



# AKEL Bulletin

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**AKEL SUPPORTS THE INDEPENDENT CANDIDACY OF THE  
MINISTER OF HEALTH**

## STAVROS MALAS

**FOR PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS**

The Extraordinary Party Congress of AKEL on the upcoming 2013 presidential elections convened on 21st of July 2012.

The Congress with 1,183 votes in favor (92.3%), 81 votes against (6.3%) and 17 abstentions (1.3%) decided to support the independent candidacy of the Minister of Health Mr. Stavros Malas for the Presidency of the Republic, which is expected to be announced.

What our country needs today is to move beyond ourselves and parties and elect to the Presidency of the Republic a personality with a modern approach, bold thinking, coherent mode of action and effectiveness. A candidate that can unite politically-conscious and non-aligned people, young and elderly people, various social strata who have one common goal: to lead Cypriot society forward and Cyprus to reunification, peace and prosperity.

We believe that the personality which can lead this effort is the current Minister of Health Stavros Malas.



The backing of AKEL to the person of Mr. Malas will be given on the basis of the programmatic declaration that will express the contemporary needs of our society and that will respond to the pressing issues Cypriot society today is called upon to address.

Faced with the new age caused by the global and European economic developments and their consequences on our country, a new bold and radical proposal is required; **a proposal of Unity, Hope and Vision.**

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# Speech of the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou at the Extraordinary Party Congress on the 2013 Presidential Elections

21st July 2012, Nicosia



Today we are called upon to take important decisions; decisions that will be decisive for the future and perspective of Cyprus and the Cypriot people, decisive for the future course and influence of AKEL in Cypriot society.

Our decision will form the framework upon which we will wage our pre-election campaign. Our goal is that the candidate we will back will be a worthy choice for every democratic and progressive citizen; that our candidate will assert with demands the Presidency of the Republic and ensure proper and effective governance.

Who will be at the helm of the country the day after the Presidential elections and what kind of policies will be pursued will also determine the perspective that will be created for Cyprus and our people. Will we allow policies to prevail that will force our people to concede or even worse, accept any kind of a solution? Will we allow faits accomplis to be formed that will delete the agreed framework of the solution of the Cyprus problem and put our people and country in dangerous adventures? Surely not.

The result will be similarly critical also with regards the policies that will be followed on economic issues. Will working people's interests and gains be protected? Or will the consequences of the crisis and the banker's investment games be put on working people's backs? Will the door be opened in Cyprus as well for the selling off of state property and the abolition of the welfare state, or will we continue to build on all that we have achieved so far? Will the benefits from

the use of our energy wealth be properly utilised? Will it be the basis upon which the future of Cyprus of tomorrow, prosperity and progress will be built? Or will our energy wealth end up in the hands of a few?

It is extremely important that the choice we will make should be a convincing proposal which can develop a dynamic in a progressive direction.

Today's Congress is the culmination of the democratic procedures our Party implemented since our reflection began on the path towards the 2013 presidential elections. Allow me to congratulate all the members and cadres on the fact that all of us and each and every one of us contributed towards developing a fruitful dialogue and creative reflection within the Party; a dialogue and reflection that had as their starting point the sincere concern about how to make our pre-election struggle stronger. All the Party members had the possibility to participate in this dialogue and reflection. It was again proved in practice and not in theory that AKEL is by far the most democratic party in Cyprus.

**Our Extraordinary Congress is taking place in extremely crucial, if not unprecedented, conditions for the world and Cyprus. Over 20 years after the dissolution of the Soviet Union the so-called New World Order is intensifying its attacks at all levels. On the military front, NATO is being upgraded and to-**



gether with allies they are trying to impose by any means their interests all over the world, ignoring the peoples, trampling on the people's right to choose themselves their own path of development. They have made use for this purpose "pre-emptive wars", the militarization of international relations, the enlargement of the network of US and NATO military bases and the stirring up of disputes and armed conflicts in various countries.

We here in Cyprus too know very well what imperialism, the stirring up of disputes, invasion and occupation is. We have been suffering from it for 38 years now. Turkey exploiting the traitorous coup d'état of the junta of Greece and EOKA B illegally invaded our island in 1974 and since then is occupying 37% of our territories. It is daily violating the human rights of the Cypriot people. All of this at the same time when it presents itself as a modern, European and peace loving state.

multifaceted work as the Christofias government.

It has proceeded to actions for the modernization and radical restructuring of the state, such as the Educational Reform, the proposal for reforming the local self-government sector and the simplification of the procedures on issues affecting citizens.

Simultaneously at a time when various governments on a European level on the pretext of the crisis are putting the blame for the mistakes committed by a small minority on the majority of the people, the Christofias government has consciously opted to support the majority of the people. It withstood the pressure exerted on it to implement measures against the people interests and promoted policies serving the needs of the majority of the people. In difficult conditions it took significant measures to support working people, the youth, women and pensioners. It upgraded to a large extent the housing, refugee and in gen-



Apart from the Cyprus problem, which remains unresolved threatening the future of our people, we also have to tackle the consequences of the world capitalist crisis; a crisis which of course is not accidental. It is due to the structural characteristics of capitalism; a system where production is socialized to the greatest degree through the labour of billions of people and the results of this labour is being exploited by a minority. **In such a system, crises are unavoidable. For the political representatives of capital and capital itself, crises are necessary, not only to share and reshare the pie of profits between themselves, but also to find the opportunity to attack working peoples gains and to find an excuse to abolish within a short period of time all that working people have fought for and won through decades of struggle, with sweat and in many cases bloody sacrifices.** This attack is increasingly intensifying both on an international and European level.

In recent years a great deal has been said and written in Cyprus. **The exaggerated and leveling references of the opposition were on a daily basis with negative consequences for Cyprus' economy. We have no doubt whatsoever that the nearer we get to the elections the attacks will intensify further. However, the reality is that no government has produced such a significant and**

**eral social policy.**

At a time when throughout almost the whole of Europe the recipe that was followed to tackle the crisis was austerity, in Cyprus the Christofias government looked to growth and development through measures to support the real economy. Such measures included the package of measures to support the tourist and construction sector, the increase in the development budgets in the first three years and the granting of large sums to back SMEs, but also enterprises in general.

These measures have a positive impact. The Cyprus economy overcame then the problems and took the path of recovery at the end of 2010. **Regretfully however this path of recovery was halted due to the exposure of the Cypriot banks to the Greek bonds. The problems grew because of the "haircut" of the Greek debt which also affected our economy. Given its small size, the consequences on the Cyprus economy were in comparison more severe than on other national economies.**

In the new situations that had evolved, the Government was forced to readapt its policy. Its priority was to limit the consequences on

the people and in particular on working people. To this end, it approved two large packages of measures to address the problems that had arisen as a result of the crisis, but also of the long-standing structural problems.

The structural measures taken concerned the permanent contribution of civil servants of 3% towards their pension, targeted social benefits, the abolition of the existing civil servants pension scheme and the integration of newcomers to the Social Security Fund, the reduction in the salaries of newcomers in the civil service by 10% and the abolition of the multiple pensions. In addition, measures were taken such as the freezing of salaries and the Cost of Living Allowance for two years with the right to extend the measure if the situation of the economy demanded it. With the implementation of these measures it was anticipated that the fiscal deficit for 2012 would decrease from 6.3% to around 3%.

In its efforts to tackle the situation the Government did not receive any support from the opposition. **Bills concerning the contribution of accumulated wealth and profits were rejected by it.** Besides this, the opposition promoted Bills which reduced state revenues, thereby escalating the economy's problems.

Apart from the taking of specific measures, the Government secured an inter-state loan from Russia worth 2.5 billion Euros, aiming to meet the needs of the state to refinance the debt. It is currently also trying to secure a loan from Russia. Consequently, the Government, but also AKEL, have been making efforts and are taking measures so that the Cyprus economy is put on a positive track.

**Despite all this, Cyprus' recourse to the Support Mechanism became inevitable. We were forced to submit the application due to the enormous problems caused by the exposure of the Cypriot banks to the Greek bonds and as a result of the continuous downgrading of the Cyprus economy by the rating agencies. We could have addressed the limited, in comparison to other countries, fiscal problems without turning towards the Support Mechanism, had the Cypriot banks not been exposed to such a large extent.** The responsibility for this development also lies with the relevant supervisory authority. The former Governor of the Central Bank said in April 2011 shortly before the impairment of the Greek debt that, "The Cyprus banking system has sufficient funds to cope even in the event of a major restructuring of the Greek public debt and we should not put obstacles before the Cyprus banking system." Mr. Orphanides even invoked the assessments of a major rating agency according to which the Cypriot banks have such huge funds that they do not need further capitalization in the event of a possible restructuring of the Greek debt. Unfortunately he was refuted by developments themselves.

The authority to exercise supervisory control over banks belongs exclusively to the Governor of the Central Bank. Nevertheless, the opposition chose consciously to focus their attacks on the Christofias government and AKEL. That is to say, allegedly that D. Christofias could have prevented the "haircut" of the Greek debt and the impact on the Cypriot banks and it did not do so. They are lying on purpose, just to damage the Government and AKEL in the minds of the people. If we assume that the opposition operates so irresponsibly because it is seeking to secure petty-party benefits, what is Mr. Orphanides aiming at then?

What is the truth? The decision of the European Council was taken after the relevant proposal was prepared with the participation also of the European Central Bank (ECB). Mr. Orphanides was then at its helm. Why didn't he express his disagreement with the proposal? Why didn't he convey his supposed disagreement with the President of the Republic, given that he subsequently stated that he con-



sidered the whole issues as extremely important?

They must also explain however what the result would have been and the consequences of such an effort by the President of the Republic. Could the President on his own overturn such an extremely crucial decision for all the rest of the leaders of the EU? Wouldn't the President have been accused of leading the Euro zone to bankruptcy? Wouldn't the "super-patriots" risen up because D. Christofias would have voted against a decision that aimed to assist Greece and the Greek people?

When this argument was totally refuted they conjured up something else, that is to say that D. Christofias ought to have ensured that the Cypriot banks would be exempt from the consequences. The President and the Government has been attempting to do this for many months. However, do they believe that such an effort is so simple, that there aren't many other parameters that must be taken into account? In retrospect, they present themselves as the wisest of the wise, provided that the TV cameras cover them and with their populism they are drowning the people with lies and in-



accuracies.

The attack against the Government is today reaching a climax. It began the moment the crisis broke out, when the opposition was attempting to spread confusion concerning the causes of the crisis. It continued with the attempt to restrict the revenues of the state and to increase its costs, as well as with the rejection of Bills concerning the contribution of accumulated wealth and profits. The criticism intensified when the well-known dogma “the Christofias government is to blame for everything” was implemented even in relation to long-standing structural problems which they themselves created and hid for years under the carpet. The attack continued when the opposition stated that the Christofias government is to blame for the rise in unemployment, as if we are not going through the worst ever crisis of capitalism, as if it isn't the banking sector that is responsible for this “choking” of development.

The situation created forced us to resort to the Support Mechanism. This fact paved the way for the Troika representatives to come to Cyprus. As AKEL, we assess that we have the possibility to negotiate in a well-documented and determined way in order to avoid painful terms on working people. We insist that the decisions taken at the last Session of the European Council and which concern the direct funding of the banks by the Support Mechanism should also be implemented in the case of Cyprus too, as it is being arranged to be the case in Spain and Italy.

Our Party pledged that in the meeting with the Troika it would have in the coming days, that it would submit concrete proposals to address the problems, that these proposals would boost growth and protect working people and their gains. In Cyprus social and labour

institutions have been safeguarded for decades and it is inconceivable that we would abolish them with a stroke of a pen.

This negative development poses dangers for causing problems, especially for people on low incomes and the middle strata. The number of the unemployed is likely to increase, whilst there is a danger for the cohesion of society and Cyprus' economy.

**As AKEL, we insist that the consequences of this crisis of the system and banking systems problems cannot be put on the backs of the poor, the unemployed, the young generation and on small businesses.** We address everyone and state the following: we are together; together we shall struggle to combat the dangers.

AKEL is the political force with the longest history and presence in our country. However, it is also the force with a more profound perspective; it is the force that is preparing for the future. As such a force, it has from the very beginning opted to serve a specific camp; on the side of the working people and the vulnerable and weak; on the side of the poor and the middle strata of society. It has, and is dedicating, and will continue to devote all its strength to serve their interests and survival.

Today the Democratic Rally party (DISY) is presenting itself as the defender of the working people. We all know very well that the working people of our country and the Cypriot people in general have suffered when their fate was in the hands of DISY during its 10 year long administration.

**Similarly, the opposition is also systematically distorting the foreign policy President Christofias has followed and his pol-**





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**Andros Kyprianou, General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL**

icy on the Cyprus problem. They attribute “rigidity” and “ideological obsession” at the same time when the President will go down in history as the one who has set the foundations for Cyprus to become an energy centre; at the same time when with the multifaceted foreign policy he has pursued, has managed to secure the support of the international community as a shield against the fierce Turkish threats during the beginning of the explorations and drilling in the Cyprus Exclusive Economic Zone.

They blame him for “incompetent handling” that “lead to deadlocks” the Cyprus problem, thus leaving Turkish intransigence immune and Turkey’s regressions and backtracking from what has been agreed. DISY, repeating itself, is transforming itself before the elections, moving away from the positions it was projecting until today. It does so without reflecting whether it will drive Cyprus into dangerous adventures. The reason is simple: it is seeking to secure support in the light of the Presidential elections.

Furthermore, positions are being projected demanding the change of the basis of the solution. If this were to be adopted, it would bring us into a very difficult position. It would convey the message that we are going back on the agreed framework of the solution and that we are seeking to delay the whole procedure. The position calling for the deletion of what has been done until today and for the resumption of the negotiations from a zero basis is also extremely

dangerous. Such a development will isolate us internationally and would lead Cyprus and our people to unfavorable developments. As far as Mr. Lillikas is concerned, I would just say the following. In the 20 years he is involved in the political life of the country, he has changed on many occasions his political positions and political spectrum. Today he has very consciously chosen to express his specific positions. The reason is obvious. He considers that the specific political spectrum is very fertile to draw votes from and to build his future political career on. It’s of little interest to him if the country will enter into a course of deadlock as a result of his proposals.

The difficulties in the course of the solution of the Cyprus problem and the serious economic problems depict a negative picture. In these conditions it is imperative that our Party remains powerful. To achieve this we need to remain devoted to the philosophy that is guiding our political action. At the same time, we offer our hand for cooperation with the progressive democratic forces of the country and with the broader strata of the people in order to address collectively the crucial issues raised before the Cypriot people today. All these developments render a particular relevance to the upcoming election fight.

The great victory we achieved in the 2008 presidential elections was not only a personal success of comrade Demetris Christofias; it was a great success of the Peoples Movement of the Left; it was a tremendous gain of the working people and our people. The deci-



sion to assert the Presidency with the then General Secretary of the Central Committee was not a personal decision. It was preceded by the serious and deep reflection of the leadership and rank and file of the Party.

Although we shall proceed to make a comprehensive assessment of the Presidency of comrade D. Christofias at a later stage, it is important to look at aspects of the reflection that developed then when we were waging the battle for the Presidency in order to understand how much the positions of our Party have been vindicated. At that time we had pointed out, *inter alia*, that the candidacy of D. Christofias would rejuvenate the hope for the solution of the Cyprus problem and lead Cypriot society forward. **At the same time we had pointed out that anti-communism and anti-AKELism would revive; that a large section of the parties, the mass media and the Church would adopt a hostile position towards the President and AKEL. We had warned that “our potential rise to power would not necessarily also mean a solution of the Cyprus problem because the solution of the problem as we have stressed – whether we are in opposition or participating in government – depends on Turkey. If Turkey continues its current policy and if its allies do not exercise pressure on Turkey to change its policy the road to the solution of the Cyprus problem would remain closed.” We had predicted that there would be excessive expectations also with regards socio-economic policy and on issues relating to meritocracy.**

These assessments we had made on these issues were all reconfirmed. The Turkish side insists on pursuing unacceptable positions on the Cyprus problem and a section of the international community continues to avoid criticizing the Turkish side in order to serve its own interests. The economic crisis has caused serious consequences and difficulties with regards socio-economic issues. The pressing problems that have arisen, the persistent refusal of the political forces to accept measures that would affect the wealthy and profits but not working people and the continuous pressure due to their circumstantial parliamentary majority, to adopt measures which our Party was always opposed to, has led to decisions which under other circumstances we would have in no way have supported. Along with all these, the tragic accident at the Mari naval base was added, which caused serious problems to the country and which unleashed unprecedented leveling and fierce attacks against President Christofias and AKEL.

The opposition exploited each one of these problems to the greatest degree. Especially during the Mari accident the frenzy and exaggeration were at their highest level. However, there were many cases where they created an issue out of nothing just to conduct opposition. AKEL has never stopped, despite all the attacks, supporting President Christofias’ policy on the Cyprus problem and the government’s work. We did not do so just because we had the obligation to support President Christofias. We have done so because we believe that in essence the Presidents policy on the Cyprus problem is correct and that the government has produced a significant and multifaceted work. All through these years correct decisions have



been taken, correct policies pursued, radical changes have been implemented and a significant work has been produced to the benefit of Cyprus, our people and working people. **Our priority and goal in the coming election campaign is to avert the destruction of all that we have achieved to build the foundations during these 4 and half years. Taking into account the bitter for our people experience of the 10 year administration of the DISY party, it’s not difficult to foresee the fate of our people in the event Mr. Anastasiades is elected to the post of President of the Republic.**

During those 10 years they put everything under their control, claiming that they were the “healthiest section of the population”. They fooled the people with the purchase of the S300 missile fiasco which never arrived in Cyprus and the Stock Exchange scandal which favored the few and the very specific rich, whilst they led thousands of citizens to bankruptcy. At that time everyone knew that they had set up a company which was profiteering to the detriment of the people through private investments on the Stock Exchange. Their own leading members were denouncing that they had piles of evidence of scandals. Their main objective then was to sell off the national wealth to the private sector; the abolition of collective agreements, the imposition of flexible working hours and the complete deregulation of labour relations. They themselves were denouncing then that their term in office was “reminiscent of the decline of the Roman Empire”. Today they are pretending that all this never took place and are trying to persuade that they have changed, that they are unblemished, have done no harm and are On the side of the people and their interests.

Unfortunately, for them a mere review of the positions of Mr. Anastasiades and of DISY party can prove that they are pursuing the same line of policies against the people’s interests and of contradictions. In 2009 their declarations were referring to bizonal bicomunal federation. In 2012 any reference to federation has been deleted from the Outline of the Proposals they presented to political parties in order to call for their support. At the same time, they

have discovered the line of “loose” federation.

**In their proposals in 2012 they talk about a “new economic and development model” without even naming it and describing its content. Just a few years ago they were preaching the “free market” and cursing and demonizing “state intervention”. Now they are pompously ranting about the “social market economy” without ever explaining what they actually mean.** In brief, and even if they were to come to power, they would not know what to do with it. We are certain that they would implement the same inconsistent two-faced line of that 10 year period; that half of the leading members of DHSY will be pressing for a federal solution and the other half will reject it. Mr. Anastasiades would himself on the one hand want to negotiate in order to achieve a “loose” federation and on the other in a crisis of self-awareness when he will see that the people do not trust him to handle the Cyprus problem, would want to appoint a negotiator. Regarding the economy, one wonders - what policies would prevail? Those policies that say “give to the people” or those that seek to “take from the people”?

At this time our people cannot pin their hopes on the backtracking and contradictions of Mr. Anastasiades and the Democratic Rally Party. Our people today need a bold and radical proposal; a proposal of sincerity, honesty and clarity.

Acting towards this end, the leadership of our Party decided that priority should be given to the achievement of the broadest possible cooperation of the political forces because the problems our country is facing are such that a broader understanding and cooperation is imperative. AKEL remains faithful to the policy of cooperation which despite the weaknesses, as a whole has benefited Cyprus and our people. Of course we have not acted in this direction without conditions and terms. The oppositionist frenzy on behalf of forces we have cooperated with over the last four years, even when they participated in the government, has made us wiser.

When we aimed to forge cooperation we insisted that an agreement must be concluded beforehand based on political principles that would include the Cyprus problem and on fundamental issues with regards internal governance. Furthermore, we demanded that the means of cooperation, coordination and mutual respect between the forces that would potentially form a cooperation must be discussed and agreed previously. The final precondition we had set was that the issue of the Presidential candidate must be discussed and agreed without any prior decisions and without any exclusions.

During the dialogue we had with the Democratic Party DIKO, the Socialist Party EDEK, the Political Platform for the Restructuring of the Centre and the EVROKO party, we strove to exhaust all possibilities. We proceeded to make a bold step by putting forward the idea of AKEL supporting to-

gether with DIKO and perhaps other political parties too, an independent candidate that will come from the ranks of DIKO, but would not be an active leading member of the party. Regretfully, this proposal of ours also did not get a positive response. After this development we made a serious reflection as to what would be the best course to fulfill our goal. We also reflected on the possibility of putting forth a party candidate which in the end the Central Committee did not favour. Why?

We shouldn't be under any illusions that because we were victorious in 2008 with the candidacy of D. Christofias that the same would be the case today. Com. Christofias was the General Secretary of the Party for 20 years and the President of the House of Representatives for 7 years. He was at that time the most popular Cypriot politician. The big step for AKEL to put forth its own candidate for the Presidency with its leader then was taken at a time when the broader political conditions permitted it.

**In the coming five year term the Cyprus problem will have reached almost 40 years unsolved, a fact which not only harbors dangers, but also puts before us the evident threat of partition. The issues related to natural gas must be handled in such a way as to ensure that it will be the people who will in essence reap the benefits from it. The capitalist crisis has already provided the political representatives of capital with a unique opportunity for them to attack working people's gains. In such complicated and complex conditions it is expected that AKEL will project a proposal that will show the way for the creation of unity on goals and collectiveness in practice, at least in the second round of the Presidential elections.**

**Could this have been achieved with a candidate from the Party? If one were to take into account the efforts to isolate AKEL and the systematic cultivation of a strong adverse climate against our Party by political parties and figures, a section of the mass media, even of the Church, the answer is negative.**

It is true that even in these tense and negative conditions for our Party, we have managed as AKEL to maintain or even increase our percentages in various election campaigns. However, today we are not talking about European, Parliamentary or Local self-government and Municipal elections. We are talking about Presidential







## STAVROS MALAS

Dr Stavros Malas is the Minister for Health of the Republic of Cyprus.

He was educated in the United Kingdom where he obtained a BSc and PhD in Genetics in (1988-1994).

He has worked as a researcher at the Clinical Sciences Centre and Hammer-smith Hospital and in 2001 he moved to the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics to set up a research team working on early brain development using genetically modified mice as an experimental model. His main interest is the study of the role of certain transcription factors in cell fate decisions during brain and spinal cord development.

Dr Malas has served as the National Representative in various Committees of the European Commission dealing with policy issues on biomedical research. Specifically, he has served as the National Representative to the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures, the Program Committee for Health and the States Representative Group of the Innovative Medicines Initiative. For the latter he has served as the first elected Chair for the period of 2008 to 2010. In 2008 and 2009 he was appointed as Special Advisor to the previous European Commissioner for Health, Mrs Androula Vassiliou.

Dr Malas has served as advisor to research funding organizations and academic collaborator to the University of Cyprus and University College London.

elections where we always contest them, seeking to achieve the broadest possible consensus, without hiding behind either our high percentages, or to be limited by party expediencies.

We can with a party candidate count on the all-round support and belief in the Party of all and persuade that the Party and its candidate deserve their support, thus achieving our passage to the second round run-off of the elections. This would, for us, be relatively easy. However, what would happen in the run-off between the two candidates in the second round? Why should we allow DHSY to enhance its own hard-core party candidate by presenting a false profile as supposedly new and different? Indeed at the same time when we do have a choice; a choice that can meet the concerns not only of the people of AKEL, but also of every democratic and progressive person.

**We believe that the candidacy of Stavros Malas offers such a choice. After a lot of reflection and thought, the Plenary session of the Central Committee proposed to the party membership to support his candidacy in the elections.**

**Stavros Malas is not only a capable scientist with a comprehensive biography. His is a creative politician, who has proved in practice his capabilities to promote reforms to the benefit of society as a whole; who has used his knowledge for the common good. He is a man who engaged in political struggle in the most difficult times for the Christofias government, aiming to offer his services. It is a proposal that represents what is new,**

**bold, radical and well-substantiated. This proposal will be put forth against petty-party expediencies, conservatism and populism.**

In the debate that took place in the Party Base Organizations (PBO) 80% approved in principle the proposal of the Central Committee in support of the candidacy of Stavros Malas, 15% against and 5% abstained. In the PBO's, every Party member expressed his/her opinion freely. These were recorded and transferred to the Central Committee. Another message was also transmitted to the C.C: that irrespective of the outcome of the result of the procedure, the Party membership will work as one fist, as one force to implement the Party decisions. The Central Committee, with 95% in favour and 5% abstention puts before the Congress the Stavros Malas candidacy.

Quite a few comrades in a well-intentioned manner raised the following questions in the PBO's: why did the C.C, submit only one proposal before the party rank and file? Why didn't the discussion begin from the party grass roots?

All these issues have to do with the very character and constitution of our Party. However, they also have to do with dialectics which guide our analyses. On such an important decision, the C.C. as the guiding body elected by the Congress which follows the issues very closely, has the duty, not the option, or the obligation, to reflect on and subsequently set out the political framework of the waging of

the discussion in the party rank and file. It was not possible to enable the PBO's to discuss in a void and without putting forward a basis for that debate. That is why the C.C. referred to the Party membership with concrete arguments about the political framework within which the battle of the presidential elections will be waged, but also with a specific proposal for contesting these elections.

In addition, it should not escape our attention that the Party Constitution has specific provisions on how to handle these issues. The proposal of the minority in the C.C. is referred to the party rank and file, only if it exists and if it is coherent. There was no such proposal and therefore only one opinion was transferred. This was always the case with the sole exceptions being the 2008 presidential elections and the proposal to change our position concerning the EU at the 18th Congress in 1995.

Other things have been written and said, most of them malicious. Despite all this, we shall reply to the most basic in order to clarify all that has been well-intentionally or maliciously put forth in public.

Will a young man with a brief presence in political life succeed? I think we can all agree that other contenders for the Presidency with a long political presence in the country have probably harmed rather than benefited it. Why should the people prefer someone with a burdened political past and not prefer someone who has all the capabilities for a bright future? Why can't a generally acclaimed capable and articulate scientist with a political outlook and a methodological mind politically face his contenders? Besides, in every political confrontation it is not only personalities that are in struggle, but also political positions and policies; serious, responsible and well-documented or not positions.

**Stavros Malas has all the preconditions to worthily face his contenders. He is a young man who has not been tarnished in political affairs and at the same time is not unfamiliar with politics. He has a long and successful involvement in social affairs. In the short time he has been at the helm of a difficult Ministry with many problems, he has shown a correct understanding of matters, clear positions and proper solutions. He works methodically, collectively and decisively to promote them. It is not accidental that all that has not been implemented in previous years in the field of Health are today swiftly being promoted.**

**His cooperation with AKEL both during the 2011 parliamen-**



**tary elections when he was one of our candidates in Pafos, as well as his term as Minister of Health is excellent. As a candidate MP he demonstrated that he is a man with ethos, honesty, qualified, studious and methodical. These characteristics were appreciated and measured in assigning him a Ministerial position and have been reconfirmed by his Ministerial term. He will have the opportunity to highlight all of these characteristics during the pre-election campaign.**

Is it indeed an option that can be supported by the broader strata of the Cypriot people? I shall reverse the question. Stavros Malas is a young and capable man with a democratic and untarnished political past. He represents a bold and radical proposal which seeks to lead our country and people to the future. So the real question is: is Mr. Anastasiades an option which can gain support from the broader strata of the Cyprus people? Is there a working person, whether he or she supports AKEL, DHKO, EDEK or another party that could support the leader of the political party which during the period of economic prosperity wanted to take away and abolish gains, rights and benefits from the working people?

Is there a democratic voter, regardless of which party he or she supports, who will support that candidate who is attempting the covering up of all those who fought against democracy by opening the gates to the Turkish invasion?

**We are addressing all the democratic and progressive citizens of our country, regardless of where they belong. We assure them that irrespective of the disagreements that have appeared between us in recent years, we will never erase our common historical and big struggles. We will never cease calling for an all-militant and all-democratic rallying of the people of the democratic and Makarios spectrum, against the perpetuation of the crime that was committed in the black July of 1974 against our country; against the fascism that is raising its head again; against the attempts to distort and revise history with the memorial events for Grivas and Sampson and with the stat-**



**ues for coupists unveiled by Mr. Anastasiades; against the plans of the Right to drag the Republic of Cyprus into NATO, if it manages to come to power. We call on them, together, to give hope and a perspective to our country and people. It is our conviction that Stavros Malas can constitute the credible and democratic choice for every progressive person.**

Is maybe our choice a conscious choice of defeat as some are saying? All those claiming so ignore what AKEL means. AKEL is a Party of almost 90 years of history and service to the country. It has never played, nor is it today playing any political games, nor is it bluffing with petty-party tricks. We leave all of these actions to all those who believe that politics is a game; that the future of the country is their personal arena where they play and win on their own, even though life itself has refuted them so many times.

Before us we face a big political battle which we can win as long as we believe in our forces, work hard, with sincerity and selflessness so that we can vindicate the people of AKEL, but also all those who are looking towards us.

**It is not only the members of AKEL who are looking towards AKEL; it is also the working people; the low and middle income strata; the young generation, farmers, pensioners and scientists; all those who want politics to mean actions and not slogans: all those who want radical ruptures and reforms; all those who believe that now is the time for the innovative, the new and far-reaching change.** This is the proposal we are presenting to the people; a radical and bold proposal that only a force such as AKEL can present; a proposal which seeks to represent a fundamental change in the political life of the country; a proposal of unity, hope and perspective that will take us forward; a proposal of renewal, clarity and honesty.

All of us here today, but also so many others who are looking to-

wards us can be sure of one thing: that the bastion called AKEL may have been born in turbulent times, it may have bled from the thorns many and various forces and circles have put on its path, but AKEL has never ever yielded! It has never knelt and bowed its head! It only grew. It rallied close to it ever more people on its path. Generations and generations of members of AKEL who worked and are working hard, day and night, that have established AKEL to be today the big political and social force that can lead Cyprus forward; generations and generations of democratic and progressive people who are convinced that this force can pave the way for the future.

**L**et's therefore gather our forces and stand upright! – ready to fight again those who thought that they have the stature to attack and strike the greatest gain the working people have ever gained, their very own Party!

**We are ready to again face those who want to condemn our people to uncertainty, deadlocks and their policies against the people's interests; people who are ready to combat again with their own past in order to win our own future!**

**For Cyprus!  
For the People!**



## AKEL ON THE ECONOMY

Statement by the Deputy Parliamentary Spokesman of AKEL -Left-New Forces, Stavros Evagorou

1. The Cyprus economy, like most economies, felt the impact of 1. The Cyprus economy, like most economies, felt the impact of the global capitalist economic crisis: a crisis that is not accidental. **It is a crisis of the system itself and is due to its very nature. The crisis confirmed that capitalism, despite the impetus it gave to the mankind's development of the productive forces, failed to create preconditions for social progress and prosperity. In these conditions conservative and neoliberal economic policies were adopted and promoted that have rendered economies completely unprotected.** These philosophies were also supported here in our country. In Cyprus, political parties argued that the dominant philosophy in the economic and social field should be the philosophy of supposedly free and creative development without stifling regulations and restrictions. This philosophy collapsed internationally with unimaginable severe consequences for working people throughout the world.

2. Since 2009 the government has aimed to tackle the negative impact of the economic crisis by acting on two axes:

(a) through the implementation of measures to support the real economy such as the allocation of a support package for tourism and the construction sector amounting to 500 million Euros, the increase in the budget to boost development by 300 million Euros, the granting of 200 million Euros to the Housing Finance Agency (Note: a semi-governmental agency that made this sum available to couples on low incomes so that they can acquire their first permanent residence), the securing of 300 million Euros from the European Investment Bank to back small and medium enterprises (SME's) and the provision of 3 billion Euros to the banking sector with a favourable interest rate. (b) **Through the implementation of social cohesion measures with a 30% increase in social benefits.**

The implementation of the above-mentioned measures had positive results, given that the Cypriot economy registered a positive growth rate in 2010.

3. However, in November 2010 the route of downgrading the Cyprus Economy by the rating agencies began, due principally to the Cypriot economy's exposure to the Greek bonds, but also because of the Greek economy's course in general. At the same time some downgrades also concerned the fiscal component because according to their analysis the rating agencies considered as given the state's inability to support the banking system

4. The continuous negative developments led the Government of Cyprus to the new approval of 2 large packages of a structural nature which were welcomed by the entire political leadership, aiming to address a large part of the fiscal imbalances which emerged. At the same time, together with the implementation of immediate actions a bilateral inter-state loan of 2.5 billion was secured from Russia to meet the needs of the state to refinance debt due to the



exclusion of the Cyprus Economy from the international markets.

5. The "haircut" of the Greek debt at the end of 2011 created unbearable consequences for the banking system. The losses recorded by Cypriot banks, combined with the increase of the Core Tier I capital imposed by the European Banking Authority on European banks until June 2012, was the main cause of the continuous downgrading of the Cyprus economy.

6. As a result, the Government's efforts turned to implementing the recommendations of the Commission on public finances. At the same time a race against time began for the recapitalisation of the Popular Bank, with simultaneous actions to secure an inter-state loan from third countries so that by 30th June a combination of policy could be pursued: Recourse to the European Financial Stability Fund for the recapitalisation of the banking system and utilization of inter-state loaning to refinance public debt, due to the impossibility to resort to a loan from international markets. At this juncture it should be stressed that the President of the Republic has never talked about withdrawing our application for support from the European institutions.

**7. The recourse to the Support Mechanism could have been avoided. It could not be avoided because the extent of the exposure of Cypriot banks was such that it was necessary to secure sufficient funds** (particularly after the special needs presented by Bank of Cyprus). At the same time even with the securing of the recapitalization of banks from the corresponding Mechanism, the refinancing of debt could not have been done had additional funding been found..

8. Regardless of the outcome of the application for loans from third countries the timeframes were so tight and narrow that we could but turn towards the European Support Mechanism.



9. Consequently, taking into account (a) the measures announced by the Republic of Cyprus, (b) the implementation of the Commissions recommendations and (c) the favourable comparison of the fiscal and economic indexes of the Republic of Cyprus in relation to the Euro zone average rate (the fiscal deficit will rise to 2.5% in relation to the fiscal deficit of several Euro zone countries which exceeds 4%, whilst the public debt stands at 71% when the average rate in the Euro zone is at 92%) enables us to negotiate with competence and self-confidence to avoid the imposition of burdensome conditions.

**10. The levelling approaches of severe austerity that have so far characterized the policies pursued in other countries did not lead anywhere other than to the crisis deepening and the impoverishment of workers. As AKEL we will not tolerate this policy and we shall struggle for such conditions that will lead to development, social cohesion and fiscal consolidation.**

11. It should be made clear that had the banking sector avoided the Cyprus economy's exposure to the Greek bonds, but also to the Greek economy in general, the implementation of some additional fiscal and structural measures could have prevented such an en-

larged involvement of the European Support Mechanisms.

12. At the same time, within the European Union a wider clash between two fundamental philosophies is visible. On the one hand, the neoliberal approach promoting excessive austerity which pushes working people as a whole to poverty finds, besides its representatives on a European level such as Germany, fertile soil also in the political arguments expressed in Cyprus by the Rally party and other political figures. On the other hand, a different current of approach that respects fiscal consolidation but sets growth and social cohesion at the heart of economic recovery is developing.

13. AKEL, in line with its philosophy, will support in practice the Government of Cyprus in its efforts to negotiate such terms that will distribute possible burdens based on each ones capabilities and financial standing and for sure not on working people's backs..

14. Finally, as AKEL we address an appeal to all political forces to show restraint, responsibility and unity because of the gravity of the situation. The duty of everyone is that through dialogue, proposals and opinions to contribute positively and constructively to tackle in a positive manner the challenges ahead.

28th June 2012

## AKEL AND EUROPEAN UNITED LEFT-NORDIC GREEN LEFT (GUE-NGL) AGAINST ACTA

**A**KEL welcomes the rejection of the ACTA agreement (Anti-Counterfeiting Trademark Agreement) by the relevant Committee of the European Parliament.

The International Trade Committee of the European Parliament voted against the ACTA agreement. Nineteen MEP's voted against ACTA, and twelve in favour, with no abstentions. Subsequently, the proposal that will be put before the forthcoming plenary session will provide for the rejection of the agreement. We hope that the ACTA agreement will in the end be rejected by the plenary session too, which the AKEL-Left-New Forces will vote against.

ACTA was presented as an international trade Agreement protecting intellectual property rights and combating piracy and counterfeiting. **However, the scope and unacceptable provisions create a regime for monitoring and recording data that violates freedoms and individual privacy.**

For example, the Agreement includes provisions for monitoring the Internet and recording the actions of users and systems, whilst a system recording personal data will be used compulsory by computers and addresses. The online sending or receiving of information (for example, the uploading, but also the monitoring of audiovisual media), that are protected by intellectual copyright rights will result in severe penalties and sanctions to the user. The suspicion alone that a product is counterfeit or falsified will enable the holder of the intellectual property right to demand from the competent state authorities the suspension of the circulation of suspect products.

Furthermore, it is extremely important to stress that one of the main objectives of the agreement is the combating of cheap generic medicines. The so-called generic medicines are cheaper than those with a patent. The original medicines are protected by laws that for some years are preventing other companies from circulating similar ones. When this period expires, in line with the practice implemented for several decades, companies circulate their own medicines that are similar to the original. The treatment of people in many countries, especially the poor ones, depends almost exclusively on them. Consequently, prohibition them from the market will deprive millions of patients from having access to medicine indispensable for their health.

ACTA, as AKEL has stressed on other occasions too, is a reactionary multi-tool of control and imposition serving the interests of multinational monopolies. **From the very beginning, AKEL and the Political Group of the European United Left in the European Parliament (GUE-NGL) were opposed to ACTA.**

ACTA's content is focused on the policies of undermining individual freedoms, privacy, the protection of personal data, freedom of expression, along with the commercialization of health and other social goods, always within the context of the laws of the market for constant competitiveness through the creation of new needs and new commodities. Increased competitiveness between big business giants and the inexorable laws of profit are the ones giving rise to such agreements, which will drastically reverse the rights, freedoms and everyday life of European citizens.

25th June 2012

**15th July 1974: fascist coup of the greek junta and EOKA B against President Makarios**

**20th July 1974: barbaric turkish invasion**

# 38 years since the double NATO crime against Cyprus

## AKEL Declaration on the anniversary of the fascist coup d'etat

**T**he 15th July 1974 was the beginning of the greatest ever disaster in Cyprus's modern history. The fascist coup of the junta of Greece and EOKA B attempted to overthrow and murder Makarios and resulted in the brutal Turkish invasion of Attila. Since then 38 years have passed and Turkey continues to have under its military occupation 37% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus by imposing partition through the force of arms. There is still the issue of the missing persons, the enclaved people in the occupied areas, the refugees and war-stricken people. The open wound called the Cyprus problem continues to bleed. The threat of new sufferings and catastrophes still hang over Cyprus. All this would not exist had there not been a fascist coup. The responsibility of all those who politically and ideologically prepared, organized and carried out the coup d'état is truly enormous, as well as the responsibility of all those who morally and politically welcomed and supported it. The passage of time does not relieve them of these responsibilities.

The conclusion of the "File of Cyprus" is clear. **The coup d'état was the result of a conspiracy that was elaborated and planned by NATO, whose execution was assigned to the Athens junta and EOKA B of Grivas.** Any other approach constitutes a horrendous distortion of the historical truth and is aimed at absolving the main culprits of the Cyprus tragedy. The leadership of the Democratic Rally party is in the front line of the falsification and distortion of history and exoneration of the actions and ideology of Grivas and EOKA B since its foundation until today. **On its part AKEL will do everything possible so that this falsification and distortion of history will not pass.** AKEL will not permit the dust of forgetfulness that some people deliberately promote, to cover up people's minds and consciences. We are not fermenting passions. We keep the historical truth alive, because this is the only way not have a recurrence of these disasters and betrayals.

Nowadays the actions and ideology of Grivas are reviving in the form of extreme nationalism, the attempt to project the leader of EOKA B as a hero, the hysteria against federation and ultra-right-wing and pro-fascist organizations. Those who breed these phenomena expecting to gain petty partisan and electoral benefits are putting democracy and the future of this country in danger.

On the occasion of the black anniversary of the coup d'état AKEL condemns in the strongest possible terms the fascist coup d'état of



15th July 1974 and all those who assisted and backed it. **AKEL pays tribute to the fallen Resistance fighters and embraces their families with respect.** It addresses a greeting of honour to all the Resistance fighters, who through their struggles saved the dignity of our people. It condemns once again the crimes committed in the eight day prevalence of the coup d'état. It condemns and stigmatizes the theory of coupists "carrying out orders" and the theory of "honest, patriotic motives," on the basis of which certain circles and forces equate the executors of the coup d'état and the resistance fighters.

On the occasion of tomorrow's black anniversary, AKEL condemns and denounces in the strongest manner the Turkish invasion, the continuing occupation and all its consequences, as well as the policy of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership who are perpetuating the Cyprus problem and consolidating partition.

AKEL calls on the people to take part in a mass and militant manner in the event organized by the government at the Presidential palace this coming Thursday, 19th July 19, to condemn the coup d'état and the Turkish invasion. With our mass and militant presence we reassert our will not let anything be forgotten, and to continue the struggle for the vindication of Cyprus and our people.





## AKEL Declaration on the anniversary on the black turkish invasion

**O**n the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the black Turkish invasion AKEL denounces and condemns once again in the strongest possible terms the Turkish invasion of 20th July 1974 and the continuing occupation.

**The barbaric Turkish invasion of Attila was the second part of the anti-Cyprus conspiracy elaborated by foreign decision-making centres with the complicity of Ankara and unfortunately found blind executioners in both Athens and Cyprus.** Without the traitorous activity of the junta of Greece, Grivas and EOKA B' the foreign forces could not have fulfilled their plans to dissolve the Republic of Cyprus and to surrender half of Cyprus to Turkey. The conclusions of the House of Representatives Finding of the File of Cyprus highlights in the most official way the connection of the foreign conspiracies with the activity of the junta of Greece and EOKA B, as well as the link of the coup d'état with the Turkish invasion. **Any attempt to relieve the local extreme right and Grivas, either by the leadership of the Rally party and the Head of the Church, or by any other body, of their responsibilities, constitutes a distortion of the historical truth and a provocation to the suffering Cypriot people.**

The invasion of the Turkish Attila caused havoc and destruction. It caused untold human suffering: thousands of dead, wounded, war stricken people and the missing persons. **The invasion left our country divided in two, put 37% of Cyprus under Turkish occupation, uprooted from their homes tens of thousands of people, thousands found themselves enclaved in the occupied areas and the most important economic resources of our island were lost. Our cultural heritage was pillaged. The colonisation, which continues even today, is dramatically altering the demographic composition of the Cypriot population.**

We honour the memory of the fallen, who although betrayed resisted the Turkish Attila and defended with their lives the independence of Cyprus. We express once again our full support to the relatives of our missing persons, refugees, the enclaved and the victims of the war. We insist on the position of principle that the fate of the missing persons



of the Cyprus tragedy must finally be verified. We are on the side of the refugees in their struggle for the safeguarding of the right of return.

The 38th anniversary of Turkish invasion finds the Cypriot people at the forefront of the struggle for liberation from the occupation and the reunification of our homeland. Our goal is to achieve a solution of the Cyprus problem as soon as possible. The parameters of the solution are given and are found in the resolutions of the United Nations and the High Level Agreements, in International and European law and the framework that has been agreed at the talks. The solution of the Cyprus problem must be a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality as defined in UN resolutions, a solution with a single unified state with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship. **The solution must end the occupation, colonization and any foreign dependence, and safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all the people of Cyprus, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.**

"United against occupation"







"Never forget": Thousands of Cypriots attended the event against the fascist coup and the turkish invasion, which took place at the Presidential Palace.



Hundreds of EDON members marched to the Presidential Palace through the streets of Nicosia.





# EDON'S ANTIFASCIST MARCH ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF 16TH JUNE 1943

The anti-fascist initiatives of AKEL, during the Second World War, culminated in the 16th June 1943 decision when the Central Committee called on Party members to voluntarily enlist in the war against Hitler fascism. Eleven of the 17 members of the C.C. were the ones who set the first example, declaring their readiness put on the uniform of a soldier. The Party at that time numbered no more than 2,000 members, who enthusiastically welcomed the decision / appeal of the C.C. The appeal of the C.C. was discussed in the Party base organizations. The response of the Party members was overwhelming. Around 700 members rushed to enlist immediately. They were followed by others along the way.



“The Second World War ended with the defeat of Hitler fascism. Enormous and unbelievable sacrifices were made to save humanity from the deadly embrace of fascism. The Soviet Union and Communists all over the world were in the forefront of the sacrifices and struggle to defeat the fascist monster. The Second World War has gone down in history. Unfortunately, the reactionary forces do not allow fascism to be buried forever in history. In the name of anti-communism, in the name of halting the peoples and working people's liberation struggle, in the name of imperialist wars and the neo-liberal new order, the reactionary forces are fermenting the revival of neo-fascist and neo-Nazi organizations”.



“The modern version of Fascism has much in common with classical fascism. As it did back then, fascism today also feeds on hate, anti-communism and considers as repugnant everything that is democratic and progressive. As it did then, fascism today also feeds on and captures souls through chauvinism, racism and social demagoguery. Back then, the Jews, Slavs and the Communists were considered as the enemies and source of all evil. Today it's the immigrants and Communists. As it did back then, fascism today also uses rhetoric against the plutocracy and presents itself as a supposed opponent of corruption and vested interests. As then so today, it projects itself as the supposed protectors of the poor, the weak and downtrodden. As it did back then, fascism today too is trying to fool the unemployed, the scared petty bourgeois strata, all those who feel threatened by the crisis and its consequences.

As then, so today, Fascism uses terror and bullying. The forerunners of today's black clothed bullies of the "Golden Dawn" and ELAM (Note: the Greek Cypriot ultra-right National Popular Front), who are now attacking and brutally beating up unsuspecting immigrants and citizens, were the Shock Troops of Hitler which had gathered all the scum of German society and prepared the ground through terror for the Nazis to seizure of power.”

**extracts from the speech of Yiannakis Colocasides,  
member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL**



“Comrades,  
In commemorating 16th June 1943 as it deserves to be, we shout out loud the slogan of the defenders of Madrid and anti-fascists throughout the world:

**Fascism will not pass! Democracy will win!”**



## AKEL visit in France on invitation of French Communist Party



A delegation of AKEL headed by the General Secretary of the C.C. Andros Kyprianou went to Paris on the invitation of the French Communist Party. During their stay in France, the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou, together with the General Secretary of the French Communist Party Pierre Laurent, inaugurated a photographic exhibition on the common struggles of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots and about the occupation in Cyprus.

The exhibition hosted photographs of Katia Christodoulou, Miranda Lyssandrou and Tasos Costeas, as well as photographic material from the archives of the Pancyprian Federation of Labour (PEO) and the Press and Information Office (PIO).

Furthermore, the General Secretary of AKEL spoke to a meeting organized by the French Communist Party. During the meeting the General Secretary of AKEL spoke about the Cyprus problem, the economic situation in Cyprus, the finding of hydrocarbons in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Cyprus, the assumption of the Presidency of the EU and the forthcoming Presidential elections, whilst he also replied to many questions raised.

During its stay in Paris, the delegation of AKEL had bilateral meetings with a delegation of the French Communist Party headed by the General Secretary of the party Pierre Laurent, whilst it also attended a dinner with the partici-

pation of leading cadres of the Party. A. Kyprianou thanked the French Communist Party for its solidarity with the struggle of the Cypriot people and its support to the Greek Cypriot side's positions of principle. The AKEL delegation was briefed on the developments in France and exchanged views on developments within the European Union, particularly on economic issues.





## Solidarity with the struggle of the People of Paraguay

AKEL expresses its unreserved solidarity with the people of Paraguay in its struggle to restore democracy after the parliamentary coup d'état against the President of the country Fernando Lugo.



The ousting of President Lugo is another example of the marginalization of progressive leaders who do not represent the interests of the local oligarchy and imperialism in the continent of Latin America. In addition, we do not consider the "neutral" stance of the United States on the developments in Paraguay as accidental, a similar position they took also with regards the recent coup d'état in Honduras, as well as a series of political anomalies in the region representing their interests. The position adopted by the EU is not satisfactory either, as expressed by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, who in other cases expresses the EU's great sensitivity concerning democratic values.

At the same time we express our solidarity with the people of Paraguay and the Paraguayan Communist Party in their unrelenting struggle against the undemocratic developments in their country. We welcome the principled position of the majority of Latin American countries that have condemned from the outset the ousting of President Lugo, whilst they took a number of measures of disapproval of the undemocratic actions by the conservative opposition in Paraguay.

We hope a similar position will be adopted by the international community, which must stand in solidarity with the struggle of the people of Paraguay for the prevalence of democracy in their country.

29th June, 2012

## Message to the President of Venezuela on the 5th of July

H. E. the President of Venezuela,  
Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías

On the occasion of the National Day of Venezuela, I would like to convey to you the warm congratulations of the Central Committee of AKEL and personally myself.

We would like to wish to the Venezuelan people every success in the course of social and economic development. Moreover, we would like to express our support to the Bolivarian Revolution that aims to the social progress and prosperity of Venezuela, and its people.

We are pleased to note the development of bilateral relations and understanding between our two countries which have been established through the years. We are looking forward to the even closer cooperation between our countries and peoples.

Once again accept our congratulations.  
Kind Regards,

Andros Kyprianou  
General Secretary of the Central Committee of AKEL



## Message to the Conference of the Communist Party of Spain

The Central Committee of AKEL expresses its warm solidarity greetings to the Communist Party of Spain on the occasion of its upcoming political Conference that will be held on the 23-24 of June.



Your upcoming Conference is convened under difficult conditions for the working class and the peoples of the world. Humanity is witnessing during the last years a global economic crisis that constitutes the clearest evidence of the failure of the capitalist system and the neo-liberal policies that have been implemented during the last three decades on a global level.

At the same time, the peoples of the world and especially in Europe are fighting for a progressive path of their societies after realizing during the last years in greater extend the inhuman character of the capitalist system. In several countries throughout Europe as in Spain the communist and progressive forces have been in the forefront of the popular movements that fight for radical progressive changes in their countries. The positive results for your Party in the recent electoral battles indicate the positive reception of the working people to the policies and strategies followed by your Party.

Taking this opportunity we express our solidarity to your struggles for safeguarding the rights of the working class in Spain and to your struggles for social justice, democracy and equality. We hope for the further development of the relations of our two Parties as these have been established through the years in the context of our common action in the several international forums such as in the GUE/NGL and the International Meetings of the Communist and Workers' Parties.

21th June, 2012

## Message to the C.C. of the Communist Party of Cuba on the anniversary of the 26th of July 1953

On the occasion of the armed attack on Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba on 26th of July 1953, the Central Committee of AKEL addresses its warm comradely greetings to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The Attack on Moncada Barracks by a small group of revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro, may have failed then but it paved the way for a new phase of the struggle of the Cuban people. The "26th of July 1953" marked the beginning of the great popular uprising against the US-backed Batista dictatorship which ended with the victory of the Cuban Revolution on the 1st of January 1959 and the beginning of socialist construction in the country.

On the occasion of this anniversary, AKEL reaffirms its steadfast solidarity with the people of Cuba and the Cuban Revolution. We defend the right of the Cuban people to decide its own future, its own way of socioeconomic development and its own leadership. We are inspired by the achievements and social gains of the Cuban people in education, health, welfare, science, sports etc which are being achieved under extremely diffi-

cult conditions. We demand an end to the US blockade against Cuba, as 186 states have precisely demanded at the last UN General Assembly. We demand the immediate and unconditional release of the five Cubans who remain unjustly imprisoned in USA.

We stress that Cuba today too remains a consistent ally of the Republic of Cyprus in our struggle for vindication and that our peoples are linked together by a deep long-lasting friendship. Besides, both Cyprus and Cuba suffer from imperialist aggression and both face today the dramatic conditions of the new world order.

The 26th of July Movement reconfirms that, regardless of any temporary failures and setbacks, History always vindicates the peoples and their struggle for national independence, popular sovereignty and socialism.



## Message to the 21st Congress of the Colombian Communist Party



The Central Committee of AKEL expresses its warm fraternal and militant greetings of solidarity to the Colombian Communist Party on the occasion of its 21st Congress.

Unfortunately our Party has not been able to be represented at your Congress due to the simultaneous holding of our Extraordinary Congress where AKEL will decide its position for the 2013 Presidential elections.

We extend to you our warmest congratulations on the 82nd anniversary of your Party and reaffirm our solidarity with your struggles for democracy and socialist alternative in Colombia and the region of Latin America. Your Party has suffered from the continuous attacks of the USA and its allies. Today these are intensified further with death threats on Party activists and trade unionists, who are defending the rights and freedoms of the working people of Colombia. We join our voice to the international outcry over the violations of fundamental and human rights in Colombia, demanding an immediate end of these and justice for the victims.

Your struggles are further exacerbated by the global capitalist economic crisis and the militarization of international relations.

This is a time when we should all focus our attention on promoting unity in action of the Communist, left, progressive and labour forces on a national, regional and international level and make more decisive steps to project the alternative path of socialism to our societies and the world. AKEL will make its own contribution to these efforts.

We would like to thank you for your Party's consistent solidarity to our Party, Cyprus and its people in our struggle against the Turkish occupation for the reunification of our people and our country, within the framework of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal solution, with political equality as set out by the relevant UN Resolutions, for a united federal state with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship.

We once more congratulate you for your 82nd anniversary and express our solidarity with your struggles for the safeguarding of the rights of the working class in Colombia and achieve democracy and peace. We are confident that this Congress will strengthen your Party for the difficult struggles ahead and its activities in the service of the interests of the Colombian people.

17th July 2012