26 October**

President Christofias meets in Paris with the President of France, François Hollande. Mr Hollande expresses his wish to see the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot sides return to the negotiating table, to find a political settlement in line with international law and notes that: "France naturally supports a solution, in order for Cyprus to overcome the difficulties it faces today in its banking sector and return back to growth soon." President Christofias notes the convergence of views between France and Cyprus on how to tackle the financial crisis in the Eurozone and the EU in general. Moreover, he refers to French support, in the UN Security Council, for the efforts of the Republic of Cyprus to reunify the island, terminate Turkey`s occupation, end the influx of illegal settlers in the occupied areas and create conditions of peaceful coexistence among people. President Christofias inaugurates an exhibition of Cypriot antiquities at the Louvre Museum, titled "Cyprus between Byzantium and the West, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century." The French government is represented by French EU Affairs Minister Bernard Cazeneuve.





# Select UN Resolutions on the Cyprus Problem





## \*U.N. Security Council Resolution 186 of 4 March 1964

**Following is the text of resolution 186 adopted unanimously by the U.N. Security Council at its 1102nd meeting on 4 March 1964:**

The Security Council,

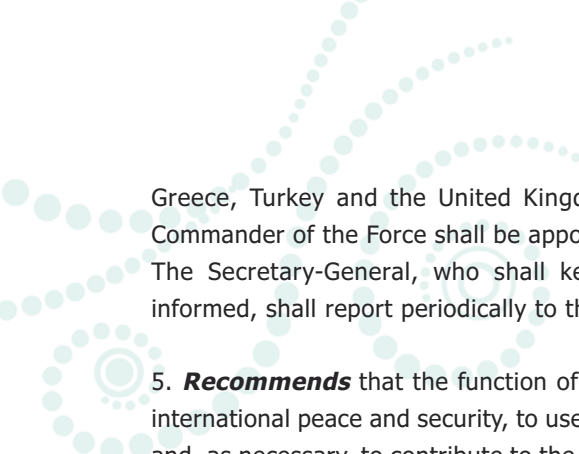
**Noting** that the present situation with regard to Cyprus is likely to threaten international peace and security and may further deteriorate unless additional measures are promptly taken to maintain peace and to seek out a durable solution,

**Considering** the positions taken by the parties in relation to the Treaties signed at Nicosia on 16 August 1960,

**Having in mind** the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and its Article 2, paragraph 4, which reads: "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations",

1. **Calls upon** all Member States, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, to refrain from any action or threat of action to worsen the situation in the sovereign Republic of Cyprus, or to endanger international peace;
2. **Asks** the Government of Cyprus, which has the responsibility for the maintenance and restoration of law and order, to take all additional measures necessary to stop violence and bloodshed in Cyprus;
3. **Calls upon** the communities in Cyprus and their leaders to act with the utmost restraint;
4. **Recommends** the creation, with the consent of the Government of Cyprus, of a United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus. The composition and size of the Force shall be established by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Governments of Cyprus,

*\* For a comprehensive list of UN Resolutions on Cyprus see **United Nations Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions on Cyprus 1960-2006**, Press and Information Office, Nicosia, 2006. See also the PIO website: [www.moi.gov.cy/pio](http://www.moi.gov.cy/pio)*



Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Commander of the Force shall be appointed by the Secretary-General and report to him. The Secretary-General, who shall keep the Governments providing the Force fully informed, shall report periodically to the Security Council on its operation;

5. **Recommends** that the function of the Force should be in the interest of preserving international peace and security, to use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting and, as necessary, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions;

6. **Recommends** that the stationing of the Force shall be for a period of three months, all costs pertaining to it being met, in a manner to be agreed upon by them, by the Governments providing the contingents and by the Government of Cyprus. The Secretary-General may also accept voluntary contributions for the purpose;

7. **Recommends further** that the Secretary-General designate, in agreement with the Government of Cyprus and the Governments of Greece, Turkey and United Kingdom, a mediator, who shall use his best endeavours with the representatives of the communities and also with the aforesaid four Governments, for the purpose of promoting a peaceful solution and an agreed settlement of the problem confronting Cyprus, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, having in mind the well-being of the people as a whole and the preservation of international peace and security. The mediator shall report periodically to the Secretary-General on his efforts;

8. **Requests** the Secretary-General to provide, from funds of the United Nations, as appropriate, for the remuneration and expenses of the mediator and his staff.

## U.N. General Assembly Resolution 2077 (XX) of 18 December 1965

**The United Nations General Assembly adopted on 18 December 1965, resolution 2077 (XX) by 47 votes in favour, 5 against and 54 abstentions.**

The General Assembly,

**Having considered** the question of Cyprus,

**Recalling** Security Council resolutions 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, 187 (1964) of 13 March 1964, 192 (1964) of 20 June 1964, 193 (1964) of 9 August 1964, 194 (1964) of 25 September 1964, 198 (1964) of 18 December 1964, 201 (1965) of 19 March 1965, 206 (1965) of 15 June 1965 and 207 (1965) of 10 August 1965, and the Council's consensus of 11 August 1964 with regard to Cyprus,

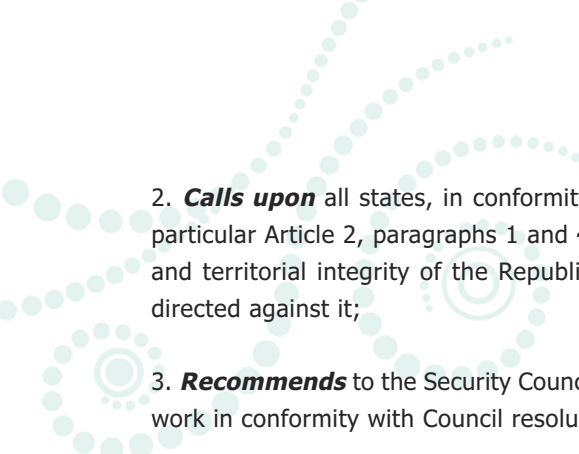
**Recalling** the parts of the Declaration adopted on 10 October 1964 by the Second Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cairo, regarding the question of Cyprus,

**Noting** the report of the United Nations Mediator on Cyprus submitted to the Secretary-General on 26 March 1965,

**Noting further** that the Government of Cyprus is committed through its Declaration of Intention and the accompanying Memorandum (A/6039), to:

- (a) The full application of human rights to all citizens of Cyprus, irrespective of race or religion,
- (b) The ensuring of minority rights,
- (c) The safeguarding of the above rights as contained in the said Declaration and Memorandum,

1. **Takes cognisance** of the fact that the Republic of Cyprus, as an equal Member of the United Nations, is, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, entitled to enjoy, and should enjoy, full sovereignty and complete independence without any foreign intervention or interference;



2. ***Calls upon*** all states, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter, and in particular Article 2, paragraphs 1 and 4, to respect the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any intervention directed against it;

3. ***Recommends*** to the Security Council the continuation of the United Nations mediation work in conformity with Council resolution 186 (1964).

1402nd plenary meeting

[Adopted by 47 votes in favour to 5 against and 54 abstentions]

## U.N. Security Council Resolution 353 of 20 July 1974

**Following is the text of resolution 353 adopted by the U.N. Security Council at its 1781st meeting on 20 July 1974:**

The Security Council,

**Having considered** the report of the Secretary-General at its 1779th meeting about the recent developments in Cyprus,

**Having heard** the statements made by the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the statements by the representatives of Cyprus, Turkey, Greece and other member countries,

**Having considered** at its present meeting further developments in the island,

**Deeply deploring** the outbreak of conflict and continuing bloodshed,

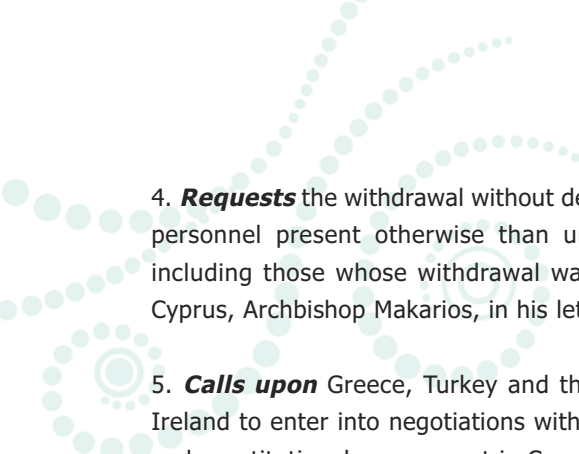
**Gravely concerned** about the situation which led to a serious threat to international peace and security and which created a most explosive situation in the whole Eastern Mediterranean area,

**Equally concerned** about the necessity to restore the constitutional structure of the Republic of Cyprus established and guaranteed by international agreements,

**Recalling Security Council** resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, and subsequent resolutions of the Security Council on this matter,

Conscious of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. **Calls upon** all states to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus;
2. **Calls upon** all parties to the present fighting as a first step to cease all firing and requests all states to exercise the utmost restraint and to refrain from any action which might further aggravate the situation;
3. **Demands** an immediate end to foreign military intervention in the Republic of Cyprus that is in contravention of operative paragraph 1;



4. **Requests** the withdrawal without delay from the Republic of Cyprus of foreign military personnel present otherwise than under the authority of international agreements including those whose withdrawal was requested by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios, in his letter of 2 July 1974;

5. **Calls upon** Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to enter into negotiations without delay for the restoration of peace in the area and constitutional government in Cyprus and to keep the Secretary-General informed;

6. **Calls upon** all parties to co-operate fully with UNFICYP to enable it to carry out its mandate;

7. **Decides** to keep the situation under constant review and asks the Secretary-General to report as appropriate with a view to adopting further measures in order to ensure that peaceful conditions are restored as soon as possible.



## U.N. General Assembly Resolution 3212 (XXIX) of 1 November 1974

The United Nations General Assembly adopted on 1 November 1974, resolution 3212 (XXIX) by 117 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions.

The resolution was endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 365 of 13 December 1974.

The General Assembly,

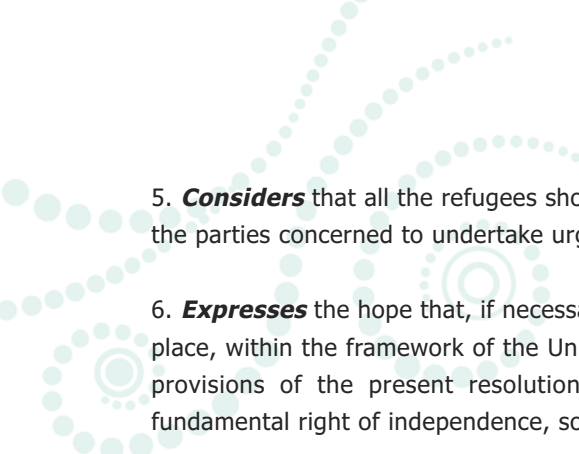
***Having considered the question of Cyprus,***

***Gravely concerned*** about the continuation of the Cyprus crisis, which constitutes a threat to international peace and security,

***Mindful*** of the need to solve this crisis without delay by peaceful means, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

***Having heard*** the statements in the debate and taking note of the report of the Special Political Committee on the question of Cyprus;

1. ***Calls upon*** all states to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from all acts and interventions directed against it;
2. ***Urges*** the speedy withdrawal of all foreign armed forces and foreign military presence and personnel from the Republic of Cyprus, and the cessation of all foreign interference in its affairs;
3. ***Considers*** that the constitutional system of the Republic of Cyprus concerns the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities;
4. ***Commends*** the contacts and negotiations taking place on an equal footing, with the good offices of the Secretary-General, between the representatives of the two communities and calls for their continuation with a view to reaching freely a mutually acceptable political settlement, based on their fundamental and legitimate rights;



5. **Considers** that all the refugees should return to their homes in safety and calls upon the parties concerned to undertake urgent measures to that end;

6. **Expresses** the hope that, if necessary, further efforts including negotiations can take place, within the framework of the United Nations, for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the present resolution, thus ensuring to the Republic of Cyprus its fundamental right of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity;

7. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue to provide United Nations humanitarian assistance to all parts of the population of Cyprus and calls upon all states to contribute to that effort;

8. **Calls upon** all parties to continue to co-operate fully with the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus, which may be strengthened if necessary;

9. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue to lend his good offices to the parties concerned;

10. **Further** requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of the Security Council.

## U.N. General Assembly Resolution 37/253 of 13 May 1983

The General Assembly,

**Having considered the question of Cyprus,**

**Recalling** its resolution 3212(XXIX) of 1 November 1974 and its subsequent resolutions on the question of Cyprus,

**Recalling** the high-level agreements of 12 February 1977 and 19 May 1979,

**Reaffirming** the principle of the inadmissibility of occupation and acquisition of territories by force,

**Greatly concerned** at the prolongation of the Cyprus crisis, which poses a serious threat to international peace and security,

**Deeply regretting** that the resolutions of the United Nations on Cyprus have not yet been implemented,

**Recalling** the idea of holding an international conference on Cyprus,

**Deploring** the fact that part of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus is still occupied by foreign forces,

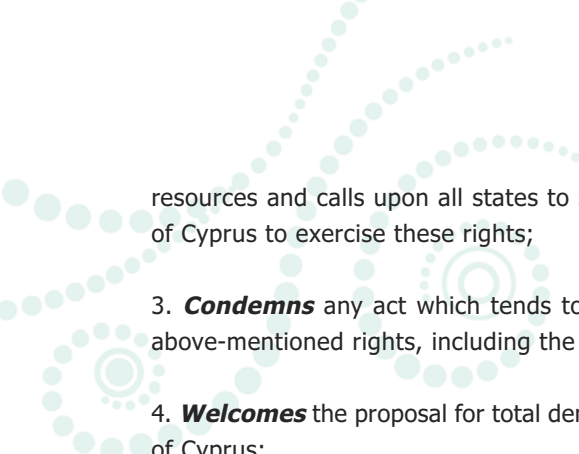
**Deploring** the lack of progress in the intercommunal talks,

**Deploring** all unilateral actions that change the demographic structure of Cyprus or promote faits accomplis,

**Reaffirming** the need to settle the question of Cyprus without further delay by peaceful means in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations resolutions,

1. **Reiterates** its full support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, unity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus and calls once again for the cessation of all foreign interference in its affairs;

2. **Affirms** the right of the Republic of Cyprus and its people to full and effective sovereignty and control over the entire territory of Cyprus and its natural and other



resources and calls upon all states to support and help the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to exercise these rights;

3. **Condemns** any act which tends to undermine the full and effective exercise of the above-mentioned rights, including the unlawful issue of titles of ownership of property;

4. **Welcomes** the proposal for total demilitarization made by the President of the Republic of Cyprus;

5. **Expresses its support** for the high-level agreements of 12 February 1977 and 19 May 1979 and all the provisions thereof;

6. **Demands** the immediate and effective implementation of resolution 3212(XXIX), unanimously adopted by the General Assembly and endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 365(1974) of 13 December (1974), and of the subsequent resolutions of the Assembly and the Council on Cyprus, which provide the valid and essential basis for the solution of the problem of Cyprus;

7. **Considers** the withdrawal of all occupation forces from the Republic of Cyprus as an essential basis for a speedy and mutually acceptable solution of the Cyprus problem;

8. **Demands** the immediate withdrawal of all occupation forces from the Republic of Cyprus;

9. **Commends** the intensification of the efforts made by the Secretary-General, while noting with concern the lack of progress in the intercommunal talks;

10. **Calls** for meaningful, result-oriented, constructive and substantive negotiations between the representatives of the two communities, to be conducted freely on an equal footing on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions and the high level agreements, with a view to reaching as early as possible a mutually acceptable agreement based on the fundamental and legitimate rights of the two communities;

11. **Calls** for respect of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots, including the freedom of movement, the freedom of settlement and the right to property and the instituting of urgent measures for the voluntary return of the refugees to their homes in safety;

12. **Considers** that the de facto situation created by the force of arms should not be allowed to influence or in any way affect the solution of the problem of Cyprus;

13. ***Calls upon*** the parties concerned to refrain from any unilateral action which might adversely affect the prospects of a just and lasting solution of the problem of Cyprus by peaceful means and to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in the performance of his task under the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council as well as with the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus;

14. ***Calls upon*** the parties concerned to refrain from any action which violates or is designed to violate the independence, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus;

15. ***Reiterates*** its recommendation that the Security Council should examine the question of the implementation, within a specified time-frame, of its relevant resolutions and consider and adopt thereafter, if necessary, all appropriate and practical measures under the Charter of the United Nations for ensuring the speedy and effective implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations on Cyprus;

16. ***Welcomes*** the intention of the Secretary-General, as expressed in his report (Doc. A/37/805 of 6/5/1983), to pursue a renewed personal involvement in the quest for a solution of the Cyprus problem and, in view of this, requests the Secretary-General to undertake such actions or initiatives as he may consider appropriate within the framework of the mission of good offices entrusted to him by the Security Council for promoting a just and lasting solution of the problem and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the results of his efforts;

17. ***Decides*** to include the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "Question of Cyprus" and requests the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of the present resolution and to report on all its aspects to the General Assembly at that session.

#### ***Separate vote on paragraph 8***

A separate vote was taken on operative paragraph 8, which was approved by 89 votes in favour, 5 against and 27 abstentions.

#### ***Separate vote on paragraph 15***

A separate vote was also taken on operative paragraph 15 which was approved 86 votes in favour, 8 against and 25 abstentions.

## U.N. Security Council Resolution 541 of 18 November 1983

The United Nations Security Council at its 2500th Meeting on 18.11.83 adopted Resolution 541/83, by 13 votes in favour, one against (Pakistan) and one abstention (Jordan)

The Security Council,

**Having heard** the statement of the Foreign Minister of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus,

**Concerned** at the declaration by the Turkish Cypriot authorities issued on 15 November 1983 which purports to create an independent state in northern Cyprus,

**Considering** that this declaration is incompatible with the 1960 Treaty concerning the Establishment of the Republic of Cyprus and the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee,

**Considering** therefore that the attempt to create a "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" is invalid, and will contribute to a worsening of the situation in Cyprus,

**Reaffirming** its resolutions 365 (1974) and 367 (1975),

**Aware** of the need for a solution of the Cyprus problem, based on the mission of good offices undertaken by the Secretary-General,

**Affirming** its continuing support for the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus,

**Taking note** of the Secretary-General's statement of 17 November 1983,

1. **Deplores** the declaration of the Turkish Cypriot Authorities of the purported secession of part of the Republic of Cyprus;
2. **Considers** the declaration referred to above as legally invalid and calls for its withdrawal;
3. **Calls for** the urgent and effective implementation of its resolutions 365 (1974) and 367 (1975);

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to pursue his mission of good offices in order to achieve the earliest possible progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus;
5. **Calls upon** the parties to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in his mission of good offices;
6. **Calls upon** all states to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus;
7. **Calls upon** all states not to recognise any Cypriot State other than the Republic of Cyprus;
8. **Calls upon** all states and the two communities in Cyprus to refrain from any action which might exacerbate the situation;
9. **Requests** the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council fully informed.

## U.N. Security Council Resolution 550 (1984) 11 May 1984

The Security Council,

**Having considered** the situation in Cyprus at the request of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus,

**Having heard** the statement made by the President of the Republic of Cyprus,

**Taking note** of the report of the Secretary-General,

**Recalling** its resolutions 365 (1974), 367 (1975), 541 (1983) and 544 (1983),

**Deeply regretting** the non-implementation of its resolutions, in particular resolution 541 (1983),

**Gravely concerned** about the further secessionist acts in the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus which are in violation of resolution 541 (1983), namely the purported exchange of Ambassadors between Turkey and the legally invalid "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" and the contemplated holding of a "constitutional referendum" and "elections", as well as by other actions or threats of actions aimed at further consolidating the purported independent state and the division of Cyprus,

**Deeply concerned** about recent threats for settlement of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants,

**Reaffirming** its continuing support for the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus,

1. **Reaffirms** its resolution 541 (1983) and calls for its urgent and effective implementation,
2. **Condemns** all secessionist actions, including the purported exchange of Ambassadors between Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership, declares them illegal and invalid and calls for their immediate withdrawal;
3. **Reiterates** the call upon all States not to recognise the purported state of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" set up by secessionist acts and calls upon them not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity;



4. ***Calls upon*** all States to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, unity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus;

5. ***Considers*** attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible and calls for the transfer of this area to the administration of the United Nations;

6. ***Considers*** any attempts to interfere with the status or the deployment of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus as contrary to the resolutions of the United Nations;

7. ***Requests*** the Secretary-General to promote the urgent implementation of Security Council resolution 541 (1983);

8. ***Reaffirms*** its mandate of good offices given to the Secretary-General and requests him to undertake new efforts to attain an overall solution to the Cyprus problem in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions for such a settlement laid down in the pertinent United Nations resolutions, including resolution 541 (1983) and the present resolution;

9. ***Calls upon*** all parties to co-operate with the Secretary-General in his mission of good offices;

10. ***Decides*** to remain seized of the situation with a view to taking urgent and appropriate measures in the event of non-implementation of resolution 541 (1983) and the present resolution;

11. ***Requests*** the Secretary-General to promote the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Security Council as developments require.

## U.N. Security Council Resolution 1179 of 29 June 1998

The Security Council,

**Welcoming** the report of the Secretary-General on his Mission of Good Offices in Cyprus of 16 June 1998 (S/1998/518),

**Reaffirming** all its earlier resolutions on Cyprus,

**Calling once more upon** all States to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and requesting them, along with the parties concerned, to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, as well as from any attempt of partition of the island or its unification with any other country,

**Reiterating** its growing concern that negotiations on a comprehensive political solution have yet to make progress, despite the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser and others in support of the United Nations efforts to promote a comprehensive settlement,

1. **Reaffirms** that the status quo is unacceptable and that negotiations on a final political solution of the Cyprus problem have been at an impasse for too long;
2. **Reaffirms** its position that a Cyprus settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions, in a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation, and that such a settlement must exclude union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession;
3. **Stresses** its full support for the Secretary-General's mission of good offices and for the efforts of his Special Adviser on Cyprus to resume a sustained process of direct negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement on the basis of the relevant Security Council resolutions, and stresses also the importance of concerted efforts to work with the Secretary-General to that end;
4. **Welcomes** the intention of the Secretary-General to continue to explore possibilities that may lead to a new momentum in this process of negotiations;

5. ***Calls once again upon*** the leaders of the two communities, in particular the Turkish Cypriot side, to commit themselves to this process of negotiations, to cooperate actively and constructively with the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser and to resume the direct dialogue without further delay, and urges all States to lend their full support to these efforts;

6. ***Further calls*** in this context upon all parties concerned to create a climate for reconciliation and genuine mutual confidence on both sides, and to avoid any actions which might increase tension, including through further expansion of military forces and armaments;

7. ***Requests*** the Secretary-General to submit a report by 10 December 1998 on the implementation of this resolution;

8. ***Decides*** to remain actively seized of the matter.

## U.N. Security Council Resolution 1251 of 29 June 1999

The Security Council,

**Welcoming** the report of the Secretary-General of 8 June 1999 (S/1999/657 and Add.1) on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,

**Noting that** the Government of Cyprus has agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions in the island it is necessary to keep the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) beyond 30 June 1999,

**Reaffirming** all its earlier resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolutions 1217 (1998) of 22 December 1998 and 1218 (1998) of 22 December 1998,

**Calling once more upon** all States to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, and requesting them, along with the parties concerned, to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, as well as from any attempt at partition of the island or its unification with any other country,

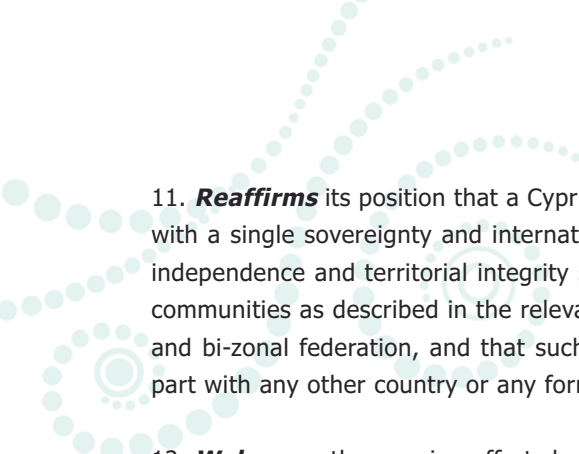
**Noting that** the situation along the ceasefire lines is essentially stable, but expressing its grave concern at the increasing practice by both sides of engaging in provocative behaviour along the ceasefire lines, which heightens the risk of more serious incidents,

**Reminding** the parties that the UNFICYP package of measures aimed at reducing tensions along the ceasefire lines was designed to reduce incidents and tensions, without affecting the security of either side,

**Reiterating** the need to make progress on a comprehensive political solution,

1. **Decides** to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period ending 15 December 1999;
2. **Reminds** both sides of their obligations to prevent any violence directed against UNFICYP personnel, to cooperate fully with UNFICYP and to ensure its complete freedom of movement;

3. ***Calls upon*** the military authorities on both sides to refrain from any action, including acts of provocation in the vicinity of the buffer zone, which would exacerbate tensions;
4. ***Requests*** the Secretary-General and his Special Representative to continue to work intensively with the two sides with a view to early agreement on further specific tension-reducing steps, with full consideration of its resolution 1218 (1998) of 22 December 1998;
5. ***Calls upon*** both sides to take measures that will build trust and cooperation and reduce tensions between the two sides, including demining along the buffer zone;
6. ***Urges*** the Greek Cypriot side to agree to the implementation of the UNFICYP package of measures, and encourages UNFICYP to continue its efforts towards the rapid implementation of the package by both sides;
7. ***Reiterates*** its grave concern at the continuing excessive levels of military forces and armaments in the Republic of Cyprus and the rate at which they are being expanded, upgraded and modernized, including by the introduction of advanced weapon systems by either side, and at the lack of progress towards any significant reduction in the number of foreign troops in the Republic of Cyprus, which threaten to raise tensions both on the island and in the region and complicate efforts to negotiate an overall political settlement;
8. ***Calls upon*** all concerned to commit themselves to a reduction in defence spending, a reduction in the number of foreign troops in the Republic of Cyprus, and a staged process aimed at limiting and then substantially reducing the level of all troops and armaments in the Republic of Cyprus as a first step towards the withdrawal of non-Cypriot forces as described in the set of ideas(S/24472, annex), to help restore confidence between the sides, stresses the importance of eventual demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus as an objective in the context of an overall comprehensive settlement, welcomes in this context any steps either side may take to reduce armaments and troops, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to promote efforts in this direction;
9. ***Calls upon*** both sides to refrain from the threat or use of force or violence as a means to resolve the Cyprus problem;
10. ***Reaffirms*** that the status quo is unacceptable and that negotiations on a final political solution to the Cyprus problem have been at an impasse for too long;



11. **Reaffirms** its position that a Cyprus settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions, in a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation, and that such a settlement must exclude union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession;

12. **Welcomes** the ongoing efforts by UNFICYP to implement its humanitarian mandate in respect of Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the northern part of the island and Turkish Cypriots living in the southern part, as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General;

13. **Reiterates** its support for the efforts of the United Nations and others concerned to promote the holding of bi-communal events so as to build cooperation, trust and mutual respect between the two communities, and calls upon the Turkish-Cypriot leadership to resume such activities;

14. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit a report by 1 December 1999 on the implementation of this resolution;

15. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

# Cyprus Missions Abroad







## EMBASSIES

### AUSTRALIA

#### **High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in Australia**

30 Beale Crescent

Deakin ACT 2600

Canberra

Australia

E-mail: [info@cyprus.org.au](mailto:info@cyprus.org.au)

[press@cyprus.org.au](mailto:press@cyprus.org.au) (Press Office)

Tel.: +612 62810832

Fax: +612 62810860

Website: [www.cyprus.org.au](http://www.cyprus.org.au)

### AUSTRIA

#### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Austria**

20 Parkring

A-1010 Vienna

Austria

E-mail: [office@cyprusembassy.at](mailto:office@cyprusembassy.at)

Tel.: +43 1 5130630

+43 1 5130631

Fax: +43 1 5130632

Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyvienna](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyvienna)

### BELGIUM

#### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Belgium**

61 Avenue de Cortenberg

1000 Bruxelles

Belgium

E-mail: [cyprusembassybe@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:cyprusembassybe@mfa.gov.cy)

Tel.: +32 2 6500610

Fax: +32 2 6500620

Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassybrussels](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassybrussels)

### BRAZIL

#### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Brazil**

SHIS QI 09, Conjunto 20, Casa 02

Lago Sul, Brasilia Distrito Federal

CEP 71625200

Brazil

E-mail: [mamavrommatis@gmail.com](mailto:mamavrommatis@gmail.com)

Tel.: +5561 35416892

+5561 81230272 (Mob.)

## BULGARIA

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Bulgaria**

1A Plachkovitsa Street  
Lozenets Area  
1164 Sofia  
Bulgaria  
E-mail: [cyprus@mbox.contact.bg](mailto:cyprus@mbox.contact.bg)  
[cyprusinfo@mbox.contact.bg](mailto:cyprusinfo@mbox.contact.bg) (Press Office)  
Tel.: +359 2 9617730  
+359 2 9617731  
Fax: +359 2 8629470

## CHINA

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the People's Republic of China**

2-13-2 Ta Yuan Diplomatic Office  
Building No. 14  
Liang Ma He Nan Lu, Chaoyang District  
Beijing, 100600  
People's Republic of China  
E-mail: [beijingembassy@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:beijingembassy@mfa.gov.cy)  
[cyembpek@public3.bta.net.cn](mailto:cyembpek@public3.bta.net.cn)  
Tel.: +86 10 65325057  
+86 10 65325059  
+86 10 65327056  
+86 10 65327057  
Fax: +86 10 65324244

## CUBA

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Cuba**

Calle 5ta No. 8409,  
e/84 and 86, Miramar, Playa  
Ciudad Havana  
Cuba  
E-mail: [chancery@cyprusembassy.cuba.org](mailto:chancery@cyprusembassy.cuba.org)  
Tel.: +537 2125228  
+537 2125229  
Fax: +537 2125227

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Czech Republic**

Pod Hradbami 9  
160 00, Praha 6  
Czech Republic  
E-mail: [embassy@kypros.cz](mailto:embassy@kypros.cz)  
Tel.: +420 224316833  
Fax: +420 224317529  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyprague](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyprague)

## DENMARK

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Denmark**

28 Borgergade

1<sup>st</sup> Floor

1300 Copenhagen K

Denmark

E-mail: [consulate@cyprus-embassy.dk](mailto:consulate@cyprus-embassy.dk)

Tel.: +45 33915888

Fax: +45 33915877

Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassycopenhagen](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassycopenhagen)

## EGYPT

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Arab Republic of Egypt**

17 Omar Tosson Street, off Ahmed Orabi Street

Mohandessin

Giza

Arab Republic of Egypt

E-mail: [cairoembassy@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:cairoembassy@mfa.gov.cy)

Tel.: +20 2 33455967

+20 2 33455968

+20 2 33455494

Fax: +20 2 33455969

## FINLAND

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Finland**

Bulevardi 5A, 19

Helsinki 00120

Finland

E-mail: [mail@cyprusembassy.fi](mailto:mail@cyprusembassy.fi)

Tel.: +358 9 6962820

Fax: +358 9 677428

Website: [www.cyprusembassy.fi](http://www.cyprusembassy.fi)

## FRANCE

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in France**

23 Rue Galilee

75116 Paris

France

E-mail: [infochypre@wanadoo.fr](mailto:infochypre@wanadoo.fr)

[paris@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:paris@mfa.gov.cy)

Tel.: +33 1 47208628

Fax: +33 1 40701344



## GERMANY

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Federal Republic of Germany**

Wallstrasse 27  
D-10179 Berlin  
Federal Republic of Germany  
E-mail: [info@botschaft-zypern.de](mailto:info@botschaft-zypern.de)  
[presse@botschaft-zypern.de](mailto:presse@botschaft-zypern.de) (Press Office)  
Tel.: +4930 3086830  
+4930 27896870 (Press Office)  
Fax: +4930 27591454  
+4930 27592271 (Press Office)  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyberlin](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyberlin)

## GREECE

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Greece**

2A Xenofontos Street  
105 57 Athens  
Greece  
E-mail: [cyempkl@hol.gr](mailto:cyempkl@hol.gr)  
Tel.: +30 210 3734800  
Fax: +30 210 7258886  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyathens](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyathens)

#### **Consular Section**

E-mail: [cyemb4@otenet.gr](mailto:cyemb4@otenet.gr)  
[consulate@cyembassy.ondsl.gr](mailto:consulate@cyembassy.ondsl.gr)  
Tel.: +30 210 3734870  
Fax: +30 210 3734903

#### **Press Office**

E-mail: [pioathen@hol.gr](mailto:pioathen@hol.gr)  
Tel.: + 30 210 3734888  
Fax: + 30 210 3734905

#### **House of Cyprus - Educational Office**

10 Heraklitou Street  
106 73 Athens  
E-mail: [spiticy@otenet.gr](mailto:spiticy@otenet.gr)  
Tel.: +30 210 3734934  
Fax: +30 210 3734904  
Website: [www.spititiskyrou.gr](http://www.spititiskyrou.gr)

#### **Maritime Section**

96 Iroon Polytechniou Avenue  
185 36 Piraeus  
E-mail: [dmspiraeus@dms.mcw.gov.cy](mailto:dmspiraeus@dms.mcw.gov.cy)  
Tel.: +30 210 4536371/2  
Fax: +30 210 4536373

## HOLY SEE

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus to the Holy See**

Piazza Farnese, 44  
Scala A, Int. 1  
00186 Rome  
Italy  
E-mail: embcyprusholysee@tin.it  
Tel.: +39 06 6865758  
+39 06 6865263  
Fax: +39 06 68803756

## HUNGARY

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Republic of Hungary**

Dorottya u. 3  
1051 Budapest  
Republic of Hungary  
E-mail: cypembhu@t-online.hu  
Tel.: +361 2661330  
+361 2666045  
Fax: +361 2660538

## INDIA

### **High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in India**

67 Jor Bagh  
New Delhi 110 003  
India  
E-mail: delhihc@mfa.gov.cy  
Tel.: +91 11 24697503  
+91 11 24697508  
Fax: +91 11 24628828  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/highcom\\_newdelhi](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/highcom_newdelhi)

## INDONESIA

### **High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in Indonesia**

Purwakarta 8  
Menteng  
Jakarta Pusat  
Indonesia  
E-mail: nicpanayi@yahoo.com  
Tel.: +62 213 106367  
Fax: +62 213 919256



## IRAN

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

328 Shahid Karimi Street Dezaship  
Tajrish, Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
E-mail: [tehranembassy@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:tehranembassy@mfa.gov.cy)  
[cyprus@parsonline.net](mailto:cyprus@parsonline.net)  
Tel.: +98 212 2219842  
+98 212 2201240  
Fax: +98 212 2219843  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassytehran](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassytehran)

## IRELAND

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Ireland**

71 Lower Leeson Street  
Dublin 2  
Ireland  
E-mail: [dublinembassy@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:dublinembassy@mfa.gov.cy)  
Tel.: +353 1 6763060  
Fax: +353 1 6763099  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassydublin](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassydublin)

## ISRAEL

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Israel**

50 Dizengoff Street  
Top Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tel Aviv 64332  
Israel  
E-mail: [cyprus@netvision.net.il](mailto:cyprus@netvision.net.il)  
Tel.: +972 3 5250212  
+972 3 6292546  
Fax: +972 3 6290535

## ITALY

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Italy**

35 Via Ludovisi  
00187 Rome  
Italy  
E-mail: [cancelleria@ambasciatacipro.it](mailto:cancelleria@ambasciatacipro.it)  
Tel.: +39 06 8088365-7-9  
Fax: +39 06 8088338

### **Press Office**

Tel.: +39 06 8088365-7-9  
Fax: +39 06 8088338  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyrome](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyrome)

## JORDAN

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

Wadi Sakra Street  
Bldg No 233, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O.Box 5525  
Amman 11183  
Jordan  
Tel.: +9626 5657467  
          +9626 5657981  
          +9626 5657143  
Fax: +9626 5657895

## KENYA

### **High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in Kenya**

International House 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Mama Ngina Street  
P.O.Box 30739  
00100 Nairobi  
Kenya  
E-mail: cyprusnairobi@gmail.com  
Tel.: +254 20 2220881  
Fax: +254 20 313202

## LEBANON

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Lebanon**

M.N.C. Building  
Debbas Street  
Rmeil-Achrafieh  
Beirut  
Lebanon  
E-mail: info@cyprusembbeirut.org  
Tel.: +961 1 217902  
          +961 1 326461  
          +961 1 329500  
Fax: +961 1 326471  
Website: www.cyprusembbeirut.org

## LIBYA

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**

Wassaayat Ebderi  
Fashloun, Tripoli  
Libya  
P.O.Box 3284  
Central Post Office  
Tripoli  
Libya  
E-mail: cyprusembassy@ltnet.net  
Tel.: +218 21 3622610  
          +218 21 3622611  
Fax: +218 21 3622613



## MEXICO

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Mexico**

Sierra Gorda 370  
Lomas De Chapultepec  
C.P. 11000 Mexico D.F.  
Mexico  
E-mail: [chipre@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:chipre@prodigy.net.mx)  
Tel.: +52 55 52027600  
+52 55 52023096  
Fax: +52 55 55202693  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassymexico](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassymexico)

## OMAN

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Sultanate of Oman**

P.O.Box 208  
P.C. 103  
Way: 3021  
Bldg: 1778  
Shatti Al Qurum  
Muscat  
Oman  
E-mail: [cypemb@omantel.net.om](mailto:cypemb@omantel.net.om)  
Tel.: +968 24699815  
Fax: +968 24698812

## PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY

### **Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the Palestinian National Authority**

V.I.P. Centre (Close to « Al Moquataa »)  
100 Al Kawathar Street  
Al Bireh Ramallah  
West Bank  
Palestinian National Authority  
E-mail: [cyprusoffice@palnet.com](mailto:cyprusoffice@palnet.com)  
Tel.: +972 2241 3206  
Fax: +972 2241 3208

## POLAND

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Poland**

Ul. Pilicka 4  
02-629 Warsaw  
Poland  
E-mail: [ambasada@ambcypr.pl](mailto:ambasada@ambcypr.pl)  
Tel.: +4822 8444577  
Fax: +4822 8442558



## PORTUGAL

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Portugal**

Avenida da Liberdade, 229  
1250-142 Lisbon  
Portugal  
E-mail: [chipre@netcabo.pt](mailto:chipre@netcabo.pt)  
Tel.: +351 21 3194180  
Fax: +351 21 3194189  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassylisbon](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassylisbon)

## QATAR

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Qatar**

Saba Saha 12 Street, Bld No 3  
District 63  
West Bay  
P.O.Box 24482  
Doha  
Qatar  
E-mail: [kyprosdooha@qatar.net.qa](mailto:kyprosdooha@qatar.net.qa)  
Tel.: +974 44933086  
+974 44934390/1  
Fax: +974 44933087  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassydoha](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassydoha)

## ROMANIA

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Romania**

2 Petofi Sandor Street  
1st District, Bucharest  
Romania  
E-mail: [ambasada@ambacipru.ro](mailto:ambasada@ambacipru.ro)  
Tel.: +40 21 2230455  
Fax: +40 21 2230456

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Russian Federation**

Ul. Povarskaya 9  
Moscow  
Russia  
E-mail: [moscowembassy@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:moscowembassy@mfa.gov.cy)  
Tel.: +7 499 5750310  
Fax: +7 499 5750311  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassymoscow](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassymoscow)

### **Press Office**

E-mail: [moscowpress@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:moscowpress@mfa.gov.cy)  
Tel.: +7 499 5750306  
Fax: +7 499 5750307



## SERBIA

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Republic of Serbia**

Generala Save Grujica 18  
11000 Belgrade  
Serbia  
E-mail: cyembassy@sezampro.rs  
belgradeembassy@mfa.gov.cy  
Tel.: +381 11 3620002  
Fax: +381 11 3621122

## SLOVAK REPUBLIC

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Slovak Republic**

Michalska 12  
811 01 Bratislava  
Slovakia  
E-mail: office@cyembassy.sk  
Tel.: +421 2 327 88 111  
Fax: +421 2 327 88 122

## SLOVENIA

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Slovenia**

Komenskega ulica 12  
1000 Ljubljana  
Slovenia  
E-mail: embassy.cyprus@siol.net  
ljubljanaembassy@mfa.gov.cy  
Tel.: +386 1 232 1542/3/4  
Fax: +386 1 23 02002  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyljubljana](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyljubljana)

## SOUTH AFRICA

### **High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in South Africa**

Corner Church and Hill Street  
Arcadia 0083  
Pretoria  
South Africa  
P.O.Box 14554, Hatfield 0028  
Pretoria  
South Africa  
E-mail: cyprusjb@mweb.co.za  
Tel.: +27 12 3425258  
Fax: +27 12 3425596

## SPAIN

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Spain**

Paseo de la Castellana 45  
4a y 5b planta, Izda  
28046 Madrid  
Spain

E-mail: [embajadachipre@telefonica.net](mailto:embajadachipre@telefonica.net)  
[prensa.chipre@telefonica](mailto:prensa.chipre@telefonica.net) (Press Office)  
Tel.: +34 915783114  
+34 915783117  
Fax: +34 915782189  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassymadrid](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassymadrid)

## SWEDEN

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Sweden**

37 Birger Jarlsgatan, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O.Box 7649  
103 94 Stockholm  
Sweden  
E-mail: [stockholmembassy@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:stockholmembassy@mfa.gov.cy)  
[stockholmpress@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:stockholmpress@mfa.gov.cy) (Press Office)  
Tel.: +46 8 245008  
Fax: +46 8 244518  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassystockholm](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassystockholm)

## SYRIA

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the Syrian Arab Republic**

278G Malek Bin Rabia Street  
West Mezzeh  
P.O.Box 9269  
Damascus  
Syrian Arab Republic  
E-mail: [cyembdam@scs-net.org](mailto:cyembdam@scs-net.org)  
Tel.: +963 11 6130812  
Fax: +963 11 6130814

## THE NETHERLANDS

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus to the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

15 Surinamestraat  
2585 GG The Hague  
Kingdom of the Netherlands  
E-mail: [cyprus@xs4all.nl](mailto:cyprus@xs4all.nl)  
Tel.: +31 70 3466499  
Fax: +31 70 3924024  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassythehaque](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassythehaque)

## UKRAINE

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Ukraine**

24 Vorovskogo Street  
Kiev 01054  
Ukraine  
E-mail: [evryonides@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:evryonides@mfa.gov.cy)  
Tel.: +38044 4863605  
Fax: +38044 4840393

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus at the United Arab Emirates**

Al Khaleej Al Arabi Street (30<sup>th</sup> Street)

No 426

P.O.Box 63013

Abu Dhabi

E-mail: [cyembadb@eim.ae](mailto:cyembadb@eim.ae)

Tel.: +971 2 6654480

Fax: +971 2 6657870

## UNITED KINGDOM

### **High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

13 St. James Square

London SW1Y 4LB

United Kingdom

E-mail: [cyphclondon@dial.pipex.com](mailto:cyphclondon@dial.pipex.com)

[presscounsellor@chclondon.org.uk](mailto:presscounsellor@chclondon.org.uk) (Press Office)

Tel.: +44 207 3214100

+44 207 3214139 (Press Office)

Fax: +44 207 3214164/165

+44 207 3214167 (Press Office)

Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/highcomlondon](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/highcomlondon)

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### **Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the United States of America**

2211 R Street, NW

Washington, DC 20008

USA

E-mail: [info@cyprusembassy.net](mailto:info@cyprusembassy.net)

Tel.: +1 202 4625772

+1 202 2328993 (Press Office)

Fax: +1 202 4836710

Website: [www.cyprusembassy.net](http://www.cyprusembassy.net)

## MISSIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE

#### **Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the Council of Europe**

20 Avenue de la Paix

67000 Strasbourg

France

E-mail: [strasbourg@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:strasbourg@mfa.gov.cy)

Tel.: +33 3 88249870

Fax: +33 3 88369056

## EUROPEAN UNION

### **Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the European Union**

61 Avenue de Cortenbergh  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
E-mail: [cy.perm.rep@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:cy.perm.rep@mfa.gov.cy)  
Tel.: +32 2 7353510  
Fax: +32 2 7354552  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/permrepeu](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/permrepeu)

## O.S.C.E

### **Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe**

20 Parking  
A-1010 Vienna  
Austria  
E-mail: [permanentmission@cyprus.osce.vienna.at](mailto:permanentmission@cyprus.osce.vienna.at)  
Tel.: +431 5130630  
+431 5130631  
Fax: +431 5130632  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyvienna](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassyvienna)

## FAO

### **Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture (FAO, WFP, IFAD)**

44 Piazza Farnese  
Scala A, Int. 1  
00186 Rome  
Italy  
E-mail: [faoprcyp@tin.it](mailto:faoprcyp@tin.it)  
Tel.: +39 06 6865758  
Fax: +39 06 68803756

## UNESCO

### **Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus to UNESCO**

1 Rue Miollis  
M.7.30  
75732 Paris Cedex 15  
France  
E-mail: [p.panayi.cy@unesco-delegations.org](mailto:p.panayi.cy@unesco-delegations.org)  
Tel.: +01 45 68 34 64  
Fax: +01 45 68 34 67



## I.M.O.

### **Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the International Maritime Organisation**

13 St. James Square  
London SW1Y 4LB  
England  
E-mail: [cyphclondon@dial.pipex.com](mailto:cyphclondon@dial.pipex.com)  
Tel.: +44 207 3214100  
Fax: +44 207 3214164/165

## OPCW

### **Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**

15 Surinamestraat  
2585 GG, The Hague  
The Netherlands  
E-mail: [cyprus@xs4all.nl](mailto:cyprus@xs4all.nl)  
Tel.: +31 70 3466499  
Fax: +31 70 3924024  
Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/embassythehague](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/embassythehague)

## UNITED NATIONS - VIENNA

### **Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Vienna**

20 Parkring  
A-1010 Vienna  
Austria  
E-mail: [permanentmission@cyprus.un.vienna.at](mailto:permanentmission@cyprus.un.vienna.at)  
Tel.: +43 1 5130630  
+43 1 5130631  
Fax: +43 1 5130632

## UNITED NATIONS - GENEVA

### **Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organisations in Switzerland**

66 Rue du Grand-Pré  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland  
E-mail: [cyprus@cyprusmission.ch](mailto:cyprus@cyprusmission.ch)  
Tel.: +41 22 7885980  
+41 22 7982150  
Fax: +41 22 7910084

## UNITED NATIONS - NEW YORK

### **Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations in New York**

13 East 40th Street  
New York, NY 10016  
USA

E-mail: [cyprus@un.int](mailto:cyprus@un.int)

Tel.: +1 212 4816023

+1 212 4816024

+1 212 4816025

Fax: +1 212 6857316

Website: [www.un.int/cyprus](http://www.un.int/cyprus)

## CONSULATES GENERAL

### CANADA

#### **Consulate General of the Republic of Cyprus in Toronto**

365 Bloor Street East  
Suite 1010 Box 43  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4W3L4 Canada

E-mail: [consulcy@rogers.com](mailto:consulcy@rogers.com)

Tel.: +1 416 9440998

Fax: +1 416 9449149

### GERMANY

#### **Consulate General of the Republic of Cyprus in Hamburg**

3 Rothenbaumchaussee  
D-20148 Hamburg

Federal Republic of Germany

E-mail: [cyconsulate-hamburg@t-online.de](mailto:cyconsulate-hamburg@t-online.de)

Tel.: +49 40 4107497

Fax: +49 40 4107246

### GREECE

#### **Consulate General of the Republic of Cyprus in Thessaloniki**

37 Nikis Avenue  
P.O.Box 54006  
54013 Thessaloniki  
Greece

E-mail: [consulatethess@cyta.gr](mailto:consulatethess@cyta.gr)

Tel.: +30 2310 260611

+30 2310 260625

+30 2310 260697

Fax: +30 2310 274984

Website: [www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/consulate/consulate\\_thessaloniki.nsf](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/consulate/consulate_thessaloniki.nsf)



## ST. PETERSBURG

### **Consulate General of the Republic of Cyprus in St. Petersburg**

27 Furshdatskaya Ulitsa 27

191123 Saint Petersburg

Russia

E-mail: [cg@cyprus-spb.ru](mailto:cg@cyprus-spb.ru)

Tel.: +7 812 4562255

Fax: +7 812 4562266

Website: [www.cyprus-spb.ru](http://www.cyprus-spb.ru)

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### **Consulate General of the Republic of Cyprus in New York**

13, East 40<sup>th</sup> Street

5<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10016

USA

E-mail: [consulgenofcyprus@earthlink.net](mailto:consulgenofcyprus@earthlink.net)

Tel.: +1 212 6866016/17 (ext.41 or 43)

Fax: +1 212 6863660

## TRADE CENTRES

### AUSTRIA

#### **Cyprus Trade Centre in Vienna**

20 Parkring

A-1010 Vienna

Austria

E-mail: [office@cyprustrade.at](mailto:office@cyprustrade.at)

Tel.: +43 15130634

Fax: +43 15130635

Website: [www.cyprustrade.at](http://www.cyprustrade.at)

### EGYPT

#### **Cyprus Trade Centre in Cairo**

17 Omar Tosson Street, off Ahmed Orabi Street

Mohandessin

Giza

Arab Republic of Egypt

E-mail: [info@cyprustradeegypt.com](mailto:info@cyprustradeegypt.com)

Tel.: +202 33455499

Fax: +202 33056676

Website: [www.cyprustradeegypt.com](http://www.cyprustradeegypt.com)



## FRANCE

### **Cyprus Trade Centre in Paris**

42 Rue de la Bienfaisance

75008 Paris

France

E-mail: [info@commerce-chypre.fr](mailto:info@commerce-chypre.fr)

Tel.: +33 1 42896086

Fax: +33 1 42896077

Website: [www.commerce-chypre.fr](http://www.commerce-chypre.fr)

## GERMANY

### **Cyprus Trade Centre in Berlin**

Wallstrasse 27

10179 Berlin

Germany

E-mail: [info@zypem.com](mailto:info@zypem.com)

Tel.: +49 30 2844596

Fax: +49 30 23457541

Website: [www.zypem.com](http://www.zypem.com)

## GREECE

### **Cyprus Trade Centre in Athens**

2A Xenofontos Street

105 57, Athens

Greece

E-mail: [ctcath1@otenet.gr](mailto:ctcath1@otenet.gr)

[info@cyprustradecenter.gr](mailto:info@cyprustradecenter.gr)

Tel.: +30 210 3734822

Fax: +30 210 3646420

Website: [www.cyprustradecenter.gr](http://www.cyprustradecenter.gr)

## LEBANON

### **Cyprus Trade Centre in Beirut**

M.N.C. Building

Debbas Street

Rmeil, Achrafieh

Beirut

Lebanon

E-mail: [trade@ctcbeirut.com](mailto:trade@ctcbeirut.com)

[commerce@ctcbeirut.com](mailto:commerce@ctcbeirut.com)

Tel.: +9611 320806

Fax: +9611 320823

Website: [www.ctcbeirut.com](http://www.ctcbeirut.com)



## POLAND

### **Cyprus Trade Centre in Warsaw**

Ul Pilicka 4  
02-629 Warszawa  
Poland  
E-mail: [ctc@cyprustrade.pl](mailto:ctc@cyprustrade.pl)  
Tel.: +4822 8540177  
Fax: +4822 8540180  
Website: [www.cyprustrade.pl](http://www.cyprustrade.pl)

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

### **Cyprus Trade Centre in Moscow**

Povarskaya No 9  
121069 Moscow  
Russia  
E-mail: [ctcmoscow@mcit.gov.cy](mailto:ctcmoscow@mcit.gov.cy)  
Tel.: +7 495 7442948/9  
Fax: +7 495 7442941

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### **Cyprus Trade Centre in Dubai**

Al Ghurair Centre, Office Tower  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Office No 635  
P.O.Box 11294  
Dubai  
United Arab Emirates  
E-mail: [cycentre@emirates.net.ae](mailto:cycentre@emirates.net.ae)  
Tel.: +971 4 2282411  
+971 4 2283762  
Fax: +971 4 2275700  
Website: [www.ctcdubai.org](http://www.ctcdubai.org)

## UNITED KINGDOM

### **Cyprus Trade Centre in London**

13 St. James Square  
London, SW1Y 4LB  
United Kingdom  
E-mail: [info@cyprustrade.co.uk](mailto:info@cyprustrade.co.uk)  
Tel.: +44 207 3214145  
Fax: +44 207 3214169  
Website: [www.cyprustrade.co.uk](http://www.cyprustrade.co.uk)

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### **Cyprus Trade Centre in New York**

13, East 40<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10016

USA

E-mail: [ctcny@cyprustradeny.org](mailto:ctcny@cyprustradeny.org)

Tel.: +1212 2139100

Fax: +1212 2132918

Website: [www.cyprustradeny.org](http://www.cyprustradeny.org)

## TOURISM OFFICES

### AUSTRIA

#### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Vienna**

Parkring 20, Wien

A-1010 Vienna

Austria

E-mail: [office@zyperntourismus.at](mailto:office@zyperntourismus.at)

Tel.: +43 151 31870

Fax: +43 151 31872

### BELGIUM

#### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Brussels**

Avenue de Cortenbergh 61

Kortenberglaan

B-1000 Brussels

Belgium

E-mail: [cyprus@skynet.be](mailto:cyprus@skynet.be)

Tel.: +32 273 506 21

Fax: +32 227 356 607

### CZECH REPUBLIC

#### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Prague**

Václavské náměstí 1282/51

Praha 1, 110 00

Czech Republic

E-mail: [cto.prague@volny.cz](mailto:cto.prague@volny.cz)

Tel.: +420 224 281 285

Fax: +420 224 281 286

### FINLAND

#### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Helsinki**

Aleksanterinkatu 48B

00100 Helsinki

Finland

E-mail: [info@ctofinland.org](mailto:info@ctofinland.org)

Tel.: +358 947 609 100

Fax: +358 947 609 120



## FRANCE

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Paris**

15 Rue de la Paix  
75002 Paris  
France  
E-mail: [cto.chypre.paris@wanadoo.fr](mailto:cto.chypre.paris@wanadoo.fr)  
Tel.: +33 142 614 249  
Fax: +33 142 604 853

## GERMANY

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Berlin**

Wallstreet 27  
10179 Berlin  
Germany  
E-mail: [cto\\_berlin@t-online.de](mailto:cto_berlin@t-online.de)  
Tel.: +49 302 345 759 0  
Fax: +49 302 345 759 2

## GERMANY

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Frankfurt**

Zeil 127  
60313 Frankfurt  
Germany  
E-mail: [info@cto-fra.de](mailto:info@cto-fra.de)  
Tel.: +49 692 519 19  
Fax: +49 692 502 88

## GREECE

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Athens**

38 Voukourestiou Street  
106 73 Athens  
Greece  
E-mail: [cto-athens@ath.forthnet.gr](mailto:cto-athens@ath.forthnet.gr)  
Tel.: +30 210 3610178  
+30 210 3610057  
Fax: +30 210 3644798

## GREECE

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Thessaloniki**

37 Nikis Avenue  
54013 Thessaloniki  
Greece  
E-mail: [kotthes@the.forthnet.gr](mailto:kotthes@the.forthnet.gr)  
Tel.: +30 231 0242880  
Fax: +30 231 0286881

## HUNGARY

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Budapest**

Dorottya Street 3, III Floor

H-1051 Budapest

Hungary

E-mail: [ciprusinfo@t-online.hu](mailto:ciprusinfo@t-online.hu)

Tel.: +36 126 66044

Fax: +36 126 66043

## IRELAND

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Dublin**

71 Lower Leeson Street

Dublin 2

Ireland

E-mail: [ciprusinfo@eircom.net](mailto:ciprusinfo@eircom.net)

Tel.: +353 166 292 69

Fax: +353 166 292 70

## ISRAEL

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Tel Aviv**

Top Tower, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor Dizengoff Centre

50 Dizengoff Street

64332 Tel Aviv

Israel

E-mail: [cto@netvision.net.il](mailto:cto@netvision.net.il)

Tel.: +972 352 574 42

Fax: +972 352 574 43

## ITALY

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Milano**

Via Santa Sofia 6

20122 Milano

Italy

E-mail: [info@turismocipro.it](mailto:info@turismocipro.it)

Tel.: +39 0258 303 328

Fax: +39 0258 303 375

## THE NETHERLANDS

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Amsterdam**

Keizersgracht 424 II

1016 GC Amsterdam

Netherlands

E-mail: [cyprus.sun@planet.nl](mailto:cyprus.sun@planet.nl)

Tel.: +31 206 244 358

Fax: +31 206 383 369



## POLAND

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Warsaw**

Ul Piekna 20  
00 549 Warsaw  
Poland  
E-mail: cto@cypr.pl  
Tel.: +48 228 279 036  
Fax: +48 228 279 034

## RUSSIA

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Moscow**

Povarsaya 9  
Building 2  
121069 Moscow  
Russia  
E-mail: moscowcto@yandex.ru  
Tel.: +74 952 239 684  
Fax: +74 957 442 955

## RUSSIA

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Saint Petersburg**

Prospect Chernyshevskogo  
Flat 56, House 17  
191123 Saint Petersburg  
Russia  
E-mail: spbcto@yandex.ru  
Tel.: +78 123 325 808  
Fax: +78 123 325 809

## SWEDEN

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Stockholm**

Sveavagen 66  
11134 Stockholm  
Sweden  
E-mail: stockholm@visitcyprus.com  
Tel.: +46 (0) 810 5025  
Fax: +46 (0) 810 6414

## SWITZERLAND

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Zurich**

Gottfried Keller – Strasse 7  
8001 Zurich  
Switzerland  
E-mail: ctozurich@bluewin.ch  
Tel.: +41 (0) 44 262 33 03  
Fax: +41 (0) 44 251 24 17

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES / MIDDLE EAST AND ARABIAN GULF

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in Dubai**

Al Ghurair Centre  
Office Tower, No 436B  
Deira, Dubai  
UAE  
E-mail: [tourism@cyprusme.com](mailto:tourism@cyprusme.com)  
Tel.: +9714 227 763 7  
Fax: +9714 227 763 8

## UNITED KINGDOM

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in London**

17 Hanover Street  
W1S 1YP London  
United Kingdom  
E-mail: [informationcto@btconnect.com](mailto:informationcto@btconnect.com)  
Tel.: +44 207 569 880 0  
Fax: +44 207 499 493 5

## USA

### **Cyprus Tourism Office in New York**

13, East 40<sup>th</sup> Street  
NY 10016, New York  
USA  
E-mail: [gocyprus@aol.com](mailto:gocyprus@aol.com)  
Tel.: +121 268 352 80  
Fax: +121 268 352 82









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