



Brief Historical Outline



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 95 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 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 disagreed with the armed struggle of the nationalist EOKA organization 1955-59, supporting instead a mass and organized political struggle in a joint anti-imperialist front of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Many GC and TC comrades were murdered by the ultra-right in the 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 that 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 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.

The consequences of the capitalist crisis and the two terms of a right wing government

AKEL and Christofias government did not shift the burden of the crisis on working people's backs, unlike other governments and the Right wing government elected in 2013 and reelected in 2018. 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. Although Cyprus has exited the Memorandum in 2016 the Right wing government is continuing even intensifying the same austerity policies of cuts, privatizations and deregulations.. AKEL and the People's Movement of the Left are playing the leading role in the mobilization and militant defense of workers' rights and social gains that are under fierce attack from the EU policies, the government's decisions and further threatened by the consequences of the ongoing covid-19 pandemic.

In its second term the right-wing government further implemented neoliberal policies;; reduction of public funds, deregulation of the labour market and shrinkage of the welfare state as well as the closing down of the Cooperative movement., It has also been characterized by corruption scandals at high government level including involvement in the notorious "golden visa" investment programme. These have damaged genuine economic development, as well as Cyprus' international stand.

The election of Demetris Christofias to the Presidency of the Republic of Cyprus.

In 2007 AKEL took the historic decision for the first time since 1960 independence to support its own candidate, its General Secretary at the time, Demetris Christofias, in the 2008 Presidential Elections. His election with 53,3% of the vote in the 2nd round was of historical 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 the promotion 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.



AKEL and recent elections

In an adverse political and economic climate characterized by the deliberate daily cultivation by specific circles of apathy, de-politicalisation, absence of real political debate on positions and proposals, as well as rampant anti-AKEL and anti-communist frenzy, AKEL has participated in the elections held in recent years achieving to maintain its role as a dominant opposition force, although it had significant losses, particularly in the last two Parliamentary elections.



| YEAR | ELECTIONS | RESULTS |
|------|--|--|
| 2016 | Parliamentary | 25.67 (-7.1%)/16 Seats (-3) |
| 2016 | Local (next in December 2021) | 14 Mayors elected out of 39 Municipalities Election of AKEL's candidate for the Presidency of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities. |
| 2018 | Presidential (next in 2023) AKEL supported the independent candidacy of Stavros Malas, being the only Party supporting him in both rounds. (Cyprus holds a Presidential system) | A ' Round: Stavros Malas reached 30,24% and passed second to the B ' Round. B ' Round: Stavros Malas reached 44,01% over 55,99% of the right-wing Nicos Anastasiades who was reelected for a second term. |
| 2021 | Parliamentary (next in 2026) | 22.34 (-3.3%)/15 seats (-1) |

23rd Congress

The 23rd Congress of AKEL that was held on 2-4 July 2021 elected comrade Stephanos Stephanou 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>



International Relations Bureau AKEL
July 2021

Follow AKEL news at:

<https://akel.org.cy/?lang=en>

@AKEL.International

akel1926

Contact AKEL at:

interbureau@akel.org.cy

(+357) 22817346

