



WINDOW ON CYPRUS

"Cyprus is not a detail, a mere island at the edge of the Mediterranean Sea; today it has been transformed into the fateful centre, where the moral values of contemporary man are at stake.

...

For us this is a good moment to forget our passions and our petty cares; for each man of us with his own God-given gifts to follow the path of freedom throughout the land of Cyprus. And we must share her grief, her upsurge, her danger, insofar as we are capable, and surely later on her great joy as well."

Nikos Kazantzakis
(From his essay "The Angels of Cyprus").

Gold-green leaf

*Land of the lemon and the olive tree
land of warm embraces, land of joy
land of the pine and the cypress tree
land of fine young men, land of love*

*a gold-green leaf
cast upon the open sea*

*Land of the parched prairie
land of the bitter Virgin
land of the warm wind and unfair loss
land of wild weather and volcanoes*

*a gold-green leaf
cast upon the open sea*

*Land of the laughing girls
land of the tipsy boys
land of unction and salutations
Cyprus, land of love and dreams*

*a gold-green leaf
cast upon the open sea*

Leonidas Malenis
(Translated by John Vickers)

window on
cyprus



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The Gymnasium at the ancient city-kingdom of Salamis.

history

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history

cyprus

in history

CYPRUS IN HISTORY

The history of Cyprus is one of the oldest recorded in the world. From the earliest times, Cyprus' historical significance far outweighed its small size. Its strategic position at the crossroads of three continents and its considerable resources of copper and timber combined to make it a highly desirable territorial acquisition.

The first signs of life date to the tenth millennium BC (Pre-Neolithic age), but it was the discovery of copper (3900 - 2500 BC) that was to bring wealth and trade to the island. Around 1200 BC, a process began that was to largely mark the island with the predominant national identity that it still has today; the arrival of Mycenaean-Achaean Greeks as permanent settlers, who brought with them their language and culture.

Cyprus was subsequently subjugated by various conquerors; nevertheless, it managed to retain its Greek identity. The Turkish Cypriots came much later, as a result of the Ottoman occupation of the island for more than three hundred years (1571-1878), and have contributed their own heritage to the country.



*Protome of a cat made of andesite from Pareklisia-
"Shyllourokambos", tenth
millennium BC.*

neolithic 8200-3900 BC period

NEOLITHIC PERIOD (8200 - 3900 BC)

Remains of the oldest known settlements in Cyprus date from this period. They can best be seen at Khirokitia, just off the Nicosia to Limassol highway. The use of carbon-14 dating method proved that life in the settlement of Khirokitia started in the sixth millennium BC, indicating that Cyprus was inhabited during the same period as Mesopotamia and Greece. However, a more recent dating procedure suggests that the settlement might even date back to the eighth millennium BC.

At first, only stone vessels were used. Pottery appeared in a second phase after 5000 BC. Idols of clay or stone representing human and animal figures are the earliest specimens of Cypriot sculpture.



Necklace of dentalium bead shells and precious stones from the Aceramic Neolithic settlement of Khirokitia, c. 6500 BC.

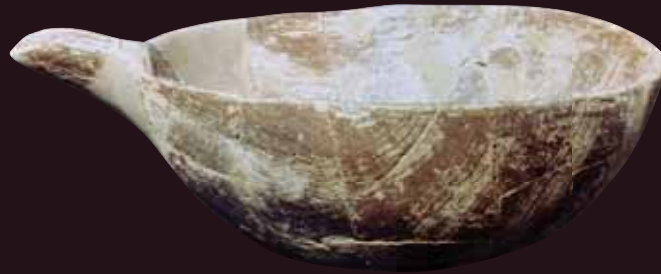


Diabase stone anthropomorphic figurine from Khirokitia, Neolithic Period, 7000-6000 BC.

history

neolithic
8200-3900 BC period

Large spouted bowl of Combed ware from the Ceramic Neolithic settlement of Sotira-“Teppes”, decorated with groups of combed wavy bands on its reddish surface, c. 4500-3750 BC.



Andesite spouted bowl from the Aceramic Neolithic settlement of Khirokitia, decorated with parallel chevrons and dotted abstract motifs in relief, c. 6500 BC.



neolithic
8200-3900 BC period



*Part of the Aceramic
Neolithic settlement at
Khirokitia,
c. 7000-6000 BC.*

CHALCOLITHIC AGE (3900 - 2500 BC)

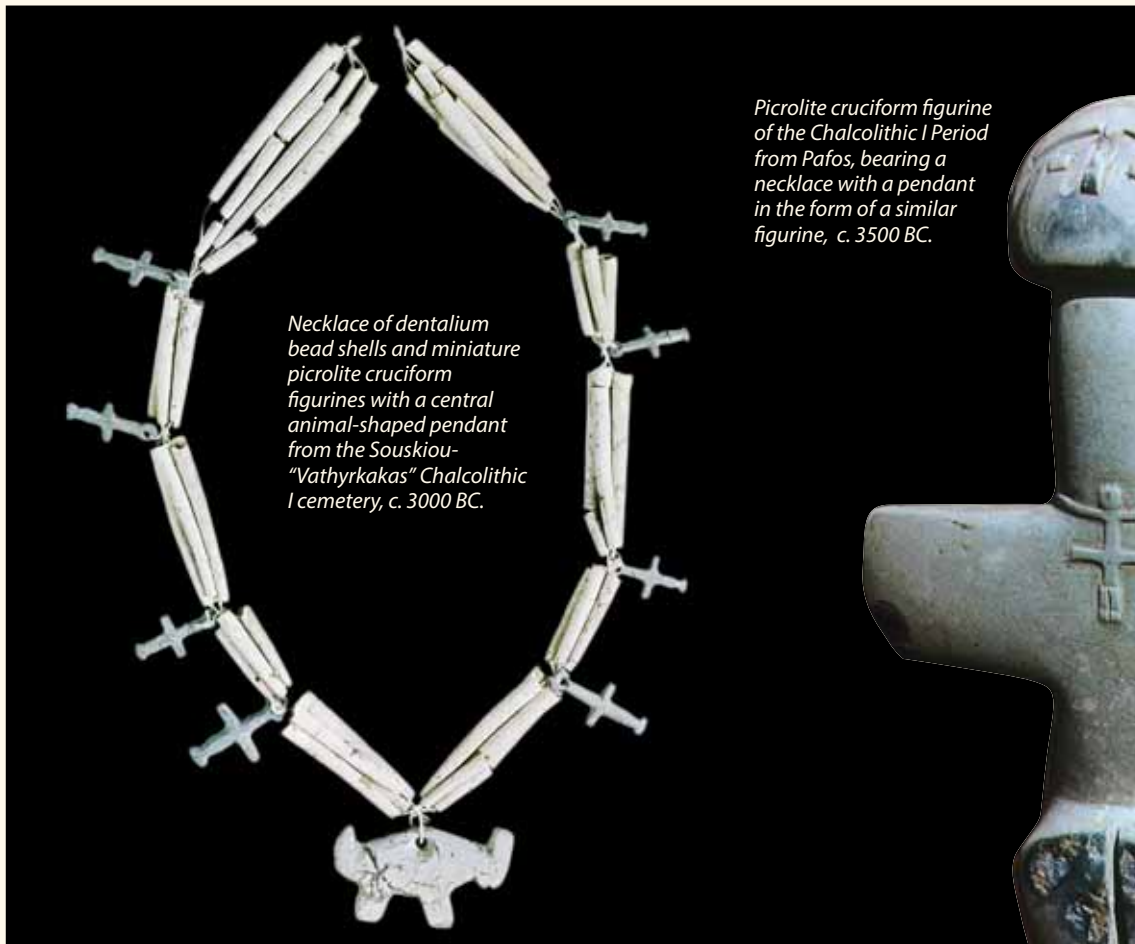
A transitional period between the Stone Age and the Bronze Age. Most Chalcolithic settlements were found in southwestern Cyprus where a fertility cult developed. During this period there were changes in many fields. The burial customs of the Cypriots changed and the deceased were now buried in separate cemeteries. Several clay figurines representing the goddess of fertility were produced. New forms in pottery were introduced and new styles in decoration appeared. Copper was discovered and was beginning to be exploited on a small scale.

Clay bowl with three long feet of the developed Red-on-White ware from the Chalcolithic II settlement of Ambelikou-"Ayios Georghios" decorated with linear geometric designs on its whitish surface, c. 2700 BC.



Female limestone figurine from Lemba, Chalcolithic Period, c. 2500 BC.

chalcolithic age
3900-2500 BC



*Necklace of dentalium
bead shells and miniature
picrolite cruciform
figurines with a central
animal-shaped pendant
from the Souskiou-
"Vathyrkakas" Chalcolithic
I cemetery, c. 3000 BC.*

*Picrolite cruciform figurine
of the Chalcolithic I Period
from Pafos, bearing a
necklace with a pendant
in the form of a similar
figurine, c. 3500 BC.*



BRONZE AGE (2500 - 1050 BC)

The most significant event during this period was the extensive exploitation of copper mines on the island bringing wealth to Cyprus. Gradually, copper mixed with tin produced a much harder material called bronze, the discovery of which dramatically boosted the island's economy and commerce. Trade developed with the Near East, Egypt and the Aegean where Cyprus was known under the name of Alasia.

After 1400 BC, Mycenaeans from Greece first came to the island as merchants. Around 1200 BC, mass waves of Achaean Greeks came to settle on the island and established the first city-kingdoms of Pafos, Salamis, Kition and Kourion, spreading the Greek language, religion and customs. The hellenisation of the island was then in progress.



Early Bronze Age composite ritual vase of Red Polished ware from Pellapais - "Vounous" consisting of one main jug with a long cylindrical neck and seven smaller jugs, attached and communicating to each other, c.2200-2000 BC.



Clay model of an open-air circular sanctuary of the Early Bronze Age from Pellapais - "Vounous" enclosing groups of human figures, participating in a certain ceremony, and bulls led for sacrifice in honour of the divinities depicted in relief against the wall of the sanctuary, holding snakes and wearing bulls' masks, the symbols of the Fertility goddess and the Death divinity, c. 2500-2300 BC.



Middle Bronze Age jug of White Painted ware from a tomb at Lapithos, with cut away neck, standing figures on shoulder and elegant rich, linear, decoration in black paint all over its surface, c. 1750 BC.



Bronze stand from Kourion with four legs, supporting a ring, and decoration of four human figures in panels in front of the "sacred tree", three standing and carrying fish and a bronze ingot on their shoulders and one seated and playing her lyre, c. 1200 BC, British Museum, London.



Bronze statue of the Horned God from Enkomi, Late Bronze Age 1200 - 1150 BC.

Red and Black Polished clay bowls, Early Bronze Age from Vounous.





Ivory mirror handle from a tomb at Palaepafos, with decoration of incised patterns and a composition of a warrior in relief, stabbing a lion with a dagger and resembling the mythological scene of Hercules killing the Nemean Lion, c. 1200 BC.



Cypro - Mycenaean amphoroid craters of pictorial style from Enkomi, decorated on both sides, the first with octopuses and the second with chariots drawn by horses, c. 1400 BC.

Necklace from Ayios Iakovos with gold beads, in the forms of dates and pomegranates, and pendant of an engraved lapis lazuli cylinder seal, c. 1300 BC.



Bronze statuette of the "Ingot God", the god protector of the Cypriot copper mines, from his sanctuary at Enkomi, standing on a copper ingot and armed with a horned helmet, shield and spear, c. 1200 BC.



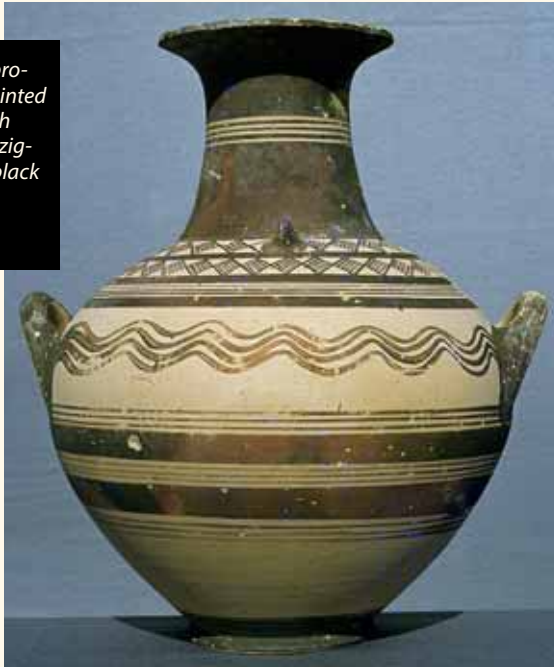
Silver bowl from Enkomi, with embossed decoration of bull's heads, rosettes and lotus flowers in gold and niello, c. 1400-1350 BC.



GEOMETRIC PERIOD (1050 - 750 BC)

During the Iron Age, which is also called Cypro-Geometric period, Cyprus had ten Greek city-kingdoms, and the cult of goddess Aphrodite flourished on the island. Phoenicians settled at Kition in the ninth century BC and then extended their influence over a large part of the island. This important political event had a primary influence on the art and culture of Cyprus. An oriental taste in the art and crafts was introduced and the first Phoenician imports appeared on the island. The eighth century BC was a period of great prosperity.

Amphora of the Cypro-Geometric White Painted ware, decorated with bands, parallel and zig-zag lines and solid black paint on rim, c. 950-850 BC.



Jug of the Cypro – Archaic Free – Field style, with pinched rim and decorated with stylised bird and fish in bichrome black and red paint.

geometric
period 1050-750 BC



The ancient city-kingdom of Soloi.



Gold earring in the shape of a sitting sphinx, fourth-fifth century BC.

ARCHAIC AND CLASSICAL PERIOD (750 - 310 BC)

Prosperity continued, but the island fell prey to several conquerors. Cypriot kingdoms were ruled by a succession of foreign cultures: after the Assyrians came the Egyptians and then the Persians. During the Archaic period we have evidence that in various areas of Cyprus local workshops and styles were developed. This period is characterised by the ability of Cypriot craftsmen not to imitate, but to produce something genuinely Cypriot.

King Evagoras of Salamis (who ruled from 411 - 374 BC) unified Cyprus and made the island one of the leading political and cultural centres of the Greek world. The culture of the Classical period was strongly influenced by Greek art and customs. King Evagoras invited many Greek artists and intellectuals to visit Cyprus and teach the Greek way of life and spirit.

The city-kingdoms of Cyprus welcomed Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, and Cyprus became part of his empire. Alexander granted them autonomy, and this was the first time in many centuries that the city-kingdoms of Cyprus became autonomous. However, this situation did not last long.

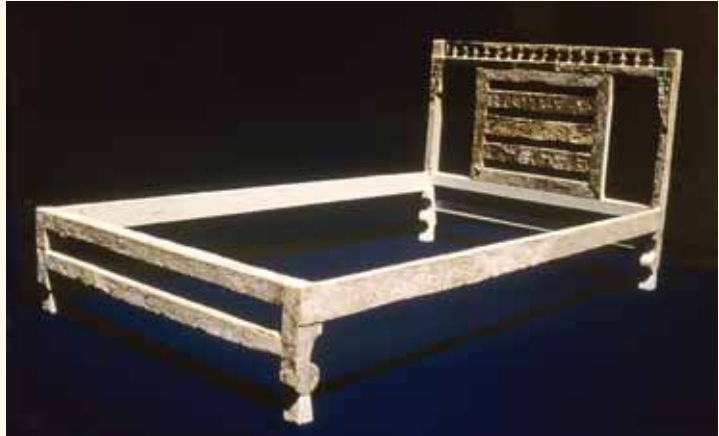


Some of the 2000 clay figurines found at the sanctuary at Agia Irini, in the Morfou area in northwest Cyprus, 750 - 500 BC.

archaic and
classical period
750-310 BC



Bronze cauldron supported on an iron tripod from the "Royal" Tomb 79 at Salamis, with decoration of eight griffin protomes and four double-faced sirens on its rim.



Wooden bed from the "Royal" Tomb 79 at Salamis, inlaid with ivory and dated to the end of the eighth century BC.



Bronze statuette of a cow from the treasure room of Athena's temple at Vouini with realistic details of body, resembling the corresponding contemporary prototype by the famous Greek sculptor Myron, c. 450 BC.



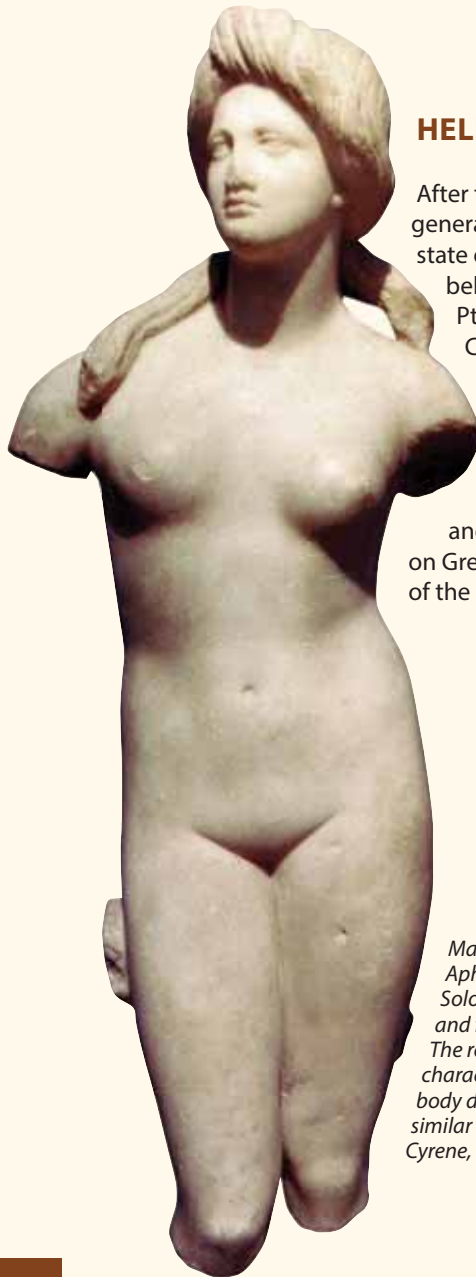
Silver coin minted at Kition, 180 - 145 BC.

hellenistic
period 310-30 BC

HELLENISTIC PERIOD (310 - 30 BC)

After the rivalries for succession between Alexander's generals, Cyprus eventually came under the Hellenistic state of the Ptolemies of Egypt and from then on belonged to the Greek Alexandrine world. The Ptolemies abolished the city-kingdoms and unified Cyprus. Pafos became the capital.

Cultural life developed further. Theatres were built in major cities of the island and performances of comedies and tragedies were staged. Cypriot arts and crafts lost their originality and depended entirely on the Hellenistic style based on Greek models that had developed in the wider region of the Eastern Mediterranean.



Marble statue of Aphrodite from Soloi, whose arms and feet are missing. The rest facial characteristics and body details resemble similar statues from Cyrene, c.100 - 50 BC.



Limestone head of a young woman from Arsos with symmetrical facial characteristics, recalling the corresponding works of the great Greek sculptor Myron, c. 300 BC.



Hellenistic lagynos with biconical depressed body, vertical rope-shaped handle and decoration of geometric linear designs and floral motifs, c.300 -250 BC.

hellenistic
period^{310-30 BC}



*Ancient Odeon in Pafos:
The Theatre is located in
the northeastern part of the
ancient city. The construction
of the theatre dates to the
founding of the city (300 BC).*



*Limestone portrait of
Alexander the Great
from Soloi, 325-150 BC.*

ROMAN PERIOD (30 BC - 330 AD)

Cyprus came under the dominion of the Roman Empire. The most important event in the early years of Roman rule was the introduction of the Christian faith. During the missionary journey of Apostles Paul and Barnabas, the Proconsul Sergius Paulus was converted to Christianity, and Cyprus became the first country to be governed by a Christian.

Destructive earthquakes occurred during the first century BC and the first century AD and cities needed to be rebuilt. In 313 the Edict of Milan granted religious freedom in the Roman Empire, and Cypriot bishops attended the Council of Nicaea in 325.

During the Roman period, Cyprus was divided into four districts: Pafos, Salamis, Amathus and Lapithos. Many important public works were carried out. Theatres, gymnasia, and stadia were built in various parts of the island.

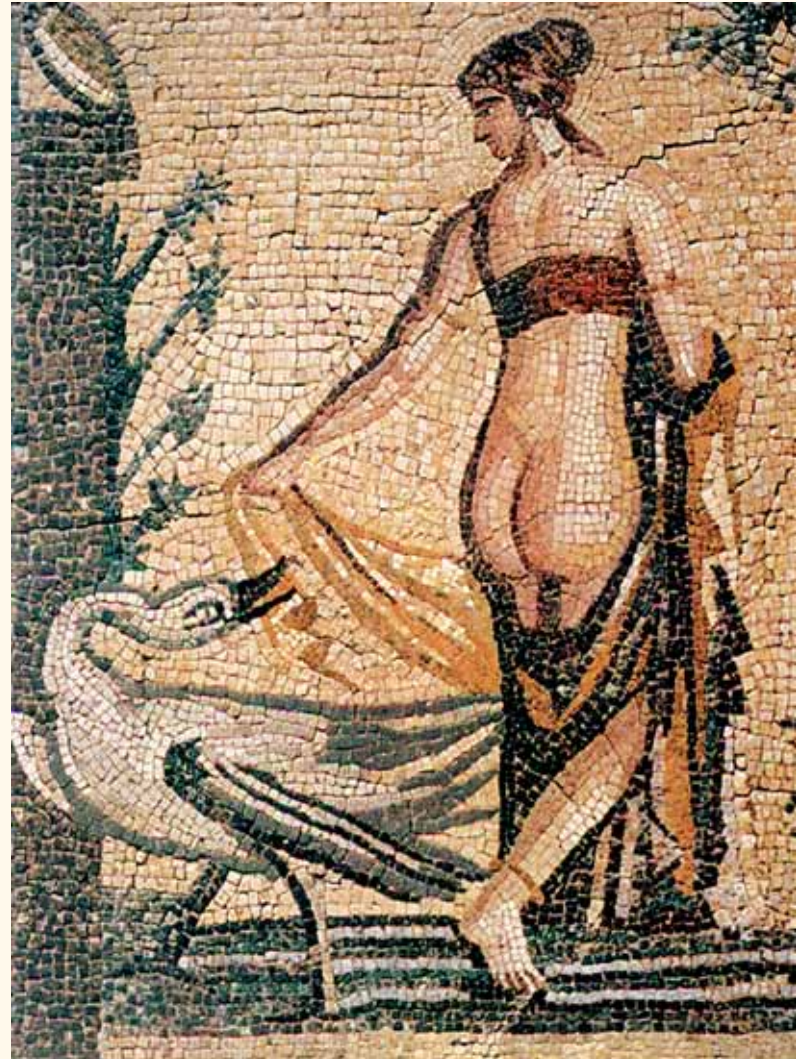
Cyprus under the Roman Empire preserved its Greek character. Most of the important mosaics discovered in Kourion and Pafos, belonging to the second century AD, confirm the continuation of Greek forms of religion and the worship of Greek deities on the island.



Floor mosaic from the House of Dionysos, Pafos, third century AD.



Floor mosaic representing Centaur and Maenad, Pafos, fourth century AD.



Leda and the Swan, floor mosaic from the Roman House of Leda, Pafos, late second or early third century AD.



*The Bust of Ktisis,
Curium Baths.*



The ancient theatre of Kourion, 50-175 AD.

roman period ^{30BC-330 AD}



*Over-lifesize bronze statue of
the Roman Emperor Septimius
Severus, 193-211 AD, found at
the village of Kythrea, now in the
Cyprus Museum.*

BYZANTINE PERIOD (330 - 1191)

When the capital of the Roman Empire was transferred by Constantine the Great to "New Rome" - Constantinople - and the foundations of the Byzantine Empire were laid in 330, Cyprus became part of Byzantium. Christianity became the official religion.

New earthquakes during the fourth century AD completely destroyed the cities of Salamis, Kition and Pafos. Once again, new cities arose. Constantia, built near the site of ancient Salamis, became the capital, and large basilicas were built during the fourth and fifth centuries.

The seventh century AD saw the rise and spread of Islam. The Arabs began their raids to Cyprus in 649. Although for three centuries Cyprus had been constantly under attack by Arabs, until 965, Arab presence and influence remained incidental and sporadic.

During the Byzantine period Cyprus shared with the rest of the Hellenic world the same Christian and Greek culture and heritage. Throughout this period a great number of monasteries and churches were built, many of which survive to this day. Some are decorated with unique frescoes and icons that have attracted worldwide attention and study.



The Monastery of Ayios Ioannis (St John) Lambadhistis, Kalopanayiotis, Troodos. It was built in the 11th century and decorated in the 11th and 13th centuries.





The Church of Ayios Nikolaos (St Nicholas) tis Steyis, Kakopetria, Troodos. It was built in the 11th century and completed in the 12th-13th centuries.



history

byzantine
period 330-1191



*The church of Panayia
(The Virgin) Phorviotissa-Asinou,
Nikitari, Troodos. It was built and
decorated in the 12th century.*



The church of Panayia (The Virgin) tou Araka, Lagoudhera, Troodos. It was built and decorated in 1192.



The church of Panayia (The Virgin) Podhithou, Galata, Troodos. It was built in the end of the 15th century and decorated in 1502.



history

richard the lionheart and the knights templar 1191-1192

RICHARD THE LIONHEART AND THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR (1191 - 1192)

Isaac Comnenus, a Byzantine governor and self-proclaimed emperor of Cyprus, behaved discourteously toward survivors of a shipwreck involving ships of King Richard's fleet on their way to the Holy Land during the Third Crusade. Among the survivors were Richard's sister Joanna, Queen of Sicily, and his betrothed Berengaria of Navarre. Richard in revenge fought Isaac, defeated him, took possession of Cyprus and married Berengaria of Navarre in Limassol, where she was crowned Queen of England.

A year later, Richard sold the island for 100,000 dinars to the Knights Templar, a Frankish military order, who resold it at the same price to Guy de Lusignan, deposed King of Jerusalem.

*Richard the
Lionheart comes
ashore at Limassol.*



Richard the Lionheart lands in Cyprus.

richard the lionheart
and the knights templar
1191-1192



The Kolossi castle, built by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem during the Crusades.

FRANKISH (LUSIGNAN) PERIOD

(1192 - 1489)

Cyprus was ruled on the feudal system. The Catholic Church officially replaced the Greek Orthodox, which, though under severe suppression, managed to survive. The city of Famagusta (Ammochostos) was then one of the richest in the Near East. It was during this period that the historical names of Lefkosia, Ammochostos and Lemesos were changed to Nicosia, Famagusta and Limassol, respectively. The era of the Lusignan dynasty ended when Queen Catherine Cornaro ceded Cyprus to Venice in 1489.



Lusignan's Blazon.

During the Frankish period some magnificent Latin Cathedrals and castles were built. The Cathedral of St Sophia in Nicosia was built on the same design as that of Notre Dame of Paris. The Lusignan kings were crowned in this cathedral as kings of Cyprus. Another Gothic style Latin Cathedral, St Nicholas, was built in Famagusta, almost identical to the St Sophia Cathedral in Nicosia. At this Cathedral the Lusignan kings of Cyprus were crowned as kings of Jerusalem. Both Cathedrals were later converted into mosques by the Ottomans.



The Gothic abbey at Pellapais, Kyrenia.



The Cathedral of Ayia Sophia turned into a mosque, in the occupied part of Nicosia.



The Cathedral of Ayios Nikolaos, Famagusta, now a mosque.



*The St Hilarion castle
on Pentadaktylos Range.*

VENETIAN PERIOD (1489 - 1571)

The Venetians viewed Cyprus as the last bastion against the Ottomans in the Eastern Mediterranean and fortified the island, tearing down lovely buildings in Nicosia to reduce the boundaries of the city within fortified walls. They also built impressive walls around Famagusta which were considered at the time as state of the art military architecture.



Venetian Walls in Nicosia.



The Othello Tower and the Lion of Venice, Famagusta Walls.



The Famagusta Gate of the Nicosia Venetian Walls, with the interior rooms and the passage way used today as a cultural centre.



Venetian Walls in Famagusta.



history ottoman occupation 1571-1878

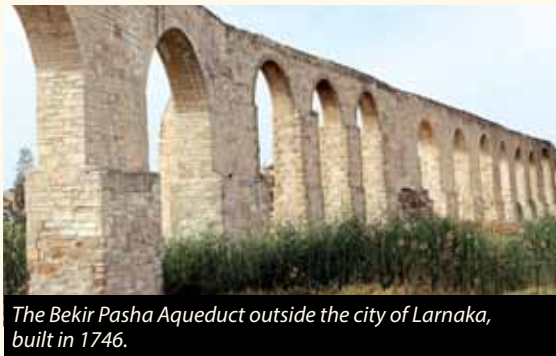
OTTOMAN OCCUPATION (1571 - 1878)



Dragoman Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios, 1795.

In 1570 Ottoman troops attacked Cyprus, captured Nicosia, slaughtered twenty thousand of the population and laid siege on Famagusta for a year. After a brave defence by Venetian commander Marc Antonio Bragadin, Famagusta fell to Lala Mustafa Pasha, who at first allowed the besieged a peaceful exodus, but later ordered the flaying of Bragadin. On annexation to the Ottoman Empire, Lala Mustafa Pasha became the first governor. The Ottoman Turks were to rule Cyprus until 1878.

During the Ottoman period, the Muslim minority eventually acquired a Cypriot identity. Initially, the Greek Orthodox Church was granted a certain amount of autonomy, the feudal system was abolished and the freed serfs were allowed to acquire land. They were, however, heavily taxed. As the power of the Ottoman Turks declined, their rule became increasingly brutal and corrupt. In many instances Greek and Turkish Cypriots struggled together against the oppression of Ottoman rule. It was with a certain amount of optimism which proved to be sadly misplaced that Cyprus would be united with Greece that British rule was welcomed by the Greek Cypriots.



The Bekir Pasha Aqueduct outside the city of Larnaka, built in 1746.



Ottoman baths, Nicosia.



The siege of Nicosia by the Ottomans, 1570.

ottoman
occupation 1571-1878



The Buyuk Han, Nicosia, was built in 1572 by the first Ottoman governor of Cyprus, Muzaffer Pasha.

BRITISH RULE (1878–1960)

As so often in the past, it was great power rivalry and strategic ambition that led to Cyprus changing hands yet again. Britain's main motive in acquiring the island in 1878 was to combat Russian influence in the Mediterranean and to protect its route to India. Britain was concerned about the Russian victory over the Ottomans in 1877, which increased Russian influence in the Eastern Mediterranean. Thus, at the Congress of Berlin the following year, where the British tried to weaken Russian influence, they signed a secret agreement with the Ottomans, whereby they would rent Cyprus from the Ottomans, in return for protecting the latter against Russia.

The British administration granted the local population a greater degree of autonomy than previously enjoyed, in the form of a legislative council consisting of Christian Orthodox, British officials and Moslems. The Moslems and British officials balanced the Christian Orthodox, with the casting vote going to the British High Commissioner.

In 1914, following the Ottoman Empire's entry into the First World War on the side of Germany, Britain annexed Cyprus, and then offered it to Greece, provided that the latter entered the war against Germany. By the time Greece joined in 1917, the offer had been withdrawn. Under the terms of the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923, the new Republic of Turkey ceded Cyprus to Britain and renounced all claims over territories under its former jurisdiction. In 1925, Britain declared Cyprus a Crown Colony.



Hoisting the British flag at Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus. (The Illustrated London News, 10 August 1878).



British troops land in Larnaka in the summer of 1878. (The Antonakis Hatzipanayis Collection).



The burning of the Government House during the "Octovriana" anticolonial uprising of 1931.



From the talks in London (Lancaster House) in February 1959 to finalise the Zurich-London Agreements that established the Republic of Cyprus.

THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT

Given the overwhelming majority of those of Greek stock and culture, combined with the power and pressure of the Church of Cyprus, a movement for liberation and union with Greece was as natural as it was inevitable, although the British Colonial Office tried to play down the question. Agitation came to the fore in 1931, when there was rioting, Government House was burnt down and the constitution was revoked, never to return.

During the Second World War, calls for union with Greece began again. When the Dodecanese were handed to Greece in 1947, these calls increased in strength, bolstered by the British pull-out from Palestine and impending pull-out from India.



EOKA freedom fighter Michalakis Karaolis is brought before a British colonial court (October 1955). He was executed by hanging (10 May 1956).

In 1950, the Church of Cyprus organized a plebiscite among the Greek Christian Orthodox on enosis (union with Greece), with 96 percent voting in favor. The Greek government had been dealing with Britain bilaterally on the issue, but following British Foreign Minister Eden's, refusal to even discuss with Greece Cyprus' self-determination, matters began to come to a head, and the Greek government took the question to the UN General Assembly. In the meantime, the charismatic Archbishop Makarios III assumed the political leadership



Archbishop Makarios and Colonel Georgios Grivas-Digenis, the political and military leaders respectively, of the 1950s liberation struggle against British colonialism.



British colonial soldiers arrest Greek Cypriot civilians.

of the anti-colonial struggle. Colonel Georgios Grivas-Digenis launched and led a guerrilla campaign through the underground EOKA (National Organization of Cypriot Fighters) on 1 April 1955, to oust the British and achieve enosis. Britain's response to the liberation campaign was to work secretly with the Turkish Cypriots leadership and Turkey's government, helping the latter to



*Archbishop Makarios III
upon his return to Cyprus
from British imposed exile
(1 March 1959).*

refine its propaganda. As the struggle intensified, Britain decided that a useful way of keeping the issue out of the United Nations would be to hold a tripartite conference (Britain, Greece and Turkey). It was a way of again involving Turkey in Cyprus, in defiance of the Treaty of Lausanne. The conference broke down quickly, as the British government expected.

As the anti-colonial struggle to free Cyprus continued, Britain was working secretly with the Turkish authorities, encouraging them to demand partition. Turkey created the paramilitary Turkish Defense Organization (TMT) in the late 1950s to control the Turkish Cypriot community and their leadership, and to promote its partitionist policy on the island. The TMT stirred agitation against Greek Cypriots during the anti-colonial struggle and after independence. It was also responsible for the assassination of moderate Turkish Cypriots who opposed their partitionist designs.

The British discussed various proposals with Archbishop Makarios, one of them being the

Memorial to EOKA freedom fighter Gregoris Afxentiou on the mountains of Machairas.



EOKA freedom fighters at the end of the 1955-59 anticolonial liberation struggle.

“Macmillan Plan.” This would have entailed division of the island between Greek and Turkish Cypriots for seven years, followed by the joint sovereignty of Britain, Greece and Turkey. Only Turkey accepted the plan, which enabled Britain to continue the pressure. On 9 March 1956, for example, Britain deported Archbishop Makarios for over a year to the Seychelles. The United States, worried about the tension between NATO allies Greece and Turkey, increased its pressure on Britain, Greece and Turkey to find a way out of the impasse. Greek and Turkish Prime Ministers met in Zurich in February 1959.

They agreed on a draft plan for the independence of Cyprus under a Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot president and vice-president respectively. On 19 February, in London, the Greek, Turkish and British governments met to finalise arrangements. The somewhat unique arrangements tended to detract from the idea of complete sovereignty and independence, in that the three treaties were clearly connected to a continuing British presence, and were considered as a single interconnected package by the British government.

The complexity of the whole postcolonial arrangement reflected a range of outside interests that detracted from the idea of a unitary state based on equal rights.



Pupils demonstrating during the anti-colonial struggle.

The "Imprisoned Tombs" at the Nicosia Central Prisons, where EOKA freedom fighters of the 1955-59 anticolonial struggle are buried.



Signing of the Treaty establishing the Republic of Cyprus (Nicosia, 16 August 1959).

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- INDEPENDENCE
- THE 1974 INVASION BY TURKEY
- SEEKING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION
- THE DESTRUCTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

INDEPENDENCE

Cyprus was proclaimed an independent, sovereign republic on 16 August 1960. The independence of Cyprus was based on the 1959 Zurich and London Agreements negotiated by Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom. These agreements included a Constitution and three treaties: the Treaty of Guarantee, the Treaty of Alliance, and the Treaty of Establishment. These agreements ended 82 years of British rule following many years of a national liberation movement.

Active opposition to colonial rule came from the Greek Cypriot community, whose majority at the time aspired to union of Cyprus with Greece. Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership, on the other hand, prompted by the British, advocated partition of the island. These diametrically opposed visions were later specifically prohibited by the 1959 agreements that established Cyprus' independence. British rule did not encourage the emergence of a Cypriot national identity. Instead, Britain used the "divide and rule" policy as an instrument to control anticolonial sentiment on the island. It enlisted Turkish Cypriots on its side against the Greek Cypriot liberation movement, thereby planting the seeds of intercommunal discord and polarization between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, a development that was to prove detrimental to their cooperation upon independence.

Although they eventually signed the Zurich and London agreements, the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities had no serious role in their drafting or in the drafting of the Constitution for the new



President Makarios with UN Secretary-General U Thant at UN headquarters in New York (26 October 1970).

republic. They were never given the opportunity to vote on them. In effect, they were imposed on the people of Cyprus.

Certain provisions of the agreements and the constitution, rather than promoting peace through intercommunal solidarity and loyalty to a common state as well as respect for the sovereignty of the new republic, proved conducive to domestic conflict and foreign interference. It soon became clear that Cyprus was granted a fettered independence and dysfunctional constitutional arrangements. The constitution itself emphasised differences between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, thereby thwarting integrative tendencies and encouraging divisive behaviour between the two communities.

The agreements provided for complex power sharing arrangements between the two communities (the Greek Cypriot numerical majority community of 82 percent of the population and the Turkish Cypriot

independence



Meeting of the first Council of Ministers of the newly established Republic of Cyprus (1960).

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President Makarios and Vice President Fazil Kutchuck welcome Queen Elizabeth II at the Akrotiri British Sovereign Base Area (20 January 1961).

numerical minority community of 18 percent of the population) and granted extraordinary veto powers to the Turkish Cypriot community. The three guarantor powers (Greece, Turkey, and the United Kingdom) were given vaguely defined rights to interfere in Cypriot affairs under certain conditions. In addition, the United Kingdom retained “sovereign base areas” that amount to 2.7 percent of the territory of the island as well as important intelligence gathering facilities, while Greece and Turkey were to station small military contingents (numbering 950 and 650 troops respectively) on the island.

The divisive nature of the constitution and the rigidity of its principal articles made the operation of a democratic government difficult and caused increasing acrimony between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. By 1963, a series of deadlocks over state budgets, taxation, municipalities, and other issues led to a constitutional crisis that threatened to paralyse the operation of the government and the state. The president felt compelled to propose on 30 November certain constitutional modifications for discussion to “remove obstacles to the smooth functioning and development of the state.” The government of Turkey, however, rejected the suggested constitutional amendments. The Turkish Cypriot leadership followed suit and subsequently fell in line with Turkey’s long-term policy to partition the island.

INTERCOMMUNAL CONFLICT

The atmosphere on Cyprus became tense and volatile. Relations between the two communities



President Makarios meets Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser and Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito, during the Non-Aligned Conference in Cairo (October 1964).



President Makarios with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrei Gromyko in Nicosia, where the foreign dignitaries held talks on the Middle East (7 May 1974).

deteriorated as a series of events snowballed into a crisis extending beyond the borders of Cyprus. Isolated minor incidents escalated into intercommunal clashes. Turkish Cypriots from around the island, under pressure from their leadership, started concentrating into certain areas, in line with



President Makarios visits Ermou Street, after the outbreak of the intercommunal riots in Nicosia (December 1963).



UNFICYP soldier nurses a child injured during the bombings of the Tylliria region by Turkey's air force (August 1964).

Turkey's policy to form Turkish enclaves under its control in order to separate the two communities as a first step toward the partition of Cyprus along ethnic lines. Eventually, Turkish Cypriots withdrew from all state institutions and government agencies. There were flare-ups of intercommunal violence in 1963–64 and again in 1967. International pressure prevented a military invasion by Turkey in 1964 and 1967.

Following the threats by Turkey, the government of the Republic brought the matter to the United Nations (UN). The Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 186 of 4 March 1964, whose basic principles have guided international actions on Cyprus ever since. This resolution:

- Established the UN Secretary General's mission of good offices aiming at a peaceful solution on the basis of an agreed settlement in accordance with the UN Charter
- Created UNFICYP, the UN peacekeeping force on Cyprus
- Reaffirmed the sovereignty and continuing existence of the Republic of Cyprus
- Reaffirmed the continuity of the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Despite calls by the Security Council to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to abstain from the threat or use of force against it, Turkey bombed Cypriot villages in 1964.

In 1965, UN mediator Dr Galo Plaza issued his report on Cyprus. Arguing strongly against the kind of settlement based on the geographical separation of the two communities that was advocated by the Turkish side, the report stated that:



Dr Galo Plaza, UN mediator for Cyprus (1964-1965) with President Makarios and Foreign Minister Spyros Kyprianou (13 February 1965).

"if the purpose of a settlement of the Cyprus question is to be the preservation rather than the destruction of the state and if it is to foster rather than to militate against the development of a peacefully united people, I cannot help wondering

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whether the physical division of the minority from the majority should not be considered a desperate step in the wrong direction”.

Turkey instantly rejected the report and its recommendations. UN mediation came to an end, and thereafter the UN involvement in the Cyprus peace process has been conducted under the Secretary-General’s good offices.

The government of Cyprus took various measures to restore normalcy on the island resulting in the elimination of intercommunal violence and dramatic reduction of tensions between the two communities. The Turkish side did not reciprocate, maintaining, instead, roadblocks in order to keep Greek Cypriots from Turkish enclaves.

In 1968, the government initiated talks with the Turkish Cypriot leadership under UN auspices for a negotiated agreement to resolve outstanding constitutional issues. These promising talks were interrupted by the tragic events of 1974.



Commencement of UN sponsored intercommunal talks between Greek Cypriot Glafkos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot Rauf Denktaş interlocutors in Nicosia (24 June 1968).



Former German Chancellor (1969-1974) Willy Brandt with President Spyros Kyprianou at the 1974 UN ceasefire line in Nicosia (4 January 1982).

independence



The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), created in 1964.

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the 1974 invasion
by Turkey

THE 1974 INVASION BY TURKEY

In 1967, a military junta seized power in Greece. The relationship between that regime and President Makarios of Cyprus became increasingly strained. Makarios was convinced that the junta was involved in efforts to undermine his authority and policies through extremist underground organizations in Cyprus.

On 15 July 1974, the junta and its Greek Cypriot collaborators carried out a coup against the democratically elected president of Cyprus. Using this criminal act as a pretext, and with Britain refusing to honour its obligations under the Treaty of Guarantee, Turkey invaded Cyprus five days later. In a two-phase invasion in July and August, and despite calls by the UN Security Council and the quick restoration of constitutional order on the island, Turkey occupied 36,2 percent of the sovereign territory of the Republic and forcibly expelled about 200.000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. Turkey still deprives the displaced Greek Cypriots of their right to return.

In addition to the economic devastation caused by the invasion and the forcible population movement, over 3.000 persons were killed, while some 1.040 Greek Cypriots remain missing.

Turkey's occupation brought economic ruin to the part of the island which prior to 1974 was the richest and most developed. Poor economic conditions and Turkey's systematic colonization of the occupied areas with illegal settlers forced Turkish Cypriots to emigrate to Europe and elsewhere. The settlers



Turkey's invading forces on the shores of Kyrenia (20 July 1974).



currently outnumber the indigenous Turkish Cypriots by about two to one. There are still over 43.000 heavily armed troops from Turkey in the occupied areas, even though, beginning with Security Council Resolution 353(1974), the UN has called for "an immediate end to foreign military intervention in



President Makarios reviews the damage to the Presidential Palace as a result of the 1974 military coup by the junta of Greece.

the 1974 invasion by Turkey



Greek Cypriot soldiers captured by Turkey's invading troops. They were subsequently executed.



Family members demand ascertainment of the fate of Cypriot missing persons as a result of Turkey's 1974 invasion.

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by Turkey



A child at a Greek Cypriot refugee camp following Turkey's 1974 invasion of Cyprus.

the Republic of Cyprus," and for "the withdrawal without delay from the Republic of Cyprus of foreign military personnel present otherwise than under the authority of international agreements."

In addition, and in violation of international law, Turkey has systematically attempted to eradicate the Greek cultural heritage in the occupied areas. Towns and villages have been given Turkish names, while archaeological sites, churches and cemeteries have been plundered, damaged or converted to other uses.

In November 1983, Turkey instigated and endorsed a "unilateral declaration of independence" in the occupied area by the Turkish Cypriot leadership. The so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" ("TRNC") has not been recognized by anyone other than Turkey, which exercises virtual control over it. The UN Security Council categorically condemned this unilateral action, declared it invalid, called for its withdrawal, and called on all UN member-states not to recognise this illegal entity. The EU and other international and regional organizations have adopted similar positions. For all legal and political purposes, the international community recognises only the Republic of Cyprus created in 1960 and its government, even though the government cannot currently exercise its authority in areas under military occupation by Turkey.

Legal decisions by regional and national courts in Western Europe, in the United States, and in the United Kingdom provide an important independent record of the consequences of Turkey's 1974 invasion



Return of Greek Cypriot prisoners of war captured by Turkey's invading troops (September 1974).



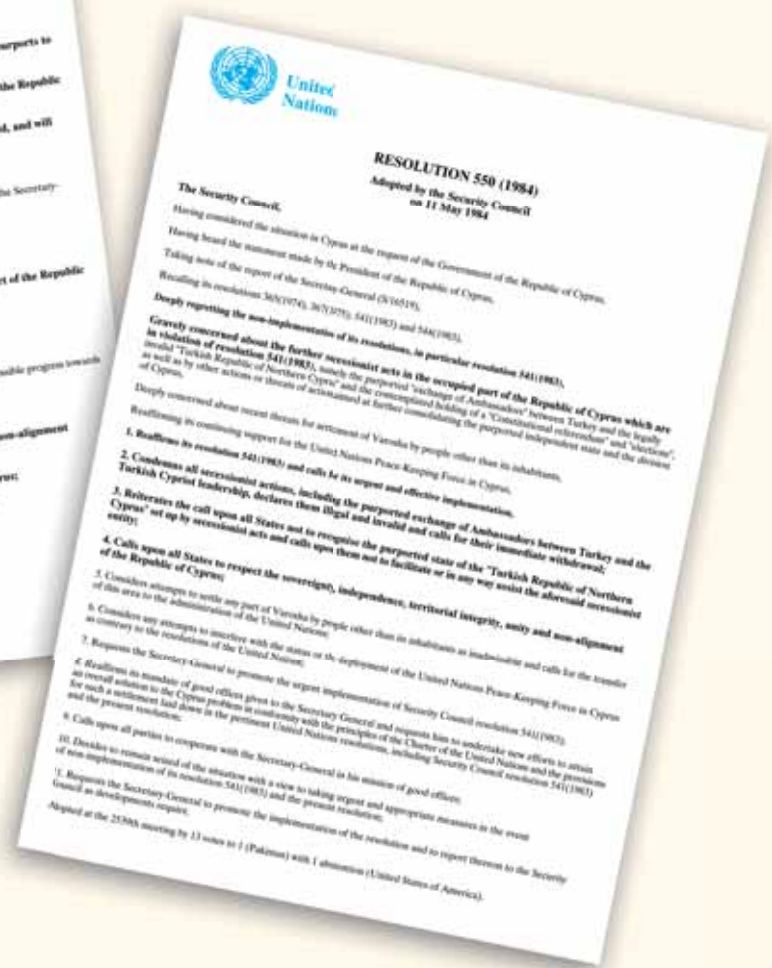
Illegal settlers from Turkey arriving in Kyrenia after the 1974 invasion of Cyprus by Turkey.



Greek Cypriot children receive food rations at a refugee camp following Turkey's 1974 invasion of Cyprus.

and its continuing occupation of Cyprus. They also affirm the legitimacy of the Republic of Cyprus and of its government.

the 1974 invasion by Turkey



UN Security Council Resolutions [Resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984)] condemning acts of secession by Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership against the Republic of Cyprus.

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solution



Meeting of President Makarios with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş under the auspices of UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim (12 February 1977).



Meeting of President Spyros Kyprianou with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş in the presence of UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar (19 May 1979).

SEEKING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION

The Cyprus problem has since 1974 been one of military invasion and continuing occupation in violation of relevant unanimous UN Security Council resolutions. Negotiations, especially after 2002, aimed at a comprehensive solution for the reunification of Cyprus. Throughout this process, the government of Cyprus sought a solution reflecting democratic norms, the UN Security Council resolutions, international law, European Union law, and relevant court decisions. The Turkish side, on the other hand, demanded a solution that would keep the two communities apart, either as two separate sovereign states or two separate states under a loose confederation.

The two communities agreed in 1977 and 1979 to reunite Cyprus under a federal republic. For the Greek Cypriots, who had strongly advocated the concept of a unitary state, the acceptance of a federation was the ultimate concession and historic compromise in their effort to terminate Turkey's occupation and achieve the reunification of Cyprus.

The UN-led peace process has since 1977 sought to define the framework of such a federal solution. Negotiations have sought to reconcile the interests and concerns of the two sides under a common central government. Issues of definitions of objectives and ways to implement a comprehensive federal settlement became serious problems mainly because of the intransigence of Turkey.

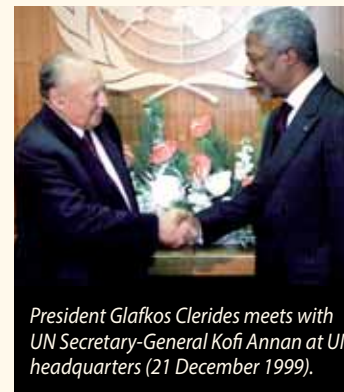
In 1975, the UN Security Council reactivated the Secretary-General's mission of good offices, which had been interrupted in 1974. Since then, intermittent negotiations under UN auspices have taken place, but failed for a number of reasons, including:

- Failure to implement UN Security Council resolutions
- Prevalence of third-party strategic considerations over a viable and functional solution that satisfies the concerns of the state of Cyprus and of all Cypriots
- Intransigent policies of successive governments in Turkey
- Disregard of international law and European law.

The UN process, having gone through various stages, culminated in the UN proposal known as the "Annan Plan," which was submitted to the parties first in November 2002 and subsequently, in its final form ("Annan V"), in March 2004.



President George Vassiliou with UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (April 1992).



President Glafkos Clerides meets with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at UN headquarters (21 December 1999).

seeking a negotiated
solution



Meeting of President Anastasiades with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (26 September 2015).

UN NEGOTIATIONS, 2002–2004

This period marks the more sustained effort of the UN for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. Earlier efforts foundered over the Turkish demand for recognition of the illegal “state” in the areas of the Republic occupied by Turkey.

In an attempt to secure an agreement by the December 2002 Copenhagen EU summit, which would decide on the accession of Cyprus to the EU in 2004, Secretary-General Kofi Annan presented on 11 November 2002 a detailed plan for a comprehensive settlement (Annan I). The plan was revised on 10 December 2002 (Annan II) and again on 26 February 2003 (Annan III).

The Secretary-General met with the leaders of the two communities at the Hague in March 2003 to ascertain whether they were prepared to submit Annan III to referenda. The Turkish side rejected the UN proposal.

In early 2003, massive Turkish Cypriot demonstrations took place in the occupied areas



The opening of the crossing point at the buffer zone in Nicosia, near Ledra Palace Hotel (23 April 2003).



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan with President Tassos Papadopoulos, former President Glafkos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas during his visit to Cyprus (28 February 2003).

against the Turkish Cypriot leader and his Ankara supported policies. Cyprus, as expected, signed the EU Treaty of Accession on 16 April 2003.

On 23 April 2003, under growing public Turkish Cypriot discontent with the situation in occupied Cyprus, Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership were compelled to partially lift restrictions, which they had imposed since 1974 along the UN ceasefire line, on the movement of Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Since then, thousands of Cypriots have been crossing regularly the ceasefire line. These peaceful crossings have destroyed the myth cultivated for years by Turkish propaganda that the two communities cannot live together.

On the consensus that emerged in meetings with Turkey’s prime minister in Washington, in January 2004, the U.S. administration persuaded the UN Secretary-General to call for a resumption of negotiations in New York.

On 13 February 2004, it was agreed by the parties that negotiations would commence for changes



From the meeting in Bürgenstock, Switzerland under the auspices of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (31 March 2004).

that fell within the parameters of Annan III. In case of continuing deadlock, the Secretary-General would finalize a text which would then be submitted to the two communities on Cyprus for a vote.

This was a significant change in the UN Secretary-General's mission of good offices as had been conceived since 1964. Without Security Council authorisation, the Secretary-General assumed the power of arbitrator as a precondition for the new round of talks. By the time of the talks in Switzerland late in March 2004, the Secretariat became a partial party to the dispute by promoting most of Turkey's positions on the Cyprus problem.

The change in the Secretary-General's role, coupled with extremely tight negotiating deadlines and

Turkey's intransigence, contributed to the absence of serious negotiations. In order to gain Turkey's consent, nearly all of its demands were incorporated arbitrarily in the two plans (Annan IV and V), presented by the Secretary-General. Annan V was presented to the two sides on 31 March 2004. Turkey, the United States and the United Nations agreed to accept the EU presence only on an observer status in the talks, while the EU made the commitment to accommodate the derogations from European law that were included in Annan V. The Secretary-General's plan, a complex legal document of nearly 10.000 pages, was not available in its totality on the UN website until hours before the referendum. Cypriots were called to vote on the document on 24 April 2004, only days before the accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU on 1 May.

THE PEOPLE'S DECISION

Following a spirited public debate, Greek Cypriot voters overwhelmingly rejected Annan V, by a vote of 75,8 percent against 24,2 percent. In contrast, 64,9 percent of the Turkish Cypriot voters approved the plan. It should be noted that settlers from Turkey, who had no legal right to vote, were allowed to do so.

The Greek Cypriot “no” vote was not a vote against reunification or reconciliation. It was a rejection of a process that led to a one-sided plan perceived harmful to the legitimate rights of the Greek Cypriot community and to the survival of the state of Cyprus itself. It was a rejection of a flawed plan that did not provide for the genuine reunification of Cyprus, its institutions, people, and economy.

Ultimately, the plan was rejected because it was judged by the great majority of Cypriots not to be in the best common interest of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. The negative outcome of the referendum rendered the Annan Plan null and void.

REVIVING THE PEACE PROCESS 2005–2006

In order to revive the peace process, President Tassos Papadopoulos exchanged views with the Secretary-General in 2005 concerning the preparation of a renewed effort on Cyprus by the UN. The Secretary-General also met with Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat. President Papadopoulos subsequently met with the Secretary-General in 2006 and examined modalities for moving forward on the peace process.



President Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat meet in the presence of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cyprus, Ibrahim Gambari (8 July 2006).

THE 8 JULY 2006 AGREEMENT

This new momentum for the resumption of the peace process on Cyprus led to a “Set of Principles” (the 8 July 2006 Agreement) between the two communities. Among its provisions was a “commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bicomunal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions.”



Map showing the 1974 UN ceasefire line across the Republic of Cyprus. It also shows the area of the Republic under military occupation by Turkey since 1974.

NEW INITIATIVES IN 2008

Despite the setback caused by the Turkish refusal to implement the 8 July Agreement, the newly elected president of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias, sought, immediately after his inauguration on 28 February 2008, to meet with the Turkish Cypriot leader, in yet another effort to set in motion a process. He also embarked on a campaign to reenergize the international community toward a new peace process, in which the two communities would have the leading roles. These initiatives yielded positive results and gained support from the international community.

FULL-FLEDGED DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS

President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Talat started full-fledged negotiations on 3 September 2008, under the good offices mission of the United Nations Secretary-General. The talks continued with Mr Talat's successor Mr Dervish Eroglu.

Some concerns were raised because of comments made by the Turkish side at the start of the talks, which reiterated intransigent Turkish positions, such as insistence on maintaining guarantees and intervention rights by Turkey on Cyprus. Such attitude as well as subsequent hard-line statements by Turkey's leaders, cast a shadow on the negotiations. They run contrary to the positive, constructive, cooperative, and conciliatory spirit brought to this new effort by the Greek Cypriot side, which spirit is required for the success of the peace process.

Even though a number of convergences were reached between President Christofias and



President Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat begin full-fledged negotiations in the presence of Alexander Downer, the UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Cyprus (3 September 2008).

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 with the pretext of the assumption of the Presidency of the Council of EU by the government of the Cyprus Republic, on 1st July.

Following his election in 2013, President Anastasiades launched a new initiative aiming at the recommencement of negotiations for a comprehensive solution based on UN resolutions, compatible with European and International Law and ensuring the human rights of all Cypriots. The government of Cyprus put forward a package proposal to restore mutual trust between both communities, which includes the return of the city of Famagusta to its lawful inhabitants, under the auspices of the UN and in line with the UN Security Council Resolutions 550 of 1984 and 789 of 1992. Moreover, the National Council appointed an interlocutor for the Greek Cypriot side, to facilitate the conduct of negotiations. This move was reciprocated by the Turkish Cypriot side.

On 11 February 2014 President Anastasiades and the then Turkish Cypriot leader, Dervis Eroglu, adopted a Joint Declaration that set the framework and the basic principles for a settlement of the Cyprus problem and clarified the methodology to be followed. The Joint Declaration reaffirms that the solution will be based on a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation with political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council Resolutions and the High Level Agreements and that a united Cyprus, as a member of the United Nations and of the European Union, shall have a single international legal personality, a single sovereignty, and a single citizenship. The Joint Declaration also underlines that the status quo is unacceptable and that this settlement should respect democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms of Greek



Meeting of President Anastasiades with the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Dervis Eroglu, in the presence of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cyprus, Mrs Lisa Bittenheim (11 February 2014).

Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots alike, and ensure their common future in a united Cyprus within the European Union.

Following the Joint Declaration, official talks were resumed between the two leaders. The two sides submitted their proposals and exchanged documents on all negotiating chapters.

When the two first phases of the negotiations (screening phase and detailed discussions on

each chapter in an inter-dependent manner) were completed in early September 2014, Mr Espen Barth Eide was appointed Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Cyprus, in an effort to give new impetus to the dialogue. Mr Eide arrived in Cyprus on 8 September and on 17 September he held a joint meeting with President Anastasiades and the Turkish Cypriot leader. After the meeting, Mr Eide stated that “the structured negotiations for which we have already talked about in the Joint Declaration of the 11th of February are really beginning now”. While the dialogue was about to enter a very substantial and critical phase, the Turkish Government issued on 3



Meeting of President Nicos Anastasiades with the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Mustafa Akinci, in the presence of the UN Secretary- General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, Mr Espen Barth Eide (28 May 2015).

October 2014, a NAVTEX (Navigational Telex) illegally reserving areas falling within Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), in order to conduct seismic surveys for hydrocarbon exploration. On 20 October, Turkey escalated its provocations by activating the NAVTEX and dispatching its seismic vessel Barbaros into Cyprus' EEZ for the above purpose, thus violating Cyprus' sovereign rights.

The areas within which Barbaros was conducting its illegal activities included Blocks of Cyprus' EEZ, assigned by the Government of Cyprus to international companies for exploration and exploitation.

As a result of Turkey's provocative acts, which had no legal foundation and were in direct conflict with International Law, including UNCLOS, following the unanimous decision of the National Council, President Anastasiades suspended the participation of the Greek Cypriot side in the talks. Under the circumstances, it was obvious that the negotiations could not be conducted under duress, blackmail and threats. The NAVTEX expired in April 2015.

The resumption of the talks on 15 May 2015, following the election of Mustafa Akinci to the leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community on 26 April 2015, renewed hopes that such conditions would prevail as to enable substantive progress in the efforts for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. During their first meetings, President Anastasiades and the new Turkish Cypriot leader expressed their strong commitment to work

intensively and in good faith, utilizing the positive climate so as to reach a peaceful settlement in Cyprus.

At the same time they agreed to work on the parallel track of confidence-building measures, aiming at improving the everyday lives of the people and at building trust among the two communities thereby facilitating the negotiating process itself. Meanwhile, the negotiators of the two sides, Andreas Mavroyiannis and Özdil Nami, hold intensive meetings so as to identify convergences, bridge the gaps and prepare the leaders' meetings. Intensive negotiations are ongoing on all aspects of the Cyprus problem.

CONCLUSION

Having successfully joined the EU in 2004, the people of Cyprus still yearn for the reunification of their country. The Government of Cyprus is determined to continue its search for a viable and functional solution, in accordance with the High Level Agreements and the relevant UN resolutions, in full conformity with the values and principles of both the Charter of the United Nations and the EU Acquis, in order to safeguard the rights of all Cypriots. In this manner all Cypriots will fully enjoy the benefits and advantages of EU membership and bring about the reunification of their country after more than four decades of artificial division.

As President Anastasiades, pointed out in his speech at the 70th Session of the General Assembly of the UN:

"What we aspire to achieve through this new round of negotiations is to reach a settlement that will:

- *Respect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all Cypriots, whether Greek or Turkish.*
- *Reunite our country, its people, the economy and institutions.*
- *Create a homeland of peaceful co-existence and prosperous collaboration between all of its citizens, to the benefit of the younger generations.*
- *Allow Cyprus to utilize its full potential by removing all the political barriers that prevent the full exploitation of our unique geographical position at the crossroads of Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia.*
- *Transform Cyprus into a shining example of the ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic cooperation between Christian and Muslim communities.*
- *Turn Cyprus into a model-country of reliability, stability and security in what is now a very turbulent and volatile region, characterized by protracted conflicts and instability".*



Meeting of President Anastasiades with the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Mustafa Akinci, and their negotiating teams, in the framework of intercommunal talks under the auspices the United Nations (28 May 2015).

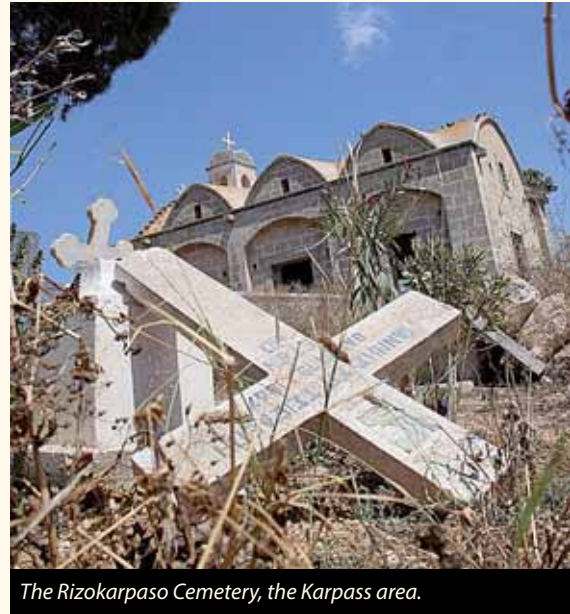
THE DESTRUCTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

"Damage to cultural property belonging to any people whatsoever means damage to the cultural heritage of all mankind." **Preamble of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict**

Cyprus has been at the crossroads of civilisation in the Eastern Mediterranean. Its recorded history of more than 11,000 years is considered to be of central importance in the history of European art and civilisation. The systematic and deliberate destruction and obliteration of the Greek Cypriot cultural heritage is the final touch in Turkey's policy of ethnic cleansing and of the colonisation of occupied Cyprus. It is a tragic and irreversible consequence of the 1974 Turkish invasion. Turkey is in violation of international law and of major



The vandalised archaeological site of Soloi, Morfou area.



The Rizokarpaso Cemetery, the Karpass area.

international conventions it signed and ratified, including the 1954 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, and the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. The destruction of the Greek Cypriot cultural heritage has been enhanced by:

- The lure of money in the black market for art objects
- The unwillingness of the occupation authorities to devote the necessary resources to protect the Greek Cypriot cultural heritage



The vandalised Jewish Margo Cemetery, south-east of Nicosia.

- The unwillingness of the occupation authorities to cooperate with UNESCO
- The attempt by the Turkish Cypriot subordinate local administration in occupied Cyprus to gain de facto recognition in return for its cooperation with international institutions
- The expulsion of foreign archaeological schools working in the northern part of Cyprus until the time of the Turkish invasion.

The deliberate destruction of the cultural heritage includes, but is not limited to:

- The destruction of ancient historic sites and monuments
- The looting of museums and other private collections

- The destruction and desecration of important religious sites to Orthodox, Maronite and Armenian Cypriots. Known as the "island of the saints", Cyprus has played an important role in the evolution and spread of Christianity in the West
- The deliberate name changes of historic sites, towns and villages in an attempt to erase the documented historic past of the island
- The destruction and disappearance of historical ancient artifacts and important movable religious items such as icons, sacerdotal vestments, books and precious items used in religious services
- The removal and illicit sale of historic frescoes and mosaics from UNESCO designated and protected religious sites, some dating back to the 6th century AD. Classic cases became those of the Antiphonitis frescoes and the Kanakaria mosaics whose recovery showed the depth of the official illicit networks and money involved in the black market for art objects. The removal of frescoes and mosaics requires scientific expertise, connivance and involvement of local authorities.

The historic wealth of occupied Cyprus is shown by the presence of:

- 31 major archaeological sites and ancient cemeteries
 - 11 major fortresses, towers and fortifications
 - 37 historic designated homes and bridges
 - 520 churches, monasteries and chapels.
- The fate of the churches and monasteries



Destruction of a wall-painting in the Antiphonitis Monastery, Kyrenia district.

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the destruction of
cultural heritage



*The Kontea Cemetery,
Famagusta district.*

(Orthodox, Maronite and Armenian) is indicative of the systematic and deliberate policies of the occupation regime:

- 125 churches have been turned into mosques, an old Islamic tradition in occupied territories
- 67 have been turned into stables or hay warehouses
- 57 have become museums, cultural centers or hotels
- 17 have become hostels, restaurants or military warehouses
- 25 have been demolished
- 229 have been totally desecrated.

THE OFFICIAL RESPONSE

In an attempt to limit the damage to the Cypriot cultural heritage the government of Cyprus along with the Church of Cyprus have expanded their cooperation with foreign museums and auction houses to identify and seek the return of stolen historical and religious artifacts. In cooperation with Cypriot foundations they have also invested in the recovery of such items from the international market.

Occasionally, compromises have been made in which items of secondary importance were sacrificed for the recovery of more important historic artifacts and religious items. In addition, agreements have been reached for the temporary safekeeping of such items abroad, as in the case of the Menil Foundation of Houston.

Part of the costly and lengthy recovery process involves the requirements of foreign courts for proof of ownership. This is often difficult given the lack of access to records and facilities in occupied Cyprus



The church of Ayios Prokopios, Synkrasi, Famagusta district.

and reliance on photographic evidence to identify stolen items.

The Church of Cyprus has also resorted to foreign courts to recover looted religious items. The case of the Kanakaria mosaics in the United States District Court in Indianapolis is one such example. The case involved the ownership of plundered sixth century Byzantine mosaics from the Church of Kanakaria in the occupied part of Cyprus. The mosaics had been removed by Turkish antiquities smugglers and sold to an American art dealer for \$1.2 million. In a far ranging precedent setting decision on the protection of cultural property the Court, on 3 August 1989,



*The Marathovounos Cemetery,
Famagusta district.*



*Destruction of the
wall-paintings
in the Antifonitis Monastery
in the Kyrenia district.*

the republic of cyprus

the destruction of
cultural heritage



*The Sourp Magar
(Saint Makarios)
Armenian Monastery,
Pentadactylos range.*

ordered the return of the plundered mosaics to their legitimate owner, the Church of Cyprus. This decision was affirmed by the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit on 24 October 1990.

The government of Cyprus has also concluded bilateral agreements with foreign governments intended to protect its archaeological and cultural heritage. One such recent example is the Memorandum of Understanding "To Protect the Archaeological and Ethnological Heritage of Cyprus" signed between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus in 2002 and extended with revisions for another five years in 2007 and again in 2012.

The unending battle to protect the Cypriot cultural heritage and Turkey's unwillingness to cooperate with UNESCO and other international institutions to protect the Cypriot cultural heritage is one more example of Turkey's deliberate policy of eradicating the historic Greek Cypriot presence from occupied Cyprus.

CONCLUSION

The information that is available from independent sources leaves no doubt about Turkey's systematic and deliberate policy of eradicating all aspects of the Greek Cypriot heritage and presence in the occupied areas. These discriminatory policies were directed at Greek, Maronite and Armenian Cypriots because of their ethnicity, religion and language. This is a stigma on the international community at a time when, with support from the Republic of Cyprus, Turkey is engaged in accession talks with the EU. Turkey continues to violate its international obligations capitalising on regional instability and the support



Destroyed mosaic of God Eurotas, Salamina.

extended to Turkey by influential external powers. The subordination of human rights, including the protection of cultural heritage, to economic, political and security considerations undermines not only the European human rights regime, but also the European commitment to the rule of law, democracy and human rights. Cyprus, since 1974, was and remains the testing ground of these principles.

"The political-demographic de facto partition imposed on Cyprus since 1974 thus threatens not only the unity and integrity of a modern nation-state but also the millennial cultural integrity and continuity of the island which has been the crossroads of the civilization of the eastern Mediterranean."

Michael Jansen, "Cyprus: The Loss of a Cultural Heritage," *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook*, University of Minnesota (1986).



*The church of St George,
Gastria, Famagusta district.*



The church of Panagia Chryseleousa, Kyrenia district.



President Glafkos Clerides meets with USA President Bill Clinton at the White House (24 June 1996).



President Tassos Papadopoulos with the President of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao during his official visit to China (6 December 2006).



President Demetris Christofias with the President of France Nicolas Sarkozy in Paris (2 September 2009).



President Anastasiades with the Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel during his official visit in Berlin (6 May 2014).

cyprus in the world

- MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS
- THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
- THE ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
- THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS
- THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP
- THE PATH TO EU MEMBERSHIP
- MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



President John F. Kennedy and President Makarios in Washington during a state visit by the Cypriot leader (5 June 1962).



President Spyros Kyprianou with the Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi in New Delhi (17 March 1983). Mrs Gandhi paid a visit to Cyprus in September 1983.



President George Vassiliou with the leader of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev (28 October 1991).



President Glafkos Clerides with Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom Elizabeth II (22 October 1993).



President Tassos Papadopoulos with the British Prime Minister Tony Blair (16 September 2005).



Pope Benedict XVI with President Demetris Christofias during the Holy Father's official visit to Cyprus (4-6 June 2010).



President Nicos Anastasiades with the Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, during the President's official visit to Israel (15 June 2015).

Cyprus in the world

member
of the united nations

MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Soon after independence in 1960 the Republic of Cyprus became a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Council of Europe. Cyprus subsequently became a member of other international organisations, including the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the World Bank.

Cyprus has been a member of the United Nations since 20 September 1960. Cyprus firmly believes in the primacy of the United Nations and its Charter and contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The Security Council, the General Assembly and other bodies of the United Nations, including the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and UNESCO, have been involved in the question of Cyprus and have adopted numerous resolutions on all aspects of the problem over the years.

Cyprus has been an active member of the United Nations and has been elected periodically to numerous committees and bodies of the Organisation. Cyprus is also a member of the United Nations specialized agencies and other autonomous bodies including the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the UN Education, Scientific and Culture Organisation (UNESCO), the World Health Union (WHO), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and others.



The United Nations headquarters in New York.



UN Security Council considers reports on Cyprus by the UN Secretary-General (15 June 2010).

Cyprus in the world

the council of europe



The President of the House of Representatives, Yiannakis L. Omirou with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Jean-Claud Mignon.

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Cyprus has been a member of the Council of Europe since May 1961 and participates in all its bodies and organs, including the Parliamentary Assembly.

Cyprus has always contributed actively to the implementation of the Council's principles and values, particularly in the field of safeguarding and promoting of human and social rights. Cypriot experts participate in most of the Council's specialized Committees and their contribution has been widely acknowledged.

Cyprus has assumed the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the top executive body of the Council, four times since its accession to the organisation.

The Council, responding to Cyprus' applications, has found Turkey, through reports of the European Commission of Human Rights and Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, responsible for serious violations of the European Convention on Human Rights in the part of Cyprus occupied by Turkey.



The President of the House of Representatives, Marios Garoyan, addresses the European Conference of the Presidents of Parliaments held in Cyprus on 11 and 12 June 2010.

THE ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

Cyprus is one of the 35 signatory states of the Final Act concluded in Helsinki in 1975, and an active participant in the procedures of the then Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which on 1 January 1995 became an international organisation under the name Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Since the conception of the CSCE in the early 1970s, Cyprus, together with the other neutral and non-aligned (N+N) states of Europe, have strived to make the CSCE a process of common European progress, where the division between East and West would gradually diminish and eventually disappear. Cyprus was a founding member of the group of the N+N countries, which assumed the role of bridge-building between the opposing interests of East and West.

The CSCE Conference in Vienna, which took place from November 1986 to January 1989, and its Concluding Document marked the new era in European relations following the rapprochement between East and West. Cyprus has made its contribution to the achievement of the results of the Vienna Conference promoting the finding of solutions to important issues such as the military security in Europe, the Mediterranean, the environment and the principles guiding relations between states.

In the field of the ten principles guiding the relations between states, known as the Helsinki Decalogue, Cyprus has promoted the adoption of new and concrete obligations concerning the territorial integrity of states and human rights. In particular, the adoption in the Vienna Concluding Document of provisions for the non-recognition of situations, which violate the territorial integrity of a state and the recognition of the right of all refugees to return to their homes in safety, underlines the influence of the Cypriot position.



Official visit by the President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias to Cyprus (12 October 2005).



The President of the Republic, Mr Nicos Anastasiades, receives the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr Prokopis Pavlopoulos (30 March 2015).

Cyprus in the world

the commonwealth
of nations

THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

Cyprus became a member of the Commonwealth in 1961, soon after attaining its independence and has been participating actively in all Commonwealth activities. Cyprus hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1993.

The Commonwealth has consistently supported Cyprus in its struggle for a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem. As an expression of their continued solidarity with the government and the people of Cyprus, the Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries at their Meeting in New Delhi, in 1983, agreed to establish a special Commonwealth Action Group on Cyprus to assist towards compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 541.

The resolution declared the 1983 secessionist act by the Turkish Cypriot leadership in occupied Cyprus as “legally invalid” and called for its withdrawal.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting repeatedly expressed support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. They have also repeatedly called for the implementation of all United Nations resolutions on Cyprus.

Apart from support given to Cyprus in its efforts to find a just and viable solution, Cyprus also receives technical and other assistance from the Commonwealth in the form of expert advice or in the field of education. On its part, the Republic of Cyprus offers scholarships to students from Commonwealth countries either directly or through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.



President Glafkos Clerides addresses the Commonwealth Summit held in Cyprus (25 October 1993).

THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership provides the institutional structure for the development of relations between the European Union and the Mediterranean states. The Partnership was initiated with the Conference of EU and Mediterranean Foreign Ministers in Barcelona, on 27 and 28 November 1995. This event noted the start of a new “partnership” phase in the relationship including bilateral and multilateral or regional cooperation. Cyprus has participated in the Barcelona Process since its inauguration: as a Mediterranean Partner, together with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey, and as of the 1 May 2004, as a member of the Union in a Euro-Mediterranean Partnership that numbers 35 participating states.

CYPRUS’ ROLE AS A REGIONAL KEY PLAYER

Following the discovery of significant hydrocarbon reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean and Cyprus’ Exclusive Economic Zone in particular, the Republic of Cyprus has highlighted Cyprus’ enhanced role in the Eastern Mediterranean as a stabilizing factor and an energy hub in Europe, as well as a bridge between Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa.

The Republic of Cyprus, seeking a mutually beneficial relationship with the countries in its immediate neighbourhood, concluded tripartite partnership agreements with Greece, Egypt and Israel. These tripartite partnerships cover a wide range of areas, including the economy, trade, energy and shipping. However, these political partnerships have not been formed as alliances against other countries,



Second tripartite meeting, in Nicosia, between President Anastasiades, the Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah El Sisi, and the Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, on matters of wider regional cooperation. The adoption of the Nicosia Declaration was announced (29 April 2015).

but instead they aim to serve common objectives, to strengthen the climate of stability, peace and prosperity in the region, with full respect of international legality and the principles of the UN Charter.

Such partnerships, apart from working towards the mutual benefit of the peoples of the region, they aim at creating a common front to address the dangers threatening the Eastern Mediterranean region, such as terrorism, WMD proliferation, organized crime, xenophobia and religious segregation that endanger the statehood of many countries and the future of their political transformation.

The Republic of Cyprus recognizes the political significance of the discovery of hydrocarbons in the volatile region of the Eastern Mediterranean and wishes to utilize this factor as a catalyst for resolving political differences and for regional integration, rather than a source of rivalry and conflict.

Cyprus in the world

the path to
eu membership

THE PATH TO EU MEMBERSHIP

In 1971 the government of Cyprus entered into negotiations with the European Economic Community that led to the signing on 19 December 1972 of an Association Agreement between the two parties. The aim of the Agreement was the establishment, in two stages and within a period of ten years, of a Customs Union between Cyprus and the EEC. The Agreement came into force on 1 June 1973.

On 4 July 1990, the Cyprus government submitted its application for membership to the European Communities. The European Commission issued its Opinion (Avis) on Cyprus' application on 30 June 1993.

The Opinion recognised the European identity and character of Cyprus and its vocation to belong to the Communities. It also confirmed that Cyprus satisfied the criteria for membership and was suitable to become a member of the Communities.

The Council of the EU discussed and endorsed the Opinion at its meeting on 4 October 1993. In its conclusions the Council also noted the following: «The Council supported the Commission's approach which was to propose, without awaiting a peaceful, balanced and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem, to use all the instruments offered

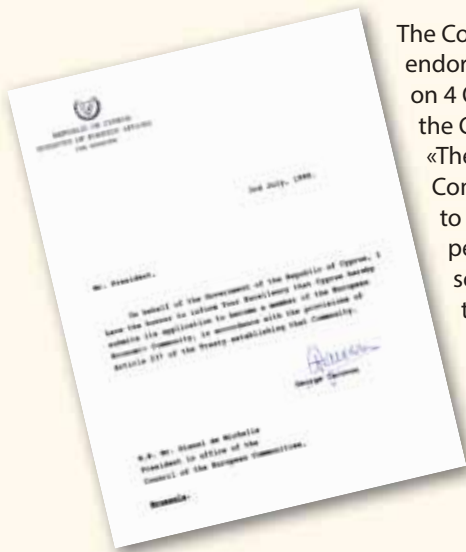
by the Association Agreement to help, in close co-operation with the Cypriot government, with the economic, social and political transition of Cyprus towards integration into the European Union».

Meanwhile, the European Council, at its meetings in Corfu in June 1994 and again in Essen in December the same year, confirmed that Cyprus would be included in the next phase of enlargement.

On 6 March 1995, the EU General Affairs Council reaffirmed the suitability of Cyprus for accession and stipulated that accession negotiations with Cyprus would start six months after the conclusion of the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference.

Accession negotiations were formally launched on 31 March 1998; substantive negotiations began on 10 November 1998. By December 2002, Cyprus was the first of the candidate countries to complete accession negotiations according to the agreed road map. The sustained efforts for the timely completion of the accession negotiations culminated in the unprecedented and historic milestone decision, reached at the Copenhagen European Council in December 2003, to admit Cyprus, together with nine other countries, as a new member-state of the European Union.

The Treaty of Accession was signed in Athens on 16 April 2003 and came into effect on 1 May 2004.





President Tassos Papadopoulos and Foreign Minister George Iacovou sign the Cyprus EU Accession Treaty, in Athens, Greece (16 April 2003).

Cyprus in the world

member of the
European Union

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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, Tassos Papadopoulos, signed the Accession Treaty on 16 April 2003 in Athens, Greece and on 14 July the House of Representatives ratified the Treaty of Accession unanimously. In a statement during celebrations marking Cyprus' accession, the President of Cyprus said:

"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 forty-four 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 because we could not celebrate this moment together with our Turkish Cypriot compatriots and our great disappointment for the absence of a solution to our national problem.

Our accession to the European Union does not create rights only. It entails also obligations and responsibilities. We will claim and we will enjoy those rights. At the same time we will fulfil our obligations and undertake our responsibilities. Our aim and

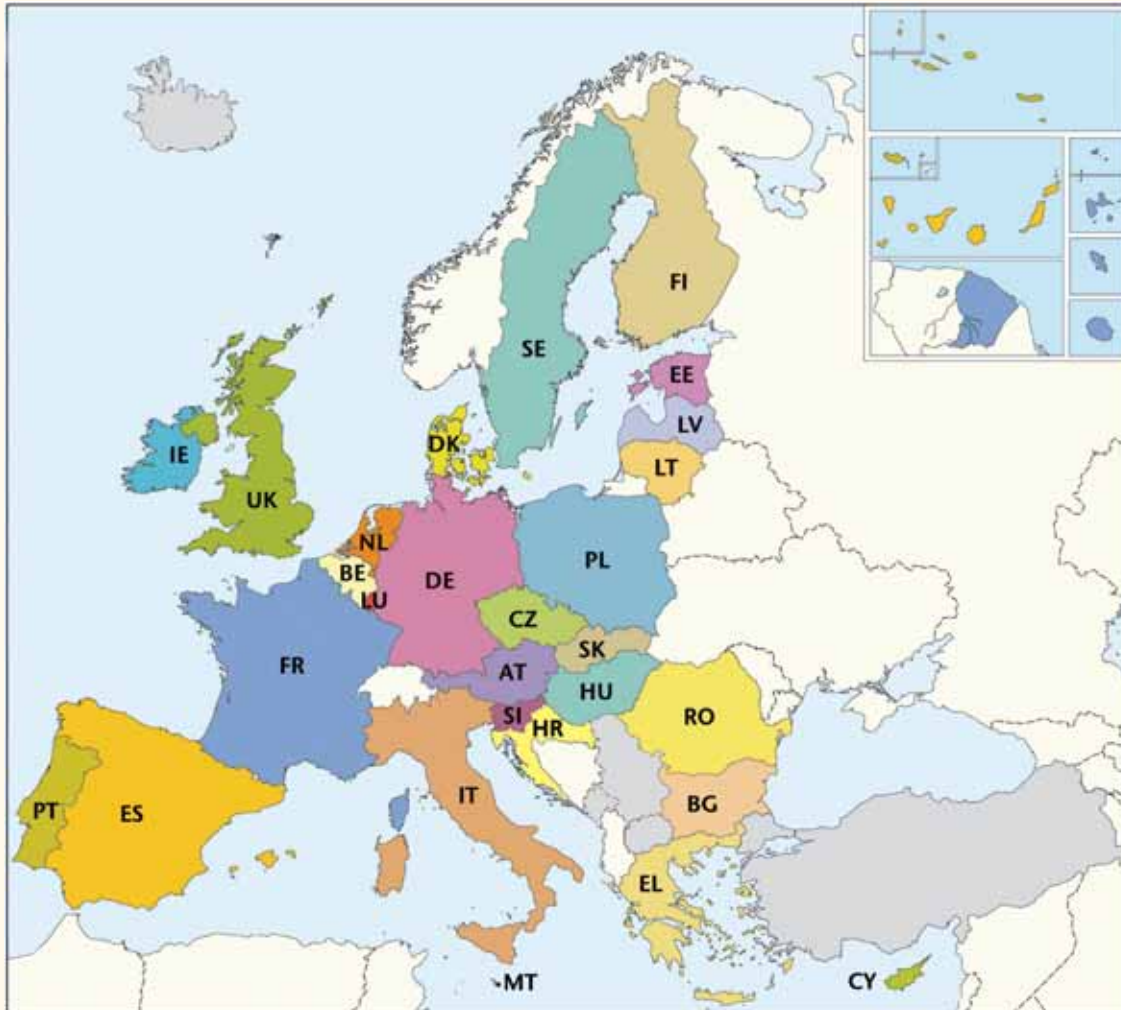


Celebrations for the accession of Cyprus to the European Union (1 May 2004).

ambition is not to be a recalcitrant Member of the Union, but a constructive and creative partner." One of the protocols on Cyprus that was 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 in the event of a solution. It also states that the EU is ready "to



member of the
european union



The European Union

Cyprus in the world

member of the
european union

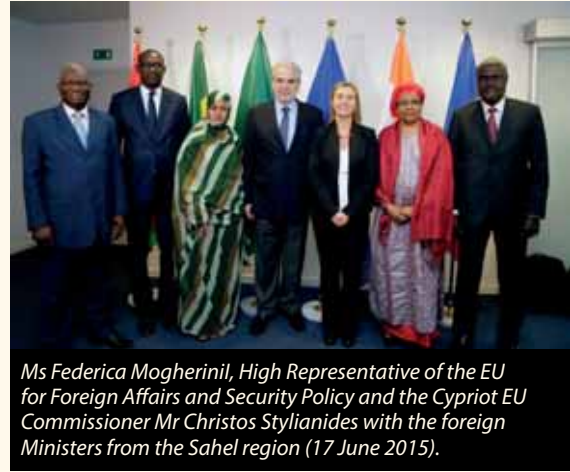
accommodate the terms of a settlement in line with the principles on which the EU is founded”, and expresses the desire that the accession of Cyprus should benefit all Cypriots.

Furthermore, on 13 December 2007 the President of Cyprus, together with the other EU leaders, signed the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community. The Cyprus House of Representatives ratified the Treaty on 3 July 2008.

On 1 January 2008, Cyprus joined the Eurozone and adopted the Euro as its official currency.

Cyprus has always been a part of the European family of nations. Accession to the EU was a natural choice for Cyprus, one that was dictated by its culture and civilisation, its history, its European outlook and its traditions of democracy and freedom.

Cyprus has a lot to benefit from EU membership. It also has a lot to offer as a member-state. The geographic position of the country, the healthy state of its economy, the devotion of the people to the ideals of the EU are all elements which enable Cyprus to contribute to the stability and welfare of the European family, regardless of its small size. Situated at the intersection of important transport and communications routes linking Europe to the Middle East and Asia, Cyprus aspires to become the region's economic and financial operations centre, a major communications and transport hub, and a meeting place for peoples and cultures. With its advanced technical infrastructure and skilled human resources



Ms Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Cypriot EU Commissioner Mr Christos Stylianides with the foreign Ministers from the Sahel region (17 June 2015).

it can become a bridge from where European enterprises launch their activities. Moreover, it can act as a shield, protecting Europe from the threat of terrorism, the inflow of narcotics, illegal immigration, money laundering, and trafficking in human beings.

The process of EU enlargement demonstrates the common determination of the peoples of Europe to come together in a Union that has become the driving force for the consolidation of stability, security, peace, democracy and sustainable growth in Europe and beyond. As a full member of the Union, Cyprus is working actively with all other member-states in shaping the future development of Europe and in completing the ambitious project of European reunification and integration.

A milestone in the long-term relationship between Cyprus and Europe was the assumption by Cyprus,



From the official inaugural ceremony of the Cyprus EU Presidency held at the ancient theatre of Curium (5 July 2012).

for the first time, of the Presidency of the Council of the EU, from 1st July to 31st December 2012, as part of the Trio Presidency along with Poland and Denmark.

The Cyprus Presidency was committed from the start to making every possible effort to work "Towards a Better Europe" through the improvement of the effectiveness of the EU policies and the enhancement of development, solidarity and social cohesion within the Union.

The Cyprus Presidency maintained as its primary goal the joint European effort to exit from the economic and social crisis and the return to the track



Cyprus in the world

member of the
European Union

of stable and dynamic development and job creation in the EU. Taking always into consideration the core values and principles of the EU, with particular emphasis on solidarity, the Cyprus Presidency sought to secure social cohesion, combined with fiscal reform and stability.

The Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union has been successful and reliable. Among the tangible results achieved, were the historic agreement reached with the European Parliament on the Unitary Patent Package and the agreement in the Council of the EU on the Single Supervising Mechanism. The Presidency made strong efforts to advance negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework and prepared the ground for the President of the European Council

and the Heads of State and Government so as to come closer to reaching an agreement. Furthermore, significant progress was achieved on the issue of the Common European Asylum System.

The EU has taken a firm position regarding the Cyprus problem, a position that respects the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the country, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the high-level agreements between the two communities. While the UN Secretary-General's mission of good offices has provided the framework for a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus problem, the EU is now expected to assume a central role in assuring that any proposed settlement conforms to its principles and legal norms.



The President of the Republic, Mr Nicos Anastasiades, and the President of the European Council, Mr Donald Tusk, make statements to the Press, during Mr Tusk's official visit to Cyprus (11 September 2015).



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ioannis Kasoulides at a meeting with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, Mrs Federica Mogherini (24 July 2015).



The President of the Republic, Mr Nicos Anastasiades, and the President of the European Commission, Mr Jean Claude Juncker, make statements to the Press during the latter's official visit to Cyprus (16 July 2015).



*Farewell to the last British Governor of
Cyprus Sir Hugh Foot
(16 August 1960).*

political system and administration

- THE SYMBOLS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
- THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE
- EXECUTIVE
- LEGISLATURE

- JUDICIARY
- INDEPENDENT OFFICERS AND BODIES
- DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION
- LOCAL AUTHORITIES

political system and administration

the symbols of the
republic of Cyprus



THE FLAG

The flag of the Republic of Cyprus was defined in 1960 when Cyprus became an independent sovereign state.

The background is white with a copper-coloured (pantone 1385 C) silhouette of the map of Cyprus in the centre of the flag above two crossed olive-green-coloured (pantone 574 C) olive branches. The copper colour has a dual symbolism: first, the name of the

island is said to derive from an ancient word for copper (Eteocypriot or Sumerian); and second, copper is closely associated with Cyprus since antiquity when the island became a major producer and supplier of this mineral resource. The olive branches are symbols of peace.



THE EMBLEM

The Emblem of the Republic of Cyprus depicts a white dove carrying an olive branch in its beak and placed inside a shield in the colour of copper (pantone 1385 C), a metal directly related to Cyprus since ancient times; the year of the independence of Cyprus, "1960",

also in white, appears underneath the dove; the shield is braced by two olive-green-coloured (pantone 574 C) olive branches, which along with the white dove constitute symbols of peace.

THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Cyprus is an independent, sovereign Republic with a presidential system of government. The Constitution provides for separate executive, legislative and judicial branches of government with independent powers. The President is both Head of State and government.

EXECUTIVE

Executive power is exercised by the President (and Vice-President) through a Council of Ministers appointed by the President (and the Vice-President), who have the right of final veto on decisions of the Council of Ministers and laws or decisions of the House of Representatives concerning foreign affairs, defence and security.

According to the Constitution the President is to be Greek Cypriot elected by the Greek Cypriot community and the Vice-President is to be Turkish Cypriot elected by the Turkish Cypriot community, by universal suffrage for a five-year term of office. Moreover, thirty percent of the Ministries in the government were reserved for Turkish Cypriots to be appointed by the Vice-President. In December 1963, however, the Turkish Cypriot Vice-President and the three Turkish Cypriot ministers withdrew from the government. Since then, the government has been functioning by necessity only with Greek Cypriots in all ministries. The post of Vice-President remains vacant.



President Makarios and Vice-President Kutchuk cracking Easter eggs, a custom of the Greek Orthodox religion (14 April 1963).



The Presidential Palace in the capital city, Lefkosia (Nicosia).

political system and administration executive

The Council of Ministers exercises executive power in all matters. Each Minister is the head of his or her Ministry and exercises executive power on all matters within that Ministry's domain.

Ministerial portfolios include: Defence; Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment; Justice and Public Order; Commerce, Industry and Tourism; Foreign Affairs; Labour and Social Insurance; Interior; Finance; Education and Culture; Communications and Works; and Health.

The Government Spokesman and the Deputy Minister to the President are also present at the meetings of the Council of Ministers.



Council of Ministers meeting (10 August 2015).



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The Ministry of Finance.

political system and administration

Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Republic of Cyprus



Archbishop Makarios III

The first President of the Republic of Cyprus was elected in December 1959 and assumed office in 1960. After his term of office had expired in 1965 and had been extended to 1968, Makarios was re-elected in 1968 and 1973. He served until his death in 1977.



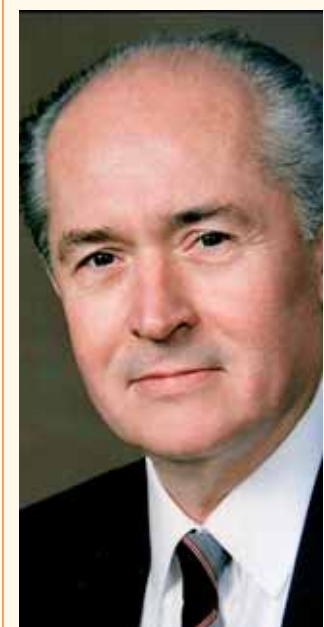
Dr. Fazil Kutchuk

He was elected as the first Vice-President of the Republic of Cyprus in December 1959 and assumed office in 1960. He served until December 1963, when the Turkish Cypriot community withdrew from the government. Ever since the post of Vice-President remains vacant. He passed away in 1984.



Spyros Kyprianou

He was elected in 1977 to serve for the remainder of the term of President Makarios, who died in August of that year. He was re-elected in 1978 and in 1983 and served until 1988. He passed away in 2002.



George Vassiliou

He was elected in 1988 and served until 1993.

Presidents and Vice-Presidents
of the Republic of Cyprus



Glafkos Clerides

He was first elected in 1993 and was re-elected in 1998. He served until 2003. He passed away in 2013.



Tassos Papadopoulos

He was elected in 2003 and served until 2008. He passed away in 2008.



Demetris Christofias

He was elected in 2008. He served until 2013.



Nicos Anastasiades

He was elected in 2013. His term of office expires in 2018.

political system and administration

legislature

LEGISLATURE

Legislative authority is exercised by a unicameral 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 withdrawal of the Turkish Cypriot members in 1964, the House has been functioning only with the Greek Cypriot members. The Maronite, Armenian and Latin religious groups, which vote

as part of the Greek Cypriot community, elect one additional representative each from their ranks. These non-voting representatives attend meetings but do not participate in the House deliberations. They are consulted in matters concerning affairs of particular interest to their respective religious group.

For general election purposes, Cyprus is divided into six electoral districts, which correspond to the Republic's administrative districts. The current electoral law provides for a simple proportional representation system. Each voter can choose a party or an independent candidate, without having the option of selecting candidates from different parties. Seats are distributed according to the electoral strength of each party.



The House of Representatives.



The President of the European Commission, Mr Jean Claude Juncker, addresses a special plenary meeting of the House of Representatives (17 July 2015).

political system and administration

legislature

The sessions of the House are usually held every Thursday and are open to the public. The quorum of the House consists of at least one third of the total number of its members.

Beyond its legislative functions, the House of Representatives has developed significant relations and activities on the European and broader international scene. These include bilateral relations with other national parliaments, as well as relations with and/or participation in European and international parliamentary organisations.

Under the Constitution, the President of the House is elected by the Representatives at the beginning and for the entire period of the term of office of the House of Representatives. In case of temporary absence or pending the filling of a vacancy of the office of the President of the House, the functions thereof are performed by the eldest Representative unless the Representatives decide otherwise.

Since the vacancy of the Vice-President's office in 1964, the President of the House serves as Acting President of the Republic in the absence or temporary incapacity of the President of the Republic. The President of the Republic is invested in office by the House of Representatives.



The European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Mr. Dimitris Avramopoulos addresses the Cyprus House of Representatives (14 May 2015).



President of the House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou and Knesset Speaker Yuli Yoel Edelstein, sign a protocol of cooperation between the two legislative bodies.



President of the House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou participates and addresses the 4th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (1 September 2015).

political system and administration

Presidents of the House of Representatives



Glafkos Clerides

He served from 1960 to 1976. He passed away in 2013.



Tassos Papadopoulos

He served between July and September 1976. He passed away in 2008.



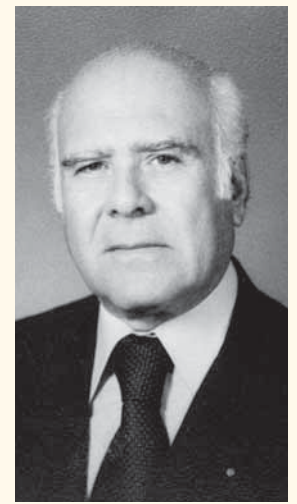
Spyros Kyprianou

He was first elected in 1976 and served until 1977. He served for a second term from 1996 to 2001. He passed away in 2002.



Alecos Michaelides

He served from 1977 to 1981. He passed away in 2008.



George Ladas

He served from 1981 to 1986. He passed away in 1997.

Presidents of the House of Representatives



Vassos Lyssarides
He served from 1986 to 1991.



Alexis Galanos
He served from 1991 to 1996.



Demetris Christofias
He was first elected in 2001 and was re-elected in 2006. He served until his election as President of the Republic of Cyprus in February 2008.



Marios Garoyian
He was elected in March 2008 to serve the remainder of the term of his predecessor who became President of Cyprus. He served until May 2011.



Yiannakis Omirou
He was elected in May 2011. His term expires in May 2016.

JUDICIARY

Under the Constitution the judiciary is established as a separate power, independent from the other two branches of the state and autonomous in its sphere of competencies, authority and jurisdiction.

Its independence entails:

- Assumption and exercise of jurisdiction by the judicial power in all matters naturally pertaining to the sphere of the judicial power.
- Autonomy of the judiciary in rule making and regulating the exercise of its jurisdictions.
- Institutionally entrenched independence of judges from the other two powers of the state, the executive and legislative.

Courts are organized on a two-tier system:

THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the Republic. It is composed of thirteen judges, one of whom is the President. The Supreme Court is the final appellate court of the Republic. It is also vested with jurisdiction to determine the constitutionality of laws, rules and regulations and has sole competence and exclusive jurisdiction to review the legality of acts, decisions or omissions emanating from the exercise of executive or administrative authority. Moreover, it is vested with original jurisdiction to issue writs known in English Law as prerogative writs; that is orders in the nature of Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Certiorari, Quo Warranto and Prohibition. A law may entrust original jurisdiction



Interior aspect of the Supreme Court.

to the Supreme Court in a particular field of law and such jurisdiction has been vested in the Supreme Court in admiralty matters. The Supreme Court, as the Electoral Court, has the power to hear and determine petitions concerning the interpretation and application of the Electoral Laws of the Republic.



The Supreme Court.

political system and administration

independent officers
and bodies



The Lefkosia (Nicosia) District Court.

FIRST INSTANCE COURTS

The principal First Instance Courts are the District Courts operating in every district of the Republic with the exception of the occupied areas; composed of District Judges, Senior District Judges and Presidents of District Courts. The other First Instance Courts are: the Assize Courts, the Military Court, the Industrial Disputes Court, the Rent Control Courts the Family Courts and the newly established Administrative Court.

INDEPENDENT OFFICERS AND BODIES

Certain officers and bodies are independent and do not come under any ministry, while in recent years a great number of new institutions with independent functions have been established due to the accession of Cyprus to the European Union. Such independent

officers and bodies include, inter alia, the following: Attorney-General and Auditor-General who head the Law Office and Audit Office respectively; Governor of the Central Bank; Ombudsman (Commissioner for Administration); Public Service Commission; Education Service Commission; Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development; Treasury; Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority; Commission for the Protection of Competition; Commissioner of Electronic Communications and Postal Regulation; Commissioner for Personal Data Protection; Commissioner for State Aid Control; Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights; Law Commissioner; Commissioner for the Environment; Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs and Overseas Cypriots; Commissioner for Volunteering and Non-governmental Organisations; Tenders Review Authority; Internal Audit Service; Cyprus Radio Television Authority; Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission.

independent officers
and bodies



The Central Bank.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

For administrative purposes Cyprus is divided into six administrative districts: Lefkosia (Nicosia), Lemesos (Limassol), Pafos, Larnaka (in the government-controlled areas) and Ammochostos (Famagusta) and Keryneia (in the occupied areas).

Each district is administered by a District Officer, who is a senior civil servant answerable to the Ministry of Interior. District Officers are appointed by the government as local representatives and act as coordinators and liaisons for the activities of all ministries in the districts.

Apart from their institutional role pursuant to the Communities Law of 1999, the District Administrations coordinate, guide and implement projects for the development of the communities. Furthermore, they play a significant role in the preparation, revision and modification of the local plans and policy statement, as well as in the process of the examination of objections.

The government provides administrative and technical support to most of the community councils and councils of community complexes through the civil servants serving in the District Administrations. District Administrations, with their diverse and multidimensional activity, aim at serving the public with the provision of ordinary administrative services, in accordance to the relevant laws and regulations, as well as implementing various rural development projects.



The Lemesos (Limassol) District Administration offices.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

There are two types of local authorities in Cyprus, municipalities and communities, which are governed by separate laws. In principle, municipalities constitute the form of local government in urban and tourist centres, while communities constitute the local structure in rural areas.

MUNICIPALITIES

Any community may become a municipality by local referendum, subject to the approval of the Council

Administrative map showing the six administrative districts of the Republic of Cyprus.



political system and administration municipalities

of Ministers, provided it has either a population of more than 5.000, or has the economic resources to function as a municipality.

Since the Turkish invasion of 1974 and the subsequent occupation of the northern part of Cyprus, nine municipalities, although still maintaining their legal status, have been temporarily relocated to the free areas.

Mayors are elected directly by the citizens on a separate ballot, for a term of five years. The mayor is the executive authority of the municipality.

Municipal councils, which are the policy-making bodies of municipalities, are elected directly by the citizens for a term of five years, but separately from the mayor. The council appoints the members of the administrative committee. The latter's duties include the preparation of the municipality's budgets and annual financial statements, the provision of assistance and advice to the mayor in the execution of his duties, coordination of the work of other committees appointed by the council and the discharge of any other duties entrusted to it by the council or the mayor.

The main responsibilities of municipalities are the construction, maintenance and lighting of streets, the collection, disposal and treatment of waste, the protection and improvement of the environment and the good appearance of the municipal areas, the construction, development and maintenance of municipal gardens and parks and the protection of public health. The Municipal Council has the authority to promote, when fiscally feasible, a vast



The Kyreneia Municipality Town Hall (temporarily in Lefkosia since the 1974 Turkish occupation of Cyprus).

range of activities and events, including the arts, education, sports and social services. In addition to the Municipalities Law, there are several laws giving municipalities additional important powers.

The main sources of revenue of municipalities are municipal taxes, fees and duties including the following: professional tax, immovable property tax, hotel accommodation tax, permit and licence fees, fees for refuse collection, fines. They also receive state subsidies. Taxes, duties and fees represent the major source, while state grants and subsidies amount to only a small percentage of revenue. The central government, however, usually finances major infrastructure projects undertaken by the municipalities.



The Lefkosia (Nicosia) Town Hall.

COMMUNITIES

The functions of communities are generally similar to those of municipalities, although structurally different. The residents of the community elect the President of the Community and the Community Council for a five-year term. With the exception of some communities which are financially better off, the government provides essential administrative and technical assistance as well as most of the necessary services to most communities, through its District Offices. The revenue of Communities consists of state subsidies as well as taxes and fees collected from the residents of the area.

The community councils are responsible for the provision community services, water supply, and the regulation of professional practices.

In exercising their competencies, the councils enjoy a degree of independence, but as Local Authorities which exercise their competency in accordance to the relevant Law, they are normally subject to legal scrutiny and control by government bodies, and to control in serious matters such as the compulsory acquisition of real estate for municipal purposes and the signing of agreements exceeding five years. Despite the broad range of competencies invested to community councils by the Communities Law adopted in 1999, the strategic goal of the government is to broaden further these competencies and at the same time the economic self-sufficiency of community councils so that they can respond in a timely and effective manner to the contemporary needs of the rural population.



Lefkara village in the Larnaka district.



Kellaki village in the Lemesos district.



Pedoulas village in the Lefkosia district.



people and nature

- DEMOGRAPHY
- RELIGIOUS GROUPS
- TOWNS

- GEOGRAPHY
- CLIMATE
- FLORA AND FAUNA

people and nature

demography

DEMOGRAPHY

The population of the Republic of Cyprus is 949.000 (December 2013) of whom 690.900 belong to the Greek Cypriot community, (72,8%), 91.000 (9,6%) to the Turkish Cypriot community and 167.100 (17,6%) are foreign citizens residing in Cyprus.

GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES

The language of the Greek Cypriot community, whose presence on the island dates back to the second half of the second millennium BC, is Greek and the community adheres predominantly to the Autocephalous Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus.

The language of the Turkish Cypriot community is Turkish and the members of the community are predominantly Sunni Muslims. The original nucleus of the Turkish Cypriot community in Cyprus were soldiers of the Ottoman army that conquered

the island in 1571 and of immigrants from Turkey brought in by the firman (decree) of Sultan Selim II. Gradually, the island evolved into a demographic mosaic of Greek and Turkish villages, as well as many mixed communities. The extent of this symbiosis could be seen in the participation of the two groups in commercial and religious fairs, pilgrimages to each other's shrines, and the occurrence, albeit rare, of intermarriage.

Armenians, Maronites and Latins are recognised by the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus (Article 2 § 3) as "religious groups" and, according to a referendum held on 13 November 1960, all three opted to belong to the Greek-Cypriot community, thus voting as part of that community. The members of these groups enjoy, of course, fully the same benefits as other community members and are eligible for public service and official positions of the Republic.

President Anastasiades and the Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci following a meeting on 10 September 2015 with the religious leaders of the island: Church of Cyprus Archbishop Chrysostomos II, the Mufti of Cyprus Talip Atalay, the Archbishop of the Maronite Church of Cyprus Soueif, the Archbishop of the Armenian Orthodox Church of Cyprus Nareg and the Reverend Jerzy Kraj of the Latin Catholic Church of Cyprus.



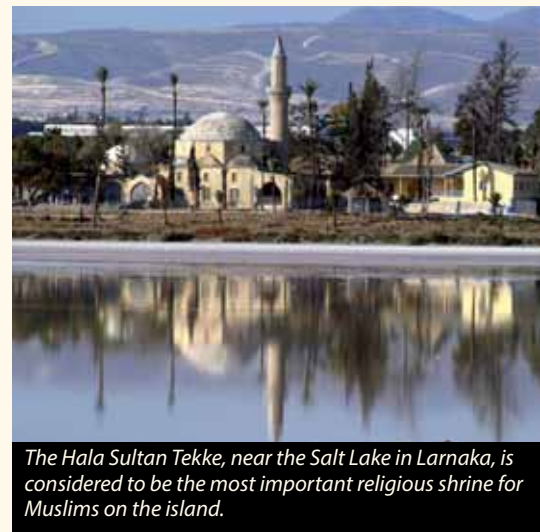
demography



The Arablars mosque and the Panayia Phaneromeni church next to each other in Nicosia.



The Ayios Ioannis Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Nicosia, dedicated to St John the Baptist.



The Hala Sultan Tekke, near the Salt Lake in Larnaka, is considered to be the most important religious shrine for Muslims on the island.

people and nature

demography

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.

	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
Total:	572.707	99,9	631.778	100,00	952.100	100,00

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus

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.





The Census of 1973 showed the population of Cyprus to be 631.778, giving an average rate of growth of 0,8% 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 tremendous. 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

people and nature

demography

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, 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.

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 the illegal Turkish settlers who are given many privileges, continue to emigrate. 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 than that of the indigenous Turkish Cypriots.





The Holy Cross Catholic church in Nicosia in the early 1950s.



Mass at the Holy Cross Catholic church.



His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI at the Holy Cross Catholic church (5 June 2010).

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

The Law on Religious Groups states that each religious group is represented in the House of Representatives by an elected Representative. The participation of the Representatives, who act as a liaison between their respective group and the state, has a consultative nature. They enjoy the same privileges as other MPs, they participate in the Parliamentary Committee on Education and they attend the plenary meetings of the House. Although they can express their views on matters relating to their respective religious group, they do not vote. The voting representatives of the religious groups are those elected by the entire Greek Cypriot community, where these groups belong.

LATINS

The first Latin Archbishopric in Cyprus was established in Nicosia in 1196 during the Frankish rule on the island. However, the present Latin community of the island, as regards both its clerical and secular members, came into being during the early Ottoman period and it began to increase notably in numbers during the late Ottoman and early British periods. It had a nationally heterogeneous composition, with its members originating from Venice, other areas of Italy, Malta, France and even Dalmatia. Most of the Latins on the island not belonging to the clergy were engaged in commercial pursuits, but nonetheless also developed notable initiatives in other fields such as agriculture and education, and thereby made a significant contribution to the life of the island. The religious leader of the group is a Partiarcal Vicar General accountable to the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and ex officio representative of the Holy See pro-Nuncio in Jerusalem.

The Latins of Cyprus form a compact community differing markedly from the Armenians and the Maronites insofar as they are not ethnically homogeneous. According to the 2011 census official data, Latin religious group members number 800, of whom about 50% live in Nicosia, 35% in Limassol, 10% in Larnaka and 5% in Pafos. There are also Roman Catholics who are not members of the Latin religious group: about 5.000 Roman Catholics permanently residing in Cyprus, and about 15.000 Roman Catholics temporarily residing in Cyprus.



The Maronite Cathedral of Our Lady of Graces in Nicosia.



The St Maron Elementary School in Anthoupolis.



His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI at the Maronite Cathedral of Our Lady of Graces (6 June 2010).

MARONITES

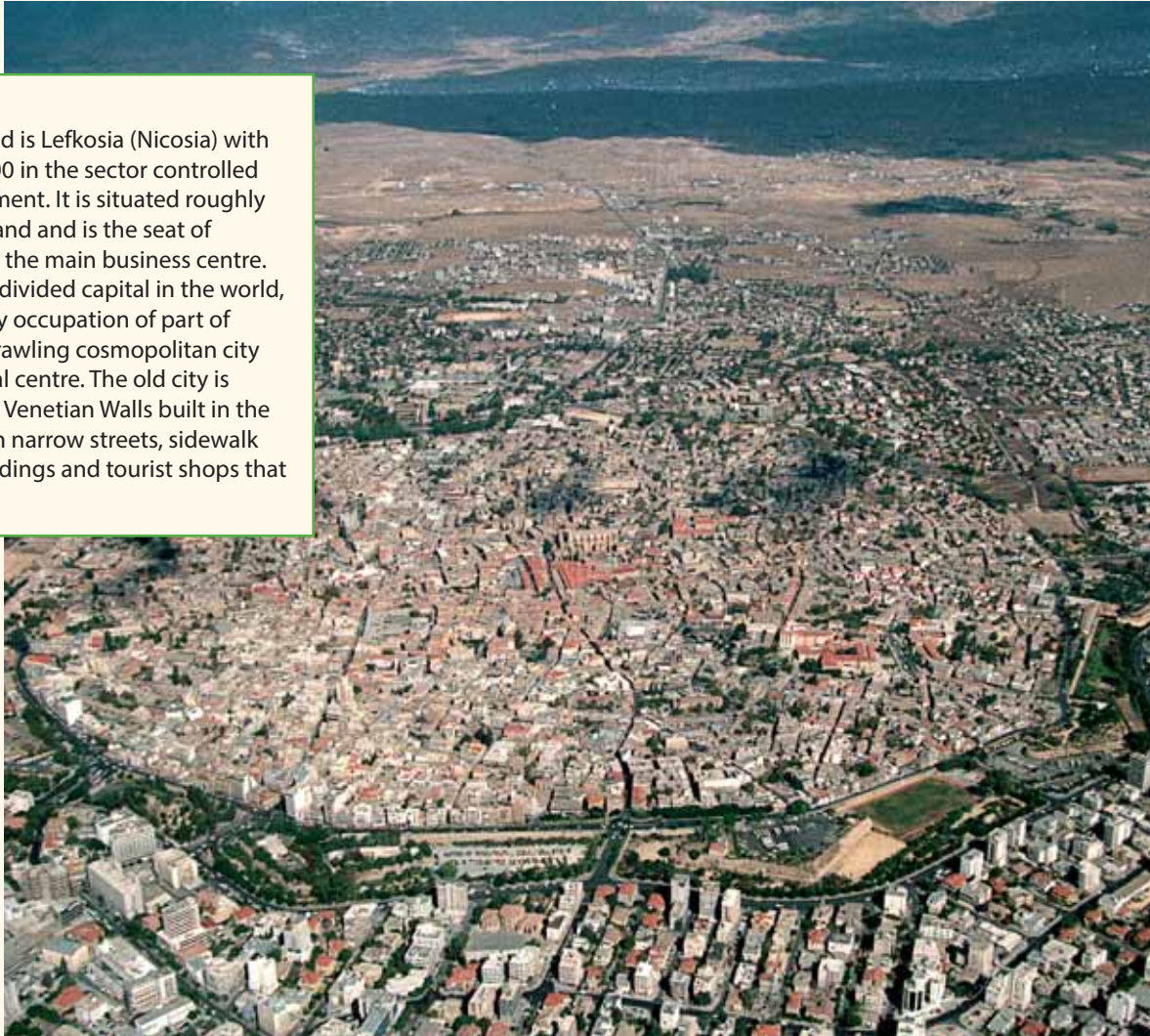
The Maronites derive their name from Saint Maron (350-410 AD) who lived in the region of Apameus in "Syria Secunda", an administrative division of the Byzantine Empire. The history of the Maronites in Cyprus goes back many centuries. Maronites moved to Cyprus from the ancient territories of Syria, the Holy Land and Lebanon in four principal migrations between the eighth and the thirteenth centuries. The Maronites who now live in Cyprus consider themselves of Lebanese origin and they are Christian Catholics. They have a Maronite Archbishop who is elected by the Holy Synod of the Maronite Church in Lebanon and confirmed by His Holiness the Pope. Although the Maronites are educated in Greek schools and speak fluent Greek, they have their own language, they practice their own Catholic Maronite religion, they use the Aramaic language in their liturgy and they have their own culture and customs. The Cypriot Maronite Arabic Language has been earmarked for protection by the Republic of Cyprus under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. In 1960, the Maronites living in Cyprus were approximately 2.750, living mainly in the four villages of Kormakitis, Asomatos, Karpashia and Ayia Marina. As a result of the Turkish invasion in 1974, most Maronites were displaced and became refugees, whereas a small number remained enclaved in the three Maronite villages of Kormakitis, Asomatos and Karpasha. According to the official data from the 2011 population census there are currently 5.000 Maronites living in Cyprus: 75% live in Nicosia, 15% in Limassol, 5% in Larnaka and 5% in Kochatis, Marki and Pafos, as well as in the three occupied Maronite villages.

people and nature

towns

LEFKOSIA

The capital of the island is Lefkosia (Nicosia) with a population of 244.100 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 currently the only divided capital in the world, due to Turkey's military occupation of part of Cyprus. Nicosia is a sprawling cosmopolitan city as well as a commercial centre. The old city is quaint, surrounded by Venetian Walls built in the sixteenth century, with narrow streets, sidewalk tavernas, restored buildings and tourist shops that bring history to life.



towns



people and nature towns

LEMESOS

The second largest town is Lemesos (Limassol), on the south coast, with a population of around 182,400 inhabitants. Since Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974, it has become the island's chief port, an industrial centre and an important tourist resort. Limassol is a bustling town with ten miles of coastline filled with restaurants, tavernas and night spots. It is home to two popular annual events, the Carnival and the Wine Festival.



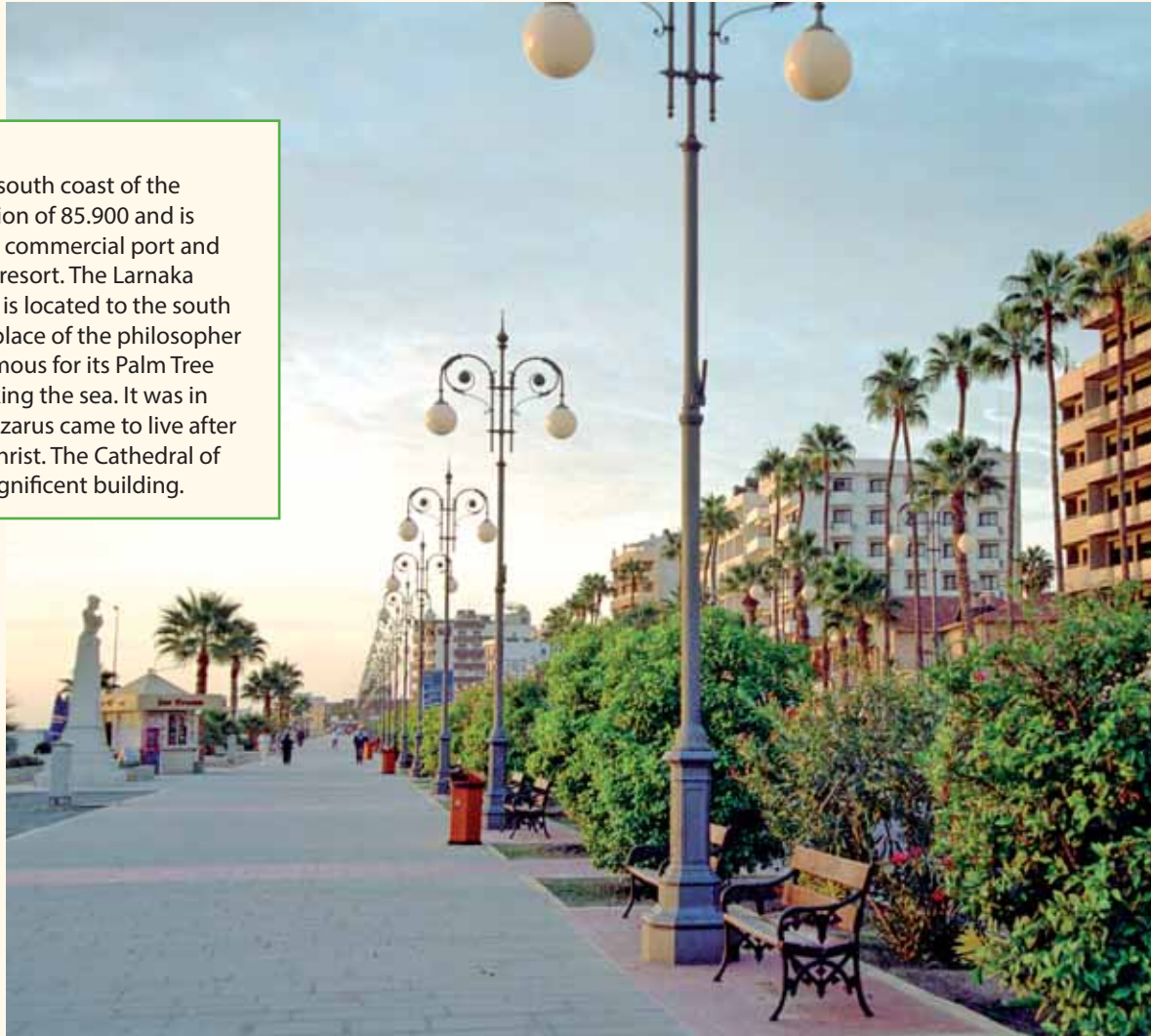
towns



people and nature towns

LARNAKA

Larnaka, also on the south coast of the island, has a population of 85.900 and is the country's second commercial port and an important tourist resort. The Larnaka International Airport is located to the south of the city. The birthplace of the philosopher Zenon, Larnaka is famous for its Palm Tree Promenade overlooking the sea. It was in Larnaka that Saint Lazarus came to live after his resurrection by Christ. The Cathedral of Saint Lazarus is a magnificent building.



towns



people and nature

towns



PAFOS

Pafos, on the south-west coast, with a population of 64.300, is a fast-developing tourist resort, home to the island's second international airport and an attractive fishing harbour. With an abundance of historic sites and fine beaches, the whole town of Pafos is included on the official UNESCO world heritage list of cultural and national treasures.

towns



people and nature towns

OCCUPIED TOWNS

The towns of Ammochostos (Famagusta), Keryneia (Kyrenia) and Morfou as well as part of Nicosia, have been under military occupation since the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974. The Greek Cypriot inhabitants of these towns were forced to flee to the southern, government-controlled area of the island. The Turkish authorities installed illegal settlers in their homes and properties, brought in mostly from Anatolia, Turkey.



The Turkish occupied town of Famagusta.



The harbour in the Turkish occupied town of Kyrenia.



The church of Ayios Mamas in the Turkish occupied town of Morfou.

GEOGRAPHY

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

It is situated at the eastern edge of the Mediterranean basin, 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).

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. Cyprus' coastal line is indented and rocky in the north with long sandy beaches in the south. The north coastal plain, covered with olive and carob trees, is backed by the steep and narrow Pentadaktylos mountain range of limestone, rising to a height of 1.042 m. In the south, the extensive mountain massif of Troodos, covered with pine, dwarf oak, cypress and cedar, culminates in the peak of Mount Olympus, 1.953 m. above sea level. Between the two ranges lies the fertile plain of Messaoria, while Cyprus also has several coastal valleys where the soil is suitable for agriculture. Arable land constitutes 46.8 percent of the total area of the island. There are no rivers, only torrents which flow after heavy rain.



The Pentadaktylos mountain range.



The Tzelefos bridge, Troodos mountains.



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.





The Nissi beach in Ayia Napa.

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 seven percent of the indigenous plants of the island - 140 different species and subspecies - are endemic to Cyprus. The Cyclamen (*Cyclamen cyprium*) has been declared Cyprus' national plant while the Golden oak (*Quercus alnifolia*) has become the island's national tree.

The best period of the year to study the native flora, especially the herbaceous plants, is spring, but also winter in the lowlands, where the flowering season begins early with the first rains. On the mountains and along main streams this period is extended.

Cultivated plants on the lowlands include cereals, irrigated crops of various vegetables (potatoes, tomatoes, etc.), whereas citrus species are commonly cultivated along the coastal zone. Olive, carob, and almond trees constitute a major component of cultivated plants at low and mid altitudes. At medium altitudes, vineyards are dominant in many places, especially in the Limassol and Pafos Districts. At higher elevations, in addition to vineyards, there are orchards of apple, cherry and peach trees. Forest vegetation on state and private land covers about 42% of the total area of the island (about



Golden Oak (Quercus alnifolia).



Citrus fruit.



Tulipa cyprica.

people and nature

flora & fauna

18.5% are high forests and 23.5% are other wooded land). They are natural forests consisting mainly of Calabrian pine (*Pinus brutia*) and Black pine (*Pinus nigra* ssp. *Pallasiana*), which covers the higher slopes of the Troodos Range. Other species include the Cypress, Juniper, Plane tree and Alder. Endemic species include the Golden oak (*Quercus alnifolia*) which is restricted on the Troodos mountain range, and Cedar (*Cedrus brevifolia*), which is restricted around the Tripilos area in the Pafos Forest. The forests of Cyprus are an important national resource. They provide timber and non-wood products and contribute significantly to the beauty of the landscape, the preservation of the national heritage, the protection of water supplies, and contribute to the economic development of village communities. Forests also attract visitors from foreign countries, in this way contributing to the national economy.

The present-day fauna of Cyprus includes some 7 species of land mammals, 26 species of amphibians



*Cyclamen
cypricum.*



Pinus brutia forest, Troodos mountains.



Orchis anatolica.

people and nature

flora & fauna



Loggerhead turtle
(*Caretta caretta*).



Green turtle (*Chelonia Mydas*).



Long-eared hedgehog
(*Hemiechinus auritus*
dorotheae).



Grass snake (*Natrix natrix cypriaca*).

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.



Flamingos at the Larnaka Salt Lake.



Long-eared owl (*Asio Otus*).



The Cyprus moufflon (*Ovis orientalis ophion*).



economy

- BASIC ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS
- ENERGY
- INVESTMENTS
- TOURISM
- TRADE
- MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRY
- AGRICULTURE
- WATER DEVELOPMENT
- MARINE RESOURCES
- MERCHANT SHIPPING

the economy

basic economic
characteristics



Potato growing fields.

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 other wide-ranging structural reforms have been promoted, covering the areas of competition, the financial sector and the business sector.

The services sector is the biggest contributor to GVA, accounting for about 87.0% in 2014. 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 10.7% of GVA in 2014. The primary sector (agriculture and fishing) is continuously shrinking and only reached 2.4% of GVA in 2014.

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



Automatic Transaction Machine in central Nicosia.

necessary legal and institutional framework and secure conditions of fair competition.

Before the emergence of the global economic crisis, Cyprus had enjoyed a track record of satisfactory economic growth, low unemployment and relatively stable macroeconomic conditions. However, the international economic crisis has had a major impact on the economy, as reflected in the main economic indicators. The exposure of the Cyprus banks to the



Aluminum factory.

basic economic
characteristics



Desalination Plant in Vassilikos.

the economy

basic economic characteristics



Drilling platform for natural gas extraction in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone.

Greek economy and the sizeable exposure in Greek Government Bonds in conjunction with deteriorating public finances played a major role in the sharp increase in the cost of borrowing and loss of access to international markets and the subsequent application for assistance to the support mechanism provided by the EU Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund (the "Troika").

More importantly, the decision of the Eurogroup in March 2013 to impose a recapitalisation through bail-in of creditors in the two largest Cypriot banks had a significant negative impact on one of the main drivers of the Cyprus economy, the banking sector. The abrupt and sudden shrinking of the banking sector and the resulting loss of wealth has unavoidably affected the real economy.

The agreement with the Troika for a macroeconomic adjustment programme (Memorandum of Understanding – MoU) is envisaged to bring back economic stability. The programme is an ambitious one, aiming at achieving 3 to 4% of GDP primary balance by 2018. The adjustment programme under implementation has been positively assessed by the Troika in several successive evaluations and is expected to be successfully completed in the beginning of 2016. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus is fully committed and determined to continue the strict implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. The Programme addresses challenges in three main areas, namely fiscal issues, banking and structural issues.

It is noted that the recession of the Cyprus economy in 2013 and 2014 was less pronounced

than originally anticipated. The performance of public finances has also exceeded expectations, mainly attributed to the containment in public expenditure through the introduction of a medium-term budgetary framework. More importantly, the Ministry of Finance projects 1% growth for 2015 and a 0.9% GDP deficit, signaling that Cyprus is coming out of the recession. As the President of the Republic stressed during his visit to the USA in September 2015, "I can proudly present Cyprus as a success story of economic reform".

It is emphasised that despite the negative developments in the banking sector, stemming from the Eurogroup decisions, the underlying reasons that have played a significant role in establishing Cyprus as an international business centre, such as its strategic location, the sophisticated infrastructure, the highly educated workforce, the favourable tax system, are still present. One of the main strategic pillars of economic policy of the Government is to maintain those advantages and further improve the competitiveness of the economy. The key is the implementation of structural reforms included in the MoU and also in the EU2020 Agenda.

It is also noted that the recent natural gas explorations that have taken place in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus have revealed sizeable reserves of natural gas, which will have significant revenue implications for Cyprus in the medium term. The Government is in the process of exploring options of best conduct regarding economic policy surrounding the exploration, discovery and exploitation of natural gas in Cyprus.



A mobile phone sub-station operating with solar energy.

basic economic
characteristics



The Central Bank of Cyprus.

the economy

basic economic
characteristics

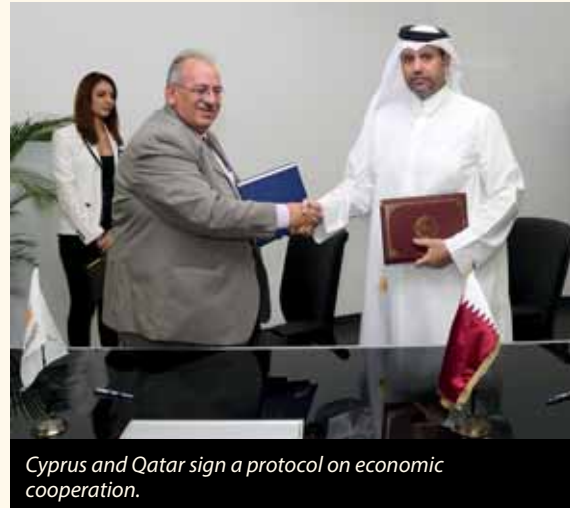
KEY POLICY OBJECTIVES

The main pillars of the economic policy of the Government, also contained in the Memorandum of Understanding, involve the return of stability in the banking sector, the achievement of fiscal consolidation and the implementation of structural reforms for improving the competitiveness of the economy. In parallel to the MoU, the Government aims to implement specific measures for boosting economic growth, focusing on encouraging employment, attracting foreign investment, supporting tourism, encouraging land development and green growth and facilitating the financing of SMEs. It has therefore designed and proceeds with the implementation of a robust and sustainable new Growth Strategy for Cyprus. This, coupled with the rest of the structural reforms included in the programme, should be considered as the third main pillar of reforming the economy.

The core provisions of the new Growth model aim at accelerating recovery, enhancing competitiveness, delivering sustainable economic growth, boosting employment and tackling corruption. The priorities and ambitions set out in the Growth Strategy are closely aligned with those in EU2020, the EU's growth strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and its implementation will be catalytic to ensuring progress towards the achievement of the EU2020 targets. The new Growth Strategy for Cyprus is also closely aligned with the Public Administration reform effort.

MONETARY AND EXCHANGE RATE POLICY

Since the accession of Cyprus to the Eurozone in January 2008, the Central Bank of Cyprus is a



Cyprus and Qatar sign a protocol on economic cooperation.

member of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB). Together with the European Central Bank (ECB), it conducts monetary policy for the whole Eurozone, 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. The Memorandum of Understanding includes specific fiscal targets until the year 2018. Particular emphasis is placed on the need to curtail current expenditure and restructure public spending, in favour of high value added expenditure. Emphasis is also attached to targeted social spending. The Memorandum of Understanding also includes

basic economic
characteristics



Wind energy park.

the economy

basic economic
characteristics



Post Office.

fiscal measures of structural nature, which can be summarised as follows:

- 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.

Ongoing reforms include:

- Reforms in the labour market, aiming at boosting the supply of labour among women and addressing the high gender pay gap, increasing employability and labour force adaptability particularly through lifelong learning and raising the employment level. Further measures included in the Memorandum of Understanding involve combating youth unemployment,



Citizen Service Center in Lemesos.

- minimum wage, etc.
- 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 healthcare provision systems, which are crucial for tackling the long-term sustainability of public finances.
- Reform of the public sector with a view to increasing its productivity and performance.
- Reform of the goods and services market.



A surgery at Archbishop Makarios III Hospital.



Citizen Service Center.

the economy

basic economic characteristics



The Bank of Cyprus headquarters, Nicosia.

CHALLENGES

The Cyprus economy is currently facing a number of challenges. These are related to the deceleration of the economy and the resulting increase of unemployment, the confidence problems in the banking system and the achievement of fiscal consolidation within the deadlines set in the agreed Memorandum of Understanding. Through the strict implementation of the adjustment programme and the implementation of the new Growth Strategy Plan for Cyprus to support economic growth, the prospects of effectively dealing with these challenges are positive.

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.

TAX REGIME

In 2003, the Cyprus tax system was overhauled in full compliance with EU directives, before the accession of Cyprus to the EU in 2004. In April 2009 the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) accepted Cyprus onto the

White List of jurisdictions that have substantially implemented the internationally agreed standard on exchange of information.

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 12.5%, which is still 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. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus has repeatedly stated that maintaining stability in the taxation system is one of the overarching goals of its economic policy.

Cyprus also boasts an extensive network of double tax treaties, 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.



basic economic
characteristics



The port of Lemesos.



Map of plots in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus.

ENERGY

Cyprus energy policy is aligned with the European Union energy strategy and is formulated by the Energy Service of the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism, with its key aims being the security of energy supply, competitiveness and protection of the environment.

The energy policy is implemented through the monitoring and coordination of the supply and distribution of adequate quantities of energy at the lowest possible cost to meet domestic demand, the promotion of programmes for the rational use of energy in buildings and industry and the exploitation of the indigenous renewable sources.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

The promotion of renewable energy sources (RES) is one of the main priorities for the Government of Cyprus. One of the most important measures for the promotion of RES projects is the implementation of Financial Support Schemes. From February 2004 until February 2014, the total amount given as governmental grant and/or subsidy to more than 49,559 beneficiaries was approximately €103.3 million.

The Government aiming to safeguard the interests of consumers, especially the vulnerable ones, in 2013, has announced a Scheme for 5,000 installations of photovoltaic systems with maximum capacity of 3kW/per system on residential buildings, using the net-metering method. The maximum capacity of the measure was 15MW. The Scheme offered financial incentives to 2,000 vulnerable consumers of the above beneficiaries.

For commercial and industrial consumers, the Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority (CERA) issued a scheme for the installation of photovoltaic systems for “self-production”, of a total capacity of 10MW. For the purposes of this measure, the electricity generation is used exclusively to cover the electricity demand of industrial or commercial units.

Measures such as these have contributed significantly to achieving early, the third indicative trajectory, which according to the provisions of the RES Directive, was 7.45% for the years 2015-2016, since the share of RES in the gross final energy consumption has exceeded 7.7% in 2012.

HYDROCARBON EXPLORATIONS

In order to strengthen the security of energy supply, improve the country's energy efficiency as well as to enhance the geostrategic role of the island, the Republic of Cyprus took a strategic decision, a few years ago, to commence hydrocarbon exploration activities within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In this context, the 1st Licensing Round was held in 2007, which resulted in the granting of one Hydrocarbon Exploration License to Noble Energy International Ltd (NEIL) for the exploration of Block 12. In February 2012, a 2nd Licensing Round was announced for the remaining twelve blocks and as a result of this licensing round, five more agreements were signed with ENI/KOGAS for exploration of Blocks 2, 3 and 9 and with Total for the exploration of Blocks 10 and 11. In February 2013, Delek and Avner obtained 30% of the rights for Block 12 from NEIL.

Following the first exploration drilling in Block 12, NEIL announced in late 2011 a natural gas



Drilling platform for natural gas extraction in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone.

discovery with a mean of seven trillion cubic feet gross resources. NEIL proceeded, in June 2013, with an appraisal well for this discovery and performed production testing. Performance modeling indicates development wells in the reservoir should have capacity to deliver up to 250 million cubic feet per day, while the evaluation of the drilling data resulted in an updated estimate of five trillion cubic feet mean gross resources.

In June 2015, the “Aphrodite” natural gas field has been declared commercial by the three companies, Noble Energy International Ltd, Delek Drilling Limited Partnership and Avner Oil Exploration Limited Partnership, holders of a License for the exploration of hydrocarbons in Block 12 of Cyprus’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The said declaration of commerciality confirms the existence of substantial recoverable natural gas reserves in exploration Block 12 of Cyprus’ EEZ. It constitutes a significant milestone to Cyprus’ transition from the hydrocarbons exploration phase to that of exploitation. It is another important step towards the monetization of the country’s indigenous natural gas reserves, both for domestic electricity generation and other uses, as well as exports via direct subsea pipelines to neighbouring countries, with which the Republic of Cyprus maintains excellent bilateral relations.

GREEN ENERGY

The potential exists for Cyprus to be transformed into a green and energy efficient economy. Green economy activities need to be examined in terms of their potential as a new engine of growth and job



Trial biofuel production laboratory.

creation, with emphasis on fostering the enabling conditions for increased investments that would facilitate the move to the green economy.

Green economic activity is supported through a range of schemes across Governmental departments; however, the Cyprus Government in its growth plan foresees the need to develop an enhanced and integrated policy that may transform Cyprus into one of the leading European countries in the renewable energy sector. The determination and optimisation of the energy mix of Cyprus is a priority in order to exploit the potential of renewable sources in a sustainable manner. Enhanced action is also being taken for the more efficient use of energy and the reduction of the price of electricity.



Solar energy park.



EAC's power station.

INVESTMENTS

Cyprus, a Member State of the European Union, has been an important centre for trade and commerce since antiquity. The small but dynamic country, which joined the Eurozone in 2008, has a long established reputation as a “Centre of Excellence” for international business activities and retains a unique cluster of expertise in various industry segments. The Republic of Cyprus retains its competitive advantages, while at the same time, has been utilizing its economic challenges as a tool to develop the country into an even more efficient and welcoming place to do business and invest in. The benefits and opportunities Cyprus presents to the global business and investment community are tangible and substantial.

Cyprus has become the destination of choice for investors in search of an ideal location for their company headquarters and operational activities. Cyprus, which has a long established reputation as a safe and secure location for commercial and business activities offers plentiful advantages and continues to develop into an ideal hub for doing business between Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe.

Cyprus, as a services-based economy, offers ease of doing business in a professional environment in the surroundings of a sophisticated culture and advanced quality of life, both for multinationals as well as for small and medium-sized enterprises.

In terms of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Cyprus demonstrates a solid FDI performance and potential.



The President of the Republic at Huawei Technologies headquarters in Shanghai.

Foreign inward investment is recognized as a major contributor to the country’s sustainable economic development and social prosperity. In Cyprus, the business realm makes every effort to further enhance the already positive and investor-friendly business operating environment in order to attract even higher investment levels. In this respect, as part of its Growth Strategy, the Cyprus Government has developed a comprehensive strategy to promote investments and establish the necessary legal framework, also through the simplification of red-tape procedures and procedures for the employment of highly qualified third country nationals.

investments



The Limassol Marina.



Pafos Medieval Castle at Kato Pafos port.

TOURISM

The foundations of tourism in Cyprus were laid in the early sixties. The industry experienced rapid growth, which was interrupted by the Turkish invasion in the summer of 1974. At that time, all economic activity came to a standstill and the tourist sector suffered a devastating blow when the two highly developed regions of Ammochostos and Keryneia came under the control of the Turkish troops. The destruction of the economy called for drastic measures, which would enable its quick reconstruction and the reconstruction of the tourist industry, in particular. The Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO) was quick to respond to that challenge and led the reconstruction effort, which was materialized through the support that the private sector received by the Government through various policy measures and the entrepreneurial spirit of the Cypriot tourist professionals. Soon enough, Cyprus got back on the global tourist map and since the 1980s tourism has been the backbone of the economy.

Tourism has also been one of the major pillars for the recovery of the economy following the 2013 crisis. Therefore, reviewing the institutional governance of tourism, and developing a national comprehensive plan for the sector is a top government priority, so as to increase competitiveness, alleviate seasonality of the sector and ensure its sustainability.

TOURISM FOLLOWING EU ACCESSION

The accession of Cyprus as a full member state of the EU has generated multifaceted opportunities for the tourism industry of the country.



The possibilities available for securing funding and financial support for tourism-related projects, infrastructure and activities, in the framework of EU's economic and social cohesion policies, lead to the improvement, diversification and strengthening of the competitiveness of Cyprus tourism product.

Additionally, the participation of the private and public sector in the European Territorial Cooperation co-financed programmes offers opportunities for networking, sharing of expertise and best practices with other member states and non-member states, thus adding a broader transnational and interregional dimension to projects.



Konnos Bay beach at Protaras area.
(Photo: © Michalakis Ppalis | Dreamstime.com)

the economy tourism



Lefkara village.

At the same time, Cyprus is afforded the opportunity to voice its opinion on the formulation of policies concerning tourism in Europe, most importantly through its participation in the Tourism Advisory Committee of the EU as well as in other fora and organisations.

The Lisbon Treaty created a new legal basis for tourism in relation to its European dimension. The EU has now the competence to carry out actions to support, coordinate and supplement the actions of member states in the field of tourism and as such, it has developed initiatives and tools to promote actions of added value.

The tourism sector is crucial for the economic recovery of the island. Therefore within the political and the economic environment in the EU and especially during the new Programming Period 2014-2020, the Cypriot authorities – national, regional and local – and the business sector are trying to exploit to the maximum extent possible opportunities for co-financing projects and actions as well as for investments in the sector.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY

Contribution of tourism to the economy is of vital importance. In 2014, more than 2.4 million tourists visited Cyprus, and generated €2.0 billion compared to 25.700 tourist arrivals in 1960 with £1.8 million (€3.8 million) in foreign exchange earnings. Tourists are mainly from the UK, Russia, Scandinavian countries, Greece and Germany.

ACCOMMODATION

Cyprus offers a wide variety of holiday accommodation ranging from modern, large and luxurious establishments to small and simple family-run operations. Holiday accommodation includes hotels, hotel apartments, tourist villages, tourist villas, camping sites, traditional houses, tourist apartments, furnished apartments, guesthouses and hotels without star. Accommodation in private houses is not available in Cyprus.

The modern tourist accommodation infrastructure in Cyprus is widely recognised as being one of the strengths of the Cyprus tourism product, mainly due to strict legislation governing the establishment and operation of hotels, which demands high standards in accommodation facilities. Despite the above, there is a Strategic Plan, which aims at further raising the quality levels of tourist accommodation in Cyprus. English is spoken in all hotels; French, German and Russian are also widely spoken.

AGROTOURISM (RURAL CYPRUS)

The implementation of the programme for the development of agrotourism in Cyprus involved the encouragement of the locals – through a number of incentive schemes - to invest in the creation of accommodation and other tourist infrastructure in the countryside by restoring traditional buildings and altering them for tourist use. The availability of the appropriate infrastructure would enable the tourist to holiday in the Cyprus countryside, and become acquainted with the natural and built environment and the traditions and customs of its people.



Akamas peninsula in Pafos.



As a result of the incentive schemes, 104 traditional houses in 47 villages, with a total capacity of more than 800 beds, have already been converted into accommodation establishments, in accordance with the relevant regulations and have received their classification and operation licence from the CTO. Moreover, a new financial assistance scheme co-funded by EU funds and national funds, has been contributing towards the enhancement of the accommodation product with additional tourist infrastructure (such as handicraft and folk art centres, museums and small wineries), in order to make available the integrated rural tourism product to the guests.

NATURE TRAILS

Cyprus offers a network of more than 90 nature trails, which covers more than a total of 500km. These trails are located in areas of natural beauty such as the Troodos Mountains, the Pafos and Adelphi forests, the Cape Greko and Athalassa National forest parks, the Pitsilia area and the Marathasa Valley.

Trails have been sign-posted in order to supply information on the local flora, fauna and geology. Several thematic trails were opened up in recent years. These trails cover themes such as medieval bridges in the Pafos Forest, centenarian trees, traditional activities in villages of the hinterland and waterfalls.

SPORTS TOURISM

This sector is one of the biggest and fastest growing in the global tourism industry. Given the ideal conditions for its development in Cyprus (such as

the fine weather, the availability of modern tourist infrastructure, the short distances between the cities, the beach and natural environment and the gradual upgrading of existing sports infrastructure), the CTO identified sports tourism as one of the special interest products Cyprus should invest in. Many foreign sports clubs, focusing on football, swimming and cycling visit Cyprus for training, while at the same time the number of international sports events being held in Cyprus is gradually increasing with some of them being already annually established.

Amongst other, the sector contributes positively to the strategic target of alleviating the problem of seasonality and lengthening the tourist season. The majority of the teams, 69% of the total number, visit Cyprus in the period of February – March.

CYCLING TOURISM

The mild weather conditions, short distances and the regular changes in the terrain entail a variety of different road surfaces and altitudes that establish Cyprus as a cyclist's ideal spot. Cycling enthusiasts can enjoy their favourite sport through training or through participation in races when it comes to competitive sports cycling, or even as a pleasant way of exploring the island, getting closer to the natural environment and enjoying the warm hospitality of the island's inhabitants.

Following the development of the first phase of the cycling routes network that was designed in order to be gradually extended to cover many areas of Cyprus (Route 1 – Troodos cycling route), the CTO has developed the second route which starts from the



Marine ecosystem.

the economy tourism



*A golf course
in the Pafos area.*

city of Limassol and stretches to Pano Platres, where it joins Route 1. The project is co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Cyprus is also part of the Mediterranean Route within the Eurovelo Cycling Network and has established close cooperation with the European Cycling Federation as an associate member.

GOLF

Cyprus is an emerging golf destination offering ideal weather conditions, high quality golf courses, hotels and services, attracting targeted golf tourists from Central and Northern Europe, especially during the autumn, winter and spring seasons.

There are four 18-hole international standard golf courses, all in the region of Pafos, each one with a unique design, offering different and interesting golf experiences to golfers. Cyprus also hosts international golf open championships which attract golfers from more than 15 countries from Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

The Cyprus Government, in its effort to encourage golf tourism, has implemented a Golf Policy aiming for the development of up to a total of 14 golf courses. As a result, investors from the private sector have expressed interest in the development of golf courses and integrated golf resorts in different regions of the island.

NAUTICAL TOURISM

Due to the increased demand for berthing spaces and the bright prospects of nautical tourism, the



A night view of the Limassol Marina.

Organisation is implementing, on a step-by-step basis, the masterplan for the development and construction of yacht shelters all along the coastline of Cyprus.

Currently, four marinas are in operation in the Republic of Cyprus. The most advanced waterfront development is the Limassol Marina that opened its gates to the public in June 2014. The development of three new marinas is underway, in Agia Napa, Pafos and Larnaka.

Improvement and extension works are also being carried out in various fishing shelters and small ports along the coast of Cyprus, while the construction of spaces allowing short term berthing of private vessels is under way.

CRUISES

Cruises are a new, alternative form of holidays, and the ever growing demand for cruises worldwide is mostly due to the luxurious product offered to the consumer, who can enjoy care-free vacations.

tourism



The Lamaka Marina.



"Blue Flags" at Cyprus' beaches.

Taking advantage of the strategic geographical position of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Cyprus Tourism Organisation contributed to the promotion of cruises to and from Cyprus, thereby diversifying and further enriching the Cyprus tourism product. Cruises offer the tourist the opportunity for short breaks (up to five days) to neighbouring destinations and the Greek islands.

THE EUROPEAN BLUE FLAG CAMPAIGN

The "Blue Flag" is an exclusive eco-label awarded to more than 3.200 beaches and 640 marinas worldwide.

The Blue Flag Campaign, which was launched in 1987 during the European Year for the Environment, is owned and run by the independent non-profit organisation Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

The Blue Flag is geared towards the sustainable development of beaches and marinas through strict criteria dealing with water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management and safety and other services. Being a symbol of environmental quality, it serves as an incentive for local authorities and the private sector to take measures for the overall improvement of the coastal areas in accordance with the above criteria.

Cyprus, as a Mediterranean tourism destination, has recognised the importance of this campaign as one way in which tourism can be better integrated with the coastal environment. At the initiative of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation and with the co-operation of the Cyprus Marine Environment

Protection Agency (CYMEPA), the local authorities and the relevant government bodies, Cyprus has introduced the European Blue Flag Campaign and become a full member of FEE in 1995.

The 1995 Pilot Project of the European Blue Flag Campaign, which was jointly undertaken by CYMEPA and the CTO, has successfully established the scheme in Cyprus. As a result, 57 beaches have been awarded the Blue Flag.

RELIGIOUS TOURISM

There is a strategic commitment to develop and promote religious tourism in Cyprus. Several key actions have been implemented and a great deal more are planned. The CTO published a comprehensive guide promoting religious routes in Cyprus, produced a special film for the promotion of the rich Byzantine heritage of the island and organizes familiarization trips for journalists and specialist tour operators. The main partner of CTO in this effort is the Church of Cyprus, which took the initiative to establish the Office of Pilgrimage Tourism offering support to travel agents and individuals interested in organizing a pilgrimage visit in Cyprus.

WINE ROUTES

This is a project co-funded by the EU Agricultural Fund, which promotes the long history of Cyprus in the production of wine, the contemporary wine industry and its future perspectives. In the framework of this project, seven wine routes offering opportunities to visit 38 wineries have been signposted and promoted in a comprehensive guide produced for Cyprus wine routes.



Lifeguards at the beach.



The Stavrovouni Monastery.

the economy tourism



Wine tasting.

CYPRUS - VENICE CULTURAL ROUTES

The project proposes five regional routes in Cyprus and two in Venice combining monuments and artifacts, which highlight the cultural interaction between Cyprus and Venice in the Middle Ages.

CONFERENCE AND INCENTIVE TOURISM

Cyprus is not only a popular holiday destination but also a thriving business centre. The accommodation product of the country features numerous luxury hotels, which incorporate excellent conference facilities and a modern and sophisticated telecommunications infrastructure. Many of the archaeological sites are also offered for the purpose of conference tourism, highlighting the comparative advantages of Cyprus. Such conditions indicate Cyprus' prospects of developing into a successful conference and incentive tourism destination.



Kolossi Medieval Castle.



Temple of Apollo Hylates at Kourion.



The House of Dionysos in Pafos.



*Hellenic Bank headquarters,
Nicosia.*

TRADE

The trade sector contributes considerably to the economic growth of the island. Due to its small domestic market and the open nature of its economy, access to international markets is of utmost importance. Because of its location, Cyprus has always had strong economic ties with other countries.

As a result, trade has always played a crucial role in the development of the economy. Cyprus' accession to the EU represents a turning point, which has affected Cyprus' international trade, fostering exports as a driving force in the economy. This was developed even further with Cyprus' adoption of the euro on 1 January 2008. With regard to the commodity structure of domestic exports, Cyprus mainly exports industrial products of manufacturing origin and agricultural products such as pharmaceuticals and dairy products respectively. The European Union is Cyprus' most important trading partner, mainly exporting to the UK, Greece and Italy.

RE-EXPORTS

Transit cargo enjoys special treatment at the Cyprus ports. Indicative of the position of Cyprus as a main transshipment centre is the substantial amount of products re-exported. The bulk of these re-exports is directed mainly towards the countries of the European Union, followed by Near and Middle Eastern countries and other European countries. The main products re-exported from Cyprus are fuels, oils, electrical machinery and equipment and organic chemicals.



The commercial port of Lemesos.

EXPORTS OF SERVICES

Cyprus is also an exporter of services. The services sector dominates economic activity in Cyprus as indicated by its 87.0% contribution to GVA in 2014. Over the last years, Cyprus has been established as an international business centre, undertaking a major role in facilitating the provision of services and support to business people and professionals worldwide.

Services include banking and financial services, insurance, advertising, legal, architecture and civil engineering, accounting and auditing, consultancy, design, electrical and mechanical engineering, market research, medical, printing and publishing, public relations, education, software development, tourism and related services.

The main sector of services exported is travel, transportation and financial sectors. Russia absorbs the greatest part of the total export of services,



Larnaka International Airport.



Automatic sheep milking.

followed by the UK, Germany, Denmark, US and Greece.

Professional services have exhibited a dynamic upward trend prior to the crisis but also a strong resilience during the crisis period despite the problems in the banking sector. This has been a result of the credibility and high quality of Cyprus' professional services. Continuing support for the sustainability and development of these sectors is important, also because they drive change in other sectors of the economy. The actions taken to improve the business environment are all related with the growth prospects of the industry. Proactive measures and actions will be taken to diversify the position of Cyprus and open new markets.

Considering that the investment funds industry is a rapidly growing international industry, the government considers it important to be at the forefront of developments and transform Cyprus as a jurisdiction of choice among other EU competitive markets, as to utilize the significant potential that this industry offers to the growth prospects of the Cypriot economy.

PROMOTION OF EXPORTS

The main objective of the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism regarding the area of trade is the expansion of exports of goods and services. In order to achieve its goal, the Ministry has developed and put into effect a plan of action. This plan is designed in such a way as to improve the ability of the Cypriot enterprises to penetrate into foreign markets. This plan of actions involves

much more than advertising and includes, inter alia, the introduction of export oriented schemes, the participation in international trade fairs, the organization of business missions and seminars abroad, public relations and market research.

The Ministry also operates eleven Trade Centres, situated in carefully targeted markets. At present, the Ministry maintains centres in Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Lebanon, Egypt, Poland, the Russian Federation, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.A. The sole responsibility of the Trade Centres is the promotion of exports of goods and services in overseas markets. Furthermore, the Trade Centres are actively involved in the promotion of Cyprus as an international business centre, as well as in the attraction of foreign investments.

IMPORTS

Imports of consumer goods and intermediate inputs (raw materials) make up for most of the total imports. These are followed by fuels and lubricants, capital goods and transport equipment. The European Union is the main source of supply of goods to Cyprus. Major suppliers within the Union are Greece, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands, and from third countries, Israel and China are Cyprus' top suppliers.



Supermarket.



Retail trade.

the economy

manufacturing
and industry



Manufacturing of animal vitamins.



Manufacturing of pharmaceuticals.

MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRY

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Industrial products of manufacturing origin accounts for over 60% of Cyprus domestic exports, while the industry employs 15% of the country's workforce. Industry's interactions with other economic factors of the country extend far beyond manufacturing, from raw materials and energy to business services and tourism. Therefore, the economic importance of industrial activities is much greater than suggested by the share of manufacturing in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. Energy is the activity with the greatest contribution to the gross value added of the industrial sector, while, the production of food and beverages is the one with the largest share on employment. Industry's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product follows a downward trend since the early '80s. A major problem of the sector is low competitiveness due to the small size of most industrial units, which adversely affects their ability to utilise advanced technology and management. Other problems arise from the relatively high labour costs and low productivity.

The Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism aims at accelerating the rate of growth of the manufacturing sector and enhancing its competitiveness under free market conditions through:

- restructuring and support of the manufacturing industry and implementation of projects and schemes co-financed by European Funds
- attracting foreign investment

- strengthening existing and attracting and developing new high-tech industries
- providing stable, simplified and predictable regulatory framework
- ensuring access to energy and raw materials at affordable prices.

To improve the business and investment environment and reduce the average time needed to start a business, the Ministry established and operates the pioneer institution of One Stop Shop, which aims to accelerating and simplifying the process of setting up a business.

Foreign capital can play a major role as it contributes substantially to the production of high technology and expertise. Additionally, Cyprus' membership in the European Union enables small and medium enterprises to participate in various programmes concerning industrial technology, professional training and product development, thus assisting the process of restructuring.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Since its inception in the 70s, the Cyprus pharmaceutical industry has grown as the major manufacturing industry in Cyprus with significant exports. This major secondary sector of the economy of Cyprus has developed the necessary know-how and credibility and has a significant export potential that the Government realises that should be utilised further. It will therefore initiate a consultation process with key stakeholders to identify key drivers for growth.



*Unit for Integrated Management
of Solid Household Waste, Koshi.*

the economy

manufacturing
and industry



Construction site.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

Industrial areas are successfully used to accelerate the pace of industrial development. Their establishment created the necessary infrastructure and suitable environment to private initiative for immediate operation and use of industrial units at the lowest possible cost. Today, there is a total of 13 industrial zones within which 900 industrial units are located and engaged in a wide spectrum of activities. The Government has allocated to these industrial enterprises appropriate land, on a long-term lease base.

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) represent 99.9% of the Cypriot enterprises. SMEs are a key driver for growth, innovation, competitiveness and employment and they are the backbone of the economy of Cyprus.

The government's ambition is for Cyprus to acquire a competitive environment in which to start and grow a business. Given the critical role that the SMEs play in the domestic economy, the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism, has set SMEs policy among its key priorities. Within this context and having in mind the guidelines set by the European SME policy, the Government promotes the following actions for the development of SMEs in Cyprus:

- Measures to simplify procedures and reduce the administrative burden,
- Facilitation of access to finance,
- Provision of incentives and facilities for access to the internal market.



Plastics factory.



Specialised industrial personnel.



*Production
of traditional sweets.*



AGRICULTURE

Agriculture continues to be a vital sector of the economy of Cyprus, despite its gradual decrease due to the development of other sectors such as tourism and services, and the difficulties which have emerged as a result of the intensive competitive environment. Nowadays the importance of agriculture is not only defined by financial indicators, but also by the fact that it has a multi-functional role. In addition to the production of food, it contributes significantly to the preservation of the environment and provides the means for improving and protecting life in the countryside.

During the period 1960-1974, the agricultural sector expanded rapidly, but in 1974 it was discontinued by the Turkish invasion, which resulted in the occupation of 36.2% of the territory of Cyprus. More specifically, the Turkish forces occupied an area which accounted for 46% of crop production and much higher percentages of citrus (79%), cereals (68%), of tobacco (100%), carobs (86%) and green fodders (65%), while 45% of livestock production was from this area.



Organic farming.

Despite the obligatory concentration of the population in the less productive part of the island, it was possible through concerted efforts and heavy investment in land improvement and irrigation to reactivate the agricultural sector and to reach the pre-1974 production levels.

Agricultural and industrial products of agricultural origin remain an important component of the



Crops in low greenhouses.

economy. In 2014, they accounted for 31.9% of domestic exports, contributed 2.4 % to the GDP and 6.3% to employment. The agricultural sector in Cyprus is currently going through a transitional period to redefine its production model. The special characteristics of the Mediterranean climate and soil and the fact that most of Cyprus products are produced in small scale family farms under strict European standards, provide an opportunity for high quality products. Significant growth potential exists in citrus, potatoes, selected fruits and vegetables and carobs. The main processed agricultural product exported is halloumi cheese, a traditional white sheep and goat cheese for which recently an application to the European Commission for registration as a product of Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) has been submitted. The success in marketing halloumi cheese as a PDO product demonstrates how the primary sector can establish a unique identity for its products. The focus shall



The Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union helps Cypriot farmers produce high quality products.



Harvesting of grapes.

be to establish more Cypriot high quality products, to enhance competitiveness and attract premium prices for its produce. The main problems in the agricultural sector today is the scarcity of irrigation water, the difficulties to access finance for investments and the low level of organization on the production chain.

AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Cyprus aims at the development of the agricultural sector by enhancing training and technical services of farmers and the planning and implementation of developmental programmes. Thus, current programmes aim not only at increasing the production but also at enhancing the quality and competitiveness of agricultural products in local and international markets, as well as the better utilization of available resources and production factors. Special emphasis is given to the modernization of agricultural holdings and the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation.

In view of this, the Government seeks to boost knowledge, education and training of the rural world on the latest technological developments in the agricultural sector, as well as on issues of harmonization of Cyprus' agriculture with the European acquis.

In the above context, the implementation of the New Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 is being promoted, which is an ambitious project aiming at revitalizing the rural economy of Cyprus, both in the short and long-term future. Through the implementation of the Rural Development



Cow farm.

Programme, the development and improvement of the production is promoted, as well as the modernization of the production units and the creation of viable agricultural holdings with new goals, such as the improvement of food quality and security, the protection of the environment and the landscape and the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas.

LIVESTOCK

The livestock sector contributes approximately 49% of the agricultural gross output and consists of dairy cattle, sheep and goats, swine and poultry. Dairy cattle, swine and poultry farms are relatively large units situated around urban areas, while sheep and goat farms are scattered throughout the country and are operating under semi-intensive or free farming systems. The development of livestock production has been given great attention, both quantitatively and qualitatively.



Strawberry farming unit.



Kourris Dam.

WATER DEVELOPMENT

Throughout its long history Cyprus has always been confronted with the problem of water shortage. Having no rivers with perennial flow and with a highly variable precipitation, the country experiences frequent droughts. The average annual precipitation, including snowfall, amounts to approximately 500mm.

Up until 1970, groundwater was the main source of water for both domestic supply and irrigation. As a result, almost all aquifers were seriously depleted because of over-pumping, and seawater intrusion was observed in most of the coastal aquifers. At the time, large quantities of surface water were lost through run-offs. The water problem and its exacerbation over the years were recognized early enough by the relevant state authorities which, aided by international organisations, established a long-term programme to address the problem effectively.

After independence, attention was turned to the systematic study and construction of water development works, both for storage and recharge purposes, followed by the implementation of a long-term plan for the construction of major development projects which involved the building of a large number of dams.

Today, the total storage capacity of the dams is approximately 332 million cubic metres (MCM) of water, compared to 6 MCM in 1960, which is really impressive when compared to other countries of the same size and development level.



Desalination plant in Larnaka.

Despite the remarkable progress in the sector, quantities of water available for human consumption and irrigation purposes were not adequate. This was due to an increased demand for water, declining precipitation, global climate change and the greenhouse effect. To remedy the situation, desalination units were constructed in order to secure domestic water supply irrespective of rainfall. Today, the total maximum capacity of the desalination plants can satisfy the drinking water needs of the large urban, suburban and tourist areas of Cyprus, allowing more quantities of dam water to be available for irrigation needs, for environmental flows and for recharge of the heavily over-pumped aquifers.



The Farmakas Dam.

MARINE RESOURCES

The relevant state authorities engage in a broad field of activities such as the sustainable use of marine resources, the development and sustainable management of aquaculture, marine ecology, the protection of endangered species and habitats and the prevention and combating of marine pollution. Fish production mainly derives from inshore fishery, bottom trawl fishery (territorial and international waters) polyvalent fishery and purse seiners as well as from aquaculture.

Moreover, great importance is given to the protection of the marine biodiversity, endangered species and habitats, as well as the establishment of marine protected areas within the Natura 2000 network. Currently, there are six coastal/marine N2000 sites, hosting important habitat types and flora/fauna species of Directive 92/43/EEC. Among these, the coastal/marine protected area of Lara - Toxeftra includes the important breeding sites of two species of marine turtles, *Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta*, and is protected since 1989 under the Fisheries Law. The Lara - Toxeftra protected area has been accepted and included in the SPAMI List, in the framework of the Protocol for the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the Mediterranean of the Barcelona Convention. Furthermore, four additional Marine Protected Areas with Artificial Reefs (AR) are currently under development, in addition to the AR of Amathus.



Tuna fishing.



Ayia Napa fishing shelter.



Aquaculture unit in Lemosos.

the economy

merchant shipping



The commercial port of Lemesos.



MERCHANT SHIPPING

The Cyprus Register of Ships has shown phenomenal growth in the last twenty-five years. In the early eighties Cyprus ranked thirty-second on the list of leading maritime nations. It now ranks in tonnage terms as one of the ten largest in the world with a merchant fleet exceeding 20 million gross tons. Also, the Cypriot merchant fleet ranks third in the European Union with a percentage of above 11% of the total fleet of the 28 EU member states.

Cyprus is considered as one of the leading third-party ship management centres in the world. More than sixty ship management companies are established and operate in Cyprus, many of which are considered among the largest ship management companies in the world. In conjunction with these more than one hundred companies have been established with shipping related activities, ranging from marine insurance, ship chartering, ship-broking, financial services, equipment suppliers and telecommunications, to port services, transshipment operations, shipping agents, ship chandlers and ship bunkering.

Cyprus introduced in 2010 the tonnage tax system. This system covers the owners of Cyprus ships, owners of foreign ships, ship managers and charterers and is approved by the European Commission as compatible to the EU acquis and the Community guidelines on State aid to maritime transport. This tonnage tax system enhances the competitiveness of the Cyprus flag and the maritime cluster and paves the way to achieving even better results in the near future.

The shipping sector is called to play an even more important role in the current juncture, when the country's new growth model is rebalancing towards tradable sectors. The Government's ambition is to further expand it though improving the legal framework and building on the cluster of services that has been created including efficient government services. At the same time, action will be taken for the continuous improvement of the existing infrastructure, of 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.

MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY

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, and contributing to the achievement of the objective of safe, secure and efficient shipping and cleaner seas. 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 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on port state control, thus resulting in fewer inspections of the ships and less delays at the ports.



Merchant shipping.

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, for decent employment. These became increasingly more important since Cyprus ratified the Maritime Labour Convention of 2006 (MLC 2006); and Cyprus as a port State ensures, as from 20 August 2013, that foreign flag ships which call Cyprus ports comply with the provisions and requirements of the MLC 2006.

Cyprus also introduced in 2012 a comprehensive legislation to help counteract piracy-unlawful acts against Cyprus Flag ships. The Law is a pioneering legislation establishing the required legislative framework allowing the use of armed personnel on board Cyprus flagged vessels, in a regulated manner, when these vessels are sailing through high risk areas. The Law incorporates the recommendations and guidance developed by the International Maritime Organization in relation to privately contracted armed security personnel. Furthermore, the Law takes into account the provisions of the

the economy

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Dock at Lemesos Port.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The very high percentage of utilisation of the provisions of the Law by our ship owners proves that the Law satisfies the requirements and needs of the shipping industry in a comprehensive way.

The efforts to improve the image of shipping are not limited to Cyprus shipping. As a member of the IMO Council, Cyprus plays a significant role in the formulation of the future strategy and the regulatory work of the Organisation and is influential in the decision making process. Cyprus also contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective of the IMO, namely safer seas and cleaner oceans.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY

The contribution of merchant shipping to the economy of Cyprus is significant. The Cyprus government is well aware that through shipping, Cyprus has distinguished itself by achieving remarkable international ranking and recognition far beyond its size and boundaries.

CYPRUS PORTS AUTHORITY

All ports facilities of the island are under the jurisdiction of the Cyprus Ports Authority (CPA). The activities of the Authority are two-fold. On the one hand it is responsible for the administration, construction and management of port infrastructure and on the other, it carries out activities with commercial value related to the provision, coordination and control of port services offered. The Authority is the main investor in Cyprus ports, though a significant share of remunerative port activities are carried out by the private sector, as

for example the horizontal transportation of cargo within the port and stevedore activities.

In the context of safety, environmental and social cohesion, the Organisation aims to maximize the competitiveness of Cypriot ports, by enhancing port infrastructure, superstructure and services so as for Cypriot ports to be able to cope with the ever increasingly competitive environment. This will provide Cypriot ports the needed business tools for being able to achieve a key role in the EU and regain their position as a niche market towards serving transit cargo in the Eastern Mediterranean area as well as cruise traffic.

Furthermore, in the context of the efforts for achieving the best possible use of the prospects relating to the exploitation of hydrocarbons found in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus (EEZ) and neighbouring countries, the Cyprus Ports Authority is continuously adapting its business plan.

Towards achieving its ports policy, the Cyprus Ports Authority has additionally pursued its membership and active participation in a number of international organisations such as the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH), the Association of Mediterranean Cruise Ports (Medcruise) and the European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO).

PORTS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The port of Lemesos is the main commercial port of Cyprus and serves the country's overseas trade and sea-borne passenger traffic and acts as a transshipment centre for the region. With a quay of



A cruise ship in Lemesos.

2,030 metres in length, the CPA has proceeded with the dredging of the western container terminal basin to sixteen meters and the turning circle and entrance channel to seventeen metres. The CPA is currently realising the construction works for a 500-metre extension to the existing port's quay on its western basin, thus reaching to a total 1,270 meters. The project aims to satisfy the needs generated to accommodate the new generation ships (i.e. containers and ro-ro).

Completion of planned efforts for Lemesos port is estimated to be reached upon the completion of the port's segregation into two parts, separating

its twin character, thus commercial and passenger port, in addition with the upgrading of the port's infrastructure and standards to fully comply with the needs arising from the exploitation of hydrocarbons found in Cyprus's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and neighbouring countries.

Additionally, a new passenger terminal is being built at Lemesos port. The new passenger terminal will significantly add value to the cruise and passenger handling character of the port. It is fully compliant with EU safety and security requirements for providing all needed high quality services to visitors.

the economy

merchant shipping



The port of Lemesos.

The Larnaka port is the second largest port of Cyprus and is situated in the southeastern part of Cyprus. With a quay of 666 metres in length and a dredged depth reaching twelve metres, it serves some specialised trade and the commercial needs of Larnaka, such as the exports of agricultural products and imports of vegetables and animal feed. However, it is scheduled for redevelopment. The process involves the development and management of the Larnaka port and marina by a strategic investor, based on a public and private sector partnership.

The Pafos port is in the south-western part of Cyprus at a central point of the city of Pafos. The port mainly serves small recreational ships and fishing vessels, whilst over the last few years the port has also been attracting cruise traffic. For this reason, the Authority is aiming to enhance the passenger character of the port in order to be in position to offer better service to cruise ships and passengers calling at the port.

The port of Vassiliko, situated in the southern part of Cyprus between Lemesos and Larnaka, is the main port for handling industrial types of cargo such as dangerous cargo and humid fuels. Ongoing discussions amongst various government departments are being held for the final configuration of the port's master plan. The overall aim is to enhance the port's performance whilst considering at the same time the new perspectives that have emerged from the hydrocarbon reserves found in Cyprus's EEZ. An additional boost on the port's operations will arise from the construction and operation of a new jetty.

The ports of Famagusta, Keryneia, Karavostassi and Xeros are in the area under military occupation by Turkey since 1974, and have therefore been declared by the Government closed to shipping and navigation and prohibited ports of entry and exit.

Construction work for the project of the redevelopment and redesigning of the Old Lemesos port, has been completed. This whole new cultural, historical and commercial center within the old Lemesos town area includes offices, restaurants, shops, a large square and cultural and events areas.

SHIPPING ACTIVITY

Cyprus is connected to a significant number of overseas ports and is included in the itineraries of more than fifty international shipping lines. Cyprus' trade is mainly carried out through the multipurpose ports of Lemesos, Larnaka and the industrial port of Vassiliko. Approximately 4,500 ships call at Cypriot ports and terminals annually. In addition, Cyprus has established itself as one of the most important cruise centres in the Eastern Mediterranean and it is included in the itineraries of most of the Mediterranean as well as the international cruise ships which sail in the region. Moreover, Cyprus is a permanent base for cruise ships which carry out excursions in the region on a regular basis.

Maritime transport is served by a modern and integrated international port system, consisting the multi-purpose ports of Lemesos and Larnaka, the industrial port of Vassiliko and the four oil terminals which are located at Larnaca, Dhekelia and Moni.



The port of Pafos.



education

- PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION
- PRIMARY EDUCATION
- SECONDARY EDUCATION
- HIGHER EDUCATION
- SPORTS

education

pre-primary
education

As indicated by the high adult literacy rate of 98 percent, education is a top priority for the people and the state of Cyprus. According to the EU Statistical Service, Cyprus has the second highest percentage of tertiary students studying in another EU country, while it ranks third among the EU countries regarding public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP.

Education in Cyprus is provided through pre-primary and primary schooling, secondary general and secondary technical vocational schools, special schools, higher and tertiary education institutions and non-formal institutions and centres.

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Pre-primary Education is responsible for the education of children attending pre-primary schools, aged 3 to 5 ½ years old. Pre-primary Education is responsible for complementing the family's role and providing ample support for the development of the children, the fulfillment of their basic needs and the creation of supportive and constructive learning experiences, enabling them to become aware of their capabilities and overall potential and enhance their self-image.

The pre-primary schools' educational programme aims to retain many elements of family life and emphasises the encouragement of creative activities through child-centred approaches in an environment which promotes cooperative learning, experimentation and group work. Emphasis is also placed on offering love, support, trust, acceptance, safety and respect for every child's individuality.



There are public, community and private pre-primary schools in Cyprus. Since 2004, with the introduction of compulsory education one year before admission of a child to a primary school, all operating expenses of public nursery schools are undertaken by the Ministry of Education and Culture. All children, residing permanently or temporarily in Cyprus, have the right to registration in a public nursery school.

Attendance in the pre-primary class (4 ½ – 5 ½ years old) is free for all the children in public nursery schools. The maximum number of pupils in each class of pre-primary schools does not exceed 25 pupils.



education

primary
education

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Primary education is compulsory and has a duration of six years, with both public and private primary schools operating in Cyprus.

Within the framework of the ongoing Educational Reform procedure, in Primary Education the evaluation of policies implemented in relation to the National Curriculum and the new school timetable is currently under way, with the intention to adopt changes and improvements wherever such an action is needed.

Moreover, other structural changes have taken place, such as the introduction of the All-Day Voluntary School concept in Primary Education, which was experimentally implemented during the school year 1999-2000 in nine Primary Schools. Since then, the institution of All-Day Voluntary Primary and Special Schools was extended and today 113 schools function as All-Day Schools.

At the same time and after the completion of the pilot programme of the institution of All-Day Compulsory Schools and its formal establishment that was approved by the Council of Ministers in February 2011, the All-Day Compulsory School is officially considered to be a type of Public School, with 14 Primary Schools currently operating as All-Day Compulsory Schools.

About 13,9% of pupils attending public primary schools and 11,5% attending public nursery schools



do not speak Greek. The Ministry of Education and Culture policy regarding the education of foreign pupils aims at their smooth integration into the Cyprus Educational System. In response to the demands of contemporary society and the changing social environment, the Ministry is promoting the implementation of differentiated educational measures and policies to assist in the smooth and effective integration of groups with different cultural and linguistic identities.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Secondary General Education offers a six-year programme of education for students aged between 12 and 18. At the Gymnasium (Lower Secondary school) the main orientation is the general



education

secondary
education

humanistic education. Education at the Gymnasium is compulsory for the first three years up to the age of 15.

The basic aim of the Gymnasium is to promote the development of students in relation to capabilities of their age and corresponding demands of life. The Gymnasium constitutes a self-existent school unit of general educational direction. It complements the general education which primary school provides and prepares students to accept the increased general humanistic education which it provides, preparing them at the same time to attend, afterwards, the Lyceum or the Technical Education, which they can select after their graduation from the Gymnasium.

At the Lyceum the educational system is more flexible and offers various specialisations depending on an inclination, skills and interests of a student.

Within the context of the objectives of the Lyceum students are expected to:

- Form their personality in a harmonious and all-embracing way by developing free, critical thinking, initiative, collectiveness and imagination.
- Develop intellectual, moral, aesthetic and physical characteristics and skills, so that they can face society, science, technology, arts and more general constituents of culture with creativity and an innovative approach.
- Develop the essential abilities, knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will allow them to continue their study within the frames of



High school student at Rizokarpaso village

lifelong education and training and will facilitate their access to the productive process following additional specialisation or training.

- Finally transform into citizens who will be conscious of the problems faced today by the humanity and be capable to act effectively, in an individual and collective way, while dealing with these problems.

Instead of the Lyceum, pupils may choose to attend Secondary Technical and Vocational Education (STVE), which provides them with knowledge and skills that will prepare them to enter the workforce or pursue further studies in their area of interest. Pupils attending public STVE schools represent, approximately, 15% of the total number of pupils. STVE programmes include formal Technical and Vocational Education programmes, Apprenticeship Scheme programmes and Lifelong Learning and Training programmes.

secondary
education



HIGHER EDUCATION

In order to fulfill the aspiration of establishing Cyprus as a regional centre of education, research and technology government policy regarding Higher Education aims to modernize the higher education system, develop a culture of quality assurance in education, foster excellence in teaching that will ensure the expected learning outcomes are met, and at the same time attempt to increase the link between education and the labour market, while supporting a healthy framework of autonomy for higher education institutions.

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Although established by law and financed mostly by the government, public universities are autonomous and self-governing. At present, there are three public universities in Cyprus. Two of them operate in Lefkosia, the capital city, and one in Lemesos. The University of Cyprus and the Cyprus University of Technology are conventional universities, which have as a main goal to promote education and research to as many young students as possible. On the other hand, the Open University of Cyprus is a distance learning university, which aims to include adult learners in further education and promote lifelong learning.

The University of Cyprus (www.ucy.ac.cy)

The University of Cyprus (UCY) was established in 1989 as the first public university of Cyprus, and accepted its first students in 1992. Although newly established, UCY has managed to become the leading educational institution in Cyprus, and one of



the most respected institutions in the Mediterranean, hosting today almost 7,000 students. UCY has consistently pursued excellence, fulfilling its mission to the Cyprus society via its twofold objectives: (1) the promotion of scholarship and education through teaching and research, and (2) the enhancement of the cultural, social and economic development. Moreover, UCY aims to establish itself as a pioneer research institution achieving international scientific recognition in European higher education, offering competitive programmes, and to become a centre of excellence in the wider Euro – Mediterranean region. It currently consists of eight Faculties, including a Medical School, which accepted its first students in September 2013. The official languages of instruction are Greek and Turkish, the official languages of the Republic of Cyprus as stipulated by the Constitution. In postgraduate inter-University cooperation programmes, other languages may also be used.

The Open University of Cyprus (www.ouc.ac.cy)

The Open University of Cyprus was legally established in 2002 as the second state university and the only institution of higher education in Cyprus, offering recognized academic programmes at all levels (undergraduate, postgraduate and doctorate) using the distance learning methodology. The degrees awarded by the Open University of Cyprus are equivalent to the degrees awarded by all accredited universities worldwide, while the degree structure and credit system is based on the concept of Thematic Units (or Modules) adaptable to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

The Cyprus University of Technology (www.cut.ac.cy)

The Cyprus University of Technology was established in 2003 and welcomed its first students in September 2007. The University's Faculties are located in the city centre of Limassol. With its orientation towards applied research, the University aspires to establish for itself a role in support of the state and society in their efforts to confront problems, which cover all areas of science and technology. The development of all departments aspires to offer education to students of a high scientific, technological and professional level. Moreover, CUT aims to produce high quality research that will transcend the traditional boundaries between basic and applied research, so that solutions may be offered to major problems of society and the economy.

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

The first private universities in Cyprus commenced their operation following a relevant decision by the Council of Ministers in 2007. Currently, the following private universities operate in Cyprus:

1. **Frederick University (www.frederick.ac.cy)**
2. **European University Cyprus (www.euc.ac.cy)**
3. **University of Nicosia (www.unic.ac.cy)**
4. **Neapolis University - Pafos (www.nup.ac.cy)**
5. **UCLan University Cyprus (www.uclancyprus.ac.cy)**

STATE TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Tertiary education in Cyprus is also offered by a number of State Tertiary Education Institutions, none of which has a university status. Today, the following non-University State Tertiary Education Institutions operate:

- Cyprus Forestry College
- Higher Hotel Institute Cyprus
- Mediterranean Institute of Management (MIM)
- Cyprus Police Academy

PRIVATE TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

There are currently 40 Private Tertiary Education Institutions (PTEI) in Cyprus, offering a wide range of both academic and vocational programmes of studies at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels.



SPORTS

The history of sports in Cyprus goes back many centuries. Inscriptions found in various archaeological sites both on the island and in Greece bear witness to the Cypriots' love for sports and to their success in Pan-Hellenic and Olympic contests of ancient times at Olympia, Pythia, Isthmia and elsewhere.

This is further attested by the ancient stadia of Cyprus at Kourion, Salamis, Pafos, Kition and Lapithos, which existed until the Byzantine Period. Evidence shows that during the Middle Ages athletics remained a favourite Cypriot pastime.

The first athletic club was founded in Limassol in 1897. After that similar clubs began to spring up across the island in each of the major towns.

CYPRUS SPORTS ORGANISATION

Cyprus has a long history in athletics with inscriptions recording the participation of Cypriot athletes in the Ancient Olympic Games. When the Olympic Games were revived in 1896, Cyprus participated with athletes competing under the Greek flag.

In 1969 legislation was passed establishing the Cyprus Sports Organisation as a semi-governmental organisation. Its basic aims are the development of out-of-school sports, the coordination of the sports life of the island, the cultivation of the Olympic ideal and the promotion of Cyprus in the field of international sports.

During the period between 1969 and 1974, efforts were made to organise the Cyprus Sports

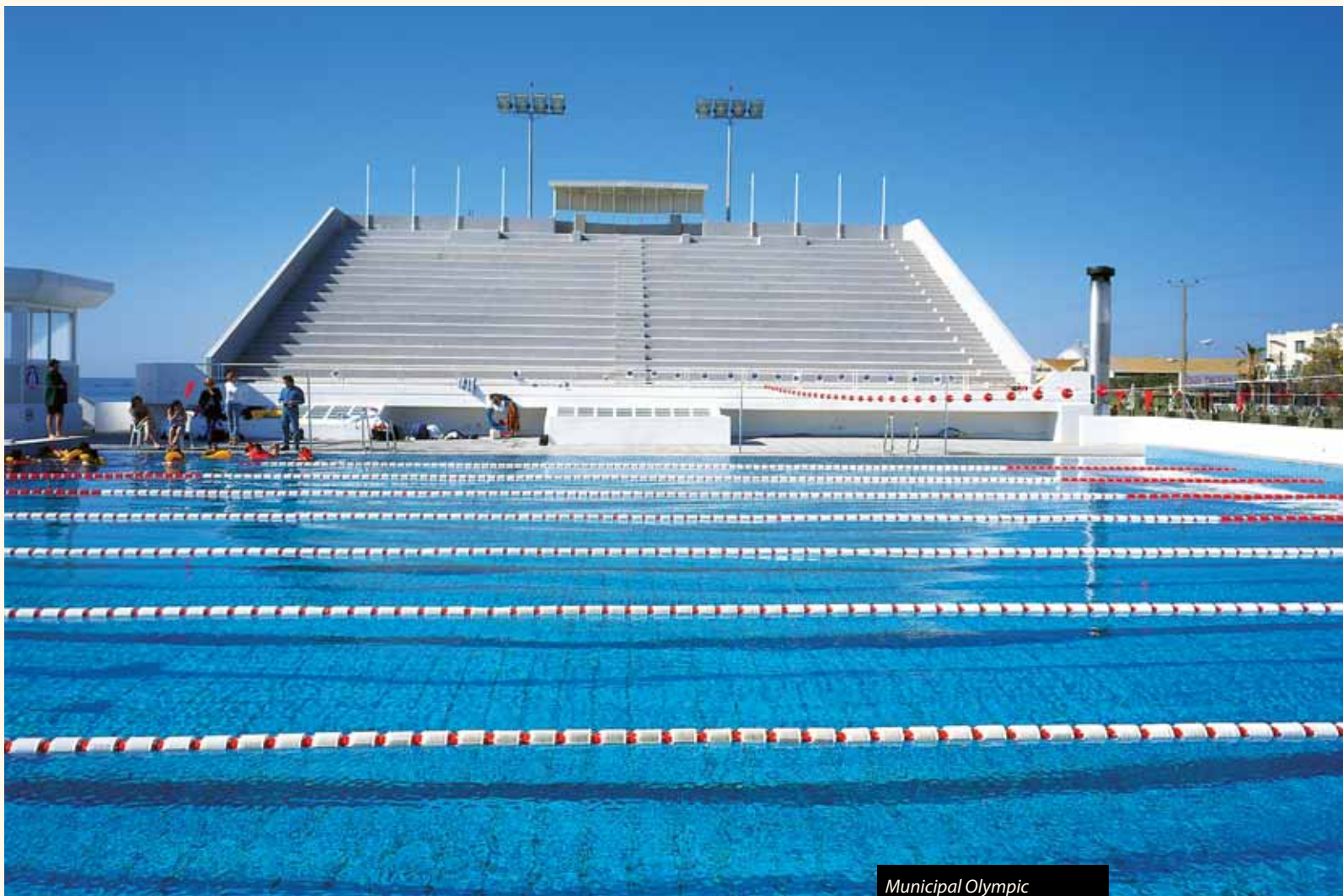


Cyprus born runner Stylianos Kyriakides after winning the Boston Marathon on 20 April 1946. He run for war-ravaged Greece and his victory helped collect vast amounts of assistance in the USA for the suffering Greek people.

(Photo: Amateur Athletic Association of Cyprus)

Organisation, with the basic aim of establishing National Federations and affiliating them to the corresponding World Federations. However, after 1974 and up to 1980, efforts were devoted to the revitalisation of Cypriot sports in the aftermath of the Turkish invasion and to creating the necessary infrastructure for sports despite the enormous economic and other problems the country was facing.

The years between 1980 until 1990 saw the presence of Cyprus in world sports with its participation in



Municipal Olympic swimming pool, Lamaka.

international events, initially with results that were sometimes disappointing but always with the hope of something better. The first participation of Cyprus as an independent state at a Summer Olympiad was at the Moscow Olympics in 1980. The rapid development of Cypriot sports that followed was unprecedented for Cyprus. It was during this decade that the foundations of the course of development of Cypriot sports were laid. The programme "Sports for All" began operating and was geared to a great extent for children. However, the years that followed up to 2000 were marked by Cyprus' intensified presence at international meetings, with important successes and distinctions.

Sports in Cyprus followed the European course and at the same time responded fully to the European conventions and undertakings which the European Sports Charter of Rhodes and the Code of Ethics established. After 2000 there was a steady harmonisation with Europe with the most important goal of the Cyprus Sports Organisation being the gradual and substantial implementation of the resolutions of the Council of Europe and the European Union with the aim of "pure and beneficial sports".

CYPRUS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

The Cyprus Olympic Committee (COC) was established in 1974 and in 1979 it became a full member of the International Olympic Committee. These years have been marked by activities strongly linked to the ideals of the Olympics and also significant achievements, which have merited recognition and appreciation on an international level.

The first time Cyprus participated in international games officially under the auspices of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, was in 1980 in the 13th Winter Olympic Games held at Lake Placid in the United States. Later, in the same year, Cyprus participated in the 22nd Summer Olympic Games, which were held in Moscow.

Since then, Cyprus has participated in all the major international events, providing its athletes with access to sporting events such as the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games, the Mediterranean Games, the Games of the Small States of Europe and the European Youth Olympic Festival. Even though Cyprus is a small country, Cypriot athletes have won international distinctions which the country is proud of.

The Cyprus Olympic Committee has acquired prestige through its remarkable activities. In 1982, Juan Antonio Samaranch visited Cyprus for the first time in his capacity as President of the International Olympic Committee.

In 1987, the National Olympic Academy was established in Nicosia during a glamorous ceremony. Every year, the Academy organises conferences with speakers and participants from the international world of sports.

In 2009, Cyprus successfully hosted the Games of the Small States of Europe and was atop of the medal board. The Games were so successful that they became a reference point for the European Olympic Committees. It is worth mentioning that the Cyprus Olympic Committee played a pioneering role in institutionalising them.



Opening Ceremony of the XIII Games of the Small States of Europe held in Cyprus in June 2009.

The status of the Cyprus Olympic Committee within the IOC and international sport circles is constantly being upgraded. The COC has signed protocols for co-operation with other countries. It successfully organises two events each year, a seminar on the Union of the European Olympic Committees and the Meeting of the Union's Executive Committee. Members of its Executive Board are elected to important positions in the International Sport Movement.

THE OLYMPIC HOUSE

In 2006, the Olympic House and Park was inaugurated to house most sports federations. The Olympic House is a major component for sports in Cyprus and an important landmark in the activities of the Cyprus Olympic Committee. It is located in an area of 7.500 square meters, at the entrance to Nicosia. Its architecture expresses three basic dimensions which are the components of the Olympic ideal:

- The Universal Dimension: cultivating and spreading the ancient spirit of the Olympics, in the sphere of co-operation, emulation and peace in the world.
- The Historical Dimension: preserving and reviving a 3000 year-old concept.
- The Sports Dimension: promoting simultaneous physical and spiritual exercise as an essential human activity.

Hundreds of events (award banquets, seminars and cultural gatherings) have taken place in the CYTA

“fair play” room which hosts all the activities that take place in the Olympic House.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS

The Cyprus Olympic Committee has shown steady progress over the years in major competitions. It is indicative that in every new major competition its delegation is more successful than in the previous events.

At the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games two athletes in the Men's Skeet reached the final. Antonis Nicolaides was fourth, missing out on the bronze medal in the shoot off process by one missed clay disc. George Achilleos was right behind him achieving the fifth position. In the women's event of skeet shooting Andri Eleftheriou also made the final and reached the seventh position, making her the only Cypriot woman finalist in the Olympics ever.

In other major competitions, Cypriot athletes have had great results. Kyriakos Ioannou won the Silver medal in High Jump at the IAAF World Championships in Athletics in Berlin in 2009. In 2007 and 2008, Pavlos Kontides was the world junior sailing champion in the laser radial category, and became the only athlete to ever accomplish such a feat. Also, at the 2009 World Juniors Championships Michalis Malekkides won another gold for Cyprus in the RSX windsurfing category. In Gymnastics, Erodotos Giorgallas was fourth at the European championships in the rings event, and became the first Cypriot athlete to qualify for

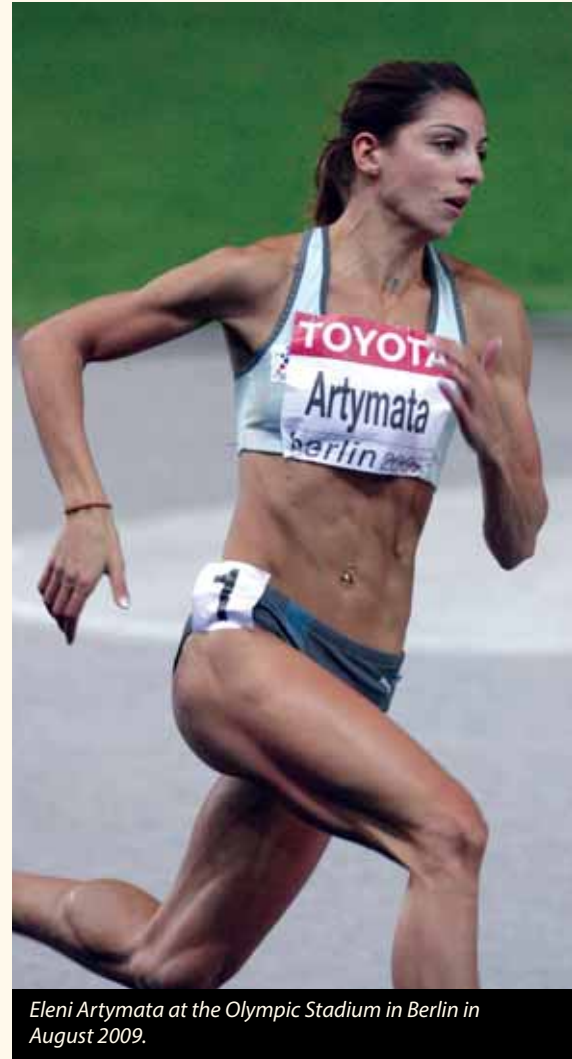
sports



Olympic House.

the final of the Gymnastics Grand Prix in Madrid. The Cyprus national shooting team also recorded great successes. Bianka Kassianidou won the gold medal in the skeet event at the world University games in Beijing as well as in the Commonwealth Games Shooting Championships that were held in Cyprus (team event). She also won a silver medal at the individual event. Eleni Artymata represented Cyprus at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. She competed at the 200 metres where she reached the second round. At the 2009 World Athletics Championships, in Berlin, she reached the final of the 200 metres where she finished eighth. In the field of tennis Cyprus has been represented in many international tournaments by Marcos Baghdatis who is a professional tennis player with many important victories and results in the past years. He is the only Cypriot ever to have played in a Grand Slam tournament.

However, the most successful participation at an international event came during the 2012 London Olympics when Pavlos Kontides became the first athlete representing Cyprus to win an Olympic medal after finishing second in the singlehanded Laser sailing class. The silver medal by Kontides is without doubt a milestone in the history of Cypriot sport, a success that has brought enthusiasm and pride to all of Cyprus. Moreover, Kyriacos Ioannou became the first Republic of Cyprus athlete to qualify to the final of a track and field event during an Olympiad, when he advanced to the final of the Men's High Jump, ranking 13th. Other successes at the 2012 Olympic Games included a strong performance by Eleni Artymata, who ranked 17th out



Eleni Artymata at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin in August 2009.



Kyriakos Ioannou wins the Silver medal in High Jump at the IAAF World Championships in Athletics in Berlin in 2009.

of 24 in the semi finals of the Women's 200 metres race, George Achilleos who ranked 11th overall in the qualifying round of the skeet shooting event and tennis player Marcos Baghdatis who managed to advance to the 3rd round where he lost to Briton Andy Murray, who eventually went on to win the gold medal.

A notable more recent success was recorded by Apostolos Parellis, in the men's discus event, who won the silver medal in the 2014 Commonwealth Games and achieved a 6th place in the final of the 2015 IAAF World Championships in Beijing. At the same event, Dimitrios Chondrokoukis ranked 11th in the Men's High Jump Final. In the meantime, Pavlos Kontides continues to excel, securing the bronze medal at 2015 ISAF Sailing World Cup.

Moreover, in the 2015 World University Games held in South Korea Menelaos Michaelides won the gold medal in men's skeet shooting and Kyriaki Koutouki received the bronze medal in women's Taekwondo under 46kgs. Also, weightlifter Dimitris Minasidis secured the silver medal in the Clean and Jerk event during the 2015 European Weightlifting Championship, held in Tbilisi, Georgia, winning in the 62kg category with a score of 156kg.



George Achilleos (centre) Gold Medal winner at the 2010 World Championships in Lonato, Italy.



World ranked tennis player Marcos Baghdatis playing in the Davis Cup tournament in Cyprus.



President Demetris Christofias decorates Olympic Silver Medal Winner Pavlos Kontides with the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Cyprus (10 August 2012).

Pavlos Kontides poses with his silver medal following the victory ceremony for the Men's Laser class sailing competition in Weymouth, during the 2012 London Olympics (6 August 2012).

FOOTBALL

Football is the most popular sport in Cyprus. The Cyprus Football Association (CFA) was established in 1934 with the CFA organising various championships for its member clubs. In 1948, the Cyprus Football Association became a member of FIFA and in 1962 a member of UEFA. The Cyprus National Team played its first international game in 1949, at a time when Cyprus was not yet an independent state.

The CFA now participates at the national team level in the World Cup Competitions, the Olympic Tournaments and all the UEFA competitions for national teams. It also participates at the club level in the UEFA Club Competitions. In the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 seasons two Cypriot clubs, "Anorthosis" of Famagusta and "APOEL" of Nicosia respectively, managed to qualify to the group stages of the UEFA Champions League. This was a major success for Cyprus.

An even greater accomplishment was achieved by APOEL in the 2011-2012 season when the team defied expectations by not only becoming the first Cypriot team to get out of the group stage of the Champions League competition, but by winning its group ahead of three recent UEFA Cup/UEFA Europa League winners. APOEL then eliminated Olympique Lyonnais in the last 16 to reach the quarterfinals (8 best teams of Europe) where they were finally eliminated from the competition by the legendary Real Madrid FC bringing their amazing adventure to an end. This unprecedented success by a Cyprus team made worldwide headlines and won many



international plaudits. During the same season AEK of Larnaka, scored another success for Cyprus when they advanced to the group stage of the Europa League. In the 2012-2013 season, it was AEL of Limassol that advanced to the group stage of the same competition. Apollon FC of Limassol managed to reach the Europa League group stage for two consecutive seasons (2013-2014 and 2014-2015), while APOEL achieved another Champions League group stage appearance in the 2014-2015 season, followed by its qualification to the Europa League group stage in the 2015-2016 season.

There are currently 57 clubs directly affiliated to the CFA and approximately 290 indirectly affiliated clubs through local amateur associations. The CFA organises league championships of various levels and a cup competition. The CFA also organises women's and futsal championships.



The Cypriot Men's National football team before a UEFA EURO 2016 qualifier against the Welsh National team at the GSP stadium in Nicosia on 3 September 2015.

NATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

The Cyprus National Paralympic Committee is the national constituent of the worldwide Paralympic movement and is subject to the controls of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). It is responsible for organising the participation of Cypriot athletes in the Paralympic Games.

The Paralympic Games are a major international multi-sport event where athletes with physical disabilities including mobility disabilities, compete. There are Winter and Summer Paralympic Games, which are held immediately after the Olympic Games.

Swimmer Karolina Pelendritou has represented Cyprus in a number of major international competitions and has won many medals. These include the gold medal in the 100m breaststroke at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens where Karolina won with a new Paralympic record. Other achievements include a gold medal in the Eurowaves (European Cup) 2008 in the 100m breaststroke with a new world record and in the 2008 Beijing Paralympics. In the Beijing Paralympics Games she also won a bronze medal in the 200m individual medley. In the 2012 London Paralympic Games Pelendritou went on to win her fourth Paralympic medal with a silver medal in the 100m breaststroke (SB12 category).

More achievements have also been recorded by the athlete Antonis Aresti, who received several medals including silver medals in the 400m and 200m track races in the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.



Gold Medal Winner Karolina Pelendritou at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Special Olympics Cyprus was inaugurated in 1986. It is a member of Special Olympics International and of the Cyprus Olympic Committee. It is recognised as the athletic organisation responsible for athletes with mental disabilities. It is a non-profit institution and its activities and games are organised by volunteers.

More than 400 athletes with mental and/or severe learning abilities train in sports such as swimming, cycling, basketball, football, gymnastics, riding, bowling, floor hockey, and sports for the handicapped. Athletes from Cyprus have won medals in European and world Sports events. At 2015 Los Angeles Special Olympics World Games Cypriot athletes staged an impressive performance, securing 13 gold, 16 silver and 12 bronze medals.

sports



Special Olympics athletes.



culture

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culture

CULTURE

Cultural life in Cyprus is promoted both by the government through the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture and through private organisations and individuals.

The people of Cyprus are actively interested in encouraging creativity in the field of letters and arts, and in raising cultural awareness and making culture available to everyone, so that there is a greater participation of the public in the island's cultural life. The government also attaches great importance to the promotion of the culture of Cyprus abroad and in projecting cultural achievements in order to highlight Cyprus' links with international culture.



Stass Paraskos' outdoor art exhibition at Lemba, Pafos district.

Particular emphasis is placed on promoting literature, music, dance (modern and classical), the visual arts and cinema. In addition, a special arts festival (the «Kypria») is organised annually with a view to upgrading the artistic movement on the island. The festival, which is held in all major cities hosts artists and ensembles of international acclaim from Cyprus, Greece and other countries. Since its inception, in 1991, this has become a major institution making high quality cultural entertainment accessible to a wide range of people. The artistic performances include: theatre, ballet, opera and music. Alongside well-known international artists or ensembles, Cypriot artists who have distinguished themselves abroad and acquired international reputation are also invited to participate.



Exhibits at the Limassol Sculpture Park.

Moreover, many permanent exhibitions are found in the many museums in Cyprus which exhibit ancient artefacts, paintings, sculpture, metal objects, ceramics, jewellery and objects of traditional art all of which witness different stages in the course of human presence on the island. The art and culture of Cyprus goes beyond the ancient ruins, museums and numerous archaeological sites. Contemporary art is exhibited in the modern art museums in Nicosia and Limassol and a remarkable array of public sculptures commissioned by the Limassol Municipality can be found at the Limassol Sculpture Park featuring twenty large sculptures by artists from Greece, Israel, Germany, Egypt and Cyprus. Furthermore, the sculptural wall at Stass Paraskos' Cyprus College of Art in Lemba, in the Pafos district, created by the artist and his students, also makes up a permanent outdoor exhibition of artworks from recycled and discarded material and carved local stone.



The outdoor Sculpture Park in Limassol.

culture

Additionally, Cyprus plays host to major international exhibitions. The Cultural Services organise exhibitions which come within the framework of exchange programmes with foreign countries or in collaboration with overseas museums and institutions of art. On 10 March 2010, "Miró of Majorca", possibly the most important art exhibition that ever came to Cyprus, was inaugurated at the Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre (Old Power House)

which is associated with the Pierides Foundation. This was the first time that an exhibition of such magnitude focusing on the work of a great single artist was organised on the island. The exhibition was realised in the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union. The Spanish government dedicated the event to the Fiftieth Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus.



An aspect of the Miró Exhibition, Nicosia (2010).





*The Miró Exhibition
in Nicosia (2010).*

THE VISUAL ARTS

AN OVERVIEW

Dr Eleni S.Nikita

Visual creation is today one of the most dynamic and vibrant fields of the artistic expression and life of Cyprus. Cypriots have demonstrated their morphoplastic abilities since antiquity, leaving us wonderful examples in all the fields of art.

Unfortunately, however, the island was not destined to enjoy long periods of peace, political stability and economic prosperity, essential prerequisites for the development, flowering and consolidation of indigenous artistic creation because her important geopolitical position made her the prey of those forces who wielded power in the region at different historical periods. Thus artistic expression was limited for a number of centuries to Byzantine – religious and folk art.

After Cyprus was ceded by the Ottomans to Great Britain, a limited interest began to be created in secular art, but this interest remained completely marginal for several decades. The evolution of an art independent of folk and religious art was slow and was linked to the improvement in economic and social conditions on the island, the gradual creation of a bourgeoisie and the rise in the educational standard of the people.

At the beginning of the twentieth century we have the first Cypriots who studied art abroad. However, up to the end of the Second World War, the artists who lived on the island were very few in number and

movement in the visual arts was very limited. The cultural and ideological climate of the period played a particularly important role in shaping the form and content of the art which developed during the first half of the twentieth century. Already, from the decade of the 1920s, the age-old desire of the Greek Cypriots for union with Greece had been rekindled.

An important aspect of the anti-colonial struggle against Britain and for union with Greece (1955 – 1959) was the assertion of “Greekness” as well as the reinforcement of the national identity. As a result, the first Greek Cypriot intellectual associations focused a large part of their efforts on research into history and folklore and the projection of the national and religious characteristics of the island. This ideological climate influenced both the literary and the artistic creation on the island. Artists such as Adamantios Diamantis, George Pol. Georghiou and Telemachos Kanthos, encouraged with their work the learning of the history, physiognomy and traditions of Cyprus, self-knowledge and the awareness of the identity of the Cypriots.

Of course, up to the end of the 1950s the number of artists living and working in Cyprus continued to be limited. The work of art had only very few consumers. In the decade of the 1950s Cypriot society was still mainly agrarian and functioned on the basis of the values of traditional closed societies. There was no historically established prosperous bourgeoisie which could have been the natural consumer and supporter of works of art and, moreover, the educational level of the people did not help their favourable reception.

These conditions, as well as the national liberation struggle of 1955–59, contributed to the complete isolation of the island and kept closed the lines of any artistic communication with the European centres of contemporary art and the new artistic currents which had begun to dominate the international artistic scene. The few artists who lived in Cyprus remained confined to the teachings of the Schools of Fine Art at which they had studied and especially to representational currents, and produced works which are characterised by trends which range from academicism to the movements of historical modernism.

The decade of the 1960s: the break of the old with the new and the prevalence of a new concept of art

This situation was to change radically after independence in 1960. According to the Constitution of the newly-founded state, education, culture and religion were not the concern of the central government but were to be directly handled by the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities through their respective Communal Chambers.

After the intercommunal clashes which began in December 1963 and the withdrawal of the Turkish Cypriots from the government, Communal Chambers were dissolved. As a result the Ministry of Education was created in 1965 and the cultural development of Cyprus was entrusted to the Ministry's Cultural Services department. The interest of the State in letters and the arts gradually became institutionalised in order to serve a specific cultural policy. At the same time, the Republic of Cyprus began to create the necessary institutions which

would allow it to function as an independent state. The contribution of foreign embassies and particularly of the cultural sections or centres which some of them created, proved essential to the first opening up of Cyprus to contemporary western culture. The creation of the Ministry of Education and its department of Cultural Services gave new impetus to the visual arts scene in Cyprus, particularly as regards the projection of Cypriot art abroad, with the participation in various international exhibitions and biennials and the organisation abroad of exhibitions of the work of Cypriot artists. With the contribution of Tony Spiteris (then General Secretary of the International Union of Art Critics and advisor on art to the government), Cyprus became linked to major artistic events. Spiteris was conversant with the contemporary artistic trends and the spirit of quest which prevailed at international art exhibitions and, as was natural and to be expected, embraced a small group of young artists whose work represented the new trends on the island, reflected the same spirit and could be shown at these international openings, alongside the work of other contemporary artists. This attitude was also the cause for the first open clash between the new and the established in art.

The need of the young artists to keep in step with the new currents in the visual arts was completely justified and expected. Cyprus was now an independent state and its accession to Europe, where it naturally belonged, had to be actual and not just theoretical. This need was also gradually recognised by the State as one of the aims of state cultural policy, which changed towards the end of

the 1960s in order to serve the broader pursuits and interests of an independent state.

The fact that the vast majority of those studying art in the 1950s and 1960s were at British Schools of Fine Art contributed to the creation of this new climate. On their return to Cyprus after completing their studies, these artists looked to the future with the almost sole intent of harmonising their artistic vocabularies with those prevailing on the international art scene. They questioned the conventional, introduced new modes of expression, new techniques and new materials. The new concepts which prevailed gave a new direction in the development of the arts.

An important personality of this period was Christophoros Savva (1924 – 1968) who was the connecting link between the art which developed in Cyprus before and after independence. Savva studied first in London and then in Paris. He had a powerful artistic presence and the frequent exhibitions of his work functioned as a catalyst for the creation of artistic movement in Cyprus. At the start of his career he created representational works based on the teachings of the fauvists, cubists and expressionists. He went on, however, to embrace the abstract movements, contributing substantially to the exploration of the values of non-representational art. He was also a pioneer in exploring the expressive potentials of materials, exploiting in his art materials like sacking, sand, dust, wood, some ready-made objects and others. As well as the means, he also broadened the forms of his expression and, alongside his painting, engaged in sculpture, relief,

wall-painting, constructions and material collage. But whether he was using representational or a completely abstract language, a source of Savva's inspiration always remained the local material, the shapes, the colours and the light of his country.

In addition to his important work in art, Savva was also a cultural catalyst, gathering round him young people of the arts and letters, first by establishing in 1955 the Pancyprrian Union of Art Lovers and later, in 1960, the "Apophasis" gallery, which operated as a professional gallery and also as a cultural centre, organising a large number of cultural events.

It was at "Apophasis" that the first joint exhibition by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot artists was organised after the creation of the Republic of Cyprus. The Turkish Cypriot artists Djeveded Chagdash, Fikri Tirekoglou, Ismet Guney and Soferoglou took part in the exhibition. This exhibition received very favourable comments.

It should be noted here that the visual arts in the Turkish Cypriot community had followed a completely different course than in the Greek Cypriot community. The Islamic tradition, which forbade the depiction of figures, and the close relationship of the Turkish Cypriot community with Turkey, which was linked to European art after 1923, essentially slowed the development of contemporary visual arts in the Turkish Cypriot community. As a result, the Turkish Cypriot community produced very few artists in the 1960s. Apart from the four referred to previously, mention must be made of Ayhan Mentesh, who in 1962 exhibited at the Commonwealth Institute



Christoforos Savva, "The Poet's Tomb", oil and sand on sack, 60x79cm, (1962). Collection of Renos Siman.

in London together with Adamantios Diamantis, George Pol. Georghiou and Christophoros Savva. Also, in the State Collection of works of contemporary Cypriot art there are works by Yilmaz Hakeri and Hasan Amir which were purchased before 1974.

As we proceed to the end of the 1960s, the dominance of the new spirit in art is continuously strengthened. Among the first to embrace the abstract currents were Andreas Chrysochos (1929), and Stelios Votsis (1929-2012), who were interested in a new art, a vehicle of intellectual quests and values, ridding their painting of every kind of "atmosphere" and subjective references. Mikis Michaelides (1923-2015) moved over to abstraction very early on and from the beginning of the 1960s concentrated on the creation of relief sculptures and three dimensional works on stretched canvas. In the same period, Marios Loizides (1928-1989) would produce with a strict abstract geometric vocabulary, work which was the result of vision, while Vera Gavriolidou-Hadjida (1936-2012) produced work in which the abstraction is based on allusion and instinct, later going on to embrace movements such as post-painterly abstraction and op art. Katy Stephanidou (1925-2012), with constructivist forms as a starting point, would proceed to completely abstract painting, while Costas Ioachim focused his exploration on the development of fluid linear subjects. In 1972 he placed his painting in space, creating one of the first environmental works. An important role in the dominance of abstract discourse was played by two British artists who settled in Cyprus: Glyn Hughes (1931-2014) and John Corbidge (1935-2003).

Apart from the artists who studied in Britain, other artists who had studied in other European countries also turned to the abstract currents, for example Anna Constantinou (1947) who studied in Rome, Stella Michaelidou (1941) who studied in Athens and Paris, Mikis Phinikarides (1940-2005) who studied in Athens and Constantinos Yannikouris (1939) who studied in Paris.

As we approach the close of the 1960s, we see abstract visual discourse dominating. The artists adopted the geometrical vocabularies, minimal art, post-painterly abstraction, op art, constructivism, art informel, the hard edge and generally attached more importance to their artistic vocabulary and less to the subject. Also, their language of expression was enriched with new quests. Andreas Ladommatos (1940) produced at the end of the 1960s a series of constructivist reliefs and constructions to which he would later introduce movement, producing some of the first kinetic works (with an electric motor) and works with moving lights in Cypriot art.

Angelos Makrides (1942) and George Sfikas (1943) would take important steps in reducing to the minimum their means of expression and from the end of the decade of the 1960s would turn their attention to projecting the concepts which reside in the work of art, arriving even at statements where the concept is reduced to a work of art. Nikos Kouroushis (1937) was also occupied with constructions and with the exploration of the real space. In 1970 he presented his work "Action", which was completed by a performance in which the public participated. At the beginning of the decade of



Stelios Votsis, "Geometric", silkscreen print, 129x69cm, (1969). Collection of Yiorgos and Tonia Loizou.

the 1970s there were also the first happenings from Antonis Antonios and Glyn Hughes.

Beyond the abstract, geometrical and minimalist vocabularies, Cypriot artists also explored other forms of expression such as surrealism. Yiorgos Skotinos (1937) recast in a surrealist style images of the subconscious which are raked up together with primitive cultural symbols and primeval myths of the ancestral land. Rhea Bailey (1946) and Maria Tourou (1943) also expressed themselves with surrealist vocabulary.

In order to concentrate on the essential and archetypal, Stass Paraskos (1933-2014) consciously adopted an unsophisticated and naive artistic vocabulary with expressionist and fauvist forms and depicted in representational language subjects from history and the life of his country. At the same time, a group of artists continued along the paths which the fathers of Cypriot art had forged and with renewed representational forms painted the people and the landscape of Cyprus. Among these artists are Lefteris Economou (1930-2007), Costas Economou (1925), Eleni Harikleidou (1926-1978) and Dora Farmaka (1937).

The same course to abstraction was followed by Cypriot sculpture which was influenced for the most part by the trends and currents prevailing in Britain, the country where most of the sculptors studied. They were influenced in particular by the sculpture of the vital, organic, biomorphic form whose main



Emin Ciznel, "Spring", mixed media
on canvas, (2003).

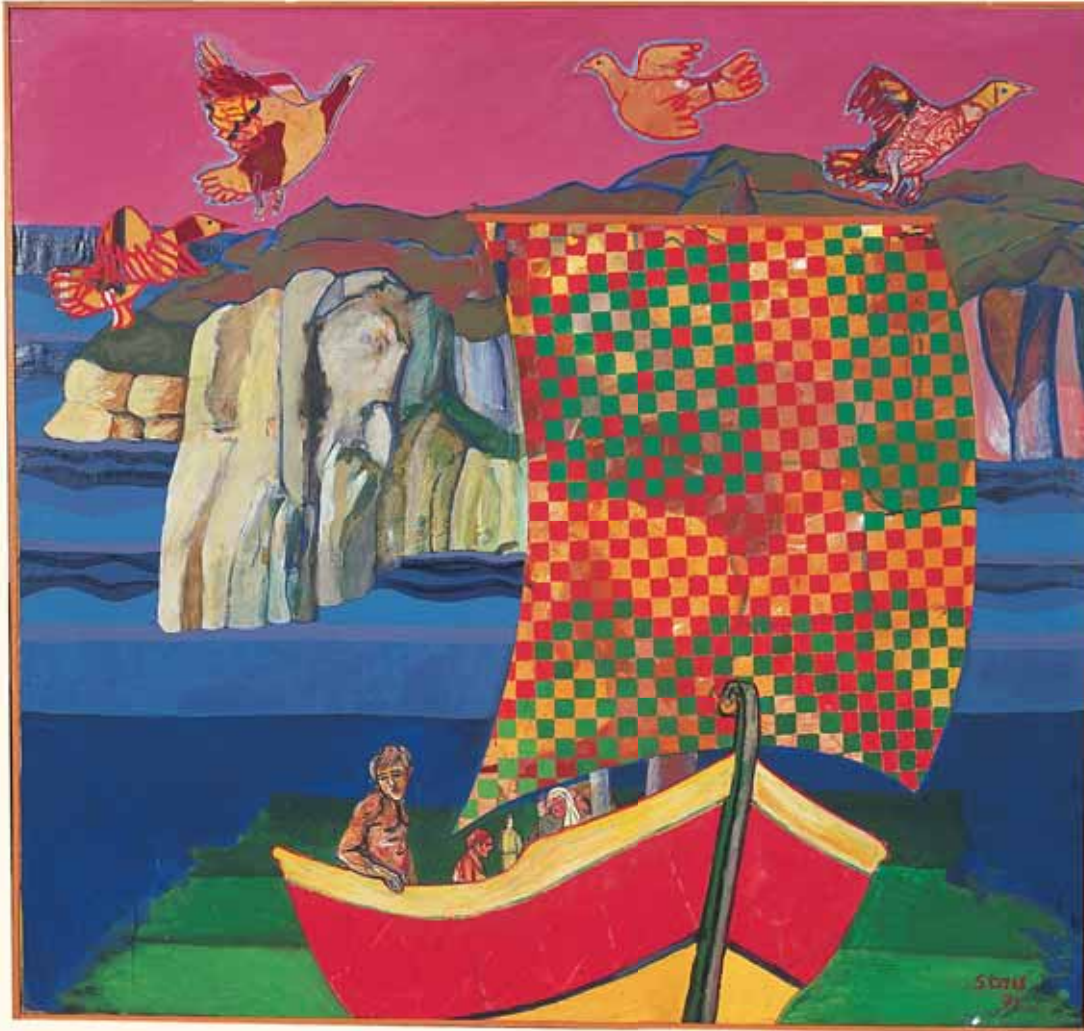


*Asik Mene, "Checkpoint", oil on
canvas, 150x200cm, (2004).*

culture
the visual
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*Nikos Kouroushis,
Performance, audience
participation.*



Stass Paraskos, "Liberty Abandons Cyprus", oil on canvas, 140x153cm, (1972).
Collection of Pefkios and Margarita Georgiades.

exponent was Henry Moore, by the sculpture of constructivism and by the simplified geometric shapes with coloured surfaces of the artists of the “New Generation”.

Andreas Savvides (1930), the first sculptor to study in London, would be influenced first by Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth and, later, from 1969, would produce a series of constructivist, minimalist works, based on the relationships of geometric shapes. With these brightly coloured sculptures he comes very close to the artists of the “New Generation” group. It is the same with George Sfikas (1943) who explores the relations of the space with absolute geometric shapes and colour. Later, Sfikas would concentrate on and express in Cyprus the values of conceptual art. Yiorgos Kyriakou (1940) would be interested first in biomorphic sculpture and then would draw his shapes from the traditional tools and the folk art in general of his native land.

Demetris Constantinou (1924-2010) would also move within the geometric vocabulary and the spirit of constructivism. He studied in Alexandria. In contrast, Andis Hadjiadamos (1936-1990) had as his starting point the organic world, biomorphic shapes and African art. Nikos Dymiotis (1930-1990), Andreas Farmakas (1938) and Aristides Anastasiades (1940-2014) would experiment with many types of sculpture, both realistic and abstract.

Among the sculptors mention should also be made of Valentinos Charalambous (1929), who engaged particularly in monumental ceramics, characterised

by the values of abstraction and by high technique.

The new trends which gradually began to appear at the beginning of the decade of the 1960s crystallised completely at the start of the 70s. The new artists were increasingly active and artistic movement intensified.

The 1970s: the course is overturned

This course was violently halted in July 1974 by the coup d'état against the elected president of Cyprus and by Turkey's military invasion of the island that followed. The new reality fundamentally changed the priorities of the government and the people.

Artistic and cultural life in general came to a standstill. Artists and creators in general were at a loss in the face of these events. The experiential relationship with the historic event would unavoidably overturn the course of Cypriot contemporary art. The world of art would be linked indirectly or directly, consciously or unconsciously, with it. The insistence on form in the shapes and on colour which characterised the new trends would be set aside, with interest returning to the subject and the message. The artist desired to communicate through the most easily comprehensible messages, to narrate, record, accuse. Many resorted to realistic forms of expression and others inserted representational themes among abstract motifs, often with symbolic connotations.

In the decade of the 1970s another change crystallised which concerned the country of study of

artists. Britain no longer monopolised the student of art, who turned to countries with which the Republic of Cyprus had developed friendly relations such as France, Italy, the Soviet Union and the communist countries of Eastern Europe. This trend would be strengthened after 1974, as a result of the scholarships and facilities which these countries gave to the Cypriot people who were suffering in the aftermath of the Turkish invasion and occupation. Greece, of course, continued to remain a very popular destination for study.

It must be mentioned that the Cypriot artists are compelled to study in schools abroad since Cyprus does not have a School of Fine Art. This was definitive in the shaping of the aesthetic identity of contemporary Cypriot art because it hindered the creation of a national school of art. At the same time, however, it helped significantly the opening of a continuous and fertile dialogue with European art. Cypriot artists studied in various aesthetic and ideological environments and on their return to Cyprus created their own artistic vocabulary, embarking on their course from different starting points.

The decade of the 1980s: plurality of stylistic and morphoplastic directions

A result of the increase in centres of study, the increased possibilities of artists participating in international art exhibitions and the easier access to information and knowledge, was the plurality of styles and morphoplastic directions, which is one of the main characteristics of the art which developed

during the 1980s. On their return to Cyprus, after completing their studies, the artists bonded with their historical-social reality, local artistic memories and tradition, the particularity of the light, the colour of the masses and shapes of the natural environment of Cyprus and later, after a creative osmosis with their acquired artistic knowledge, proceeded in search of their own artistic vocabulary.

The conversation between these exogenous and endogenous factors which is conducted at a personal level for each artist, determined the polymorphism which characterises contemporary Cypriot art. If we look at the works produced by the generation which completed their studies at the end of the 1960s and in the 1970s and 1980s, it is not difficult to discern the great broadening of morphoplastic developments of theoretical and aesthetic references and of the stimulating subject matter which substantially enriched Cypriot art.

In the history of contemporary Cypriot art, the decade of the 1980s must also be recorded as the one during which a real renewal of the artistic vocabulary is observed, as well as of the thematic and semantic content of the work of art. The artistic scene was enriched with new blood and a new dynamism in art was created. From the beginning of the 1980s, the majority of the artists returning to Cyprus were born in the 1950s and they reinstated in their own way the earlier demand of the artists of the 60s for renewal of the form of art and the redefinition of its values (Theodoulos Gregoriou, Maria Loizidou, Koula Savvidou, Ioannis, Glafkos Koumides, Hélène

Black, Eleni Nicodemou, Savvas Christodoulides, Stavros Antonopoulos and others).

Some of these artists gave importance to symbolism, to the inner energy and the expressiveness of materials, to the exploration of cultural values, philosophical thought and to the primitive myths. They exploited modern technologies, expressed themselves for the most part with constructions and installations in space and created works which re-shape contemporary reality and involve the viewer in a dialogue, provoking his critical thought.

From the middle of the 1980s Cyprus resumed its links with important international art events and participated in new ones, a fact which signalled the start of the presence of Cypriot artists on the international art scene, a presence which would go on to become more marked.

Redefinition of the values of art

The great national disaster of 1974 and the continuing political crisis affected and is still affecting significantly the trends, character, orientations and generally the values of contemporary Cypriot art. The external threats and the danger of national extinction led to the re-examination and redefinition of many social and individual ideologies and attitudes and also re-determined the stance of many artists vis à vis their personal creation. The continuation of the Cyprus political crisis, which intensified the need for preserving national characteristics, the crisis of values which art internationally was going through



Glafkos Koumides, "Bagatelle", wood, metal, naphtha-stain, 130x90x21 cm.



Hélène Black, "Strange Bedfellows"; cast aluminium, foam insulating material, plexiglass, 150x100x8cm, (2006). CYTA collection.

with the re-instatement of many principles and the reassessment of national particularities which took place in a new spirit without ethnocentricity and rejection of the foreign, forced a number of Cypriot artists to fall back on the sources of their own space, creatively activating local material. Thus, simultaneously with the subject matter, an aesthetic began to take shape which, in parallel with the acquisitions of western art, fertilised morphoplastically, and in particular, conceptually and symbolically, elements of the indigenous artistic memory. In its best realisations, this trend succeeded in producing works which, although characterised by a spirit of the place, have universal dimensions.

The turn, however, towards local material, now happened at a completely different level. There was no longer an equation of personal with group mythology, of individual with collective conscience, as there was in the past. The works no longer constitute the synopsis of the indigenous characteristics of the Cypriot space and so they have lost their monumental and their epic nature. All the process is now carried out at the conscious level of the creator, who expresses personal and no longer group mythologies. The shift in weight from the collective and external to the individual and internal is a more general principle which also characterises other major achievements of the Cypriot art of today. The piecemeal stirring up, through the indigenous iconoplastic memory, of images which function in order to express emotions of the present, the exploitation of archetypes, the use of old materials or objects with inner, eternal energy,

the approach to the subject through symbols, concepts, philosophical and scientific theories and their remoulding and expression consciously or automatically through the existential conscience of the creator, is one of the most interesting directions of the Cypriot visual art of the 1980s and 1990s.

Continuing this brief historical reading of the Cypriot contemporary art created in the 1980s and 1990s, we see yet another general trend crystallising with increasing clarity. The relationship between artistic creation and the destiny of the island, which intervenes actively, influences the young artist more or less obviously. The trials and tribulations the country was going through, the daily feeling of insecurity and suspense, the waiting and the uncertain tomorrow which were experienced at a conscious or unconscious level and which were reinforced by other pessimistic universal messages, created a spiritual anguish which was reflected in artistic creation as existential agony, as a dialogue between life and death. This trend linked Cypriot art with some prevailing forms of contemporary international art, which do not want artistic creation to be isolated but, involving it in a wider spectrum, transform it into reader, theoretician, exponent, "poet" and exorciser of the present and omen of the future.

The artistic vocabulary is being renewed and broadened continuously. From the middle of the 1980s a number of artists showed a particular preference for the exploration of the potential of materials and for the energy which the work of art creates. Thus, we had an increasing number of



Eleni Nicodemou, "Angels Syrtos Dance III", acrylic on canvas, 146x114cm, (2005). Private collection.

constructions and installations in space. Apart from Nicos Kouroushis, Angelos Markides and George Sfikas, who belonged to an older generation, several new artists renounced the illusion of the painting space in order to set their work in the real space, thus multiplying the stimuli of the viewer.

There were, however, a number of artists who continued to remain faithful to the values of

painting and of the two-dimensional picture. With various gestures and vocabularies which reveal their constant contact with the world-wide artistic scene, they produced their own mythologies. Many younger artists, born after 1970, also remained faithful to painting. They painted in a spirit of quest, trying to renew their morphoplastic language continuously. Also, a number of artists of the new generation used mixed media and experimented, in addition to painting, with photography, constructions, installations in space, video and new technology.

All these artists who set out in the 1980s are the main shapers of the Cypriot artistic scene of today.

The twenty-first century and the accession of Cyprus to the European Union

The twenty-first century opens up new prospects for contemporary Cypriot art. On 1 May 2004 Cyprus became a full member of the European Union. The Cypriot artist feels less and less isolated. The opportunities for collaboration with other European artists are multiplying. The Cypriot artist takes part in European art programmes and benefits substantially from the European Union policy on the mobility of artists and works of art within the European geographical space. Many artists are invited by major museums, international art organisations and well-known curators of exhibitions to show their work. Some of them are creating a career outside Cyprus as well.

The Cypriot artist is beginning, day by day, to feel a resident of Europe and to wish to share with

other Europeans common problems and visions. He wants to meet them, tries to empathise with their own socio-political problems, to recognise, over and above his cultural particularities, the values and the cultural elements he shares with them. He ascertains that many of the issues which occupy him are identical to those of his European colleagues and is becoming aware that Cyprus is a microcosm of many phenomena which are observed today on a European and world-wide scale.

Apart from the accession of Cyprus to the European Union, the twenty-first century is also characterised by another important event which affects artistic creation. In May 2003, the first of the road blocks dividing Cyprus since 1974 and Nicosia since 1963 opened. Communication – under certain conditions of course – between free Cyprus and the occupied areas is now possible. The young Cypriot artist is discovering the other “unknown” half of his country which for years was cut off, the lost part, the wound in the body of individual and national self-knowledge. He is also discovering, however, a truth to which he has to become reconciled. This “other half”, this piece of the country, of his national history and his personal roots, will perhaps remain a loss, an absence, forever. He has to respect the new political situation, to accept the altered face of the “other half”, to respect the new religious and social realities which colonisation by Turkey has created and at the same time to see the Turkish Cypriots as brothers. As inhabitants of the same motherland.

The subject matter of the artists has been affected decisively. However, although their work is frequently inspired by the politico-social and cultural particularities

of their country, it expresses universal anxieties, problems, visions, concepts and values which also occupy their European colleagues. In the thematology of the Cypriot artist are detected the situations he is experiencing and the feelings which inhabit him. The loss, violent deprivation, dismemberment, being a refugee, insecurity, traumatic memory, fragmentation, removal, the concept of borders, nostalgia, absence, uprooting. These subjects he shares of course with other European artists who have lived through similar experiences.

Apart from these themes which are linked to the politico-social particularities of his country and define his particular mentality, the Cypriot artist is also sensitive to other subjects which characterise contemporary societies and today occupy artists all over the planet. Subjects which flow from the quest for identity, the need for communication, alienation, difference, fluidity, the natural and intellectual environment, migration, globalisation, the lack of ecological conscience, extreme consumerism, the release from social and personal stereotypes, the role in and the relationship of art with society and politics occupy him in the same way as they do his European colleagues. Thus the local and the universal engage and define his work.

As regards the artistic vocabulary, there is no longer the distance and delay in time in the adoption of avant garde forms of expression as there was in the past. The Cypriot creator uses the same contemporary means and exploits technology as competently. The young artists express



Christos Foukaras, "St George", oil, 120x76cm, (1987).

themselves more and more with installations in space, happenings, performances, video or video installations, digital art and generally exploit all the means which new technologies offer them. Many show a preference for the work in progress, the open work with rich or, better, with open semiotics. Thus, the viewer is involved more and more in the completion of the work.

The abolition of some of the restrictions in the movement between the free and the occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus is bringing Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot artists together. They are discovering each other's art and are beginning to organise joint exhibitions. The Cyprus government supports financially and morally these joint endeavours. It is indicative that in 2007 Cyprus was represented at the Venice Biennale by the work of a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot artist.

A general finding in this brief, synoptic and unavoidably fragmentary reading of the art which has developed in Cyprus after 1960 till today is that the particular conditions of the island (historical, social, economic, cultural and geographical) played a definitive role in its character and particular identity. Indisputably, the Cypriot artist of today reveals to us his cultural and personal conscience and his experiential relationship with social and political events which he reshapes, recreates in open works of art, to involve the viewer as much as possible.

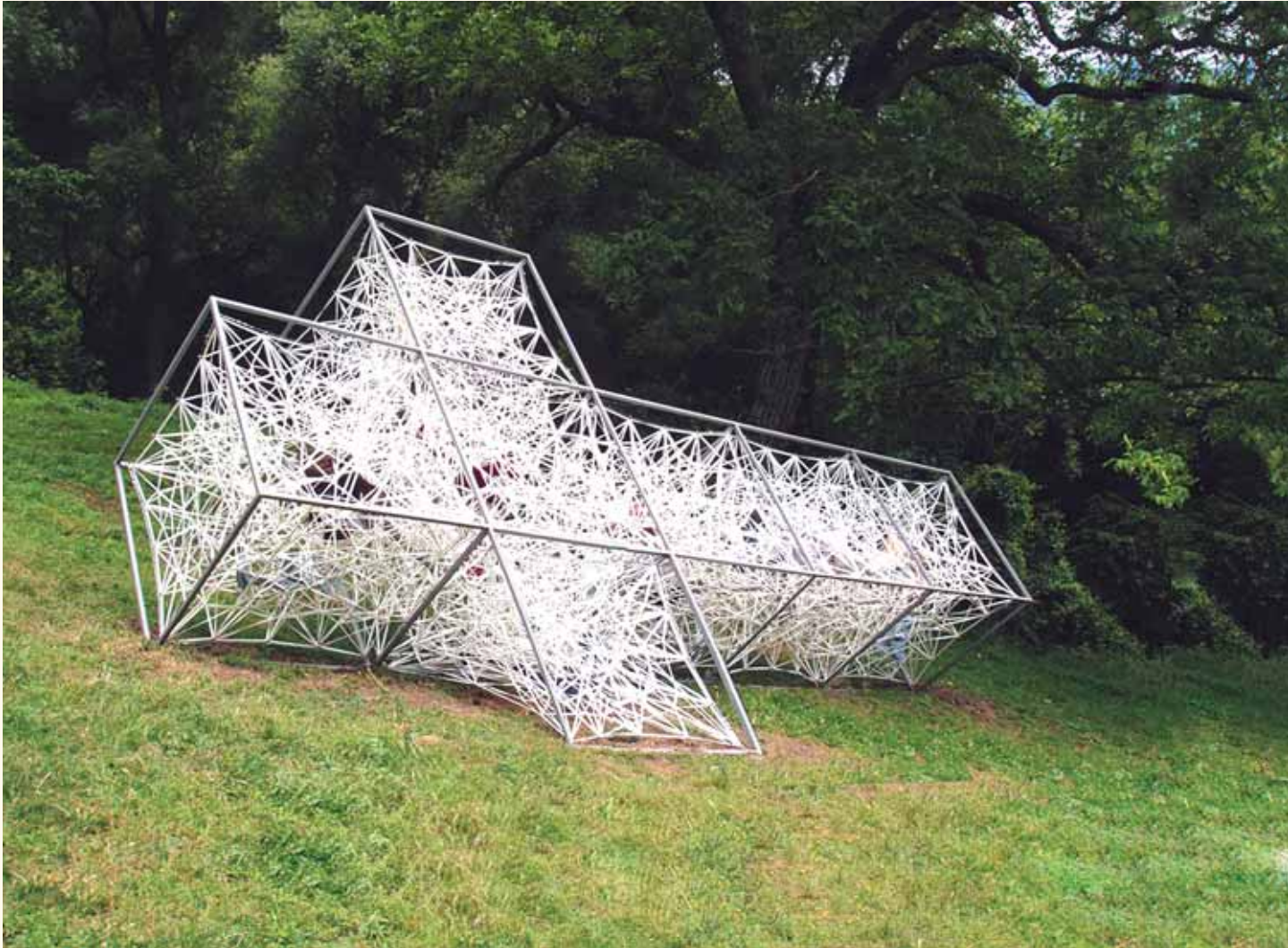
A second general finding is the breadth of the aesthetic and theoretical references which

distinguish the work of the Cypriot artist with which he still shows today the ability which he has had since antiquity for communication, dialogue with different cultural systems and also the ability to compose and create works with their own particularity and identity.

In conclusion, the special mark of Cypriot art today is its vitality and its power of renewal, characteristics which perhaps in the future will contribute to the redefining of the established relationship of the centre with the fringe.



A.G. Leventis Gallery. The Cyprus Collection.

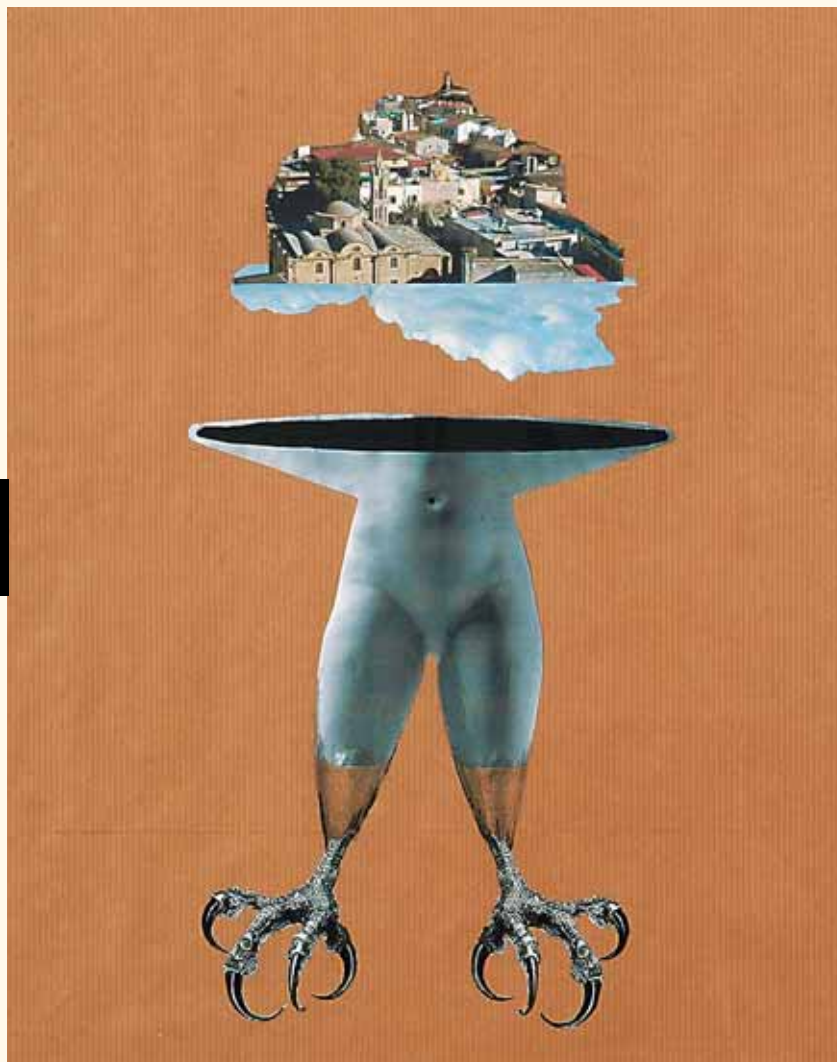


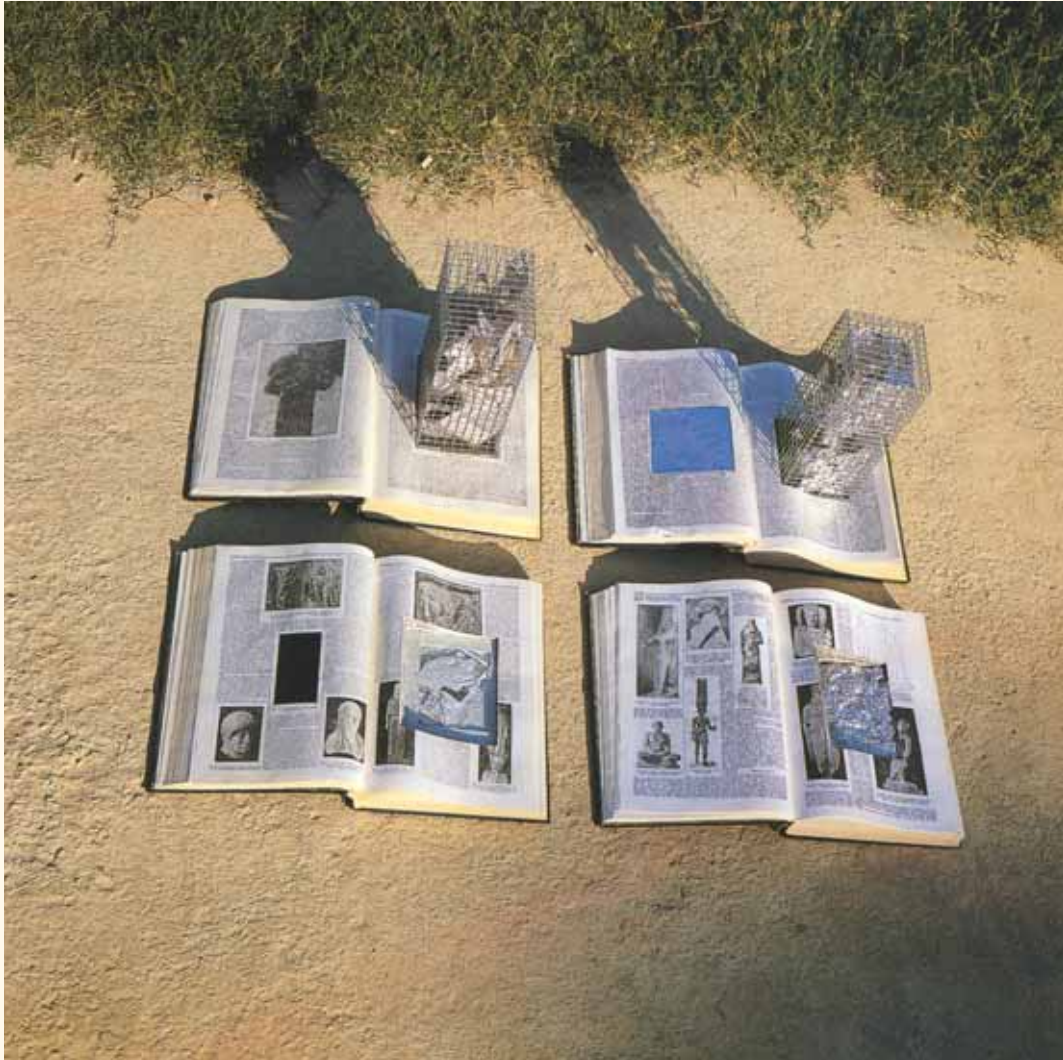
*Andreas Savva, "Martyrologio",
installation, (2009).*



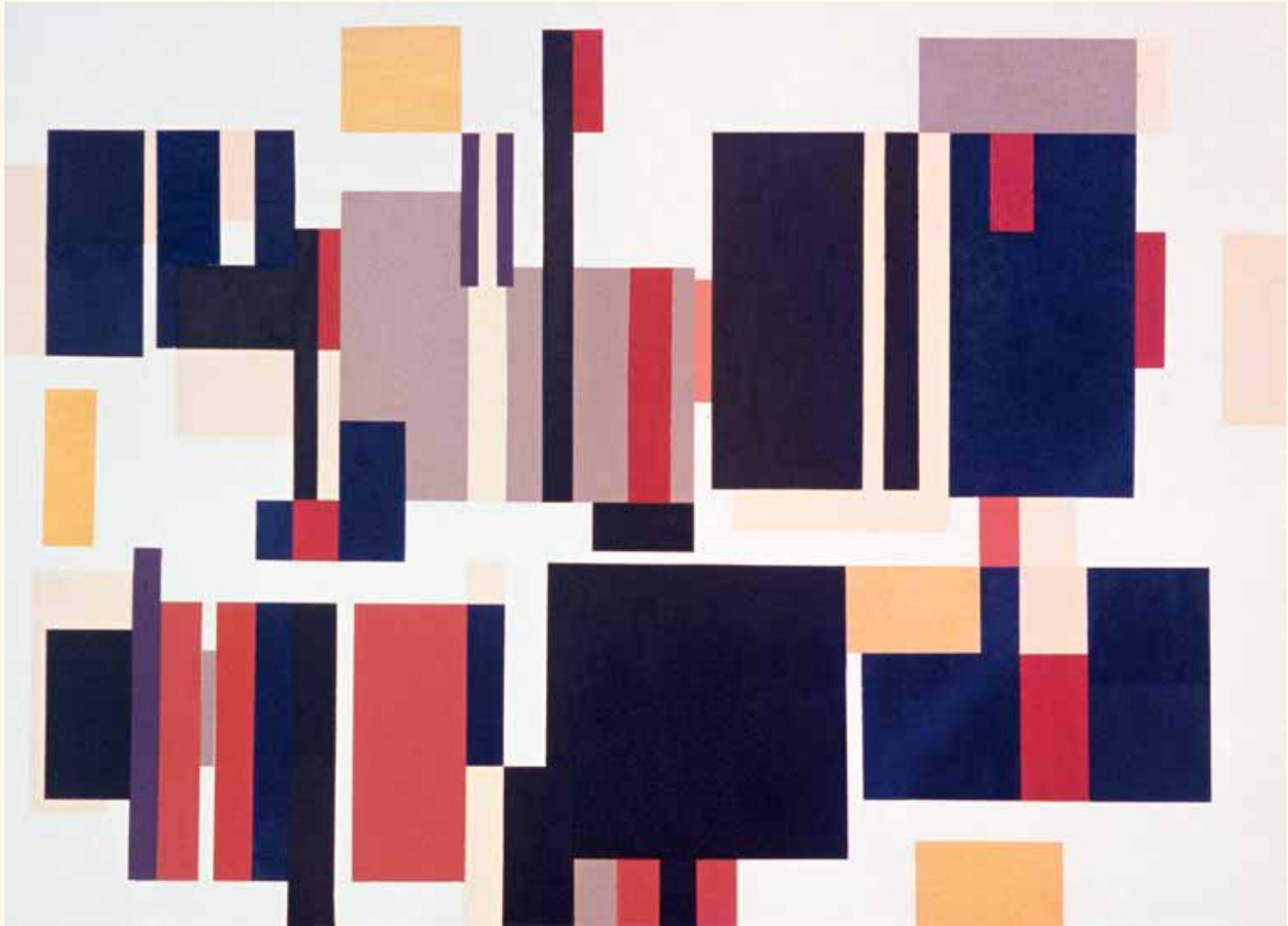
Nikos Charalambides, "The Sharing Project", installation, (2004).

*Melita Coua, "Urban
Legend", paper collage,
58x48cm, (2005).
Private collection.*





*Angelos Makrides,
"The Great Greek Encyclopedia",
mixed media, variable
dimensions, (1972).*



*Katy Stephanidou, Untitled
(Geometric Abstract), acrylic on
canvas, 110X150cm, (1972).
Private collection.*



*Yioula Hadjigeorgiou, "Labyrinth",
(from the series "Where is my Head?"),
installation, plexiglass pillar, head
cast, projection, motion apparatus,
200x30cm, (2003). State Collection of
Contemporary Cypriot Art.*



Lia Lapithi, "Recipe for Marinated Crushed Olives", video, 3 minutes, (2006).
Centre Pompidou collection, France.



*Theodoulos Gregoriou, "Système Global XII",
installation, Contemporary Art Centre, Nicosia.
5 spheres, 3 TV monitors glass, metal colour
earth, slide projection.*

CYPRUS IN THE VENICE BIENNALE OF VISUAL ARTS

Louli Michaelidou

The Venice Biennale of Contemporary Art was founded in 1895. It is the world's oldest international biennial and the only artistic event of this scale to maintain the system of national representations to this day.

As a young Republic, Cyprus participated in the Venice biennial for the first time in 1968, with six young artists: Christoforos Savva, Yiorgos Skotinos, George Kyriakou, Stelios Votsis, Costas Joachim and Andreas Chrysochos, presented some of the most pioneering work on the Cypriot scene at the time, reflecting its gradual infusion with various modernist movements. In the absence of a public institution for cultural affairs, this first exhibition was assigned to Tony Spiteris, a Greek art critic based in Venice, then acting as advisor to the Cyprus Republic, who set up the show inside a small storage space in the back of the Italian Pavilion.

1972 marked the last appearance of Cypriot artists in Venice before a long pause, due to the military invasion of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974. Although there was no official Cypriot participation that year, Costas Averkiou, Stelios Votsis, Nikos Kouroushis, Angelos Makrides and others contributed works to a specialised section of the biennial devoted to Engraving.

The comeback was made in 1986 with Maria Loizidou, and, with one exception in 1995, Cyprus




has since enjoyed an uninterrupted representation by some of its most prominent artists, like Angelos Makrides (1988), Theodoulos Gregoriou (1990), in *Aperto* – by invitation of the Biennial), Nikos Kouroushis (1990), Giorgos Sfikas (1993), Nikos Charalambidis, Lefteris Olympios, Theodoulos Gregoriou and Savvas Christodoulidis (1997), Glafkos Koumides (1999) and Andreas Karayan (2001). Up to this point, the artists were selected by an experts

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la Biennale di Venezia
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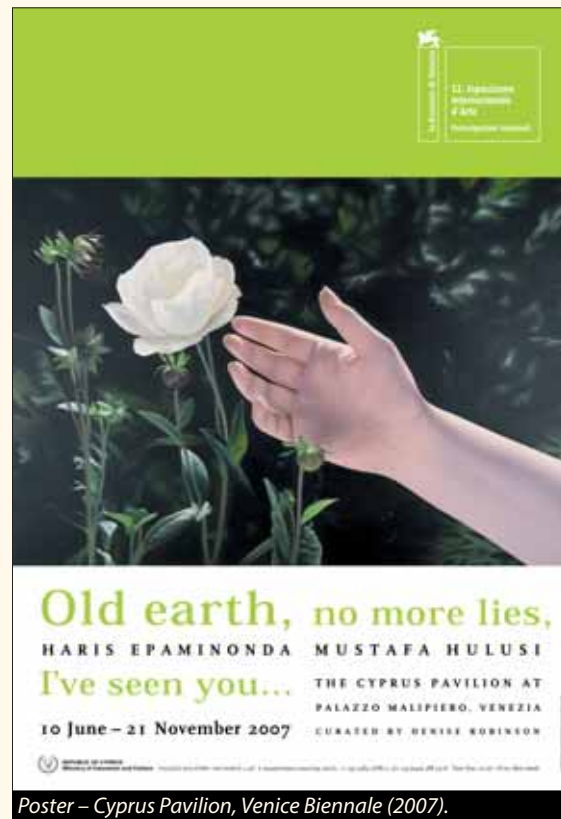
committee assigned by the Ministry. By the following edition, the notion of an open artistic competition was introduced, through which a curator of an international outlook and activity would be invited to select the participating artist(s). This change of policy aimed to enhance transparency, as well as upgrade the profile of the national pavilion and better promote the work of the artists abroad.

The venue has successfully hosted the Cypriot presentations in 2005 (Panayiotis Michael and Konstantia Sofokleous), 2007 (Haris Epaminonda and Mustafa Hulusi), 2009 (Socratis Socratous), 2011 (Marianna Christofides and Elizabeth Hoak-Doering), and 2015 (Christodoulos Panayiotou). In 2013, Cyprus collaborated with Lithuania for the presentation of a large-scale show entitled oO, featuring Cypriot and Lithuanian artists, as well as contributions by a number of international artists: Liudvikas Buklys, Gintaras Didžiapetris, Jason Dodge, Lia Haraki, Maria Hassabi, Phanos Kyriacou, Myriam Lefkowitz, Gabriel Lester, Elena Narbutaitė, Morten Norbye Halvorsen, Algirdas Šeškus, Dexter Sinister, Constantinos Taliotis, Kazys Varnelis, Natalie Yixi, Vytautė Žilinskaitė, and others. The joint project, housed in Palasport Arsenale (the Venice Municipal Sports Hall), was awarded a Special Mention by the international Jury of the 55th Venice Biennale for “an original curatorial format that brings together two countries in a singular experience”.

Today, around 60 countries exhibit in national pavilions in the Giardini and Arsenale, and many others in venues others around the city. The Venice Biennale currently attracts over half a million visitors, and continues to constitute the biggest and most important international event of contemporary art in which the Republic of Cyprus participates.

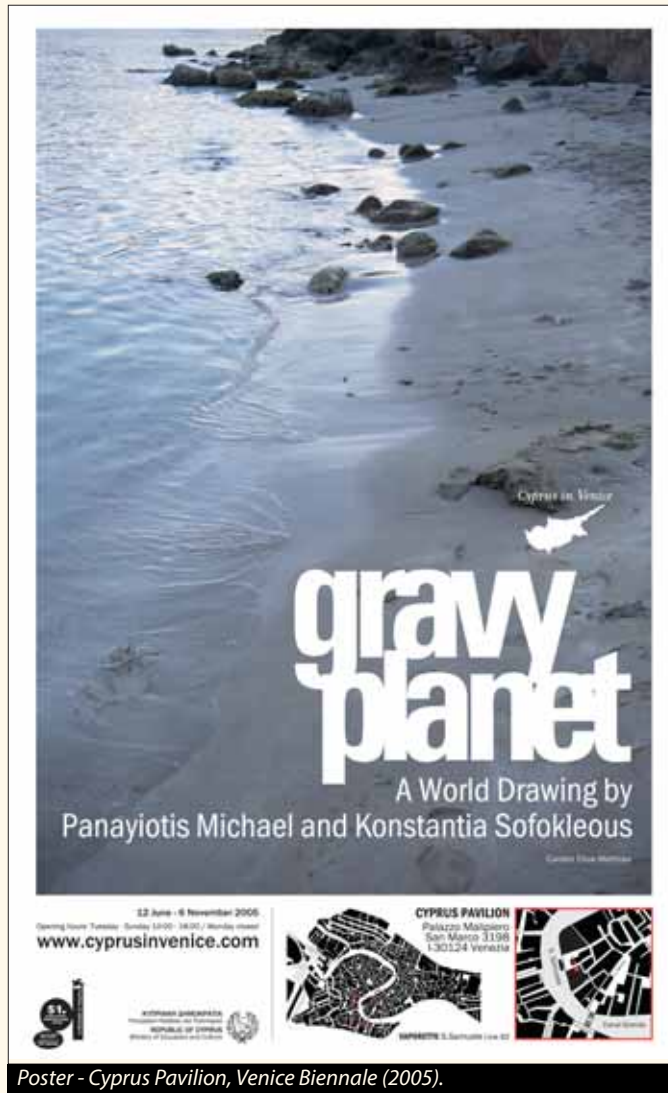


Poster – Cyprus Pavilion, Venice Biennale (2003).



Poster – Cyprus Pavilion, Venice Biennale (2007).

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Poster - Cyprus Pavilion, Venice Biennale (2005).



Poster - Cyprus Pavilion, Venice Biennale (2009).

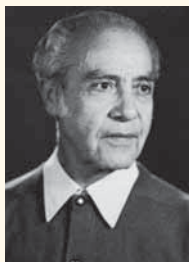


Thodosis Pierides

LITERATURE: AN OVERVIEW GREEK CYPRIOT LITERATURE

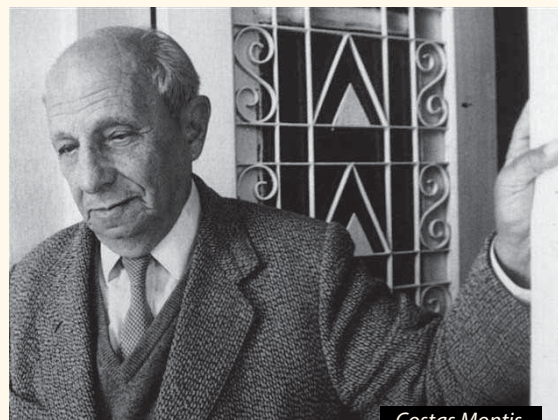
Lefkios Zafiriou

The official proclamation of the Republic of Cyprus on 16 August 1960 marks a new period for literature. The historical conditions, the almost belligerent atmosphere from 1963 till the invasion by Turkey in 1974, with its tragic consequences, had a direct influence on literary creation. The magazines *Pnevmatiki Kypros*, *Kypriaka Chronika*, *Nea Epochi* and *Epitheorisis Logou kai Technis* were the literary publications at the start of the new state. In *Kypriaka Chronika* in particular, young authors collaborated to produce work orientated to modernistic quests. Limited space does not permit the analytical presentation of more authors and their work and, instead of an extensive list of names, it was thought preferable to concentrate in this article on writers who in the main appear after 1960 and who together make up the “canon” of contemporary Cypriot literature.



Giorgos Philippou
Pierides

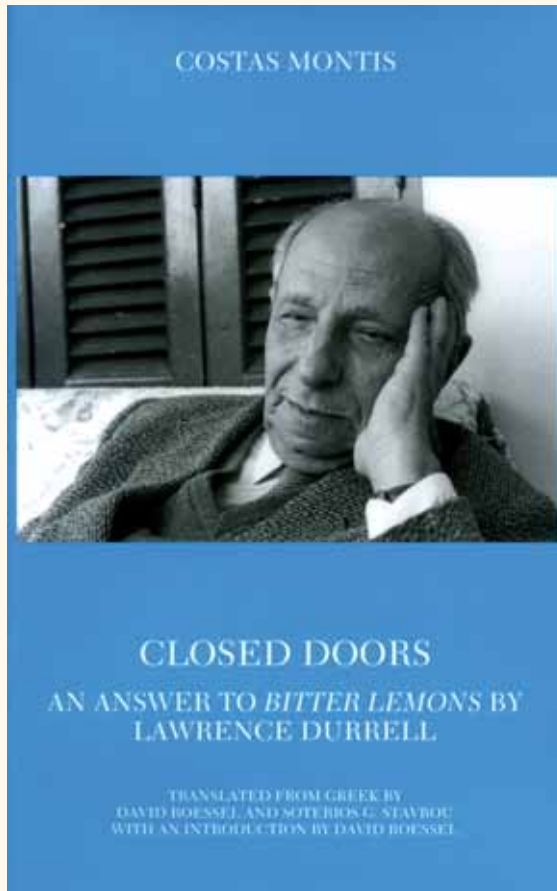
In the late period of British rule, Nicos Nicolaides (1884-1956) stands out with his prose, avant-garde for the era in which it was written, and so does Loukis Akritas (1909-1964) with his remarkable narrative work. Glafkos Alithersis (1897-1965) is the first poet to produce work worthy of note in the Pan-Hellenic community, while Tefkros Anthias (1903-1968) and Thodosis Pierides (1908-1968) continue from the inter-war period to write their socially committed poetry. In Th. Pierides' *Daydreaming on the Walls of Famagusta* (1965), the poetic narrative focuses on the history of the island as well as on the poetic



Costas Montis

struggles and quests of the creator himself. Nicos Vrahimis (1914-1961), with his innovative prose and Manos Kralis (1914-1989) with his poetry orientate Cypriot literature towards new horizons. Two writers, Giorgos Philippou Pierides (1904-1999) and Costas Montis (1914-2004), appear at this time and will go on to achieve remarkable work.

C. Montis, with three collections of poetry (*Moments* 1958, *Supplement to Moments* 1960 and *Poetry of Costas Montis* 1962) finalises the modernistic orientation in his poetry. The moments, poems of a few lines of transformed philosophical thought, constitute, as Alexis Zeras writes, a quite subversive contribution to the shaping of the poetics of the fragment. The collections of poems *Letter to Mother and Other Verses* (1965) and *Second Letter to Mother* (1972) are consummate achievements. In *Second Letter to Mother* in particular, the poetic discourse is expressed as a distillation of pain experienced at a



personal and collective level and describes the depth of the human ordeal with accuracy and originality. His later collections garner a mature poetic harvest, where with originality he records aspects of contemporary life and history with humour, irony

and hyperbole. The collective national experience and his personal experience co-exist in his poetry with expressive accuracy and originality. In his work he gives voice in a unique manner to contemporary Cypriot anguish within the bounds of a human dimension and ethos. It is not fortuitous in any case that the sorrow of Cyprus also exists very clearly in his prose works. With his novella *Closed Doors* (1964) – a reply to Durrell’s *Bitter Lemons* – his idiosyncratic modernistic narrative discourse acquires recognition through the distilled personal knowledge of the experience of the anti-colonial liberation struggle of 1955-1959 with linguistic and narrative vividness. In his novel *Mr Battistas and the Others* he succeeds in linking the present and the past through autobiographical and historical flashbacks in which legends and popular tales are intertwined. The poems in the Cypriot vernacular give a special note to his work.

Pantelis Mechanikos (1926-1979) was a poet of only a few poems. From the time when he started writing in 1957 until *Deposition* (1975), he moves in the climate of controversy. The poet-narrator, with satire and sarcasm, expresses anguish and stress, while in the quest for existential redemption the consciousness of the tragic aspect of history in his native land leads him to a more direct use of the language – raw quite often. Already from 1957, the title of his first collection *Deviations* hints at the diversification of Mechanikos as regards quests for themes and modes of expression, while with *The Two Mountains*, where the tragic sense of recent history is apparent, the poetic discourse acquires clearer expression. In *Deposition* (where the persona of



Pantelis Mechanikos

Rimacho is used in a new poetic interpretation) he proceeded to an assessment of the Cyprus tragedy in strongly critical discourse and with anger and irony as the chief characteristics. Apart from the first poem in the collection, "*Ode to a Dead Young Turk*" written in April 1964, the rest constitute a poetic unity where the anguished tone of a bitter lyricism comes out indisputably as also the ultimate political protest.



Theodosios Nicolaou

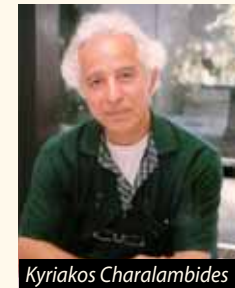
Theodosios Nicolaou (1930-2004), in a distilled poetic discourse blends the bitter historical facts and the metaphysical quest in perfect lyrical poems. In his collections *Acta* (1980), *Images* (1988) and *The House* (1993, 2002), the poetic maturity through discourse which is plain and familiar leads to a contemplative viewing of things with linguistic immediacy and undecorated style its main traits. Moreover, his personal experiences, in combination with the collective ones of his native land, end up in poems in which the essential and the crucial comes first. The existential anguish, memory, love and Cyprus are the basic elements of the poetic mythology of Nicolaou. His last poetic composition stands out for its pointed and accurate language. In general, his poetry, abstract, contemplative and unadorned, marks with its modernistic orientation an earthly discourse despite its metaphysical wrappings.

Andreas Pastellas (1932-2013) voices in his first collection of poems *Space of Diaspora* (1970) the frustrations of his generation in the first years of independence, after the 1955-59 freedom struggle. The allegory, satire and irony reveal, behind a feigned complacency, the alienation. In the collection

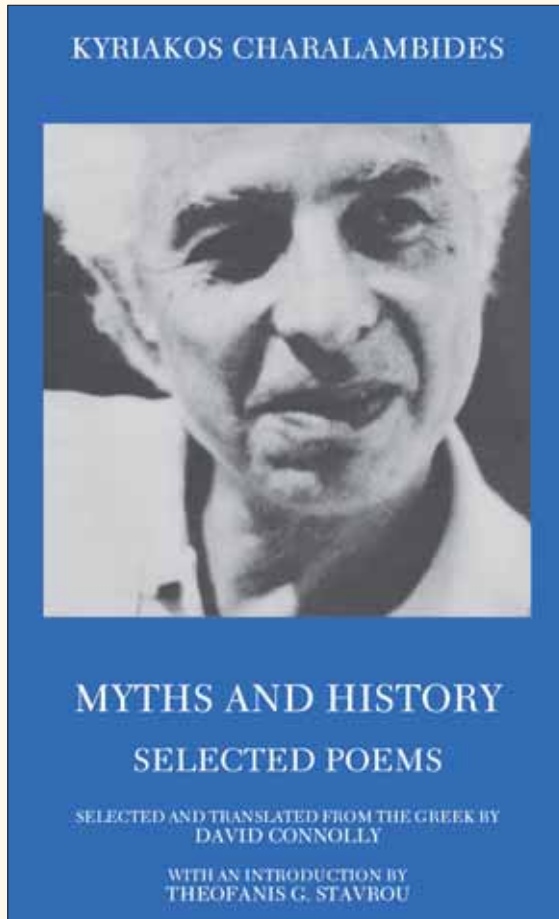
Posthumously Defrocked (1975) the accurate critical glance, in sarcastic vein, pre-supposes a human attitude which arises as the counterpoint to the disorientation of society.

Phivos Stavrides (1938-2012) in the collection *Demystification* (1978) criticises in an angry voice the apathy in the face of the tragic reality after the Turkish invasion. With its immediacy and succinctness, with influences from M. Anagnostakis, his poetry is expressed as social and political protest. In the collection *Third Person* (1992), deviating from his earlier poetry, he crystallises a mature writing, assimilating fertile influences from C.P.Cavafy and other poets.

Kyriakos Charalambides (1940) already produces seminal poetry in his first collections. In the collection *The Vase with Designs* (1973) the epigrammatic discourse, with the inventiveness/ originality and the humour, characterises the singular lyric voice of the poet, who contemplates in depth his contemporary historical reality and anxiety. The persona of Rimacho acquires special interest in his poetry and for modern Cypriot poetry as well. The poems of the collection *Achaean Shore* (1977) mainly have the tragic events of 1974 as the central theme. The lyricism and the irony with dense discourse weave the heart-rending confession of the poet. The bitter taste of the war and its consequences



Kyriakos Charalambides



are also present in the collection *Famagusta Regal Capital* (1982). The lyrical narrative, focusing on occupied Famagusta, lays bare the tragedy of Cyprus

with realistic description. In *Metahistory* (1995), too, turning Cavafy and Seferis to fruitful use, the mature and pregnant poetic discourse depicts contemporary reality with a plethora of symbols and rhythms. Apart from the drama of the missing (*Dome*, 1989), in his subsequent collections as well Charalambides describes the drama of Cyprus with references to myth and to history (*Dokimin*, 2000), giving ecumenical extensions to his poetry, while in *Quince Apple* (2006) Cavafian irony and the settled mature voice are the primary characteristics of a poetry with rare originality and linguistic profundity.

Costas Vassiliou (1939), with sarcasm and expressive boldness, is sharply critical in his collections *Porphyras* (1978) and *The Annunciation of Lygeri* (1988). Through a personal mythology, the poetic discourse of Vassiliou expresses the recent tragedy in a singular harsh lyric tone, while the unvarnished view of contemporary Cypriot reality is characterised by intense non-conformity. The poet chooses mainly biblical rhetoric, as has been noted by the critics, to project the machinery of alienation and de-Hellenisation in a denunciatory manner. A particularly interesting aspect of his work is the development of the persona of Rimachou. In other collections also, *Pieta* (1987) and *Lambousa* (1996), the poetic discourse deviates into the political accusation of whatever contributed to the overturning of the "World of Cyprus". In his last collections, in the Cypriot dialect, he attempts to elevate the vernacular into the space of poetry.

Pitsa Galazi (1940) expresses most frequently in poems of many lines the frustration of the

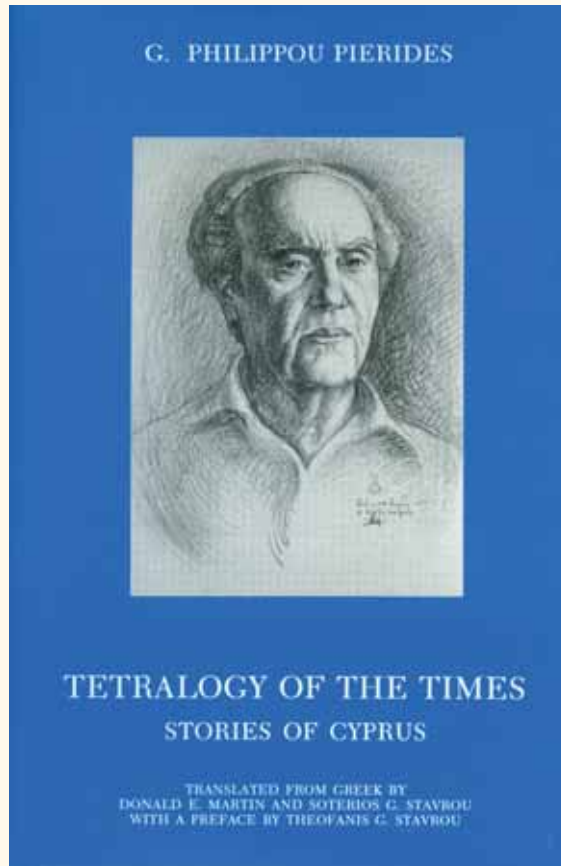
generation who experienced the anti-colonial uprising of 1955-59. The difficulties of adapting to a world removed from this climate leads her to a continuous poetic recreation of that period, particularly in the collections *Alexander's Sister* (1973), *Sleeplearning* (1978) and *Signallers* (1983). The memory operates in a dramatic way and the figures of the dead return expressively while the modernistic writing, with surrealist influences, merges a bitter lyricism, with plethoric discourse. In the poetic compositions *The Handsome Arthur or Arthur Rimbaud in Cyprus* (1991) and *The Birds of Efstathios and the Enclaved One* (1998) the political-historical and critical glance at the native space dominates.

Theoclis Kouyialis (1936). In the collection *Secret Burdens* (1971) the poetic discourse combines tender lyricism with human anguish. Later, in *Mythologion* (1981), his poetry is enriched both in expression and theme, with references to Leontios Makhairas and Pantelis Mechanikos, and turns critically, in satirical mood, to contemporary problems through mythmaking with a clear satirical element. In the collection *My Deftera* (1989) a swing to realistic writing is observed, projecting the human geography of his native space.

Michalis Pashiardis (1941) is a special case in the realm of Cypriot literature. He composes remarkable lyrical poetry. The spontaneous poetic vibration and an idiosyncrasy that is sensitive and sincere is diffused in his verses which stand out for their genuine inspiration. With *Dimensions* (1972)

he enriches his poetry as regards themes and expression and converses fruitfully with poets such as Nikiforos Vrettakos, Tassos Leivaditis, Yiannis Ritsos et al. The historical events in Greece and on the island are described in quite a number of the poems in the collection. The tragic experience of Cyprus lends a dramatic tone to his poetry in the collections *The Road of Poetry II* (1976) and *The Road of Poetry III* (1977). In his more recent collections, poems of a few lines predominate, a poetry of epigrammatic lyrical euphoria. Pashiardis has published quite a number of poems in the Cypriot vernacular which are characterised by an immediacy of expression.

Giorgos Philippou Pierides (1904-1999) lived till 1947 in Egypt and then in Cyprus, where he organised and directed, inter alia, the Famagusta Municipal Library. Four books of short stories which were published in the fifteen-year period 1963-1978 and which are characterised by firm writing, describe in a realistic manner the whole range of the historical-political and social reality on the island from the latter years of British rule till the Turkish invasion and its tragic consequences. *Tales of Difficulty* (1963), where the element of death emphasises dramatically the contradictions of the years of the anti-colonial liberation struggle, and *Times Immovable* (1966), where the picture is given of the closed urban society in the final years of colonial rule, portray the social environment in the years of British occupation. *Times of Affluence* contains short stories from penultimate Cyprus (1975) which are the prose of a mature creator. With a plain style and narrative immediacy, he records daily life through a



description of urban life in which the social climate appears vividly. The personae and the setting depict the closed urban society on the island. The affluence and the dreadful daily routine of the heroes make up the picture of a world enclaved in the already

looming tragedy. The subject matter is drawn from the contemporary reality of a static world where the political and social transformations do not leave scope for escape to real changes. *Times of Suffering* (1978) records the consequences of the coup d'état and the Turkish invasion.

Another prose writer, Theodoros Marsellos (1907-1991), known for *The Golden Mountains* (1947) and the novella *The Verger* (1958), gave in his later short stories the sense of the fleeting and a particular and unique psychological ability to penetrate (*The Thief in my House*, 1974). The unexpected and the inner world of the heroes are given in the novella *Utopia* (1981).

Ivi Meleagrou (1928) will give with her prose work the picture of contemporary Cyprus, making fruitful use of contemporary narrative technique. In the collection of short stories *Anonymous City* (1963) the modernistic writing presages her novels. The crossing of the tragic events of the history of the island, the climate of euphoria and the fragile course of the Cyprus problem will go on to lend a singular historicity to these works. The atmosphere of post-independence Cyprus from the summer of 1963 till the intercommunal clashes in December the same year, are given very convincingly in the novel *Eastern Mediterranean* (1969) and the narrative inventiveness is composed of flowing language. In *Penultimate Era* (1981) Meleagrou dissects Cypriot society with dramatic tone. The atmosphere shortly before the coup d'état and the political instability in the early years of the Republic of Cyprus are recast into literary



Ivi Meleagrou



Lina Solomonidou

material with innovative narrative techniques. *Penultimate Era* is a novel which stands out for the originality of its structure and narration and at the same time, with its political vividness, it is also a warning.

Lina Solomonidou (1924-2008), who had appeared in 1959-60 with two short stories under the pen-name of Alikí Lemezi, describes in her prose work with narrative immediacy views of contemporary life, projecting aspects of recent Cypriot history. The years of the anti-colonial liberation struggle are recast in the novel *Here Lies* (1964). *The Journey* (1969), with its singular writing and modern manner of expression, is written with vigour and tension and projects the blind alley of flight of the people. In her last book, *Cyprus – Experiences 1974* (1977), a unique, revealing testimony as Roger Millieux noted, the tragedy of Cyprus is depicted spherically through personal interviews of the people who lived through the events of 1974, as well as notes of the author and clippings from newspapers.

Christakis Georghiou (1929-2014) in two collections of short stories (*Parallels*, 1964 and *Cracks*, 1970) records realistically aspects of later colonial rule, the intercommunal clashes and, in short stories of the later collection, the existential impasses. With the novel *Hours 1950* (1980) the general atmosphere of the last years of British rule is graphically presented through the Nicosia prison, while in *Archipelago* (1990) the historical-social environment of the last years of British rule and the first years of the Republic of Cyprus is described.

Andis Hadjiadamos (1936-1990) creates in his work a utopian world where everything, animate and

inanimate, moves in the space of the absurd, the unexpected and the irrational with singular and non-conformist writing. The prose narrative in *Sknipoyiak* (1982) and *Krepello* (1987) presents the dream world of the author with subversive image-making, rich nomenclature and its connotations and the surrealist origin of this disguise. With his third book *Zanzouera* (1990), with verse and prose texts written for the most part in the Cypriot vernacular, the absurd aspect of life and the satirical projection of social pathology are described with renewed fun and linguistic overturnings.

Yiannis Katsouris (1935-2010) moves in a realistic climate in his first two collections of short stories, *Three Hours* (1966) and *The Fixed Point* (1973); contemporary life and its impasses appear with satire and humour in his work. The collection of short stories *Give us Today* (1979) is a remarkable testimony of the coup d'état and Turkey's 1974 military invasion. With sarcastic mood and expressive power he describes the context of the period. In his novel *Ascent of Stylianou* (1990), which gains effectiveness by suggestiveness, he records the historical-social reality in the years of the Second World War up to the inter-communal clashes of 1963 in a demystifying way, using humour and irony. Other novels by Katsouris are *Dear Uncle Michael* (2001), in which he describes in a demystified way, the adventures of the main hero, and *According to Evagoras and Evgenia or the Struggles of the Cuckold* (2009).



Yiannis Katsouris

Panos Ioannides (1935) in his collection *Cypriot Epics* (1979) depicts the society of the first years of the Republic of Cyprus, frequently with sarcasm and irony. The war and the post-war period are portrayed with firm technique in the collection of stories *The Unseen Aspect* (1979). In the book *Nicolas Kay, Journalist: True Parables* (1988) he debunks the complacency of a world which is tottering in the midst of frivolity and eudemonism. And in his novel *The Unbearable Patriotism of P.F.K.* (1989), which is set in the first years after the Turkish invasion in 1974, the sarcasm reaches its peak at the reception near the Green Line that divides the capital city of Nicosia. The complacency, the grotesqueness and the proposed solution of the Cyprus problem compose a thoroughly comic human geography with clear and accurate criticism of an alienated world which does not want or cannot take on its responsibilities.

Rina Katselli (1938) in the chronicle-testimony *Refugee in my Own Land* (1975) records her painful experience of the 1974 Turkish invasion in direct discourse, while in the novel *The Blue Whale* (1978) she expresses, with the original myth and the symbolic extensions, the anguish for Cyprus and its people. She is an author of many works at the centre of which lies her birthplace Kyrenia, now occupied by the Turkish army.

* * *

Author's note:

In a short article omissions are a problem, especially of people who contributed to the elevation of literature: Nikos Kranidiotis, Kypros Chrysanthis, Costas Proussis, Andreas Christofides and others. Also the absence of younger writers, mainly poets, and of prose writers, is a gap in this review of the literature of Cyprus.

TURKISH CYPRIOT LITERATURE

Gurgenç Korkmazel

THE 1960s

The euphoria of the declaration of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960 did not last long. The break-out of conflict between the two communities, naturally did not do any favours to Turkish Cypriot Literature. However, the production of poetry continued much more so than the short story or the novel.

In the mid-1960s, with the influence of the İkinci Yeni (modern Turkish poetry which they named the "Second new") in Turkey, a new movement began in Cyprus which is called Soyut Şiir (Abstract Poetry). Innovators of this movement were Kaya Çanca, Fikret Demirağ and Mehmet Kansu. These poets and writers, and others of the same generation (Süleyman Uluçamgil, Orbay Deliceirmak and Numan Ali Levent), complained that not enough written heritage had been left to them. (There were sources in the Ottoman language, but they could not read them. Also, because literature produced before them was influenced to a great degree by Turkish Literature produced in Turkey, they did not see it as an important heritage). Therefore, they tried to create this tradition (heritage) for themselves. They did everything with this in mind.

Kaya Çanca, perhaps the most original voice of his generation, published in the 1960s, before his death, his only two poetry books: *Eski Beste*, 1965 and *Y.Sokağı*, 1968.

Also Taner Baybars (1936-2010), published his first poetry book in Turkish, but consequently settled in England, and from 1963 wrote his poems and novels in English.



Fikret Demirağ

During these years, the most well-known writers, as far as quality and productivity is concerned, were: Özker Yaşın and Fikret Demirağ. Later, Özker Yaşın chose to write ultra nationalist books. Fikret Demirağ, however, preserved his conciliatory stance and never created his poetry from the materials of the war.

Again, in these years, important names were Hikmet Afif Mapolar (1919-1989) who since the 1930s published short-stories and novels; and Numan Ali Levent (1935-2001), playwright and short story writer.

The 1970s

Great social changes, like the continuation of conflict, enclaves, troops from Turkey landing on the island in 1974, the wave of migration and other reasons gave a new direction to Turkish Cypriot Literature.

Ironically, while these changes were happening on the island, '*Toplumcu Şiir*' (Socialist Poetry) again, which was over in Turkey, came to Cyprus. The most successful name of '*Toplumcu Şiir*' is Fikret Demirağ, who in the 1970s, published two important poetry books: *Ötme Keklik Ölürüm* (1972) and *Dayan Yüreğim* (1974). Besides him, another productive poet during these years is Osman Türkay, writing both in Turkish and English.

In the 1970s, leaving aside Fikret Demirağ, Mehmet Kansu and Zeki Ali, who published his first poetry book (*Bayan Mavi*, 1970), and Kaya Çanca (who committed suicide in 1973), almost all the Turkish Cypriot poets and writers living in Cyprus, wrote in a nationalist tone.

The 1980s

The 'Generation of 1974' or 'Rejection Front' which was formed by Mehmet Yaşın, Neşe Yaşın, Hakkı Yücel and Filiz Naldöven: Apart from the fact that they were against nationalism and militarism, it was the first time in Turkish Cypriot Literature that a generation began to hold up the Cypriot identity in their speech and writing, and refer to Cyprus itself as their homeland, instead of Turkey. In this way, it is the first time that a movement came not from Turkey but began within Cyprus.

Fikret Demirağ, adjusting his poetry to all these changes, is also influenced by this movement. In his new poetry he makes more intense use of the ancient history and mythology of Cyprus.

Özden Selenge, who in her short stories and novels writes about the disappearance of rural life and traditional values, publishes her first short-story book: *Çiçeklenmeliyiz Biz Erik Ağacı* (1987). Also, Feriha Altıok, Ümit Inatçı and Tamer Öncü publish their first poetry books in the 1980s.

The 1990s

Poets and writers like Gür Genç, Faize Özdemirciler, Jenan Selçuk and Ridvan Arifoğlu, who belong to the generation of the 1990s continue to 'reject' nationalism and militarism. Their poetry is more provocative, atheist, anarchist, and against the establishment. And, contrary to the identity crisis and traumatic writing of the 'Rejection Front', they bring a new perspective of multi-identity and humour to Turkish Cypriot Literature. Also, they

accept as part of their heritage, some poets/writers who were denied by the 'Rejection Front'. Especially, Gür Genç and Jenan Selçuk, use sexuality in their writing, sometimes to the degree of pornography.

In the mid-1990s Mehmet Yaşın and Derviş Zaim publish their first novels in Istanbul and both of them are awarded prizes.

Conclusion

Since the beginning, in all periods, Cypriot Turks have produced more poetry than any other kind of literature.

We can say that especially during the last fifty years, we see more island and Mediterranean culture in Turkish Cypriot Literature. Probably, this is the main difference from Turkish Literature in Turkey, generally, and it is a common base between Greek and Turkish Cypriot Literature.

In these years, Emre İleri and Senem Gökel in poetry, Mehmet Arap in the short story and Cengiz Erdem in novel, who in three years has published three philosophical novels, can be named as the most promising newcomers.

By way of conclusion, I offer a quotation from Fikret Demirağ: "On this small island of the East Mediterranean, there is a Turkish poetry, which is finally free from the centre, which has formed its own 'island' and began to connect to the poetry of the world!"



THEATRE*

Dr Andri Constantinou

There are indications of theatrical activity in Cyprus in ancient times but there has been very little research into the theatre of that period. Four ancient theatres have survived. These theatres date back to the Hellenistic and Roman eras and are situated across the island, at Salamis, Soloi, Kourion and Pafos. A religious drama from the Byzantine period, called *The Cypriot Cycle of the Passion* has been preserved but it has no connection with a stage performance.

We have clear evidence of theatrical activity from the second half of the nineteenth century. During the last years of Ottoman rule, few and far between performances by Cypriot amateurs and Greek touring troupes took place. After 1878, when power was transferred to the British, the number of foreign companies visiting Cyprus increased, more amateur theatre groups were established as associations and there were quite a number of school performances of ancient drama. During the last decades of the nineteenth century the first examples of playwrighting appeared in modern Cyprus, mainly on historical subjects. The first landmark in the history of theatre in Cyprus was the completion in 1899 of the Papadopoulos Theatre in Nicosia, an

impressive theatre building, by Cyprus standards, built on the model of large theatres in Europe. Unfortunately, the theatre was demolished at the end of the 1960s.

Dramatics were also developed at the beginning of the twentieth century by groups of Turkish Cypriots. Initially the Turkish Cypriot theatre was based on traditional Turkish theatre, i.e. performances such as Karagiozis and popular forms of impromptu comedy, but later followed models of the western theatre. The first modern work was staged in 1908 and was called *Vatan Yahut Silistre* [Homeland or Silistria] by Namik Kemal.

A milestone in the theatrical life of Cyprus was the *Pafitiki Epitheorisi* [Pafian Revue], staged in 1918 in the small town of Pafos by the pioneers Sotirakis and Kostas Markidis. It was clearly influenced by the Athenian revue. The production went on tour to other towns and two more versions were performed in the following years. These performances signalled the passage from non-artistic amateur theatre at national or charity events to theatre interested in art and entertainment, and in this specific case in satire. The Revue later flourished in Limassol and Larnaka, while it was Nicosia's turn in 1938, with the Mousiki Skini Lefkosias [Nicosia Musical Stage].

**The presentation of the Greek Cypriot theatre is based on research by the author and on the relevant bibliography. We refer to the Turkish Cypriot theatre in short parenthetical paragraphs, due to the fact that the sole bibliography in Greek consists of articles in the magazine *Epi Skinis* [On Stage] and chiefly in the *Theatre Diary* of 2009 of the Limassol Theatrical Course dedicated to the subject of the Turkish Cypriot Theatre. Relevant information was drawn from the article of Yasar Ersoy in the publication in question.*





*"The Suppliants" by Euripides,
THOC production (1978).*



"Don Camillo" by Giovanni Guareschi–Sotiris Pantatzis, OTHAC production (1965).

In the years between the world wars, the theatre of labour associations and organisations left its mark, while in the 1940s and especially during World War II, Cypriot theatre began to acquire more professionalism. The theatre companies Lyriko [Lyric], Neo Lyriko [New Lyric], Enosi Kallitechnon [Artists' Union], Orpheas and Prometheas, with the collaboration of directors from Greece, such as Angelos Vazas, Adamantios Lemos and Kostis Michaelides, marked a short-lived climax and contributed decisively to the development of the theatre.

As far as playwrighting up to 1960 is concerned, not only poetic dramas but also realistic plays on social issues were written, whilst interesting examples of satire also exist. Other notable works include those of Evgenios Zinonos (*O Dikigoros* [The Lawyer]), Tefkros Anthias (*I Dimoprasia* [The Auction]) and Demetris Demetriades or Dorian (*O Apogonos* [The Descendant]). Reference should also be made to the plays of A.A. Georgiades-Kyproleontas (*Mia Nychtasto Hani* [A Night at the Inn]) and *I Zoi en Tafo* [Life in the Tomb]) and Loukis Akritas (Omirioi [Hostages]). However, the greater part of the plays written during the period between 1940 until 1974 consists of works in the Cypriot dialect on subjects derived from rural life.

One of the first examples of ethnography is *I agapitis Marikkous* [The Love of Marikkou] by Kyriakos Akathiotis (1938), performed many times by professional and amateur troupes.



"Ach Moustafa" by Costas Montis, United Artists production (1960).

Cypriot ethnography often contains music and songs and the spectacle often includes traditional dances. The first example of this type of comedy is *To Oneiro tou Tzypri tou Lefkariti* [The Dream of Tzypri Lefkaritis] by Kostas Harakis with music and songs by Achilleas Lymbourides. With this performance in 1951, the Kypriako Theatro [Cypriot Theatre] embarked on its course and went on to develop rich activity until 1961. A key figure was the popular comedian Nikos Pantelides. In the 1950s Kypriaki Skini [Cypriot Stage] and Enomenoi Kallitechnes [United Artists] also appeared, led by Vladimiros Kafkarides, and there were also some performances of operas. These theatre companies were based in Nicosia while in Limassol groups of experienced amateurs enlivened the life of the theatre under the direction of Keimis Raftopoulos.



"Stallerhof" by Franz Xaver Kroetz, ETHAL Theatre production (2014).

Plays in Turkish, including Turkish operetta, were produced during the 1920s and 1930s in the theatres of Beliğ Paşa, Papadopoulos and Magic Palace. During the 1930s and 1940s Turkish Cypriot athletic and rural organisations successfully developed theatre activity.

With Cyprus' independence, an impressively dynamic period ensued in theatre: many companies appeared and a multitude of productions was produced during each theatrical season. Professional theatre in Cyprus was established and began to mature. Artistic demands increased, a lot of actors pursued theatrical studies and almost all of them could make their living from acting. The companies which decisively contributed to the development of the theatre in Cyprus during the first years of independence were the Theatro Technis [Arts Theatre], the OTHAK [Organisation of Theatrical Development in Cyprus], the Theatro RIK [Theatre of the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC)] and the Peiramatikí Skini [Experimental Stage].

The Theatro Technis (1961-1962) was an effort to rejuvenate theatre by very young actors, including Nicos Charalambous and Stelios Kafkarides and the director Thanos Sakketas. OTHAC (1961-1968) began with ambitious plans and a demanding repertoire and was the first theatre group to receive a state subsidy. Its first director, Kostis Michaelides was followed by Yiorgos Filis. After 1964, OTHAC turned to revue, Greek farce and Cypriot ethnography. In 1969, the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation founded

a theatre company that was known as the Theatrakí tou RIK [Little Theatre of CyBC]. It was supported by personalities such as Andreas Christofides and Evis Gavrielides. Through the dynamism of those who inspired it, the homogeneity and the zeal of the team and its bold repertoire, the company introduced high artistic standards to the Cypriot theatre life. Jenny Gaitanopoulou and Despina Bebedeli made their mark as leading actresses at the Theatrakí. The company broke up in 1971 following the foundation of the THOC [Cyprus Theatre Organisation]. A major contribution was made by the directors Nicos Shiafkalis and Vladimiro Kaskarides during the 1960s with the companies they founded and the performances they staged. Peiramatikí Skini [Experimental Stage] (1972-1974), founded by the young actors Costas Charalambides, Lenia Sorocou and Eftychios Poulaidis left its imprint through productions of pioneering work in small spaces and an emphasis on the art of acting.

As regards playwrighting following Cyprus' Independence, plays referring to the recent Anticolonial struggle of 1955-59, such as *O Anaxios* [The Unworthy] by Rina Katseli, and previous periods of Cyprus' history started to appear. The main volume of plays was ethnographical and mainly musical ethnographical comedies. The most important representative of ethnography was Michalis Pitsillidis, who introduces social issues in this tradition.

A particular case was that of Michalis Pasiardis whose work moves on the fringes of ethnography but is imbued with poetry. From independence





An exhibition of costumes and stage designs organised by the Cyprus Theatre Organisation in 2007.



"August: Osage County", by Tracy Letts, THOC production (2015).

up to the foundation of THOC in 1971, a plurality of writers produced work for pure entertainment, ethnographical comedy, revue and political satire. Some examples include Demetris Papademetris, Marcos Georgiou, Achilleas Lymbourides, Sotos Oritis, Anthos Rodinis, Savvas Savvides, Michalis Kyriakides and Andreas Potamitis. Other playwrights also tested their abilities with different forms and subjects. Examples include the polymorphous work of Panos Ioannides and the polygraph Eirena Ioannidou-Adamidou.

The Turkish Cypriot professional theatre company called *Ilk Sahne* [First Stage], was founded in

February 1963. In 1965, First Stage enjoyed the subsidy of the Turkish Cypriot Communal Chamber and was renamed Turkish Cypriot First Stage Theatre. The theatre group attracted a regular and devoted public. In 1971 the troupe *Altun Sahne* [Golden Stage] was founded, which also performed plays in the Turkish Cypriot dialect, such as the play of Kemal Tunç *Alikko ile Caher*.

The Cyprus Theatre Organisation (THOC) was founded in 1971. It is remarkable that Cyprus acquired its state theatre just eleven years after the declaration of independence. The first director of THOC was Nicos Chatziskos. In December 1972

ΕΥΡΙΠΙΔΗ

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ

01.07.15
ΑΡΧΑΙΟ ΩΔΕΙΟ
ΠΑΦΟΥ

03.07.15
ΑΡΧΑΙΟ ΘΕΑΤΡΟ
ΚΟΥΡΙΟΥ

12.07.15
ΑΜΦΙΘΕΑΤΡΟ
"ΤΟ ΣΚΑΛΙ"

ΑΠΟ ΤΑ ΜΕΣΑ
ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ
ΣΤΟ "ΘΕΑΤΡΟ
ΕΝΑ"

theatre



"Medea" by Evripides,
Theatre ENA production (2015).



θέατρο ένα

μαζί ο κόσμος
και το θέατρο
είναι ένα...



Μέγας Χορηγός:



ΜΕΤΑΦΡΑΣΗ: ΠΟΡΤΟΣ ΧΕΡΜΟΝΑΣ. ΔΙΔΑΣΚΕΥΗ: ΑΝΤΡΕΑΣ ΧΡΗΣΤΟΔΟΥΛΑΪΔΗΣ. ΣΚΗΝΟΘΕΣΙΑ: ΑΝΤΡΕΑΣ ΧΡΗΣΤΟΔΟΥΛΑΪΔΗΣ. ΣΚΗΝΙΚΑ/ ΚΟΣΤΟΥΜΙΑ: ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΑΝΤΩΝΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ. Β. ΣΚΗΝΟΘΕΤΗ: ΜΑΡΙΝΟΣ ΑΝΟΥΒΡΑΤΗΣ. ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗ: ΡΟΣ ΝΤΕΜΙ. ΔΙΔΑΣΚΑΛΙΑ ΤΡΑΓΟΥΔΙΩΝ: ΧΡΥΣΗ ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ. ΧΟΡΟΓΡΑΦΟΣ: ΑΛΕΞΗΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΪΟΥ. Β. ΧΟΡΟΓΡΑΦΟΥΣ: ΠΟΡΤΟΣ ΔΗΜΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ. Β. ΣΚΗΝΟΓΡΑΦΟΥΣ: ΜΙΧΑΗΛΗΣ ΧΑΡΑΛΑΜΠΟΥΣ

ΔΙΑΝΟΜΗ: ΜΗΔΕΙΑ: ΕΡΙΚΑ ΜΠΕΓΓΗ. ΙΑΣΟΝΑΣ: ΠΟΡΤΟΣ ΤΣΟΡΤΖΗΣ. ΤΡΟΦΟΣ: ΠΕΝΝΥ ΦΟΙΝΙΗ. ΚΡΕΟΝΤΑΣ: ΙΣΤΗΡΗΣ ΜΕΣΤΑΝΑΣ. ΑΙΓΕΑΣ: ΙΣΤΗΡΗΣ ΜΕΣΤΑΝΑΣ. ΠΑΙΔΑΓΟΓΟΣ: ΑΝΤΡΕΑΣ ΜΑΚΡΗΣ. ΑΓΓΕΛΙΑΦΟΡΟΣ: ΜΑΝΩΛΗΣ ΜΙΧΑΗΛΙΔΗΣ. ΧΟΡΟΣ: ΕΡΗΝΗ ΚΟΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥ, ΕΛΕΝΑ ΧΡΗΣΤΟΦΗ, ΦΑΝΗ ΠΕΤΣΑ, ΧΡΥΣΗ ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ, ΚΑΛΛΙΡΡΟΗ ΚΟΡΟΝΙΟΥ, ΣΤΑΛΟ ΣΤΥΛΙΑΝΟΥ

the direction of THOC was taken over by Sokratis Karantinos, under the title of instructor-director. Karantinos supported THOC in its first steps with the confidence he showed in Cypriot directors and his devotion to the art of theatre. During its first three years, the Organisation shaped its identity despite the many difficulties faced, and consolidated itself. From 1972-1975 Iakovos Philippou served as managing director of the Organisation, while in 1975 Evis Gavrielides was appointed as its director, a position he held till the end of 1988.

In the years following 1974, the repertoire of THOC took on a political dimension. At the same time, THOC also gained prestige in Greece, mainly through the tours with Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage* in 1977, directed by Heinz Uwe Haus and Euripides' *The Suppliants* in 1979, directed by Nicos Charalambous. *The Suppliants* made an excellent impression and in 1980 was the first production of THOC at Epidaurus. The Organisation has participated to date with twenty-seven productions in the Festival of Ancient Drama of Epidaurus, with many successes to its credit, while Cypriot directors have made suggestions of their own with regard to the interpretation of ancient drama.

In 1976 the Children's Stage of THOC produced its first play for children. The New Stage of THOC was founded in the 1990s. The first attempts for the foundation of a second stage had already been made in 1976 with plays from the modern repertoire. The Experimental Stage was inaugurated in 2001, extending the repertoire of THOC and offering nowadays a space for alternative productions and new playwrights.



Stage design and costumes exhibition organised by THOC, (2007).



"*Ta mora ta fernei o pelargos*", by Reppas and Papatthasiou, Satiriko Theatre production (2015).

During the first years following the coup d'état and the Turkish invasion, theatrical activity in Cyprus dwindled to that of THOC and of groups performing revues. At the end of the 1970s, theatrical groups began to make a dynamic appearance but were short-lived and at the end of the 1980s theatrical activity began to stabilise. The enactment of subsidies, following the activation of the THOC Development Sector contributed to this. This activity began to shape Cyprus theatre in its current form.

In 1986 members of the Kafkarides family and close collaborators founded the Satiriko Theatro [Satirical Theatre]. In 1987 Andreas Christodoulides founded Theatro Ena [Theatre One] and is still its director. In 1989 Limassol personalities founded the Limassol Theatre Development Company (ETHAL). Its Director today is Menas Tigkilis. A similar initiative took place



"Ta gourounakia koumbarakia", by Evgenios Trivizas, ETHAL Children's Stage production (2014).

in Larnaka in 1996 with the foundation of the Skala Theatre. Its director today is Andreas Melekis. The Anoichto Theatro [Open Theatre], Theatre Dionysos, Theatre Anemona [Anemone] in Nicosia, Theatre Versus in Limassol as well as a lot of other, mainly young groups operate today, without a permanent base, and occasionally offer pleasant surprises within the theatrical plurality and decentralisation.

As far as the theatrical activity of Turkish Cypriots is concerned, in 1975, the Turkish Cypriot Theatre First Scene was renamed Turkish Cypriot "State" theatre (Kıbrıs Türk Devlet Tiyatrosu). In 1980, following their dismissal for political reasons, four artists (Yaşar Ersoy, Osman Alkaş, Erol Refikoğlu and Işin Cem) founded the Theatre of the Turkish Municipality of Nicosia (Lefkoşa Türk Belediye Tiyatrosu). The theatre company, renamed later on the Turkish Cypriot Municipal Theatre of Nicosia (Lefkoşa Belediye Tiyatrosu), extended the repertoire, undertook the organisation of various related activities (festivals etc.) and worked for the rapprochement of the two communities through collaborations with the Satiriko Theatre. In the 1980s and 1990s, mainly amateur groups were active, such as Theatre Emek in Famagusta, Theatre GÜSAD (Güzel Sanatlar Derneği), meaning Union of Fine Arts, the Private Artistic Company of Morfou and the Company of the Cyprus Chamber of Arts. The Turkish Cypriot Comedy Group attracted the interest of the public by presenting works in the Turkish Cypriot dialect. In the meantime, the Turkish Cypriot "State" Theatre, which was mainly staffed by artists from Turkey, changed its staffing policy and employed local artists as from 1994, an action that was positively viewed by the Turkish



"The Good, the Bad and the...Worse", Skala Theatre production (2014).

Cypriot press. From 2004 onwards it entered into an era of restructuring with an extended theatre company and increased productions every year.

After the coup d'état and the 1974 invasion, many Greek Cypriot playwrights tackled the shock, trauma and changes brought directly and indirectly to Cypriot society by this political blow. Examples include: Panos Ioannides and Rina Katselli from the older generation and Yiorgos Neofytou, Maria Avraamidou and Andreas Koukkides from the next generation. Examples of writers who appeared in the last fifteen years are Evidiki Pericleous-Papadopoulou, with plays that are poetic and Nearchos Ioannou, Antonis Georgiou and Adonis Florides, who attempt to broaden their subject matter with modern issues of Cypriot society.



*"Slaughterhouse" by Ilan Hatzor,
ETHAL Theatre production (2010).*

TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Irene Hadjisavva

The rich history of Cyprus, from the dawn of human civilisation to the end of the Middle Ages, is documented by significant monuments. But alongside the ancient ruins and the Byzantine churches lies the anonymous vernacular architecture, which forms the built environment of our historic settlements. The traditional buildings, constructed to shelter the life and aspirations of ordinary people, encapsulate the material expression, the living testimony of the culture, the beliefs and the social, political and economic circumstances of our ancestors.

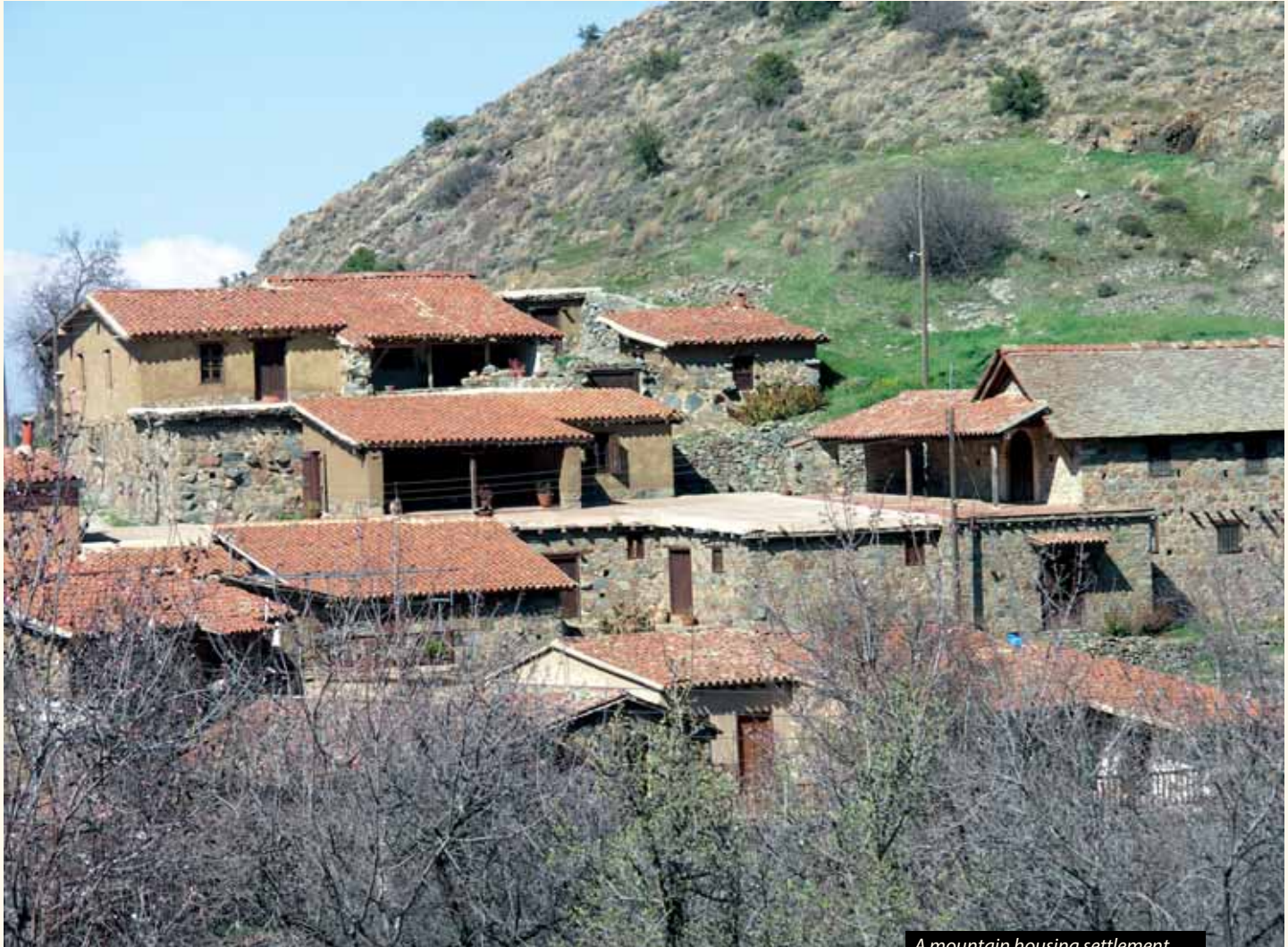
The form and organisation of settlements and the vernacular buildings that create them depend on the topography of the land, the climatic conditions, the available materials and their properties, but also on socio-economic factors. The villages seem to organically grow into the landscape, whether that is part of steep mountains, rounded hills or plains, forming a remarkable unity of the natural and manmade environments. Settlements were compact, densely built, with narrow, earthen or stone-paved streets uniting the individual dwellings and tracing the way to the agricultural land in the outskirts. The church was the most important part of the historic core, a gathering place for the social and economic activity of the inhabitants. Other public spaces were rare, usually developed alongside the main road leading to the settlement.



A traditional housing settlement.

THE RURAL HOUSE

The rural house was built by the local dwellers without following a set plan, but according to the needs of the family. The organisation of the house reflected the introverted nature of the community. The closed inner courtyard was the heart of the house, a main living and working space for both people and animals. Surrounded by high walls, it was an inherent and necessary component of the dwelling space and provided access to the different parts of the house. This was usually composed of two or three *makinaria* (narrow long rooms), cellars



A mountain housing settlement.

culture

traditional
architecture

and/or *dichora* (double space rooms) which were always positioned against the edges of the plot, either in a linear or in an L-shape formation. Access to the courtyard from the house was achieved via a courtyard door that led straight to it, or through a semi-opened arched portico. The rooms were rarely linked to each other and had doors usually only facing the courtyard. The *dichoro* was the most important internal space of the house. It had multiple functions; it served as living and sleeping room, reception space, but could also house the animals. It was formed by doubling the width of a *makrinari* by replacing the wall in between with a wooden beam spanning the whole length of the room, or by inserting a stone arch in the place of the dividing wall. When the arch was used, this room was called *palati* (palace).

The *iliakos* (sun-room) was another important feature of the traditional house. It was a semi-covered space, open on one side toward the courtyard facing the sun, by one or more consecutive arches or beams on poles, according to its length. It also provided access to the adjacent rooms of the house. In many cases the *iliakos* was repeated on the upper floor. These were the most interesting morphological features of the whole composition of the dwelling.

A second floor was built usually when the plot was small and did not allow for ground floor extensions. Access to the second floor rooms was always via an external stone or wooden staircase located in the courtyard against the front elevation of the main house and usually ending in a small covered wooden balcony. The doors and windows were small and



A courtyard of a traditional house.

few and proportioned according to the structural qualities of the building materials. Openings toward the street were scant, usually with only a front door and an *arsera* (a small window) high above it for ventilation. The houses were always positioned toward the south or the east to absorb as much sunlight as possible.



A restored courtyard of a traditional house.

culture

traditional
architecture



The urban house.

On higher elevations on the mountains, the topography of the land limited the space available for housing. In this case a courtyard was rare and the buildings seem to be clambered on several levels on the steep slope. The different levels of the houses were accessed straight from the streets at different elevations. There was often an *iliakos*, this time on the highest level of the house, forming a kind of covered verandah.

THE URBAN HOUSE

The transition from the rural to the urban type of dwelling began toward the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century, almost coinciding with the end of the Ottoman era. It also coincided with the emergence of the Cypriot middle class, the result of socioeconomic restructuring that brought with it a new perception of social and economic practices. The forms of the buildings consequently began to alter. With the new practices, the main rooms of the dwelling were defined, organised and all built together, at the same time. The middle-class owner began to create his own dwelling space, suited to his own specific needs, but still borrowed from the basic layout of the rural dwelling (which had by then become unsuited to his lifestyle). For some time, various areas, such as the kitchen, washroom and laundry room, remained in separate units from the main building due to their diminished importance as spaces for social functions. The location of the main house at the far end of the building plot became outmoded. The new urban type of dwelling, projected as one finite unit, needed to be displayed so that it could acquire social status. It was gradually brought forward toward the front of the building plot, bordering the street. The new style,

dictated by modernisation, was the neoclassical style, whose morphological elements adorned city mansions but also influenced the humble buildings of the period, in both the urban and rural environment.

The individual rooms in a house were organised along a principle which was to become the nucleus for each urban housing unit. The central hallway or *iliakos* served as an entry space from the street, while one or two rooms (*makrinaria*) were located symmetrically on either side of it. If the width of the plot allowed, one of these *makrinaria* would become a dichoro by the use of an arch. Originally, the *iliakos* itself used to have an open arch toward the courtyard in the back which later was closed off with a door. Despite small changes, the *iliakos*, remained the main room of the house.

Later, the strict symmetry governing the layout of the house became more elastic. Serving as a central hallway, the *iliakos* continued to have the same ample proportions, but one of the side rooms became wider to accommodate important social functions and evolved into the salon. Other rooms became smaller. The final phase in the evolution of the urban dwelling was completed when the house included all its necessary spaces under one roof and became one individual free-standing unit, situated within an urban fabric of similar units. Inside the dwelling, the tripartite organisation of rooms in the layout continued to persist, but over time became subject to numerous alterations with a noticeable break- away from symmetry. One end of the *iliakos* could be separated down the middle with glazing, while often a verandah appeared in place of the



A restored traditional house.

culture

traditional
architecture

iliakos at the back of the house. Despite variations, the whole building was gathered under a four-pitched tiled roof.

In the plan of the symmetrical house, balance was also reflected in its facade, with the front door placed at the centre, flanked by a window on either side. In cases where the building was moved back from the street, a covered portico shaded the front entry. This was achieved by taking space from the front of the original iliakos. On other occasions a covered porch was added along the whole front of the house. Windows appeared on the side elevations of these free-standing houses, and the side elevations themselves acquired compositional importance.

With the introduction of new technology, the industrialised, easy-to-use new materials and the modern way of life, traditional architecture was inevitably abandoned. Young architects, educated abroad, returned to Cyprus in the 1950s – 1960s, bringing with them the modern movement. During the years following the Cyprus independence, the urban landscape transformed according to the modern international style. The first tall buildings appear, while the buildings' morphology expressed the technological achievements of the construction industry: extended cantilever concrete roofs, prefabricated brises-soleils, reinforced concrete structural frames. A large number of public buildings, including schools, were constructed during this period as well as tourist infrastructure to accommodate the emerging tourist industry. The new style was also adopted for the residences of the



A modern addition on a traditional building.

urban society who adopted the modern way of life in all its manifestations.

Contemporary architecture and techniques replaced or altered the historic building stock to a great extent. After a long period of indifference during which vernacular architecture was synonymous with rural misery, traditional/historic architecture as well as the modern movement, is once again appreciated for its cultural heritage value. Both rural and urban historic settlements enjoy a growing interest for their rehabilitation and revitalisation. The government supports this trend by providing generous financial and other incentives for restoration and rehabilitation projects and by organising events aiming at making the public aware of on the value of traditional architecture.



A restored flour mill.

CINEMA

Eleni Christodoulidou

The cinematographic production in a small country like Cyprus had an inevitable late start and a rather slow development in its early years. The history of cinema in Cyprus began at the end of the 1940s, when the British colonial government started to train Cypriot film makers at the Colonial Film Unit. With the advent of Cypriot television in 1957, the first short-length films, mainly documentaries, began to be produced.

The pioneers of Cypriot cinema during the 1950s were George Lanitis, Ninos Fenek Mikellides, Renos Watson, Polys Georgakis and others who directed and produced short-length films. Some of these were: *The Island of Aphrodite*, *Salamina*, *Botrys of Cyprus*, *Epikoinonia* (Communication), *To Heri* (The Hand) and *Rizes* (Roots) by Nikos Lanitis and George Stivaros.

Feature-length films were produced much later in the 1960s. George Filis in 1963 directed a film depicting the traditional Cypriot wedding, *Agapes kai Kaimoi* (Love Affairs and Heartbreaks) in 1965, and soon after *To Telefteo Fili* (The Last Kiss), 1821, and Cyprus. In 1969, George Katsouris and Costas Farmakas directed the comedy *O Paras o Maskaras* (Money the Clown).

During the late 1960s and early 1970s there was a richer crop of films. George Filis produced and directed *Gregoris Afxentiou*, *Etsi Prodothike I Kypros*

(Cyprus' Betrayal), and the *Mega Document*. The cinematographic entrepreneur Diogenis Herodotou also started producing films: *Dakrya kai Diplopenies* (Tears and Strings), *I Diki tou Fitilla* (Fitillas' Trial), *I Apagogi tis Gogous* (Kidnapping Gogou), *O Firfiris stin Athena* (Firfiris visits Athens), *To Ftohopedo tis Kyprou* (The Cypriot Pauper), *Diakopes stin Kypro* (Holidaying in Cyprus) and *O Tragoudistis tis Kyprou* (The Cyprus Singer).

In the mid and late 1970s Costas Demetriou produced and directed a number of feature films: *Ta Hassamboulia* (Vendetta), *Skotoste ton Makario* (Order to kill Makarios) and *Gia Pion Na Vrexhi* (For Whom Should it Rain).

In the 1980s the following feature films were produced: *O Avrianos Polemistis* (Tomorrow's Warrior) by Michalis Papas; *Trimithi*, *O Viasmos tis Afroditis* (The Rape of Aphrodite) by Andreas Pantzis, that won first prize at the Thessaloniki Film Festival in 1985; and, *Nekatomenoi Aerides* (Troubled Winds) by Yiannis Ioannou. In 1985 Christos Shopahas was awarded first prize at the Moscow Film Festival for his film *I Kathodos ton Enia* (The Descent of the Nine).

In the 1990s, film productions include: *To Ftero tis Migas* (The Wing of the Fly) by Christos Shopahas which won the prize for best direction at the Thessaloniki Film Festival in 1995. *I Sfagi tou Kokora* (The Slaughter of the Cock) by Andreas Pantzis a Cypriot-Greek-Bulgarian co-production, won the prize for direction at the Thessaloniki Film Festival in 1996 and it was nominated by Greece as its representative in the Oscar Awards for best foreign



"Akamas", directed by Panicos Chrysanthou (2006).

language film for 1997. In the same year, *Dromoi kai Portokalia* (Roads and Oranges) was produced by Aliko Danezi Knutsen. In 1999 there was *Vysinokipos* (Cherry Orchard), an adaptation of Chekhov's play by Cypriot-born director, Michael Kakoyiannis.

Cinematographic production in Cyprus received a boost in May 1994 with the establishment of the Cinema Advisory Committee. The Committee is mandated to recommend for funding the best proposals submitted by Cypriot producers/directors in the categories of feature-length films, short films, documentaries and animation.

Since 2003, the Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for the Cinema Sector, through the "Programme for the Development of Cyprus Cinema" and its priorities are the cinematographic production, education and professional training. It finances international co-productions, high and low budget feature films, short films, documentaries, animation, experimental films, as well as the local distribution and circulation of Cypriot films in theatres. It also provides financial support for filmmakers to participate at international film festivals and markets and in various educational seminars and workshops abroad. Until now, the government allocated financial support for more than 130 films. Currently, the annual funding budget is 1,500,000 euro.

More recent feature-film productions include: *Kai to Treno Paei ston Ourano* (And the Train Goes to the Sky) by Yiannis Ioannou (2000); *The Road to Ithaca* by Costas Demetriou; *To Tama* (The Promise) by



"The Last Homecoming", directed by Corinna Avraamidou (2008).



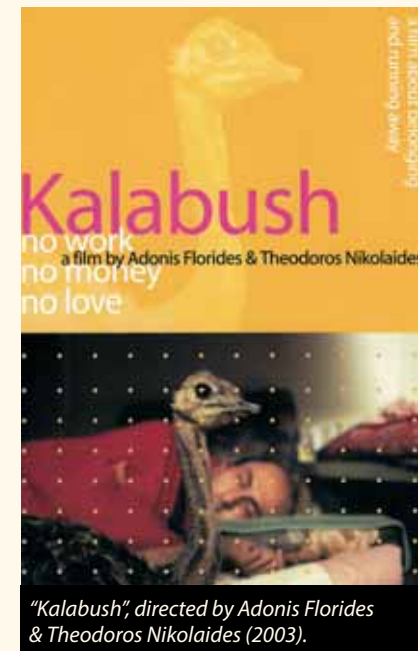
"Honey and Wine", directed by Marinos Kartikkis (2006).

Andreas Pantzis; *Kato Apo ta Astra* (Under the stars) by Christos Georgiou; *Bar* by Aliko Danezi-Knutsen (all in 2001); *Kokkini Pempti* (Red Thursday) by Christos Siopachas (2003); *Kalabush* by Adonis Florides and Theodoros Nikolaides (2003); *Me ti Psychi sto Stoma* (Soul Kicking) by Yiannis Economides (2006); *Meli ke Kras* (Honey and Wine) by Marinos Kartikkis (2006); *Akamas* by Panicos Chrysanthou (2006); *Hi I'm Erica* by Yiannis Ioannou (2008); *O Teleutaios Gyrismos* (The Last Homecoming) by Corinna Avraamidou (2008); and, *Guilt* by Vassilis Mazomenos (2009).

In 2010, there were three films in post-production: *Apo Thau* (By a Miracle) by Marinos Kartikkis; *Deipno me tis Adelfes mou* (Dinner with my Sisters) by Michael Hapeshis; and, *Maxairovgaltis* (Knifer) by Yiannis Economides.



"And the Train Goes to the Sky", directed by Yiannis Ioannou (2001).



"Kalabush", directed by Adonis Florides & Theodoros Nikolaides (2003).

"Slaughter of the Cock"
by Andreas Pantzis, prize
for direction Salonica
Film Festival (1996).

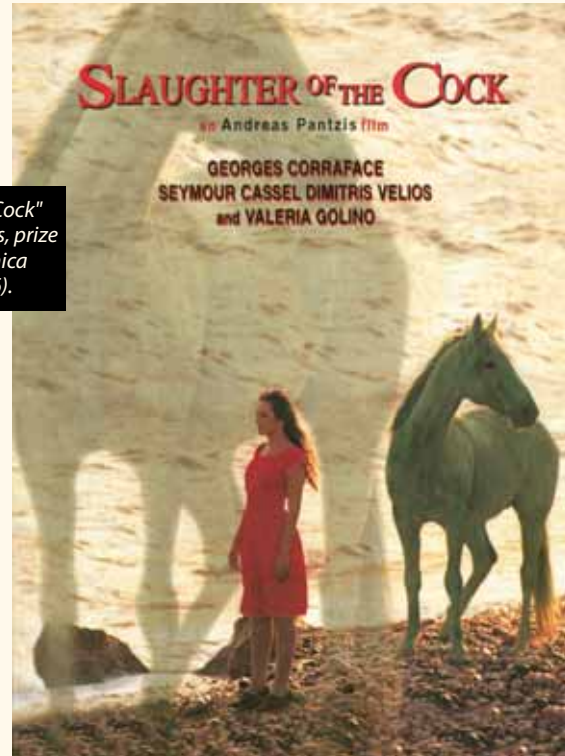


The film Fish n' Chips
by Elias Demetriou was
nominated for Best
Greek Movie at the
Hellenic Film Academy
awards 2012, while
Demetriou himself was
awarded as Best 1st
time Director at the
same event.

Recent Cypriot productions include *The joy & sorrow of a body* by Andreas Pantzis, *The committed* by Stelana Kliris, *Oikopedo 12* by Kyriacos Tofarides and *Poulli tis Kyprou* by Nicolas Koumidis.

The Ministry of Education and Culture is also responsible for bilateral agreements and the promotion of Cyprus as a filming destination. Tax incentives are being promoted in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism. Cyprus is a member of Eurimage, the Media Programme, the SEE Cinema Network, the EFAD (European Film Agency Directors) and the EFARN (European Film Agency Research Network) and has signed the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-productions.

Moreover, the Cultural Services section of the Ministry of Education and Culture organises, on a regular basis and in cooperation with other organisations, film festivals all around the year including: the "Mini International Festival: Cyprus Film Days"; the "Alternative Cinema Festival"; the "European Film Academy Shorts"; the "Cyprus Shorts and Documentaries Festival"; two documentary festivals; the "International Children's Film Festival"; and screenings of various Cypriot films in rural areas. It also supports film clubs and associations like "The Friends of Cinema Society" and "The Directors Guild of Cyprus".



"The Road to Ithaca", directed by Costas
Demetriou (2000).



*"The Last Homecoming",
directed by Corinna
Avramidou (2008).*

MUSIC

Dr Elena Theodoulou-Charalambous

Music as an art innate in humankind may be associated with the visions, socio-political struggles, the historical course and the self-awareness of a people. Through this perspective music appears as a dynamic and composite phenomenon which “potentially” absorbs all the influences and effects of cultural co-existence and interaction of people, thus nurturing the promotion of cultural specificity, diversity and intercultural dialogue.

Due to its unrivalled geopolitical and strategic position, Cyprus was subject to a number of conquerors and came under the influence of many foreign cultures and civilisations, something which is reflected in the musical tradition of the country. Indeed, in the music of Cyprus, ancient and primordial sounds meet within the lyrical intensity and depth; thus, the island’s musical wealth incorporates elements and influences from the island’s centuries-long and turbulent history as well as the Mediterranean temperament and collective identity. As it appears through various historical sources and writings, from antiquity, the musical influence of mainland Greece was not only

obvious but also of substantial significance. As Plutarch notes, the kings of Cyprus sponsored the organisation of musical contests of circular dances and songs with actors and singers whom they brought from mainland Greece¹. Moreover, from the representations on the various vases and from other historical sources, it appears that both in Cyprus and in the mainland Greek space the same musical instruments were used. Another very characteristic element was the fact that music was indissolubly interwoven with all aspects and manifestations of both private and public life².

Apart from the above musical influences, one can discern in the musical wealth of the island the existence of elements that refer to the space of the wider Mediterranean basin; in most cases, indeed, these influences concern some musical “borrowing back” of ancient Greek music³.

In the Medieval period, even though the existing sources on musical life in Cyprus are not many, there are, nonetheless, two very important works which give us valuable information. The one is a major work by Guillaume de Machaut (*La Prise d’Alexandrie*)⁴ and the other is the “Manuscript of Cyprus” of the fifteenth century (Manuscript Torino J.ii.9)⁵ which



Manuscript Torino J.ii.9., from the National Library of Turin.

¹ Plutarch, *Moralia*, 334E

² K.P. Hadjioannou, *Ancient Cyprus in Greek Sources, Vol.I, Nicosia 1971.*

³ Beaton R. (1980) “Modes and Roads: Factors of change and continuity in Greek musical tradition”, *Annual of the British School at Athens*, 75:1-11

⁴ Palmer, R.Barton (Transl) (2002) *Introduction to La Prise d’Alexandrie (The Taking of Alexandria)*, by Guillaume de Machaut. New York: Routledge.

⁵ LMI [Libreria Musicale Italiana] (ed.) (1999) *Codice J.II.9 / The Codex J.II.9 Facsimile Edition. Printed in Italy.*



The Limassol Mandolinata, with the founder and director G. Hourmouziou (1910).

is considered to be a work of fundamental artistic worth and constitutes living evidence of the music which the Lusignan rulers of Cyprus were accustomed to present in their daily life. Moreover this work stands out for its uniqueness since no part of it appears in any other manuscript. The manuscript is in the National Library of Turin and was miraculously saved with very little damage from the fire which broke out in the library in 1904.

During the period of Ottoman rule, because of poverty and oppression, the island was cut off from the rest of Europe and thus the artistic and cultural currents of Europe did not have any effect in Cyprus. The main genres of music which appear in this period are Byzantine ecclesiastical music and the traditional folk music of Cyprus.

With the arrival of the British in Cyprus, the western European musical tradition began diffidently to gain ground. At the same time, a lot of other social, historical and political events such as the Russian Revolution, the Persecution of the Armenians by the Turks and the Asia Minor Catastrophe (Greco-Turkish War of 1919–1922), contributed to the further cultivation of European music. From the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, Cypriot music groups were already making their appearance and playing artistic music.

A special role in the musical development of the country was also played by the various bands which began to be created. It is also worthy of mention that during the conflict over the succession to the

office of Archbishop (1900-1909) and the formation of two opposing political parties in support of the Bishops of Kition and Kyrenia respectively, each party created its own band and music movement to attract supporters.

During the same period the systematic study and performance of ecclesiastical music began. Among the pioneer teachers, Stylianos Hourmouzios was the one whose work as regards the interpretation of Byzantine music had an important influence all over Cyprus. From the start of the decade of the 1920s, a significant turn is observed to the systematic study, research and preservation of our Cypriot musical tradition by the most important researchers of the great wealth of traditional music: Theodoulos Kallinikos, who published his very well-known book "Cypriot Muse" in 1951, and Sozos Tompolis. In 1967 Sozos Tompolis' book "Cypriot Rhythms and Melodies" was awarded a prize by the Academy of Athens.

From the end of the 1920s the first schools of music, conservatoires, made their appearance through which a more systematic approach to the dissemination of musical knowledge was attempted.

Within the framework of the intense musical activity comes the projection of the work of important Cypriot composers who laid the foundations for the creation of classical music in Cyprus.

Moreover, between 1920 and 1939 there appears a very dynamic and intense musical development, and



The Mozart Orchestra of Cyprus, founded in 1938, with director Solonas Michaelides.

the foundations and groundwork were laid for the subsequent promotion of artistic music in Cyprus with the staging of Cypriot musical productions including operas and oratorios. The intense musical activity of this period created the conditions and the preconditions for the formation of the first orchestras (the Bedelian Symphony Orchestra, the "Olympiakos" String Orchestra in 1934, the "Olympiakos" Symphony Orchestra in 1935 and the Mozart Orchestra in 1938). The Mozart Orchestra was an important nucleus of musical development till 1963.

Reference to another musical genre which began to appear at about 1920, the revue, also merits reference in this short account.

The first Cypriot orchestras which began to be created from the late 1920s are a worthy successor in the continuation of the orchestral musical tradition in the State Orchestra of Cyprus and the State Youth Orchestra which were founded in 1987. Throughout all these years, the State Orchestra of Cyprus has played an invaluable role in the cultural revival of the island. It has served not only the needs of the community but was at the same time an important factor in the creation of professional opportunities. Furthermore, it functioned as an incentive for talented young people who wished to pursue professional training and a career in music. The State Youth Orchestra, which from the beginning functioned within the framework of the State Orchestra of Cyprus, was a nursery for the promotion of talented young musicians. From its foundation, the State Orchestra of Cyprus functioned within the structure of the Ministry of Education and



The Cyprus State Youth Orchestra.

Culture. However, in accordance with a decision of the Council of Ministers, the operational status of the State Orchestra and the Youth Orchestra have changed since 1 January 2007. The State Orchestra of Cyprus has been turned into an independent organisation and renamed the "Cyprus Symphony Orchestra".

Contemporary Cypriot musical creation is characterised by a variety of expression and styles. More specifically, it includes all the genres of music (contemporary classical, jazz, Greek entechnon songs, pop, rock and others). Influences from the international milieu as well as from the musical currents prevailing in the wider European area are evident. Because of its geopolitical position, Cyprus has been at the crossroads of civilisations, a fact which has affected and still affects the musical process. All the influences, currents and trends are assimilated creatively through the contemporary reality of the Cypriot temperament, thus making the music of Cyprus a free sounding highlight in the intercultural vastness....



The Cyprus Symphony Orchestra.

DANCE

Throughout the post-independence years and since its foundation the Cultural Services department of the Ministry of Education and Culture has encouraged and supported choreographers and dancers in their artistic creation, has provided opportunities for education and further training at home and abroad, and has promoted and enhanced education opportunities in ballet as well as modern dance for children and youth. It has also provided opportunities for artists to perform their choreographic works in Cyprus and abroad.

These goals are achieved through various programmes which include, amongst others, subsidising of individual artists, dance groups and organised associations of professionals in the field of dance in Cyprus and the organisation of annual festivals, institutions and competitions where artists can present their work and perform in front of large audiences.

One of the most successful institutions in the field of dance is the Cyprus Dance Platform which was launched in 2001 and since then has hosted a plethora of dance works created by Cypriot choreographers and performed by individual Cypriot dancers or dance groups, varying from experimental to theatrical and contemporary dance. Lectures, workshops and round table discussions on issues of modern dance are also organised every year in the framework of the Platform.



Dance Platform.



The "Amphidromo Dance Company"; contemporary dance by Elena Christodoulidou.



"If not for you" by Arianna Economou, ECHO ARTS.



"Twitter" solo by Arianna Economou.

Furthermore, the Cultural Services initiated in 1998 the organisation of the European Dance Festival with the collaboration of the Embassies and the cultural centres of the countries of the European Union. Following the accession of Cyprus to the EU in 2004 and the enlargement of the European family,



Soma dance group.

the Festival has become an authentic celebration of European contemporary dance, enriching in this way the cultural life of the island and providing the opportunity to Cypriot artistes to become acquainted with their European colleagues and their work.

dance



ECHO ARTS, contemporary dance by Arianna Economou.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS

"KYPRIA"

Since its establishment in 1991, the "Kypria" International Festival has been the most important annual cultural event in Cyprus. The festival, held in all major cities in the government-controlled areas, features events in all fields of the performing arts. The festival hosts artists and ensembles of international acclaim from Cyprus, Greece and other countries and includes all forms of art, music, dance and theatre.

Since its initiation, the Ministry of Education and Culture has supported the event wholeheartedly and has spared no effort to include events of high cultural standards whilst also mediating for the promotion of intercultural dialogue.



The "Martha Graham Dance Company" of New York, Kypria Festival (2008).



"Giselle", St Petersburg Ballet Theatre production, ("Kypria Festival 2014").

PAFOS FESTIVAL

The Pafos Festival, officially launched in 1998, was the result of a joint effort between various professional bodies in Pafos with the aim of promoting the island's western town as an international centre of high-profile cultural events. A highlight of the cultural calendar not only for the coastal town but for the island as a whole, the opera festival has developed into an annual celebration.

The performances are set against the backdrop of the Pafos Castle and the area around the attractive harbour is converted into a stunning operatic arena.

The Pafos Aphrodite Festival aspires to offer all music aficionados a unique experience leading them through the magic paths of lyric drama.



"Lakme" by Leo Delibes, Sofia National Opera, Pafos Aphrodite Festival (2009).

"Cosi fan Tutte" by W.A Mozart, Opera Futura Verona with the participation of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, Pafos Aphrodite Festival (2014).





"La Cenerentola", by Gioachino Rossini; Ramfis Productions Avignon with the participation of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, Pafos Aphrodite Festival (2015).

EUROPEAN DANCE FESTIVAL

The European Dance Festival is a very important international dance meeting with the participation of many European countries. A feast of contemporary dance meets all the trends, the dynamics and the new forms of the international contemporary scene through the works of representative groups of each country.

The increased level of participation by EU member states with performances and workshops is a clear indication that the Dance Festival is becoming an annual highlight of the European arts and culture scene.

The European Dance Festival was celebrated for the thirteenth consecutive year in 2010 in Cyprus. It is jointly organised by the Cultural Services Department of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the RIALTO Theatre in Limassol with the collaboration of the Embassies of the member states of the European Union in Cyprus.

The 2010 European Dance Festival was dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus. The participation of each country in the Festival was considered as part of the official contribution of each member state in the celebrations for the anniversary.



"Alcestris" by Evripides. Amphictio Theatre, International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama (2014).

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ANCIENT GREEK DRAMA

The International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama is organised annually by the Cyprus Centre of International Theatre Institute, the Cultural Services and the Cyprus Tourism Organisation. It began in 1996 and is an annual event which attracts professional theatre companies from various parts of the world. It has hosted companies from Greece, Britain, USA, Germany, Russia, Romania, Sweden, Croatia, Bulgaria, Italy, Austria, Korea and Cyprus. This wide international participation in the Festival helps to bring out the universality of ancient Greek drama and underline its living presence in today's world. The Festival is held in July and early August when Cyprus attracts visitors from all over the world. Thus, with its performances it brings ancient Greek drama closer to a multicultural audience. The performances take place at various venues around Cyprus including the ancient amphitheatre at Kourion, the Pafos Ancient Odeon and the Makarios III Amphitheatre in Nicosia.



"Philoctetes" by Sophocles; ETHAL Theatre, International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama (2014).

MUSEUMS

The museums in Cyprus contain exhibits representing the history of the island and include ceramics, sculpture, metal objects, jewellery, tomb groups, inscriptions as well as objects of traditional arts and crafts. The Department of Antiquities is responsible for maintaining the museums of the island and developing or creating new ones. The largest museum is the Cyprus Museum in Nicosia while each district has its own museum. Various smaller local or thematic museums were established at Kourion, (Episkopi), Kouklia (Palaipafos), Maa-Palaeokastro, Marion Arsinoe at Polis Chrysochous and recently at Idalion. The Medieval Museum is housed in the Castle of Limassol and small folk museums were established at Fikardou, Yeroskipou and Pano Lefkara (Museum of Traditional Embroidery and Silversmithing). The museums of Cyprus participate in many exhibitions around the world by loaning objects related to the themes of the exhibitions. Much interest is shown in the archaeology of Cyprus by many scholars who visit the island to study its monuments and antiquities. Also many exhibitions, symposia/conferences on the archaeology of Cyprus are organised every year abroad or in Cyprus in which members of the staff of the Department of Antiquities participate.

THE CYPRUS MUSEUM

The Cyprus Museum in Nicosia is the largest archaeological museum in Cyprus. Work on the building commenced in 1908 and was completed in 1924 when Cyprus was still a British colony. The collections of the museum cover the Neolithic age



The exhibition "Angelos Makrides - Fanos Kyriakou/Synergy" at the Cyprus Museum (2009).

to the Early Byzantine period (7th century AD). The collections consist of pottery, jewellery, sculpture, coins, copper objects and other artifacts exhibited in chronological order in various museum galleries.



Exhibits at the Cyprus Museum, Nicosia.



*Christoforos Savva,
"Motherhood", 42x15,5x16cm,
exhibited in the Cyprus State
Gallery of Contemporary Art.*

THE HOUSE OF HADJIGEORGAKIS KORNESIOS – ETHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The House of Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios in Nicosia was restored to house a small ethnological collection, a project which received a Europa Nostra award in 1988. This manor house is one of the most important surviving eighteenth century buildings in Nicosia. It was once the residence of the Dragoman of Cyprus, Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios who was executed by the Ottomans in 1809. The office of the Dragoman was introduced in Cyprus at the Start of the Ottoman rule and was abolished in 1821 with the Greek War of Independence.

CYPRUS STATE GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The Cyprus State Gallery of Contemporary Art houses on a permanent basis the Cyprus state collection of contemporary art, while periodically it hosts important exhibitions from abroad as well as retrospective exhibitions of the pioneers of Cyprus fine arts. A register of artists is kept at the State Gallery, which includes biographical material, as well as a collection with the characteristic features of their work and an archive of slides and photographs. There is also an Art Library enriched annually with significant publications on the various arts (Visual Art, Photography, Dance, Cinema).

THE PIERIDES ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

One of the best landmarks of Larnaka is an old colonial wooden mansion situated in Zenon Kitieos Street, just off Democratias Square. Built in 1825, it belongs to the Pierides family, one of the best known families of the town. Nowadays it houses the Pierides Archaeological Collection, the outcome of a



The House of Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios, Nicosia.

systematic acquisition of Cypriot antiquities by five consecutive generations in the family.

The founder was Demetrios Pierides (1811-1895), a scholar who studied literature in England. Upon his return to Cyprus he devoted his life to the protection of the historical treasures of his country. Using his wealth he would salvage discreetly archaeological treasures looted by tomb plunderers.

The last descendant of the Pierides family, Demetrios Z. Pierides, undertook its present arrangement and chronological classification. The collection has seen additions of very rare pieces, especially pottery of the Early and Middle Bronze Ages, pottery of the Cypro-



*Exhibits from the
Pierides Museum,
Larnaka.*

Archaic period, Cypro-Classical statues, Attic vases and some other new exceptional objects, including Chalcolithic Red-on-White pottery, pendants and picrolite idols (c. 3000BC).

Nowadays, the museum consists of four exhibit rooms to which, after the renovation of 1994, improved lighting and labelling were introduced as well as a small wing dedicated to medieval art plus assorted jewellery, embroidery and household utensils.

LEVENTIS MUSEUM

The Leventis Municipal Museum founded in 1984, presents the history and social development of the city of Nicosia from the Chalcolithic period (3.000 BC) to the present day. The Museum was founded in 1984 at the initiative of the then Mayor of Nicosia, Mr Lellos Demetriades.

The Museum is named after its donor, the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation which bought and restored the building and which is administered by the Municipality of Nicosia.

In 1989, the Municipality of Nicosia and the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation opened the Museum to the public. The collections displayed in its permanent galleries represent over 5.000 years of the capital's history. The collections are of a wide range and include archaeological finds, costumes, photographs, medieval pottery, maps and engravings, jewels and furniture.

A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY

The A. G. Leventis Gallery was opened in central Nicosia in 2014, fulfilling Anastasios G. Leventis' bequest to make the art treasures acquired during his lifetime accessible to his compatriots in Cyprus.

The Gallery is home to three collections: the Paris Collection and the Greek Collection, acquired by Anastasios G. Leventis himself, and the more recent Cyprus Collection. The Paris Collection features European art from a range of artistic schools from the 17th century to the 20th, as well as period furniture and objets d'art. Making up the Greek Collection are works of local artists from the early 20th century to 1930s. The primary focus of the Cyprus Collection is work by the first generation of local artists.



The Severis Gallery, Leventis Museum.



*The Artisans of Nicosia,
Leventis Museum, Nicosia.*



Exhibits from the Kourion Archaeological Museum.

THE PANCYPRIAN GYMNASIUM MUSEUM

The Pancyprian Gymnasium Museum, situated in the historical centre of Nicosia, depicts the history of the oldest establishment of Secondary Education in Cyprus (founded in 1812) as well as many other aspects of Cypriot history and culture.

BYZANTINE MUSEUM

The Byzantine Museum contains the richest and most representative collection of Byzantine art in Cyprus. Over 200 icons dating from the ninth to the nineteenth century as well as ecclesiastical vessels, robes and books are exhibited in the museum. The sixth century mosaics from the church of Panagia Kanakaria in Lythrangomy are the most impressive of all the exhibits. These mosaics were returned to Cyprus after being illegally smuggled from the Turkish occupied part of the island.

FOLK ART MUSEUM

The largest and most important collection of Cyprus folk art can be found in the Cyprus Folk Art Museum in Nicosia set up in 1937. The collection belongs to the Society of Cypriot Studies and was put together by a group of pioneering Cypriot academics.

The historic building in which the Cyprus Folk Art Museum is housed was formerly the Archbishopric until 1960. The oldest building on the ground floor was part of a Gothic monastery of the fifteenth century with subsequent additions over the centuries.

The collection of the Cyprus Folk Art Museum includes select and representative examples of

woven textiles, embroidery, costumes, wood carving, basketry, folk painting, miniatures and other articles from other branches of folk art from the whole of the island. The importance of this collection today is even greater because many of the ideas come from the Turkish occupied areas of Cyprus.

THALASSA MUSEUM

The Thalassa Ayia Napa Municipality Museum, under the direction of the Pierides Foundation and in association with the Hellenic Institute for the Preservation of Nautical Tradition, is a development of the Pierides Marine Life Museum founded in 1984. The museum's theme is the sea and it offers a pleasant scientific overview of the Cyprus marine life and sea treasures like fossilised fish, rare shells, corals, ceramics, engravings as well as replicas of famous vessels. The exhibits are displayed in four different sections and in the first section the visitor can trace the history of Cyprus by watching a film presenting a ship sailing through its different periods.



Exhibits from the Thalassa Museum, Ayia Napa.

museums



*The Folk Art Museum,
Nicosia.*



UNESCO HERITAGE LIST

RESTORATION OF MONUMENTS

The restoration and conservation projects of ancient settlements, temples, theatres, castles, fortifications, churches/monasteries, mosques and houses of urban/rural traditional architecture are undertaken as well as the management plans of major archaeological sites (Nea Pafos and Choirokoitia) which have now been completed. The restoration of the Venetian Walls of Nicosia as a bicomunal project and funded by UNOPS, has also been completed.

A relatively large number of monuments from Cyprus have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In 1980 the archaeological sites of Kato Pafos and Palaipafos were inscribed, followed in 1985 by the inscription of nine painted churches of the Troodos regions, Panagia Forviotissa (Asinou), Agios Nikolaos Stegis (Kakopetria), Agios Ioannis Lampadistis (Kalopanagiotis), Panagia tou Araka (Lagoudera), Panagia (Moutoullas), Archangel (Pedoulas), Timios Stavros (Pelendri), Panagia Podithou (Galata) and Stavros tou Agiasmati (Platanistasa). The Neolithic village of Choirokoitia was inscribed in 1998 and the inscription of the nine painted churches was extended in 2001 to include the church of the Metamorphosis of Soter or Agia Sotira at Palaichori.

The fast pace of development in Cyprus and the increasing dangers to the preservation of the cultural heritage has led to the expropriation of the most



A wall-painting from the Church of Panagia Podithou in the village of Galata, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985.

important archaeological sites so as to preserve them and to ensure the possibility of continuing scientific excavation and study in future.

In addition, efforts are being made for the preservation of the cultural heritage in the Turkish occupied part of the island where churches/monasteries, cemeteries and other monuments have suffered much destruction since 1974 as a result of looting or neglect.



The Church of Panagia Moutoulla inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985.

LEFKARA LACE

The traditional hand-made lace produced in the village of Lefkara, the reputed Lefkaritiko, was included in UNESCO's representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on 30 September 2009.

Lefkaritiko lacemaking, this intricate form of needlework passed on from generation to generation, is among the seventy-six forms of expression added to the list by the twenty-four member-states of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage during its fourth session in Abu Dhabi. The request for the inclusion was made by the Ministry of Education and Culture in co-operation with the Municipality of Lefkara.

The lace is now one of only two kinds of needlework included in the list, the other being Croatian. This particular lace making has been passed on from mother to daughter, and the young girls started to learn even before they went to school.

The tradition dates back to the Venetian period (1489-1571) when Venetian noble ladies used Lefkara as a retreat during the summer months to escape the heat of the lower plains, passing on their embroidery skills to locals. Nowadays, five centuries later, women of this 1.100 strong community still sit in doorways shaded with lush bougainvillea, nimbly working pieces of beige Irish linen with deft strokes of a needle and thread.



The Lefkaritika lace was included in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List in 2009.

The UNESCO seal of approval will breathe new life into the craft. The Lefkara Municipality has already applied to UNESCO for funding its action plan seeking to preserve and expand this art, secure raw materials, assist the women who make the lace, help distribute their products and promote the Lefkaritiko at international exhibitions.



Lefkaritika lace-making in the village of Lefkara.

HANDICRAFTS

The geographical position of Cyprus, at the crossroads of East and West, has contributed to the formation of a different kind of folk art and handicrafts.

Cyprus folk art has been influenced by successive conquerors. However, like the art of all eras of the island it absorbed foreign elements and has preserved its traditional character.

With the introduction of industrial technology, folk art retreated in stages, first from the towns and then, gradually, from the villages also and gave its place to mass production products which filled the Cyprus market.

The main handicraft centres of Cyprus were Nicosia, the Kyrenia district, especially the towns of Lapithos and Karavas, the Karpass peninsula, Akanthou, Morfou, the Messaoria area, Kilani village, Pafos and the Marathasa area.

One of the main reasons for the development of folk art and handicrafts is the abundance of raw materials such as cotton, flax, silk and wool for weaving and embroidery, pinewood and walnut trees for woodwork, clay earth for pottery and cane and wheat stems for basket weaving.

One of Cyprus' largest losses as a result of the military invasion by Turkey in 1974 was the destruction of the handicraft culture in the areas which are now



Traditional baskets.

occupied by Turkish troops. For this reason, the private as well as the public collections which are in the government-controlled areas of the island acquire special importance.

Especially rich in excellent examples of folk art is the Museum of Folk Art of the Cyprus Studies Company, which is housed in the former Archbishopric in Nicosia.

The main branches of traditional Cypriot folk art are weaving, embroidery, lace-making, pottery, woodwork, metal work, basket weaving and other smaller handicrafts.

Cypriot folk art is characterised by the primarily geometrical and severe designs, without, of course, lacking more freely patterned motifs from the plant and animal kingdoms, as well as themes from Hellenism and symbolic themes.

handicrafts



WINE TRADITION

The climate as well as the geographical position of Cyprus has contributed to making the island the birthplace of wine with the richest and most ancient tradition. Italian archaeologists who have studied 5,500 year-old amphorae, which were excavated in 1930 in the village of Erime and kept in boxes in the Archaeological Museum in Nicosia, discovered traces of tartaric acid which is a basic component of wine. This is the oldest sample that has ever been found in the Mediterranean.

The wine scene has changed significantly in recent decades, compared with the past where the vineyards were cultivated everywhere, regardless of the soil and climate of the area and all varieties were used for wine production, irrespective of whether they were grape varieties or not.

Since Cyprus' accession to the European Union in 2004, the wine sector has been significantly upgraded. A new wine map has been created and a legal framework was defined for all categories of wine products and areas where wines with geographical indication and also wines with a protected designation of origin could be produced. Moreover, in recent years, a rapid development of wineries with a close proximity to the wine regions was observed. Currently, apart from the four main wineries, approximately fifty modern and local wineries have been developed by private initiative in the Cyprus countryside, having as a result the configuration of Cypriot wine production as well as



the contribution to local development and to the creation of a new wine culture.

Another positive factor that contributes to the overall enhancement of the wine sector is the fact that winegrowers have realised that their vines need more care and also modern cultivation practices in order to produce quality grapes. They have accepted that wineries are not necessarily competitors but collaborators in this difficult task.

Recently, a concerted effort began to restructure and convert vineyards so that several forgotten indigenous varieties, which were scattered in old vineyards, will become known again. From the red varieties the "Maratheftiko" is distinguished and can be classified as a high and noble variety compared to the white variety "Xynisteri" which stands out for its uniqueness.



*The Cyprus Wine
Museum in Erime,
Lemesos district.*

culture

wine tradition

In order to support and develop viticulture and winemaking, in 2006, the Wine Products Council began to hold the Annual Wine Competition in Cyprus based on international standards and in accordance with the terms and requirements of the *Organization Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin (OIV)*. The competition is a celebration of the newest achievements of local wine makers and provides a challenge for further enhancement in the years to come. It receives extensive media coverage and has proved to be beneficial in creating awareness for the high quality of Cypriot wine and the accomplishments of the wine producers. The competition, being of high international standards, is held under the patronage of the OIV.

The most famous of all Cypriot wines is the sweet wine «Commandaria», which has been produced on the island for centuries now. All the stages of production, apart from the ageing, take place in a specified area which comprises of 14 communities and it is only here that this famous wine with its unique colour and smooth taste can be produced.



Many wineries have been developed by private initiative.



*The interior of the Cyprus
Wine Museum, Erime,
Lemesos district.*

