



AKEL Bulletin

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22nd Pancyprian
Congress of AKEL
4-7th June 2015

"Strength comes from struggle
and hope comes from the Left"



Massive protest
against austerity

Thousands of Cypriots
demanded dignity



Turkey
continues violations
in the Exclusive Economic Zone
of the Republic of Cyprus





ΣΤΟΥΣ ΑΓΩΝΕΣ
Η ΔΥΝΑΜΗ
ΣΤΗΝ ΑΡΙΣΤΕΡΑ
Η ΕΛΠΙΔΑ



4-7th June 2015 - 22nd Congress of AKEL

Statement of Andros Kyprianou, G.S. of the C.C. of AKEL,
on the convening of the 22nd Congress of AKEL

From the 4-7th June 2015 the 22nd regular Pancyprian Congress of AKEL will convene, under the central slogan of "Strength comes from struggle and hope comes from the Left".

For AKEL, every Congress is a milestone. Our goal is that the 22nd Congress of the Party will be a milestone for Cyprus as well. If one were to review Congress papers and documents over the 90-year history of AKEL, he/she would see unfolding before them the entire contemporary history of our homeland; all the difficult path of struggle the Cypriot people, the manual and intellectual workers began to take Cyprus forward.

Today, one could say that we are at the most dangerous juncture of this difficult path

of struggle. The Cyprus problem remains unresolved with the danger of permanent partition growing day by day. Our people's gains and rights, all that it has so painstakingly built and won over the years are under attack. The elderly

on low pensions, the unemployed, refugees, single parents, large families, recipients of public assistance, young scientists, farmers and workers are all thinking that perhaps for the first time in their lives they cannot hope that tomorrow things will get better.

This responsibility AKEL will dare to lift on to its own shoulders with the convening of the 22th Congress; the responsibility to be the strongest wall upon which the nightmare of our country's partition will be shattered; the re-



sponsibility to remain a leading force in the struggle for resistance to the dissolution of everything which the Troika, together with the Anastasiades Government and the governing DYSI Rally party, are attempting.

The Central Committee of AKEL has already elaborated the text of the positions to be discussed at the Party Base Organisations. Given that that it is shaped in its final form based on the views of the party membership, it will also be discussed at the Congress itself. We call on all the party members of AKEL to participate actively in the discussion procedures of the positions that will guide the actions of AKEL for the next five years.

The goals of the 22th Congress are many and important. We aim to reaffirm the character of our Party, enhance its ideological-political identity and strengthen its organizational force. We aim at its continuous renewal and to enhance its capability of having a powerful presence and intervention in all matters of concern to the people of Cyprus. The 22th Congress of AKEL will not only look inwards. It will also look outwards, towards the future. It will deal with the principal issues our country is facing, first and foremost with the Cyprus problem, the prospect of the reunification of our homeland and the revitalization of rapprochement of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

It will discuss issues related to energy, developments on in-

ternational and European affairs · developments in the region and on the economy. It will debate existing problems and needs that demand solutions, the elaboration of innovative and radical solutions. This is the reason why our Congress will deal with issues of concern to the young generation, women, workers, farmers, the middle strata, the refugees, large families, pensioners, the cooperative movement, the people of culture, local self-government, the promotion of human rights, the stamping out of corruption and interwoven interests and much more.

In its almost 90 years of struggle AKEL had and maintains its own analysis of society and the economy. This however has never prevented, nor will it now prevent it from discussing, listening to positions and ideas from all people who care about what is happening in society and will take initiatives to formulate positions on contemporary issues.

In the 22th Congress will also discuss these issues. We will also do the same on issues which while in other countries are considered as self-evident, in Cyprus unfortunately until yesterday they were not, such as the combating of the various forms of racism or the issue of civil partnership.

Our desire is that the 22th Congress of AKEL conveys to the people a strong message that we are the force that has the strength to struggle and to win together with the people its own future.





Turkey continues violations in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Cyprus

Developments in recent months have unfortunately resulted in new negative faits accomplis on the Cyprus problem. The main issues that have caused this new impasse stem primarily from Turkey's continuing violations in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus, thus challenging the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as its right to exploit its own natural resources. The new crisis of violations led the right-wing government of Cyprus to leave the table of inter-communal negotiations, an act that led it to international political isolation.

Turkey's violations, which began last October after the issuing of a Navigational Telex (NAVTEX) for seismological surveys on the south side of the maritime borders of the Republic of Cyprus, led to a new crisis in Cyprus. The reaction is related to the fact of the ongoing drilling procedure in Cyprus' EEZ to find hydrocarbons which began in 2011. Turkey claims that the Greek Cypriot side seeks to exploit Cyprus' natural resources solely for its own benefit without also taking into account the rights of the Turkish Cypriot community to them. This of course is nothing more than another pretext by Turkey, which is always invoking the rights of the Turkish Cypriot community in order to serve its own geo-strategic objectives in the region.

On the other hand, the right-wing government of Cyprus

also bears responsibility for the current impasse as it did not seek to continue the negotiations from where they had left off, but instead re-opened the chapter on which convergences had been agreed between Christofias and Talat. This gave the opportunity to intransigent Eroglu to exploit this move and promote partitionist demands. Initiatives must be taken so that either Ankara allows the continuation of substantive talks without any obstructions in Cyprus' EEZ or the international community should apportion responsibilities on the real intransigent side. This is precisely what the previous left government of Demetris Christofias did within the framework of the negotiations with the former Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat in the period 2008-10.

In this context AKEL, while unequivocally denouncing Turkey's provocative violations in the EEZ of the Republic of Cyprus, also makes the right-wing President Anastasiades accountable which did not seek to continue the inter-communal negotiations on the basis of the significant Christofias-Talat convergences that had been agreed. At the same time AKEL stresses that a way must be found to definitely continue the inter-communal negotiations as soon as possible, given that this is the only way guarantying the perspective of breaching the impasse and a comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem.

We urge Turkey to withdraw the NAVTEX and its ships so that the negotiations can resume immediately

AKEL and BKP (Turkish Cypriot “United Cyprus Party”) express their deep concern about the current critical developments surrounding the Cyprus problem and call on the Cypriot people to a common struggle to overcome the deadlock and move forward in order to fulfil our shared vision for peace, freedom and reunification through an overall solution to the Cyprus problem.

The two Parties remind that whenever Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots were being swayed by nationalism, and by doing so supporting the interests of foreign countries rather than those of Cyprus and its people, the result was disastrous for the people of both communities. In this context, we call on the two communities to intensify bicomunal dialogue and contacts, hence sending out a message of common struggle and coexistence. This is a patriotic stand, especially in this context.

Joint Declaration of AKEL and BKP

on the current developments
surrounding
the Cyprus Problem

8.12.2014

Furthermore, the two parties:

- Urge Turkey to withdraw the NAVTEX and its ships so that the negotiations can resume immediately.
- Believe that **this issue must be resolved within the framework of the convergences agreed between Christofias-Talat and Christofias-Eroglu on the maritime zones, natural resources and distribution of federal revenues.** The convergences in their entirety should constitute the basis for continuing the negotiations from where they had left off.
- Reiterate that the continuing division of Cyprus is unacceptable for both communities. The current status quo threatens the prosperity, peace and the existence of both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots.
- Reaffirm their readiness to work for the rebuilding of the trust and common understanding between the two communities by promoting bicomunal dialogue and contacts at various levels.

The two Parties will continue the dialogue and cooperation in the interests of the people of Cyprus, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.



UN Secretary General's report is unbalanced

The Cyprus Problem is progressing on a dangerous path

The Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the renewal of the mandate of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) is unbalanced and provokes justifiable feelings of disappointment and anxiety. The Report includes several negative elements, highlighted by the way the provocative Turkish violations in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus are presented, as well as the references to an isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community.

While Turkey has now surpassed every level of provocation by issuing and renewing a Navigational Telex (NAVTEX) which designates the southern regions of our EEZ, even opposite the free coastlines of the Republic of Cyprus, the UN Secretary-General is content with a mere recording of the fact, without exerting any criticism whatsoever. How is it possible that such a blatant violation of International Law, the UN Charter and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea is taking place and the UN General-Secretary simply records the fact that a NAVTEX has been issued? Common sense says that this stand not only does not help towards defusing the crisis, but rather encourages Turkey to continue to provoke and brazenly violate fundamental principles of International Law.

Legitimate questions are also being provoked by the reference to a lifting of the isolation and to restrictions that impede the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community and make it unable to participate effectively in an interdependent world. This extremely problematic phraseology did not exist in the Reports issued over the last several years. The only way for a definitive solution of this issue is the solution of the Cyprus problem and such inappropriate and unfortunate references only encourages separatist tendencies and operate among the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey itself as a counter-incentive for a solution.

It is now abundantly clear that the Cyprus problem is progressing on a dangerous path, something which AKEL has been tirelessly warning about for the last two years, always submitting specific proposals as to what should be done. It is imperative that initiatives are taken, even now, based on principles, but also capable either of forcing Turkey to defuse the crisis it itself has created, or at least to convince the international community to channel its efforts towards the right direction.

**Statement of
Toumazos Tsielepis,
Head of the Cyprus problem
Office of the C.C. and
member of the Political
Bureau of AKEL**

15th January 2015, Nicosia





AKEL on President's visit to Russia

AKEL, based on the information it has received so far, assesses the visit of President of the Republic to the Russian Federation as positive and we hope it signals the upgrading of the relations between the two countries.

Moreover, **AKEL's appeals to the Anastasiades government to proceed in this direction was constant**, given that the Russian Federation - with the principled positions it upholds - remains all these years a consistent supporter of Cyprus with regards the Cyprus problem. The Russian Federation is at the same time a major economic partner of our country, despite the damage caused to this sector as a result of the decisions taken in March 2013.

Furthermore, we express the hope that this visit, in combination with the recent public admission of the President of the Republic that his friends and partners had once again tricked him, will signal the abandonment of the one-dimensional character of the foreign policy pursued by the Anastasiades government.

The replacement of the dogma "Cyprus belongs to the West" with the principle that "Cyprus belongs to its people" and that our country's foreign policy must serve the interests of our people, is an indispensable and essential action, condition.

The abandonment of the government's dogmatic position that Cyprus must stop seeking support from all directions and maintaining balances in our foreign policy, which has led it to pin all its hopes on the Americans and NATO, is of decisive importance.

In anticipation of an official briefing on the results of the visit and whether it will lead in practice to the restoration of the multidimensional nature of Cyprus' foreign policy, AKEL stresses that it will continue to judge the government handling and policy options in good faith, but at the same time strictly.

AKEL C.C. Press Office
26th February 2015

US Ambassador's unacceptable action

Yesterday's statement by the United States Ambassador via Twitter was unfortunate and breached diplomatic ethics.

The attempt to elicit a negative reaction from Cypriot citizens regarding the visit of the President of the Republic to Moscow is an unacceptable action that goes beyond diplomatic customs.



John M. Koenig
@AmbJohnKoenig



Following

What do people in #Cyprus think about the week in Russia as seen from here? Anastasiades visit and statements, #Nemtsov assassination?

The Republic of Cyprus is duty bound to have as its principal concern the need to serve its own interests and that is why it cannot be under the guardianship or even the criticism of the representative of any third country.

AKEL C.C. Press Office,
2nd March 2015

Statement by Andros Kyprianou, General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL, on the discussion at 19th February session of the National Council



In the two-day session of the National Council we dealt with the issue of the strategy that must be followed on the Cyprus problem. By strategy, we mean the sought aim, which for AKEL remains the continuity of the Republic of Cyprus and its evolvement into a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality as defined in relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. In this sense, AKEL considers that no change in strategy is needed. Tactics and the given handling of issues designed to achieve the strategic goal is another matter. Tactics cannot be static and depend on the given specific conditions.

We all agree that the Cyprus problem is essentially an international problem of Turkish invasion and occupation; a problem of the violation of the human rights of the Cypriot people as a whole, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. **However, the Cyprus problem also has an internal aspect, a fact that cannot be overlooked.** The compromise of bi-communal bi-zonal federation was accepted not because there was any ignorance of the substance of the Cyprus problem. On the contrary, federation was accepted precisely because there was a complete realisation of the consequences of the coup d'état, invasion and occupation, as well

as of the need to create the preconditions for lifting the partitionist faits accomplis. **Bi-zonal, bi-communal federation is the compromise which we have accepted as a result of the treasonous coup d'état and the brutal Turkish invasion.** It is extremely important that this bitter on the one hand, but nevertheless undeniable historical truth should never escape our attention.

Bi-zonal, bi-communal federation as the sought solution of the Cyprus problem is included in the first High-Level Makarios - Denktash Agreement of 1977. Since then it has been reaffirmed by all the Presidents of the Republic of Cyprus and been adopted by the UN Security Council in its resolutions. It is also our long-standing position, which is enshrined in numerous UN resolutions, as well as in the two Christofias - Talat Joint Communiqués, that federal Cyprus will have a single sovereignty, a single citizenship and a single international personality. Finally, political equality, as defined by relevant UN resolutions, has been agreed.

At the session of the National Council AKEL analysed concisely the content of all these concepts which, in our opinion, represent the minimum content of the agreed

framework for the solution of the Cyprus problem; one state with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship. A bi-communal, bi-zonal federation with political equality as defined in relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Therefore, if we are really interested in the content, not the label, then we must give an unequivocal reply to the following question: Do we accept this minimum content or not?

Furthermore, is the disengagement from the framework set out by the High-Level Agreements and the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the open or covert pursuit of a unitary state feasible? If this is our conclusion at a time when we are fighting with tooth and nail to prevent the upgrading of the pseudo-state, then we fear that we are being completely unrealistic.

The dilemma set before us by the coup d'état and invasion is between federation and partition. The return to the times of questioning the compromise of a federal solution, no matter how well-intentioned it may be, ultimately leads to the permanent partition of our island.

We have no illusions that if the current crisis is defused and negotiations resume, it will be easy to reach a federal solution. The reason is simple: Turkey is in fact not seeking a federal compromise, but rather confederation or partition. However, do we have any other option but the talks as the means to solve the Cyprus problem? Without talks there cannot be any agreed solution. Without an agreed solution the partitionist status quo will be consolidated every day. **Only through talks can we expose Turkey, reveal her real objectives and create conditions for the exertion of pressure on her to abandon her illegal and anachronistic partitionist objectives and accept in practice the compromise of federation.**

This is what AKEL means when it strongly insists on the need to stick to the strategy and framework of the solution agreed since 1977. The question is: Can we, after forty years, change strategy? Have the given conditions and balance of forces changed dramatically in our favour and are we thus in a position - without suffering a heavy cost - to successfully attempt to do this?

In our view, no. On the contrary, not only has the situation not changed in our favour, but it is strengthening Turkey's

role in the region. Certainly, Cyprus' accession to the European Union is a comparative advantage that can and should be used in the efforts to solve the Cyprus problem. However, we must not overestimate the role which the European Union may or would like to play. The expectations that the European Union will insist on a solution based on principles upon which it is based, principles that indeed many circles and forces identify with the desired solution of the Cyprus problem, have not been confirmed by life itself. **Unfortunately, the European Union does not always support the principles of the solution as we perceive them, while in many cases it supports or tolerates the Turkish side's approaches.** I will not go too far back in time, but simply recall the tolerance the EU showed with regards the issue of the NAVTEX issued by Turkey, which is flagrantly violating the relevant UN Treaty on the Law of the Sea, that is part of the *acquis communautaire*.

We often hear that we must create conditions so that Turkey will have a political cost and that we have never followed an assertive policy. We do not disagree that where it is possible we have to do so, trying to serve the goal of the solution, and not the perpetuation of the deadlock. We have no illusions, however. We have not heard any concrete proposals on how we could create such a cost for Turkey while simultaneously creating preconditions for a solution. This is no accident. In today's world the policy of the major imperialist countries is not the prevalence of International Law but instead their own selfish interests. Whatever we do, it is an illusion to believe that we can be more "useful" to the Western powers than Turkey. This is being demonstrated today for the umpteenth time.

Turkey, illegally designating a part of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus and hindering the work in progress, is exploiting its position of strength and the tolerance shown by her allies, the US and Britain, in the war against the jihadists.

We have on many occasions analysed in public, but also during the Meetings between the Political Leaders and within the framework of the National Council, what in our view should be done so that we do not enter into any adventures on the Cyprus problem, as well as with regards the calamity with the Joint Communiqué, President Anastasiades' reckless decision not to continue the talks from the



point they were left and the deadlock methodology that was agreed to continue the talks. We hope, even at this stage, all these will make President Anastasiades reflect on his further handling of issues.

What is now the priority is to address the Turkish provocations; to overturn the *fait accompli* and resume the negotiation procedure. AKEL believes that the collective tackling of the situation is imperative, by drawing lessons from the path pursued until now, far from petty-political or petty-party considerations and experiences. The situation is critical and joint action is imperative, insofar as this is possible.

As AKEL, we had submitted a proposal after the first Turkish NAVTEX which however was not adopted in time. In the course of events most of its aspects were partially and fragmentarily included in separate proposals of the President. I do not claim that our proposal was the magic wand that would have forced Turkey to end its provocations. It was, however, a comprehensive proposal without violating our "red lines". It would have convinced at least the international community and we would have avoided the worst Report in decades of the UN Secretary-General. And this occurred, despite the fact that the President of the Republic erroneously accepted to put the issue of natural gas on the

negotiating table during their last phase. This proposal was unable to prevent Turkey from issuing the new NAVTEX. The situation is now critical. For two years now the only thing that has been achieved is the drawing up of the Joint Communique. Substantive talks have not managed even to commence and the negotiation procedure was suspended. While Turkey is more provocative than ever, the UN Secretary-General not only did not find a word to say about this but he remembered the alleged isolation of the Turkish Cypriots as well. Within this gloomy framework, we ended up expressing satisfaction about a resolution which in reality says absolutely nothing. And while all this is happening, instead of reflecting on what should be done some have remembered for the umpteenth time to discuss in general and vague terms about the need for a change in strategy.

In conclusion,

I want to stress that no one possesses the absolute truth.

I have set out AKEL's approach, which I think is comprehensive, well-substantiated, principled and at the same time realistic.

However we are ready to listen and discuss in detail other proposals, so long as they are based on the agreed framework and serve the goal of the solution.



Missing Cypriots

Time does not heal the wounds

The issue of the missing persons is the most painful aspect of the on-going Cyprus tragedy. The ordeal of the Cyprus missing persons began in the 1960s with a limited number of missing persons and reaches its peak with nearly 2000 missing persons in the military invasion by Turkey that spread destruction in 1974 and has since kept the island divided. **Today, 2001 Cypriots are missing for several decades now. 1508 Greek Cypriots and 493 Turkish Cypriots.** You will only fully realize the extent of the tragedy of the missing persons in our Cyprus, when you consider that in proportion to the population of Cyprus, this equals to 165,000 Germans or 122,000 British or 18,000 Swedish or 20,000 Czechs, gone and missing for decades... For these people there is no information about the conditions under which they disappeared. For the majority of missing persons there are no bones for the relatives to bury, no graves, for the relatives to mourn. There are only photos! We, both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, are still shedding tears and burying our beloved ones.

As a result of the persistent efforts of the Cyprus government and the protests of the relatives of missing persons and following relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and other organizations, the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) was established in 1981 under the auspices of the UN. The program was launched in 2005 on the basis of an agreed list regarding the number of missing persons. The CMP consists of a representative of the G/C side, a representative of the T/C side and a third member appointed by the UN. In the framework of the programme, **the bones of 564 missing persons have been identified using the DNA method. 430 of them are G/C and 134 T/C.** Unfortunately, over the last three years, there has been a reduced number of effective exhumations, the lowest numbers figuring in 2013, when the percentage of excavations where remains were found amounted only to 15%.

The main obstacle in this process is the refusal of Turkey to cooperate and provide information through its army archives, but also to allow exhumations in areas which have

been characterized as military.

AKEL has ceaselessly been raising the issue of the missing persons inside the European Parliament since the Republic of Cyprus' accession in 2004. AKEL made its own contribution, together of course with other forces, to the approval by an overwhelming majority of a **European Parliament resolution (12th February 2015) on the mass graves of the missing persons of the village of Ashia in Ornithi village in the occupied part of Cyprus**. The initiative, which was undertaken by the political group of the Left and the European People's Party won support from all the political groups in the European Parliament, is the result of a painstaking effort that began from the very beginning of AKEL's participation in the European institutions.

With explicit references to Turkey's illegal actions, in violation of International Humanitarian Law, conventional and customary, the relevant decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the UN, Turkey the "de facto occupying force" is called upon to facilitate the efforts being made by the CMP, to give full access to its archives, to immediately cease the deliberate and criminal removal of the remains of missing persons and to provide information regarding new burial sites, a practice that unfortunately does not only concern those identified in the mass graves in the village of Ornithi. Turkey's actions, as the Resolution correctly points out, show a complete lack of respect for the missing persons and constitute a flagrant violation of the right of their families to finally know the real conditions of the deaths of their loved ones.

At the same time, the European Parliament calls for every effort to be made for the speeding up of the CMP's investigations. This stand reflects our position that for the investigations to be accelerated, the government and the EU should make every effort to also ensure the necessary financial support to the CMP's efforts for a speedy and final verification of the fate of the missing persons.



**"If we do not tell the truth,
the whole truth and nothing but the truth
we will not rebuild the trust
between the two communities"**

The statements made by the leading member of the Republican Turkish Party (CTP) Dogus Derya before the so-called "parliament" of the occupied areas concerning the crimes committed by the Turkish army against Greek Cypriots during the 1974 war caused a stir. These statements provoked strong reactions from the nationalist forces inside the Turkish Cypriot community.

At the same time, they were greeted by progressive voices on both sides of the "green line" of division. AKEL Member of the House of Representatives Skevi Koukouma issued a statement saluting the courage shown by Dogus Derya,

whilst also referring to the responsibilities of the nationalist and chauvinist circles within the Greek Cypriot community for the crimes they committed against Turkish Cypriots.

AKEL also expressed its solidarity with the struggling Turkish Cypriot conscientious objector Haluk Selam Tofanli who was arrested because he refused to serve as a reservist in the Turkish occupation army. A relevant question on the subject was put before the European Commission by AKEL Member of the European Parliament Neoklis Sylikiotis.

AKEL denounces attacks on Dogus Derya

For a some days now, our Turkish Cypriot compatriot, leading member of the Republican Turkish Party, Dogus Derya has come under vile sexist attacks from the most reactionary forces, extreme-right wing Turkish Cypriots and Turkish settlers, in the occupied areas because she courageously called upon the Turkish Cypriots not to forget the crimes that had been committed against Greek Cypriots and the raping of women by the Turkish army in 1974. Dogus Derya deserves to be congratulated for her courage.

Those forces and circles however within the Greek Cypriot community saluting the bold stance taken by Dogus Derya must have the corresponding boldness to also say the truths that do not suit our community, that is to say that these forces must also **admit the crimes committed by the Greek Cypriots fascists against Turkish Cypriot civilians and prisoners**. Weren't those who committed the bloody massacres in the villages of **Maratha, Aloa, Sandalari and Tochni 1974, the raping of women, the slaughter of children and execution of unarmed prisoners**, Greek Cypriots (and indeed coming from that sector that defines itself as being the most patriotic of all)? Wasn't it Greek Cypriots the ones who killed children during the inter-communal clashes, whose remains we are now discovering dumped in wells?

If you do not tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth you will not rebuild the trust between the two communities. Maybe the trust and rapprochement between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots cannot on its own bring the solution of the Cyprus problem, given that

Ankara was, and still remains, the obstacle, but it is a necessary condition to be able to reach a federal solution, and more specifically for this solution to be able to function in practice.

If we do not also say that **chauvinism - Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot - did not appear out of nowhere but was implanted by foreign forces with whom Cypriots cooperated with**, then the young generation will not truly understand that the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots - as they had done before in the past - can live again together in the same cities, in the same neighbourhoods and in the same state, in peace and friendship.

The view is often expressed by some Greek Cypriots that when we talk about these dark sides of our history, we therefore are vindicating or justifying the Turkish occupation. However, in AKEL's view we do not need to keep quiet and say nothing about aspects of the historical truth in order to condemn and struggle against the on-going disgrace of the Turkish occupation. On the contrary, only if we all uncover the human pain suffered by all, can we see the full historical picture of the imperialist crime committed against Cyprus and its people.

AKEL C.C. Press Office
18th December 2014

Solidarity with Turkish Cypriot conscientious objector Haluk Selam Tufanli

The Turkish Cypriot Haluk Selam Tufanli is a conscientious objector and refused to serve the occupation army with his participation in the annual obligatory military exercises conducted in the territories of the Republic of Cyprus under the occupation of Turkey. As a result of his decision in 2011 not to take part in war preparations (as a reservist) since 5th November 2013 he has been in an ongoing trial until 4th December 2014 where the so-called military "court" of the pseudo-state in the occupied areas sentenced him to 10 days imprisonment.

The right to refuse military service is enshrined in the European Charter of Human Rights and conscientious objectors have the possibility of doing an alternative service. However, Haluk Selam Tufanli was sentenced by the occupational authorities to prison.

This issue was raised before the European Commission by Neoklis Sylikiotis AKEL MEP and Vice-President of the Group of the European United Left-Nordic Green Left

GUE/NGL, when he put the question whether the EU intends to denounce this incident, which, as he underlined, constitutes a violation of the human rights of a person who refused to serve the occupation army. In addition, the **AKEL MEP called on the European Commission to give an answer whether it intends to make representations to the Turkish Government.**

In the question he sent to the European Commission, AKEL MEP Neoklis Sylikiotis stressed that in the occupied areas of Cyprus, people are tried in a military court and the police are under the control of the Turkish army, whilst the whole area is under the control of the Turkish occupation army.

Statement of AKEL MEP and GUE/NGL Vice-President
Neoklis Sylikiotis
5th December 2014, Brussels





4th of March - European Central Bank meeting in Nicosia

Massive protest against austerity

Over 10,000 people responded to the call of the Platform of Trade Union and Social organisations "Society reacts and asserts" to voice their anger, but also their resolve to continue mass struggles against the directorate and ruling circles of Brussels. Outside the European Central Bank session in Nicosia workers, unemployed, teachers and students, farmers, pensioners and many others denounced the brutal Memoranda policies serving capital's interests. The Cypriot people are resisting and fighting for growth, jobs and progress, an end to the dismantling of the welfare state, privatisations and the selling off of public wealth, the respect of labour relations, collective agreements and working people's rights and gains.

Three mass marches were organised in the capital's streets to merge at the big rally organised by the Platform of 18 trade unions and social organisations. The class-based trade union of PEO, the biggest trade union federation, has played the pivotal role in the forging of a broad movement around specific goals.



"We assert with determination"

"Thousands of Cypriots resisted and demanded dignity"

The front page of AKEL's newspaper "Haravgi" the day after the great mobilization



Among the slogans shouted were: "Money for education and health - not for the bankers and plutocracy", "Students-workers, one voice, one fist", "Forward people, do not yield-the only path is resistance and struggle", "Cyprus, Greece, Spain-the plutocracy must pay for the crisis", "Capitalism is not our future",

Present among others were trade union and social movements from Greece, France, Italy, Austria, GUE MEP Fabio di Masi and WFTU General Secretary G. Mavrikios.

PEO General Secretary P. Kyritsis stated, "The EU ruling circles have imposed their policies through blatant blackmail and threats. The people must not yield. Only resistance and struggle will create preconditions for other policies leading to growth, progress and social justice. No more austerity and "restructuring" which only lead to the savage shifting of the wealth created by the many to the few. We demand growth, jobs with rights and respect."



"The Memorandum is damaging education severely"

The Pancyprian Coordinating Committee of School Pupils (PSEM) is the **union of secondary school students of all public schools in Cyprus**. Traditionally, PSEM is led by the progressive student organization of the Left (PEOM) and this is why it wages a combative campaign for a public, democratic and humanist school.

In the popular mobilizations against the Memorandum, which has also had a devastating effect on Cypriot education, school pupils are making their own militant contribution under the flags and banners of PSEM.



"Hands off pensioners!"

The Union of Cypriot Pensioners EKYSY, which is affiliated to PEO, has made its own impressive contribution in every popular mobilization held in recent years with its mass participation, organization and militancy.



The mobilization of 4th March united numerous social and professional organizations that have been harshly affected by the austerity policies.

Among them were the teachers unions in primary and secondary education, the Pancyprian Organization of Professional Craftsmen and Shopkeepers (POVEK), the Union of Cypriot Journalists, Pancyprian Organization of Large Families (POP), Pancyprian Organisation of Five-Member Family (POPO), Movement against Foreclosures, the Movement against Privatisations and the Culture Movement.



Together with Lyceum school pupils, the students of Cyprus also had a dynamic participation with the flags of their trade union body, the **Pancyprian Federation Student Unions (POFEN)**, in which all the student unions operating in the public and private universities in Cyprus are affiliated to, as well as in cities abroad where Cypriot students are studying and are active (Greece, Britain, Czech Republic, Bulgaria etc.).

The militant orientation of POFEN is due also to the big influence which the student section of the Left, Progressive Student's Movement, has among Cypriot student movement and which traditionally is the strongest student organisation gaining over 40% of the vote.



"Women resist austerity. They struggle for equality"

The women of Cyprus are doubly affected by the Memoranda policies, but also from the policy of the Anastasiades government. The dismantling of the welfare state, privatizations and the destruction of labour relations are affecting women in particular.



"End austerity - We want jobs - PEO construction workers"

The building and construction workers are traditionally the most militant section of the class-based trade union movement of PEO. The majority of them are today unemployed because of the capitalist crisis and the severe recession in the construction industry. Hundreds of building workers, Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots and immigrants joined forces with their fellow workers.



Meeting organised in cooperation with GUE/NGL on “The Economic and Social Situation in Europe and the Memoranda”

AKEL, the Pluralist Left of Spain and the Portuguese Communist Party, under the aegis of the group of the European United Left-Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL), organised a joint meeting in the European Parliament on the economic and social situation in Europe and the Memoranda on **14th of November**. Trade unions and social organisations/movements from Cyprus, Portugal and Spain participated in the discussion.

One of the keynote speakers at the meeting was Andros Kyprianou, General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL who stressed that “optimism is built through joint action and struggle”, pointing out the importance of rejecting the path of the Memoranda and neo-liberalism.

Cayo Lara, Federal Coordinator of Izquierda Unida, Spain, was another keynote speaker who referred to the **manifold struggles it is developing in Spain in order to safeguard working peoples gains and labour rights**. On behalf of the Portuguese Communist Party Joao Ferreira, Member of the C.C and PCP MEP referred to the struggle waged by the Party on three fronts (**renegotiation of the public debt, regain member-state’s economic, fiscal and monetary sovereignty and public control over enterprises and the economy’s strategic sectors**).

The discussion was chaired by AKEL MEP Neoklis Sylikiotis, who noted in his introduction that the increase in the strength of the daily struggles of the workers movements

in our countries demonstrate that another Europe is possible.


On behalf of the trade unions, Pambis Kyritsis, the General Secretary of the Pancyprian Federation of Labour PEO of Cyprus, Carlos Braga from the Movement of public service users of Portugal and Carlos Martinez, member of ATTAC from Spain all made keynote speeches too. **The trade union organisations analysed the pressures exerted on working people and the need for the EU to change course.** On behalf of social movements, representatives of organisations and



movements from Cyprus, such as the Movement against Privatisations, the Movement against Foreclosures, the Pancyprian Trade Union of Public Doctors, Small shopkeepers’ union POVEK, the Pancyprian Organisation of Large Member Families POPO, representatives from the sector of nurses organised in the Pancyprian Public Employees Trade Union PASYDY, as well as from

the Progressive Movements of Secondary and Primary school teachers and Students all made their own interventions. MEP’s from GUE/NGL and other political groups were also present.

A constructive discussion followed between the speakers and representatives of social movements who submitted the views of their organisations in relation to the negative consequences the Memoranda and austerity policies have and are having in the social and economic sectors they are active in.



Cyprus Economy: Recession and austerity are deepening

The Cyprus economy remained in recession in 2014 as a result of both the significant drop in consumption due to cuts in wages and incomes, partly because of the credit crunch in the banking sector which led to a significant deterioration in investments from both the public and the private sector. These conditions are expected to continue throughout the period of the Memorandum's implementation as a result of the basic targets that have been determined by Troika and Government, namely the creation of fiscal surpluses, the reduction of the banking sector's size and the further liberalization of the economy through the imposition of "structural reforms".

The Anastasiades government's pronouncements about "a return to sustainable growth", "more jobs" and "enhancing social cohesion" are refuted by the program's content. In 2014 there was already a significant reduction in employment, an unprecedented growth in poverty indicators and subsequently in the economy's recessionary rates.

In 2013 the recession reached 5.4%, while in the first two three-month periods of 2014, it rose to 3% on average and in conjunction with the revision of the method GDP is calculated it is expected to drop below 3% for 2014. For 2015 the IMF maintained its forecast for weak growth at + 0.4%, while the Fiscal Council forecasts zero growth in 2015. The rating agencies forecast a recession close to -2%.

Public debt continues to grow and today has exceeded 100% of the GDP according to the new figures stemming from the international restructuring in the way GDP is calculated. Both the recession, which affects GDP (resulting in

the percentage of the public debt in relation to the country's production growing) and the increase in loans Cyprus is receiving from the IMF and the Stability Mechanism, contribute to this rising public debt. With regards the fiscal deficit, although the Government's fiscal balance has improved, the cost to growth and society is intolerable. For 2014 the cuts in wages and transfers to municipalities and semi-governmental organizations are expected to reach €500 million.

Cyprus registered the first place in the EU statistics on the reduction in wages in 2014 as well. According to "Eurostat", in the first nine months of 2014 wages fell by an average of

4%. This fall in wages when added to a reduction of 6% in 2013, has resulted in a drop of 10% in working people's purchasing power in less than two years.

The claim by the government and employers that the reduction of labour costs is boosting "the Cyprus economy's competitiveness" is refuted. Exports fell by 4.2% compared to 2012, while during the first half of 2014 exports declined compared to the corresponding period of 2013. This contributed only towards increasing

company profit margins. A typical example is the tourism industry where the reduction of labour costs has not led to an increase in tourist arrivals, but to a decrease of 2.4% in 2013 and 7.8% in the first three months of 2014. The increase of 9.3% in arrivals in the second three month period of 2014 is due mainly to external developments in the region which have contributed to the increased tourist influx, predominantly from Russia.

The intensity of the austerity measures continues to have a powerful impact on the labour market, both in the size of employment and the number of unemployed. **Employment fell by 5.2% or by 20,000 in 2013 and in 2014 it rose to about -4.2%. The stabilization in the unemployment rate to around 16% (73,000 - the third highest rate in the European Union)** is due on the one hand to the wave of migration of Community workers and Cypriots migrating abroad, while a number of jobs have been kept as a result of the further deregulation of labour relations and rise of part-time employment. **Youth unemployment around 40% is very worrying. The increase in the long-term unemployment, which has risen to 7.5%, is also of deep concern.**

In this socio-economic environment the government and the governing DISY Rally party are promoting much more resolutely the privatization of profitable semi-governmental organizations and have already closed down the national airline. At the same time, they do not accept the protection of the primary family residence which the House of Representatives approved on the legislation concerning foreclosures, whilst they are also expanding the brutal austerity measures, such as the virtual abolition of government policy on refugees and the curbing of the student package.

The second Memorandum Budget of 2015 was approved by the 29 MP's of DISY, DIKO and the European Party and rejected by AKEL, the Movement of Social Democrats EDEK, the Ecologists, the "Citizens Alliance" and one independent MP.

According to the unanimous decision of the C.C. of AKEL, this Budget is a "bloody austerity" and "trapped in the Memorandum's philosophy" which prevents Cyprus' exit from the recession "undermining the social sectors of health, welfare and education". Expenditure remains stagnant following last year's cuts amounting to € 626 million in total, cuts of 20% in development expenditure and cuts amounting to € 126 million in social, health and education benefits.



"We have no money for food and petrol"



The 2015 Budget, the second Memorandum Budget, was approved by the 29 MP's of DISY, DIKO and the European Party and rejected by 26 MP's (AKEL, Movement of Social Democrats EDEK, the Ecologists, the "Citizens Alliance" and one independent MP) .

After 69 years Cyprus is without a national airline



The Anastasiades government closed down Cyprus Airways

On 9th January 2015 the European Commission decided that the financial support Cyprus Airways (CA) was receiving from the Cyprus state was incompatible with EU competition rules and hence the company, which had already been facing serious financial problems, had to return the money to the state. The Finance Minister however, just days before and without even studying the text of the decision, had given orders to the Board of CA to close down the company and through rapid procedures declare its bankruptcy.

As a result CA were led to their closure after 67 years of operation, leaving Cyprus without a national airline while six hundred families of its employees found themselves without a job. Television images of the last flight of Cyprus Airways and the workers reactions who had lost their jobs caused a shock in Cypriot society.

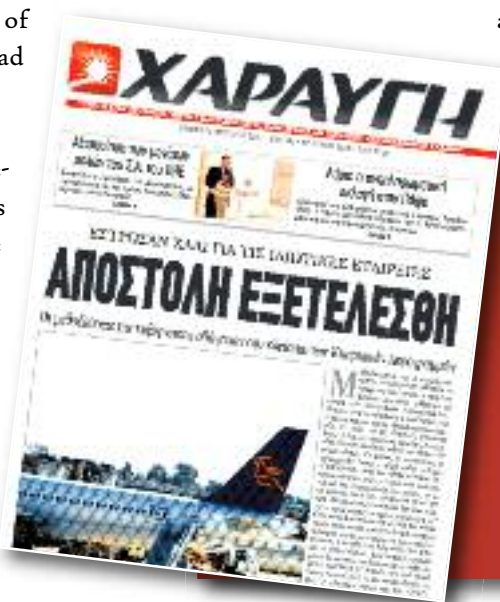
The Anastasiades government and the right-wing ne-liberal DISY Rally party, together with the mass media aligned to it, attempted to describe the closure of CA as "the inevitable outcome of an organization that accumulated losses because of irregularities and mismanagement." However, the truth is quite different.

There were indeed distortions and mismanagement, but the DISY Rally party is the least eligible to speak about these, given that it was during

its own spell in government (1993-2003) that decisions were taken which sacrificed the company's very future.

One such decision was the establishment in 2002 of a subsidiary company in Greece (Hellas Jet) which cost 85 million Euros to CA. This resulted in the CA Board in 2003 inheriting a loss of 60 million Euros. The purchase of Boeing aircraft for "Eurocyprria" (subsidiary company of CA that operated from 1992 until 2010) were erroneous and damaging and not "Airbus" CA already had.

In the press in that period there were numerous articles and reports about pressures being exerted by the US and about "kickbacks" worth millions. Questions also remain about the purchase of two large A330 aircraft for



"Mission Accomplished"

"Haravgi" frontline on 10th of January commenting deliberate and methodical policy of the DISY government to close Cyprus Airways and leave the field open to profitability for private airline companies already operating in Cyprus.



The airline "Ryanair" with which the government held discussions on the sale of Cyprus Airways, had as its legal representative the "Nikos Anastasiades and associates" Law Firm, that is to say the Law Firm of the President of the Republic himself that is now run by his daughters.

CA, which even flying with passengers full, recorded losses. Finally, the DISY party administration bears enormous responsibilities for the reckless hiring of personnel in CA to the point that in 2002, during the election year, the number of the company's employees rose sharply to 2,200 employees. To make a comparison, in 2012 the company's employees were almost half the number.

However, the essence is that the CA's closure was not an inevitable outcome, but a deliberate and methodical policy of the DISY government to leave the field open to profitability for private airline companies already operating in Cyprus. It is indeed significant to point out that **President Anastasiades' own Advisor on aviation issues Peter Christou resigned a few months ago complaining that "The government is behaving as if it wishes to receive a negative response from the European Commission's Competition Directorate."** Actually, when in 2012 the previous Christofias government tabled in the House of Representatives a Restructuring Plan of CA («Air France Plan») which would have saved the airline, DISY and the centre-right Democratic Party, who were both in opposition and had the majority in the House, managed to revoke it, but also to amend the institutional framework so that they could impose an Administrative Board to their liking.

The current Minister of Finance Harris Georgiades played

a leading role in all these actions. In fact the redundant CA workers stated to the media on the very night the decision was taken to close down the company that the current President of DISY Averof Neophytou repeatedly threatened them that he would "shut CA down".

Another scandalous "detail" denounced by AKEL also complemented the policy to sell-off CA. **The airline "Ryanair" with which the government held discussions on the sale of CA, had as its legal representative the "Nikos Anastasiades and associates" Law Firm, that is to say the Law Firm of the President of the Republic himself that is now run by his daughters.**

AKEL demanded an explanation about this scandalous interweaving interest, but primarily called on the government to proceed with an appeal against the decision of Brussels by seeking an agreement with the European Commission for a gradual retrieval of any debts of Cyprus Airways to the state.

However it is clear that the Anastasiades government and DISY party is determined to proceed forcefully to the selling off of Cyprus' public wealth and property, given that the procedures are vigorously being promoted for the privatization of the three profitable semi-state organizations in Cyprus, namely the Cyprus Ports Authority, the Cyprus Electricity Authority and the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority.





AKEL initiatives for an independent and peaceful Palestinian state

In the last year due to Israel's growing aggressiveness, culminating in its attack on Gaza, AKEL has developed intense activity on a local but also international level to strengthen the just struggle of the Palestinian people. Through these activities AKEL constantly expresses its solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people to ensure its rights and support its efforts and struggles to establish an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Regional Meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties of the Middle East focusing on the Palestinian problem

In October 2014, AKEL organized in Cyprus a Regional Meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties of the Middle East on the Palestinian problem together with the Palestinian People's Party and the Communist Party of Israel, attended by various fraternal parties in the Middle East. Ten parties participated, including two organizations, the World Peace Council and the European United Left/Nordic Green Left. During the meeting, after thorough discussion, a declaration on the Palestinian problem was issued. All the participating parties expressed their full and firm solidarity with the Palestinian people who have suffered the third Israeli attack on Gaza in five years. They called for the recognition of an independent and viable Palestinian state on the borders of 4th June 1967, with East

Jerusalem as its capital. Furthermore, they demanded that pressure be exerted to force Israel to accept a final and comprehensive settlement within this framework. At the Meeting views were exchanged on joint initiatives by the parties in the region with the main objective the solution of the Palestinian problem.

Meeting with Palestinian Ambassador

AKEL held a meeting with the Palestinian Ambassador Mr. Walid Hassan at the Palestinian Embassy in Nicosia, on the occasion of 29th November, International Day of Solidarity with Palestine, as this has been established by the United Nations on the decision of its General Assembly.



Separate meetings with the Ambassadors and Representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in Cyprus

In addition, last December an AKEL Delegation met with the Ambassadors or Representatives of Russia, China, France, the US and Britain. The meetings were held within the framework of AKEL's solidarity initiative calling on the international community to take appropriate action to promote immediately a comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem. The AKEL Delegation expressed the position that the Israeli plans for new settlements must be withdrawn instantly and a peace initiative should be promoted. AKEL welcomed the successive resolutions adopted for the recognition of Palestine by parliaments in Europe.

The common conclusion was that the Palestinian problem is key for peace to prevail in the Middle East. AKEL stressed that the external interventions in the region are accumulating new sufferings on the peoples and countries, therefore the international community, in particular the permanent members of the UN Security Council, must take immediate steps to promote a solution of the Palestinian problem which is deadlocked because of Israel's stand and positions.



Solidarity Carols of the Children's Movement of EDON and EDON's solidarity mission to Palestine

Every year the Pancyprian Children's Movement of EDON through its annual campaign "Carols of Solidarity" actively supports children in need, both abroad and in Cyprus too. The 'Carols of Solidarity' campaign has established itself as one of the most important solidarity activities waged by **EDON Youth Organisation's Pioneer Movement**. This year, the campaign was dedicated to the children of Palestine.

The EDON Children's Movement organized events all over Cyprus with solidarity bazaars aiming at informing children and people about the situation in Palestine, but also selling various products with the emblem of the

campaign for the financial support of the cause.

From 15/2 to 18/2/2015 and a delegation of **EDON Youth Organisation**, headed by its General Secretary **Haris Karamanos**, went to the West Bank for the purpose of delivering the amount of **4,278.39 Euros** to Palestinian children. This amount was collected in the recent "Carols of Solidarity" campaign conducted the Children's Movement of EDON.

With this mission, EDON demonstrated in the most practical way its consistent and unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people and conveyed its full support of the Palestinian struggle for the recognition of an independent, sovereign and viable Palestinian state, a full member of the UN, within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.





AKEL Antifascist activities on the occasion of the International Day Against Fascism

Antifascist rally

The Central Committee of AKEL organized on Tuesday, 11th November, an antifascist event on the occasion of the 9th November – International Day against Fascism.

The event was held on the 11th November 2014 at Ledras street in Nicosia. A rally started from the beginning end was concluded at the end of Ledras street where speeches were delivered by Stefanos Stefanou, member of the Political Bureau of AKEL, Abdullah Korkmazhan, General Secretary of the United Cyprus Party (BKP), Sylva Tiggiridou, President of the Pancyprian Peace Council and Themis Themistokleous, member of the Committee “Initiative against the fascist threat”. A cultural program followed with the singer Marios Constantinou.



“The rising of reactionary and fascist organizations in Europe”

The delegation of AKEL in the Confederal group of GUE/NGL in the European Parliament and the Promitheas Research Institute, organized on Friday, 21st November, a discussion on the topic: “The rising of reactionary and fascist organizations in Europe”.

The event was held at ETKA-PEO Conference room and the speakers were Neoclis Sylikiotis, Vicepresident of GUE/NGL, EMP of AKEL, Ivanchev Tetekin, MP of CPRF and Kostas Gouliamos, Rector of European University Cyprus.



70th anniversary of AON-EDON Vanguard youth

Last year marked 70 years since the founding of AON (Progressive Youth Organisation), whose successor is EDON. It represents a very important anniversary in the history of the People's Movement of the Left, but also for the youth movement in general. We honour the 70 years of life, action, struggles, service and sacrifices for the young generation, our people and for our Cyprus.

Through its militant path and action, struggles and sacrifices, EDON has embraced and has itself been embraced by the youth of Cyprus. EDON came from and was founded from the very heart and soul of our youth and people, expressing the genuine interests, concerns, aspirations and visions of the young generation of Cyprus. All through these 70 years EDON was the best university of struggle, hardship and endurance.

AON-EDON was and is the vanguard force in the struggle against imperialism. It has maintained and continues to maintain the internationalist character of the youth movement of Cyprus. International solidarity was and is a tested weapon and a powerful force in the struggle of the peoples and youth all over the world.

In the 70 year-old history of the AON-EDON it has developed a multifaceted and diverse action through various activities, political, social, economic, attaching great emphasis on cultural development and popular sports. Given its character as **a mass political and cultural Organization, it continues to propose an alternative cultural proposal in arts and cultural creation.**

Today Cypriot youth are under the fiercest attack as a result of the crisis of capitalism. EDON, joining its forces with

the entire Peoples Movement of the Left, continues to support with all the forces the young generation, struggling against the savage austerity policies which the Troika is seeking to implement in our country, with the consent of the government.

EDON continues to be the leading Youth Organisation in the struggle of our people to solve the Cyprus problem and for liberation and reunification. EDON combats nationalism-chauvinism and is fighting for the **peaceful coexistence of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots and for a united federal, sovereign and demilitarized Cyprus.** Keeping hope alive, EDON is struggling for the peaceful resolution of our political problem and for liberation from the occupation and the fait accompli, for the reunification of our homeland and people within the framework of a bizonal, bicomunal federation.

EDON today, not only has not extinguished the spark lit by the Communist Youth which AON subsequently made a flame, but instead has taken and turned it into a fire that embraces the hearts of thousands of young people, continuing with the glorious 70 year-old history of AON-EDON.

Long live the 70th anniversary of AON-EDON!





Message of the Central Committee of AKEL to the 53rd Congress of the Communist Party of Britain

The Central Committee of AKEL conveys its warm comradely and militant greetings to the Communist Party of Britain, to its members and cadres, for a successful and fruitful 53rd Congress.

At this significant juncture for your Party, the communists of Cyprus recall the strong, enduring and historical links between the communists and working people of our two countries. We recall in particular the early stages in the history of the Communist Party of Cyprus and its successor, AKEL. Many Cypriot workers – migrants shaped their class consciousness within the ranks of the Communist Party and at the same time transmitted their experiences to the communist movement in Cyprus. Among them, the historical leader of our Party com. Ezekias Papaioannou who, together with many other Cypriot and British communists, fought and indeed died together in the great anti-fascist battle on the side of Republican Spain against Franco, but also struggling together in the daily class struggles of the labour movement and in numerous international solidarity campaigns.

The relations of several generations of Cypriots migrants and AKEL's Branch in Britain with the Communists of Britain are continuing to this day. We look forward to enhancing and deepening these relations and joint actions.

AKEL highly appreciates and respects that the British Communists have always been in consistent, steadfast and militant solidarity with the struggles of the Cypriot people, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, for freedom and national independence against British colonialism; against the NATO imperialist plans to subjugate Cyprus; against the on-going Turkish occupation of 37% of our island, the presence of the British military bases and Turkey's current

provocations and aggressive actions in the Cyprus Exclusive Economic Zone in violation of International Law.

The struggle against the imperialist new world order is today more urgent than ever before. The Middle East has become once more the centre of imperialist expansion and aggression against the sovereignty of states, threatening peace in the entire region, fueling sectarianism and fundamentalist extremism, civil wars and humanitarian catastrophe. The international communist movement must at this crucial moment stand firmly on the side of the peoples of the region, and the communist, left, progressive and anti-imperialist forces in the region by developing joint action and mass struggles against these military interventions and aggressions; developments that threaten to plunge humanity into a vicious circle serving imperialist geo-strategic and economic interests.

Your Congress is taking place in the midst of the deep crisis of the capitalist system that is shifting even more burdens on working people's backs and attacking elementary rights and gains. We are following closely the vital and coherent role the Communist Party of Britain is playing in the various developing campaigns, leading by example, promoting united mass action and forging broad alliances within the labour, social and people's movement, such as the Peoples Assembly.

We would like once again to express our militant solidarity towards your struggles and reiterate our wish to further develop the ties between our two Parties. Every success to your Congress which we are sure will be a new landmark in the life and struggle of the Communist Party of Britain, in the struggles of the British working people for peace, democracy and socialism.

With fraternal and communist greetings,
The Central Committee of AKEL

1.II.2014



Solidarity Message of AKEL to the **Sudanese Communist Party**

victimization of the political struggle are totally condemnable. Furthermore, the recent accusations over cadres of the Sudanese C.P. – due to their just political activities opposing the Sudanese government – under articles of the Criminal Law that also provide death penalty and life imprisonment must awake the defenders of human rights and democracy worldwide.

Thus, we call the international community and the European Union to raise its awareness in this continuing deterioration of the suppression of the Sudanese Authorities over its people. Moreover, we call them to take a clear position over the violations of human rights as well over political and personal freedoms of the Sudanese people.

As AKEL we are going to take practical political steps for raising awareness over the situation in Sudan at many levels internationally.

8.12.2014

Dear comrades,

AKEL condemns the oppression of the Sudanese authorities over the cadres and the political activities of the Sudanese Communist Party. At the same time our Party expresses its full solidarity with the struggle of the Sudanese communists and the people of Sudan for democracy and social justice.

The huge repression of the Sudanese regime; the unfair detentions and trials; the violation of human rights and the



AKEL in solidarity with the **French Communist Party** regarding Charlie Hebdo tragedy

Hebdo” in regards to yesterday’s deadly attack at the headquarters of the newspaper.

The Central Committee of AKEL sent today a solidarity message to the French Communist Party in regards to yesterday’s bloody attack against working people at the periodical “Charlie Hebdo”. The main part of the message follows below:

“The Central Committee of AKEL expresses its deep condolences to your Party, its members, the French people and the relatives and comrades of the assassinated cartoonists and other working people of the newspaper “Charlie

The tragic event consists a black page for the French communists since the affiliation of the majority of the cartoonists with the struggle and activities of your Party and the “Fête de l’Humanité”, is well known. Furthermore, the attack will be recorded as one of the darkest pages regarding the principles of freedom of expression and democracy. As AKEL we support the call of your Party for unity of the people and organized groups within the context of the struggle for Liberty, Equality and Fraternity and against barbarity, hatred, stigmatization and racism.”

8.01.2015



AKEL Greeting to the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of Israel

sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

As AKEL, we particularly appreciate the consistent solidarity demonstrated by the Communist Party of Israel with the struggle of the people of Cyprus for the termination of the Turkish occupation and colonization, for the liberation, reunification and demilitarization of our country so that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots will live together in a federal state, in peace and security.

We also highly appreciate the immediate expression of your Party's solidarity towards Cyprus, together with the entire communist movement, regarding Turkey's recent provocative actions in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Cyprus. As you know, since 2013 the forces of the neoliberal Right are in government, implementing the anti-social policies of the EU and IMF.

At the same time they are seeking Cyprus' membership or association with NATO in line with the overall reorientation of its foreign policy in favour of the US and EU, but also Israel.

AKEL is struggling with all his forces against this policy and mobilizing against Cyprus and the British bases on the island being used as a spy base and as an aggressive launching pad for the NATO attacks against the peoples of the region.

We wish every success to the deliberations of your Congress and express our desire to strengthen and deepen our fraternal relations, but also our joint actions within the framework of the anti-imperialist struggle of our peoples and all the peoples of our region.

The Central Committee of AKEL

12.12.2014

AKEL addresses a warm, comradely and militant greeting to the Communist Party of Israel on the occasion of its 27th Congress. We salute the thousands of Communists of Israel who are fighting for peace, democracy and socialism.

AKEL greatly appreciates the role of the Communist Party of Israel which in an extremely harsh and hostile socio-political environment is defending the cause of peace, the end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and a two-state solution that will lead to the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state in the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, alongside Israel. We know very well that the Communist Party of Israel is a heroic voice in Israeli society defying the attacks and threats against it.

The Communist Party of Israel is defending democracy and the equality of all the citizens of Israel, promoting the unity of Jews and Arabs against chauvinism and warmongering.

We share common concerns about the danger of a total eruption in the fragile region of the Eastern Mediterranean, which has become the centre of intense inter-imperialist rivalry in our era for the control of the energy reserves and pipelines from energy giants.

Together, we are waging the struggle to rid the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction which would also mean the destruction of the nuclear arsenal the State of Israel illegally has at its disposal. On the proposal submitted by AKEL, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus approved last October a unanimous resolution calling on the international community to proceed with the denuclearization of the Middle East and all the States in the region to

Message from AKEL to the XV Congress of PSUC (Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia)

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of AKEL - the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus, accept warmest comradely greetings of solidarity and support in your struggles in favour of the working people.

As you meet in Barcelona, the working people of your country as well as of many EU member-states are suffering the brutal results of the systemic crisis of capitalism, with the destruction of the social state built thanks to the work and sacrifices of generations of working people. They pay the price while those that caused the crisis are being awarded further benefits from the IMF, the ECB, the EU, hence winning from the crisis.

We feel that particularly in these conditions the existence and work of the Communist Party and class-based trade unions and organisations are of paramount importance. We all have a responsible role to play in the struggle to resist austerity and the course of social destruction which are coupled by authoritarianism and curtailment of democracy.

At the same time, the world is faced with increased militarism, interventionism and wars due to the imperialist policies pursued by the US and their European allies.

Unfortunately, the EU, especially following the beginning of the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, is aligning its external policies to a constantly greater extent with the US, causing further militarisation of its external relations and pursuing increase of defence expenditure at a time when expenditure for health and education are cut sharply.

Cyprus, still suffering for over 40 years the Turkish military occupation of 37% of its territory, now faces also the violation by Turkey of the sovereignty of its Exclusive Eco-



nomic Zone. Turkey violates once again international law trying to stop the Republic of Cyprus from exploiting the hydrocarbons discovered in its sea bed. This exacerbates further the high tensions in the area of the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Our response is the continuation of the struggle for the reunification of our country and people in a bizonal, bicomunal federation, with single sovereignty, single international personality, single citizenship, where the human rights and freedoms are guaranteed for both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. We aspire to make Cyprus a bridge of peace in the region and not an unsinkable aircraft carrier as imperialism wishes it.

In these struggles we need each other's solidarity.

Dear comrades,

We wish every success to your Congress and strength and unity for your struggles.

Comradely yours,
THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF AKEL

16.01.2015

AKEL congratulatory letter to the Communist Party of Greece on the results of the elections in Greece



The General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou today sent a congratulatory letter to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) Demetris Koutsoumbas for the increase polled in the results recorded by the KKE in yesterday's elections held in Greece. The letter includes the following:

“On behalf of the Central Committee of AKEL I express my congratulations for the increase in the electoral strength

of the Communist Party of Greece in the parliamentary elections on 25th January 2015. The ability of the Communist Party of Greece to maintain and increase its forces constitutes a guarantee for the strengthening of the struggles of the Greek people in conditions where their living standards and rights are suffering bitterly.”

AKEL C.C. Press Office
26th January 2015



AKEL congratulates the President of SYRIZA Alexis Tsipras on its electoral victory

C.C. of AKEL, Andros Kyprianou yesterday evening had a telephone conversation with Mr. Alexis Tsipras and congratulated him on the big electoral victory of SYRIZA in the parliamentary elections of Greece. Today, the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL sent the following letter to Alexis Tsipras:

“Mr. Alexis Tsipras,
President of SYRIZA,

Both the C.C. of AKEL and personally myself express our warm congratulations on SYRIZA's election success yesterday and on your election as Prime Minister of Greece.

The electoral strength the Greek people has given SYRIZA sends a strong message across Europe and beyond, that the policies of austerity and exhaustion of the popular strata are no longer being accepted and tolerated. This must be understood at a European level and the will of the sovereign Greek people should be respected by all.

As far as Cyprus and its political problem is concerned, we hope that the new Greek Government will give a new impetus to the efforts to dampen the Turkish intransigence, to the beginning of substantive talks and the solution of the Cyprus problem. As

AKEL, we are always ready and willing to cooperate so as to contribute in this direction. Common struggles unite us with SYRIZA. We waged, and will continue to wage, many battles at a European level both within and outside the European United Left-Nordic Green Left.

I wish every success in the implementation of the Program of SYRIZA so that the Greek people's hope for better days is put into practice. “

AKEL calls on the Anastasiades Government -regardless of the fact that it belongs to a different ideological and political spectrum – to support the effort of the new Greek government to address the anti-social neoliberal policies being imposed by the ruling circles in Brussels, which are causing poverty and misery to the peoples of Europe. The Cypriot people who is suffering from the anti-people's Memorandum, is also a victim of these policies. The neoliberal policies of the ruling circles in the European Union must change. And this can only be done through assertion and struggle, and not through submission and apathy.

Statement of Stefanos Stefanou,
member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL
26th January 2015



31st January-1st February 2015, Istanbul-Turkey

Working Group of International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties

The Working Group of the the International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties was held on January 31-February 01, 2015 in Istanbul.

Workers' Party of Belgium, Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB), Communist Party of Cuba, The Progressive Party of the Working People (AKEL), Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, Communist Party of Greece, Communist Party of India, Tudeh Party of Iran, Lebanese Communist Party, Portuguese Communist Party, Communist Party of Russian Federation, Russian Workers' Communist Party, and the Communist Party of Ukraine

ers' and peoples' emancipation, for socialism" and the Communist Party, Turkey, was assigned as the host the meeting.

The Working Group adopted AKEL's proposal for a solidarity visit of the Working Group in Palestine. AKEL with the fraternal Palestinian Parties and the CP of Israel will deal with the coordination of this visit.

The parties participating in the Working Group meeting also released common statements for solidarity with the Palestinian People, with the Communist Party of Ukraine and for solidarity with the metal workers whose strike has been cancelled by the AKP government. Further state-

ments were released for solidarity with Palestine and Ukraine.

Following the termination of the Working Group sessions, the representa-



tives of the guest parties participated in the opening ceremony of an exhibition organized by the Communist Party at Nazım Hikmet Cultural Center commemorating the assassination of Mustafa Suphi, the first leader of the Communist Party of Turkey, and his comrades.

AKEL was represented at the Working Group Meeting by Costas Christodoulides Head of the International and European Affairs Bureau of AKEL and member of the C.C. AKEL

17th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties

October 2015, Istanbul Turkey

"The tasks of Communist and Workers' Parties to strengthen the struggle of the working class against capitalist exploitation, imperialist wars and fascism, for workers' and peoples' emancipation, for socialism"

participated in the meeting hosted by the Communist Party, Turkey.

The Working Group discussed on the preparations and decided on the subject of the 17th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties, which is to be held this year in Istanbul. The subject of the meeting was decided as "The tasks of Communist and Workers' Parties to strengthen the struggle of the working class against capitalist exploitation, imperialist wars and fascism, for work-



AKEL and European United Left-Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) hearing in the European Parliament on

“Cyprus and Energy: Peace and prosperity in the region”

Last month AKEL co-organised with GUE/NGL a Hearing under the title “Cyprus and Energy: Peace and prosperity in the region” at the European Parliament headquarters in Brussels.

The main speakers at the event were: Andros Kyprianou, Secretary General of C.C AKEL, Ali Gule, former President of DEV-IS (Turkish Cypriot “Revolutionary Trade Unions Federation”) and Dr. Charles Ellinas, former CEO of ‘KRETYK’ (National Hydrocarbons Company).



“The natural gas discovered in our region has its own huge significance in these plans. As AKEL we categorically state that any thoughts that may be made by certain circles and forces about transferring Cypriot natural gas to the European Union through pipelines from Turkey is not debatable so long as the Cyprus problem remains unsolved and as long as Turkey continues to illegally occupy Cypriot territory. Only after the solution of the Cyprus problem can such a development be discussed and a decision taken whether it is technically and economically feasible.

The recent developments demonstrate yet again the pressing need for a solution of the Cyprus problem; a solution that will provide for the withdrawal of the occupation troops and the settlers; a bi-zonal bi-communal federal solution with political equality as set out by the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council; a solution that will safeguard a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship, as well as the respect of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all the citizens of the

united Republic of Cyprus.

I address an appeal to all of you to continue to support us in our just and difficult struggle. The solution of the Cyprus problem within the afore-mentioned framework is in the interests of both communities, but also of Greece, Turkey and all the peoples of our troubled region.”

extracts from the speech of
Andros Kyprianou, Secretary General of C.C AKEL

