



AKEL

A century of struggles for the working class



Foundation:



AKEL, the Progressive Party of the Working People, held its founding Congress on 14th April 1941, successor to the Communist Party of Cyprus CPC established in 1926.

The CPC was born out of the historical necessity of the times and social conditions. The CPC, as the political party of the working class based on Marxist-Leninist principles fought heroically in illegality and despite brutal persecution led the struggle for the liberation from the British colonial yoke, for the working people's social, political and economic demands irrespective of nationality, origin and religion.

On the CPC's call, 60 Cypriot anti-fascists fought in the Spanish Civil War against Franco fascism, 15 of them sacrificing their lives.



AKEL: The Party of the Cypriot working class

AKEL's formation in April 1941 expressed the need for the mass legal expression of the Cypriot people's struggle on all fronts. Following an appeal issued in 1943 thousands of AKEL members and antifascists joined the fight against Hitler fascism. All through its 99 years of struggles CPC-AKEL has been a class party uniting all the Cypriot working class, Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots, Maronites, Armenians and Latins. It played a leading role in the establishment of the first class-oriented trade unions and in the development of the broader People's Movement of the Left, thus forging solid links between the working people and AKEL.



AKEL and the Cyprus Problem

AKEL initiated a mass and organized political struggle considering it as the way forward for the formation of a joint anti-imperialist front of all Cypriots against colonialism. This is why it disagreed with the armed struggle of the nationalist EOKA organization 1955-59. Many GC and TC comrades were murdered by the ultra-right in its attempt to crush the Left and enforce the imperialist policy of "divide and rule". Following the 1960 declaration of a shackled Cyprus independence, AKEL struggled to defend democracy, the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus from constant foreign conspiracies and interventions.

These attempts culminated in July 1974, with the CIA-engineered fascist coup d'état of the Greek Junta and the fascist terrorist organization EOKA B' and the subsequent Turkish invasion and occupation of 37% of the territory of the Cyprus Republic. Many AKEL members and supporters sacrificed their lives defending democracy and Cyprus independence. Since 1974 AKEL has been struggling to bring about the end of the Turkish occupation and the reunification of Cyprus and our people. At the same time AKEL has intensified its work for the rapprochement of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, considering it indispensable for the implementation of a future solution of the Cyprus Problem, a goal that continues until this day.

AKEL is fighting for a peaceful, lasting and viable solution based on International Law, the UN Resolutions and the High-level Agreements, within the framework of the UN, for a united state in a bizonal bicomunal federation, with a single sovereignty, a single international personality, and a single citizenship, with political equality, with the fundamental human rights and freedoms of all Cypriots guaranteed. AKEL supports the dismantling of the foreign bases in Cyprus and the demilitarization of the island, though the primary objective now is the end of the occupation.

AKEL – a mass national political force

AKEL succeeds in rejuvenating itself, modernizing its political and ideological approaches and broadening even further inner-party democracy, whilst preserving its Marxist-Leninist character and identity, without ever abandoning fundamental principles and values.



The policy of political alliances

Taking into account Cyprus' concrete conditions, current stage of struggle, the principal duty and pressing need for a solution, AKEL has always followed a policy of forging broad alliances with patriotic and democratic forces on short and middle term objectives. Whether in government (2008-2013), supporting or participating in coalition governments but also when in opposition, AKEL's main goal has been its decisive contribution to the solution of the Cyprus problem based on principles and safeguarding and promoting working people's democratic and socio-economic rights and gains.

AKEL believes its broader policy of alliances does not contradict its ideological character and ultimate goal -the socialist transformation of Cypriot society based on its own concept of socialism.

In this framework, AKEL announced in 2023 the formation of the "Social Alliance" which is a new structure made up of personalities and groups allying with AKEL in elections and other political battles.

Demetris Christofias' election to the Presidency of Cyprus.

In 2007 AKEL took the historic decision for the first time to support a Presidential candidate originating from its ranks: its General Secretary at the time, Demetris Christofias. His election in 2008 with 53,3% of the vote in the 2nd round was of historic importance for the Party. The principal and overriding objective



was the promotion of a just solution of the Cyprus problem based on principles. Furthermore, AKEL also sought to promote a more just society, implementing a broader progressive political

program. Significant achievements were made on the Cyprus Problem with the convergences recorded in the talks and in the implementation of a multifaceted foreign policy, along with a broad pro-people socio-economic policy. For the first time privileges and ruling interests were threatened. Consequently, a fierce all-out attack on all levels began against Christofias and AKEL.

The consequences of the capitalist crisis and the opposition to right wing governments

AKEL and Christofias government did not shift the burden of the crisis on working people's backs, unlike other governments and two consecutive right-wing governments elected in 2013 & 2018 as well as the latest one elected in 2023. Whereas AKEL and Christofias resisted the implementation of neoliberal and anti-workers' policies, fully in line with the Troika and EU dictates, the right-wing began by imposing an unprecedented "bail-in" on bank deposits with disastrous effects of the country's economy people's lives. Over the years, AKEL and the People's Movement of the Left have been playing a leading role in the mobilization and militant defense of workers' rights and social gains that have been under fierce attack from the EU policies and the decisions of the right-wing governments.

23rd Congress

The 23rd Congress of AKEL that was held on 2-4 July 2021 elected comrade Stefanos Stefanou as the new General Secretary of the CC. Further documents of the Congress in English may be found at the following link: <https://akel.org.cy/23d-congress-2021/?lang=en>



2023 Presidential Elections

For the 2023 presidential elections (Cyprus has a presidential system), AKEL aimed to create a majority stream that would put an end to a decade of conservative and neoliberal right-wing government.

In this context, AKEL supported the independent candidate Andreas Mavroyiannis on the basis of a progressive governance program with a priority on solving the Cyprus problem, that also included positions on important social issues such as labour relations, housing, public health, education, as well as on environmental protection and the rule of law.

Contrary to the expectations, Andreas Mavroyiannis not only passed to the second round of the elections, leaving out the then President of DISY, but was close to Nikos Christodoulides' percentage in the first round.

In the second round, although he did not succeed to win, Andreas Mavroyiannis, secured a much higher percentage than the estimates of the previous months: he polled 48.03% against 51.97% of N. Christodoulides.

Recent elections

In an adverse political and economic climate characterized by the deliberate daily cultivation by specific circles of apathy, de-politicalisation, rise of the far-right, AKEL participated in the elections held in recent years achieving to maintain its role as a dominant opposition force, although it had significant losses in the last two Parliamentary and European elections. On the other hand, the electoral and political goals were much more successfully achieved in Presidential and Local elections.

Year	Elections	Results
2021	Parliamentary (next in 2026)	22.34 (-3.3%) / 15 seats (-1)
2023	Presidential AKEL supported the independent candidacy of Andreas Mavrogiannis.	<u>'A Round:</u> Andreas Mavrogiannis reached 29.59% among three main candidates and passed to the 2 nd Round. <u>'B Round:</u> Andreas Mavrogiannis polled 48,03% - Nicos Christodoulides won with 51.97%.
2024	<i>European Elections</i>	21.5 (-6%) / 1 seat (-1)
2024	<i>Local Elections</i>	<u>14 (out of 20) Mayors</u> elected with AKEL's support <u>3 (out of 5) Presidents of District organizations</u> elected with AKEL's support 28% members of <u>Municipal Councils (+5%)</u>

New government

While the new government is considered to belong to the political spectrum of the center, it is clear that Nikos Christodoulides in most issues preserves the line of the previous neoliberal, right-wing governments which he served as spokesperson and Foreign Minister. AKEL, being the main opposition voice to the new government, takes the lead in raising key political issues such as the Cyprus Problem as well as the rights of the working people and popular strata, for example price hikes in energy and goods, defending COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment), salaries, etc.

Milestones for AKEL

- July 2024 marks 50 years since the coup d'état and the Turkish invasion and occupation.
- 100 years of CPC-AKEL. 2026 will see the culmination of events organised by AKEL in honour of the 100th anniversary since the founding of the Communist Party of Cyprus in 1926, of which AKEL became the successor in 1941.

AKEL Statutory Congress

AKEL held a Constitutional Congress in November 2023. The discussion focused around three axis:

- Strengthening and a more stable relationship with the broader left but also with the progressive part of the society
- Changes within the Party for faster and more tangible action
- Strengthening of AKEL in the next two electoral battles

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