



## REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS - NEW GOVERNMENT

Mr Demetris Christofias was elected President of the Republic of Cyprus on 24 February 2008. He received 260.604 votes or 53,37% of the valid votes, while his opponent, Mr Ioannis Kasoulides, secured 210.195 votes or 46,63%.

### PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



Mr Demetris Christofias was inaugurated President of the Republic of Cyprus on 28 February 2008. He succeeds Mr Tassos Papadopoulos, who came third in the first round of the presidential elections on 17 February 2008 and was therefore eliminated from the run-off contest the following Sunday.

Up until his election, President Christofias was serving his second term as President of the House of Representatives, a post he held since 2001.

President Christofias was elected Member of the House of Representatives for the first time in 1991 standing as an AKEL-Left-New Forces candidate in the Kerynia district. He was re-elected to the House in 1996, 2001 and 2006.

On 22 April 1988 he was elected General Secretary of the Central Committee of AKEL, a post to which he was re-elected four more times (1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005).

President Christofias was born on 29 August 1946 in the village of Dhikomo in the Kerynia district, under military occupation by Turkey since 1974.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in History from the Institute of Social Sciences in Moscow (Academy of Social Sciences of the Soviet Union). He speaks English and Russian.

The President is married to Elsi Chiratou and they have two daughters and a son.

## Excerpts from the address by the President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias at the ceremony for his inauguration at the House of Representatives, on 28 February 2008

“I ran for the Presidency of the Republic inspired by a life-long vision: The achievement of a just solution to the Cyprus problem and the building of a fairer society. [...]

The solution of the Cyprus problem will be the top priority of my government. The aim of our Presidency is to achieve a just, viable and functional solution that will terminate the occupation and colonization of our country. A solution that will restore the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus and will exclude any rights for military intervention in the internal affairs of our country by foreign powers. A solution which will reunite the territory, the people, the institutions and the economy of our country in the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation [...]

The federal, bizonal, bicommunal Republic of Cyprus must have a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship. The solution must be based on the United Nations resolutions on Cyprus and be compatible with international and EU law as well as with international conventions on human rights.

We demand that the solution will restore and safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all the people of Cyprus, Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots, Maronites, Armenians and Latins, including the right of return and the right to property for the refugees. We demand that the solution will provide for the withdrawal of the Turkish occupation troops and the demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus. The ultimate goal remains the demilitarization of all of Cyprus.

We support consistently the political equality of the two communities in the framework of a federation, as this is defined in the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council.

The Cyprus problem remains unresolved for thirty four years now despite the many efforts that have been made from time to time. 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. I firmly believe that the time has come for the problem to be solved in a just, viable and functional way and for the principles of international law to be restored; principles that Turkey violates through the invasion it carried out in 1974 and through the occupation of a large part of our homeland. [...]

At this solemn hour, I address myself to our Turkish Cypriot compatriots in order to assure them that I am filled and inspired by the best of intentions for reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. I assure them once again that I will work so that they can enjoy all the rights as equal citizens of a united federal Republic of Cyprus. [...]

## COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

President Christofias appointed on 28 February 2008 the new Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus as follows:

- Mr Markos Kyprianou Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Charilaos G. Stavrakis Minister of Finance
- Mr Neoklis Sylikiotis Minister of Interior
- Mr Costas Papacostas Minister of Defence
- Mr Andreas Demetriou Minister of Education and Culture
- Mr Nicos Nicolaides Minister of Communications and Works
- Mr Antonis Paschalides Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
- Mr Michalis Polyniki Charalambides Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
- Mrs Sotiroula Charalambous Minister of Labour and Social Insurance
- Mr Kypros Chrysostomides Minister of Justice and Public Order
- Mr Christos Patsalides Minister of Health

President Christofias has also made the following additional appointments:

- Mr Titos Christofides Deputy Minister to the President
- Mr Stefanos Stefanou Government Spokesman
- Mr George Iacovou Presidential Commissioner
- Mr Vassos Georgiou Director of the President's Office

## PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr Marios Garoyian, President of the Democratic Party (DIKO) since 2006, was elected President of the House of Representatives on 6 March 2008. He succeeds Mr Demetris Christofias who assumed the Presidency of the Republic on 28 February 2008. Mr Garoyian was first elected Member of the House of Representatives in May 2006 in the Nicosia district. He



previously served as director of the Press Office of the President of the Republic and Deputy Government Spokesman from 2003 to 2006, in the government of President Tassos Papadopoulos. He also served as director of the Office of the President of the House of Representatives from 1991 to 2001.

He was born in Nicosia on 31 May 1961. He studied political science with a specialisation in history and international affairs at the University of Perugia in Italy. He speaks English, Italian and Spanish. He has a daughter and a son.

### **Excerpts from the address by the President of the House of Representatives to the House following his election, on 6 March 2008**

“Being a member of the European Union, the Republic of Cyprus is on the way to become fully integrated into the EU and the Cyprus House of Representatives is on the way to become a full and active affiliate and participant in the corresponding European institutions. Our more active engagement in the institutions and bodies of the EU allows us to aspire to contribute substantively to the European developments and the European vision. [...] The House of Representatives, in cooperation with the President of the Republic and the government, is called to play its own part in the efforts to promote our goals and positions for achieving a just, functional and viable settlement to the Cyprus problem. [...] I will work towards a just, functional and viable settlement to the Cyprus problem [...] My firm objective is a settlement that will rid Cyprus of the repercussions of Turkey’s military invasion and continuing occupation, a settlement that will reunite the state, the people and the institutions and create conditions for the harmonious and peaceful coexistence of the lawful inhabitants of the country, - Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots, Armenians, Maronites and Latins, - under conditions of security, progress and cooperation; of a common and peaceful homeland that will offer prosperity and justice to all its people, who will live, create and progress with their rights and freedoms entrenched and safeguarded. Our firm objective is a settlement for a Cyprus free of military occupation forces and settlers, a settlement that would not jeopardize peace and security in the future and a settlement which will safeguard the right of the displaced people to return to their ancestral homes and properties. [...]”