



AKEL Bulletin

Edited by the
International Relations Department C.C. AKEL
No 42 | September 2016





Parliamentary elections

AKEL remains a powerful leading force

Parliamentary elections were held in Cyprus on 22 May 2016 to elect 56 Members of the House of Representatives. Although AKEL still remains, by far, the main opposition force, its total vote declined since the last election, and it lost 3 of its 19 seats in the Cypriot House of Representatives. With an unprecedentedly high abstention rate, the right-wing Democratic Rally (DISI) party came first with 30.6 % of the vote followed by AKEL with 25.6 %. Compared to the 2011 elections, AKEL lost 7%.

By contrast ELAM, a far-right party fraternal to Greece's "Golden Dawn", scraped past a newly-imposed 3.6 % electoral threshold and won two seats. Cyprus's presidential form of government, however, means that the legislative election will not result in any change in the executive, currently held by the right-wing DISI Party and President Nicos Anastasiades.

As the Central Committee of AKEL stressed "we knew that the percent-

age would be below that of the 2011 parliamentary elections, given the extremely adverse political conditions we have been facing over the past five years. However, the result of the elections and the percentage of 25.7% we attained cannot under any circumstances be considered as satisfactory."

On the 9th and 16th July the Plenaries of the Central Committee of AKEL convened to assess the 22nd May parliamentary election result, after the views of the Party membership were heard through the waging of a discussion without a predetermined framework, which was conducted at the general meetings of the Party Base Organizations. In this debate opinions and views were tabled not just by cadres and members, but also by friends of AKEL. All of these were taken into account in the dialogue, but also in the decisions approved. The fact that many people beyond party members are anxious, reflecting and want to see AKEL take steps forward is indicative of the dynamic and perspective our Party has.

“The recovery will not be easy. It will be a painful and long process, which however we will follow until the end by addressing society in general. We will do so with new ways and new means, with young comrades at the forefront, from top to bottom, that will give a breath of renewal to our Party, but will also be a source of creativity for the assumption of new initiatives, new achievements and new successes for our Party and country.”





Sincerity - self-criticism - unity - struggle

Press Conference of Andros Kyprianou, General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL,
at the plenary of the C.C. 9 -16th July

“On the 9th and 16th July the Plenaries of the Central Committee of AKEL convened to assess the 22nd May parliamentary election result. During the plenary sessions a very constructive, self-critical and critical dialogue took place, in which the overwhelming majority of the members of the Central Committee expressed their views. More than 80 members of the C.C. took the floor to state their position. Criticism was exercised about the weaknesses we as a Party and the People's Movement of the Left have had for some years. Furthermore, there was also self-criticism that everyone could have worked better, offering more. Finally, many proposals were submitted which are already being elaborated within the framework of drawing up the strategic planning on the next steps which AKEL must take to gain the position it deserves in the Cypriot people's hearts and minds. The Plenum of the Central Committee did not hesitate and did not shy away from pointing out bitter truths and weaknesses that led to this concrete election result.

In recent years, Cyprus has been experiencing unprecedented situations. Wealth is being redistributed brutally. The people face enormous economic and social problems. As AKEL we showed a weakness over recent years, not only during the election period, in elaborating policies that

could address these problems and keep the perspective for the future strong.

Many people, rightly or wrongly, don't believe that AKEL can defend them. People who found themselves unemployed, find it difficult to make ends meet and who don't receive any help from the state, consider that at the crucial time AKEL was not close to them. At the same time, we did not convince them during the years of the Anastasiades administration that we can formulate credible alternative proposals on the economy, which can be accepted by the majority.

In the minds of a section of the people AKEL just exerts correct criticism but without putting forth a realistic proposal to change things. The people therefore punished us by abstaining because they didn't see in us the force to address their problems, nor the hope in their future.

The issue of the "Christofias governance" also negatively affected many people's consciousness. This was our responsibility as well. We made an assessment in the plenary sessions of the C.C. and Congress with regards the period of the Christofias government. We acknowledged the rich and diverse work that was done. We assessed self-critically the mistakes, weaknesses and omissions. However we didn't managed to convince them of our positions, making them understandable to the people.

AKEL was also dealt a major blow by the fact that we lost the moral advantage we always had over time. This greatly wounded the people of AKEL who were proud because of our superiority and dominance on this matter. Despite our sincere efforts to confront and stamp out phenomena of corruption and interwoven interests, we failed to convince them that we are not all the same. The party leadership has an enormous responsibility to convince people through initiatives and actions that we are different; that we do not tolerate such behaviors. We also didn't manage to effectively repel and counter the propaganda and talk about a supposed collusion ("DISAKEL") between DISY and AKEL. **The change in**



the electoral law transmitted a message of arrogance and accentuated the deceptive separation into "small" and "big" parties. The cases such as FOCUS and XYTY-XYTA, which gave the opportunity to everyone to equate us with DISY, also cost us dearly, even though this does not reflect reality.

At the same time, we frankly and boldly declare that **although our candidate list was admittedly worthy and serious, nonetheless it wasn't as broad as it should have been.** With the same sincerity the Central Committee assessed how damaging the phenomenon of self-promotion was this time which appeared more intensely than ever in the election campaign. We also pointed out behaviors of former cadres who undermined the collective effort that we should have made as a Party. As necessary as it is to deepen democracy and a different viewpoint in the party, so it is equally imperative to respect the decisions of the majority. The reluctance demonstrated with regards this respect undermines the Party's unity and effectiveness in persuading people.

In other words, we did not wage the battle united. We didn't reach out broadly to society. Instead, we disappointed worthy people who preferred to stay away from such behaviours and the perception that "all the parties are the same" and the view that "they all want positions of power" was enhanced.

The plenary of the Central Committee also identified the major problems and weaknesses we had in our organizational work which appeared more intensely than any previous time. Our contact with the people was fragmented or not regular, despite the efforts made by the Party District Committees. We didn't manage to reach everyone. We were unable to have the contact we would have liked with society. We were constantly seeing the same people in the same places. At the same time, we did not have the presence we should have had in social movements and social struggles. Instead of being at the forefront, we were more or less absent. **The Central Committee has also identified major weaknesses encountered in our communication sector.** While we had and do have positions and proposals, we did not project and convey them consistently, continuously and in a single political voice.

We also assessed as the party leadership the fact that a fruitful dialogue was conducted in the party rank and file as well. In this debate opinions and views were tabled not just by cadres and members, but also by friends of AKEL. All of these were taken into account in the dialogue, but also in

the decisions approved. The fact that many people beyond party members are anxious, reflecting and want to see AKEL take steps forward is indicative of the dynamic and perspective our Party has.

The dialogue that took place has proved that we have the will and desire to change things; to change immediately, but not superficially; to change things in order to serve the substance and not any communication expediency. There is the will and desire to address the mistakes and correct them, but not to demolish everything. There is the will and the desire to look ahead with optimism and with an appetite for work. We should act now, building for the future of AKEL and the AKEL of the future.

The recovery will not be easy. It will be a painful and long process, which however we will follow until the end by addressing society in general. We will do so with new ways and new means, with young comrades at the forefront, from top to bottom, that will give a breath of renewal to our Party, but will also be a source of creativity for the assumption of new initiatives, new achievements and new successes for our Party and country. Allow me to give an outline of some of the key decisions, the core issues on which we will work to fulfill.

In the political field:

- Further develop and elaborate our proposals on the economy and society, as well as our efforts to address the critical issues our people are facing. In this direction we are ready to listen to all views. The more views the better.
- Strengthen and continue our contacts and dialogue with broad strata of the people and ensure the continuous presence of AKEL and its members and militants everywhere, in all areas of political and social life of the country so that we can march again with new and old friends, together, fulfilling our common political and ideological goals.
- Deepen our ideological and political work. In theory, but most importantly in practice, in society, on working people's problems and inside social movements –where AKEL can and must be at the forefront.
- Strengthen our political activity everywhere, both inside and outside the House of Representatives. Our Members of Parliament do valuable work. However, they are not and should not be the MP's who appear and vote on Thursday in plenary of the House. There are not puppets, or decorative elements in the chamber of the House. **The AKEL MP's must be and will be everywhere.** The same also applies to all the full-time cadres working in the party mechanism. We are, and indeed will all be, under constant evaluation and judgment.

On the organizational level:

- Broad action in innovative ways, implementation of Congress decisions and renewal of our party base.
- Bold decisions for renewal and investment in young comrades. We don't want an aged AKEL. We want an AKEL that is the voice and soul





“...we will continue to be **the Party of all Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots** and to struggle for our common future in our common homeland. We will continue fighting against neo-fascism. The entry of a fascist - Nazi party in parliament is a very negative development. AKEL historically and according to its statutes defines itself as an "anti-fascist party" and we will continue to act and struggle so.”

of young people. Among other things, the decision has been taken to set up a specialized group which will study proposals and actions to enhance the participation of young people in the party base.

- Deep and collective discussion on the role of the leading party bodies, the staffing and quality of the militants that compose them.

- **Revitalization of the work of party base organizations.** Ending at last the practice of simply executing narrow-minded practical tasks. Our organizational emphasis will be devoted to transforming the party base organizations into organizations that will make interventions and will be at the forefront of initiatives on local community issues, on issues of concern to youth, for the development of culture; initiatives to solve and highlight social problems, environmental issues and other issues of concern to contemporary society.

- Strengthening the intervention of the Pancyprian Federation of Labour (PEO), the Youth Organization of EDON, the Union of Cypriot Farmers (EKA) and the Progressive Women's Movement of POGO in Cypriot society, with particular emphasis on our contacts with youth and working people.

- We should again as the Left set the example on issues related to corruption and interwoven interests. We should be resolute and relentless in combating them and any possible punishment must be exemplary.

- **Strengthening the ideological and political unity of AKEL, but also the freedom of dialogue and protection of the opposite view.**

- Promote activities for the development of a dialogue and communication with the friends and voters of the Party. Actions on the model of on-line dialogue on the election results will assume a more structured and institutionalized character and will be extended to wider issues of concern to society.

On the communication sector:

- Utilization of communications specialists and experts not only during a given election campaign

- Continue the efforts to optimize the use of the mass media for a more effective communication policy. Continue the efforts for the fair, objective and impartial handling of political parties by the mass media, and especially by the state-owned Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation.

- Even more decisive and combative political discourse so as not to leave any issues unanswered, but also to make our political positions and distinct differences with DISY and other political parties discernable and clear.

- Further utilization of new and modern possibilities accessible to us by social networks and the Internet.

These are just some of the decisions taken, in addition to the decisions that were approved at the Programmatic and Regular Congresses. During this period a lot has been said and written about changes in personnel in AKEL, about collective resignations and much more. I just want to state that we do not operate recklessly or in panic. The renewal of AKEL is a process that never stops and which we will certainly continue, not spasmodically however, but in a calculated way, with preparation and according to a long-term plan. Finally, on behalf of the Central Committee of AKEL I want to reaffirm that the principal concern of everyone is to serve the interests of Cyprus, the workers and people of Cyprus.

The liberation and reunification of Cyprus continues to be our primary objective. Our long-standing positions on the Cyprus problem are now confirmed in practice. Our timeless policy is the antidote to the rejectionist policy, but also to the policy of submission. It is also the only policy that can lead to a solution of the Cyprus problem based on principles, provided that Turkey will abandon its unacceptable positions. We therefore will not sacrifice the principles of the solution and cause of our people for the sake of temporary petty-party gains, no matter how much pressure we may come under.

On the contrary, we will continue to be the Party of all Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots and to struggle for our common future in our common homeland. We will continue fighting against neo-fascism. The entry of a fascist - Nazi party in parliament is a very negative development. AKEL historically and according to its statutes defines itself as an "anti-fascist party" and we will continue to act and struggle so.

We will continue to be at the forefront of the decisive battles, both with regards the Cyprus problem and on economic and social issues, for the progress, prosperity, social justice and the future we deserve.



42 years

since NATO's double crime against Cyprus

15th July 1974

Fascist coup of the Greek junta and EOKA B against President Makarios

20th July-14th August 1974

Barbaric Turkish invasion

On the 15th July 1974 the NATO-engineered fascist coup d'état was executed by the Greek junta and its organs in Cyprus, namely the armed ultra-right, nationalist and anti-communist underground EOKA B organization.

It was the climax of the long NATO conspiracy against the democratic and non-aligned Republic of Cyprus headed by President Makarios who with the support of all the democratic and patriotic forces rallied in a broad front of resistance with AKEL at the forefront refused to yield and suspender Cyprus to NATO and its plans for partition and its transformation into an unsinkable aggressive launching pad for NATO imperialism and local reaction.

The plans for the dissolution of the Republic of Cyprus and partition of our country were finalized and agreed at the 1971 Lisbon NATO Summit between the Foreign Ministers of Greece and Turkey. The coup was subsequently followed 5 days later - in line with the NATO plan - by the Turkish invasion and occupation of 37% of the territory of Cyprus which is still continuing to this day with the tolerance of certain sections of the international community, namely NATO and the ruling circles of the EU.

AKEL was at the forefront of the Democratic Resistance, before and during the coup. Many comrades were arrested, tortured and experienced untold suffering. Many comrades sacrificed their lives in the fight against fascism. Others were brutally murdered and executed. We pay tribute to our Heroes and Martyrs and strive to vindicate their sacrifices.

In the Turkish invasion that followed on July 20, 1974, many other comrades made the ultimate sacrifice, fighting bravely - although betrayed - the might of the NATO-Member Turkey war machine. Many others are on the list of missing persons. The result of the NATO double crime committed against Cyprus and its people, against the independence, ter-

ritorial integrity and sovereignty of Cyprus had disastrous results the wounds of which have still not healed.

The occupation of 37% of our country is still continuing. The twin crime led to thousands of dead, wounded and war-stricken people. It led to atrocities committed mainly by the Turkish invading army, but also by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot fascists and chauvinists. The invasion resulted in the uprooting of 200,000 Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots who became refugees in their own country, to the separation of our people and division of our country. **The 2000 missing Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriot persons and the plight of their relatives is probably the most painful page of the tragedy;** the remains of 1000 were not found so far, a large number of remains are under the lengthy DNA identification process while around 600 were identified and returned to the families to be finally put to rest. The number of the enclaved people in the occupied areas is declining. The presence of 40,000 Turkish troops is continuing. **The ongoing deliberate policy of Turkey to alter the demographic character of the occupied areas through their mass colonization with the influx of Turkish settlers, is threatening both the very identity and existence of the Turkish Cypriot community and the Greek Cypriots.**

The People's Movement of the Left of Cyprus, headed by AKEL organized a series of mass events and meetings to pay tribute to heroes and martyrs of the Cypriot people who fell in the struggle for Democracy and Freedom, to condemn the imperialist crime and to affirm the continuation of the struggle to end the occupation and reunify Cyprus so that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots can live together in their common home in peace. These events culminated in the mass militant march of the youth organization of AKEL EDON which ended with at the mass meeting of 15th July 2016 in Nicosia.

“Every year on such anniversaries the Right and extreme-right feel extremely awkward and uncomfortable. Besides, that is precisely the reason why their leading members and officials don't appear on television and radio, and sometimes they even disappear from the country.

Wherever they go, no matter what they may say nobody forgets, nothing is forgotten. We will never stop talking about betrayal therefore about traitors as well. We will never stop talking about the twin crime committed against Cyprus, hence also about criminals too.”



“On the one hand stood AKEL and with it the vast majority of the Cypriot people, united around the non-aligned policy pursued by Makarios. On the opposite end stood a handful of EOKA B fighters who were conscious fascists.

On the one hand stood thousands of honest patriots who shed their blood for democracy and freedom. On the other end, stood those who sold out to the Junta.

On the one hand stood Grivas and EOKA B, who although knew that the coup would give the excuse to Turkey to invade Cyprus, planned and executed it deliberately as soon as they found the opportunity.

On the other hand stood AKEL, which although it had prevented due to the militant rallying of the people around Makarios the planned coup in 1972, was not complacent. AKEL constantly warned about the criminal plans against Cyprus. Furthermore, it proposed the creation of a People's Militia that would be the opposing force against EOKA B and the National Guard which was under the control of the junta.”

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



“The betrayal of the coup was the "pretext" for Turkey's invasion. This was the only way the Turkish army could invade and occupy to this very date more than one third of the territory of our country. This was the only way could choke to death, shed the blood and tears of thousands of Cypriots; to separate the people of Cyprus, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. This was the only way it could erect the barbed wires of the occupation.

This was the only way Turkey could transfer more than 40,000 Turkish soldiers; the only way Turkey could colonize continuously the occupied areas, threatening the survival of both the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in the land of their birth. This was the only way for our people to be constantly living under threats in their own homeland.”



“As far as AKEL is concerned, the solution of the Cyprus problem is our foremost and unwavering goal. It is the only way our people, both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, to live without their survival being threatened in the land of their birth. It is the only way to create preconditions for growth, prosperity and progress. These cannot be safeguarded by any kind of a solution. They can be safeguarded only by a solution that will terminate the occupation and colonization will safeguard them; that will restore the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus.

Only by a solution based on UN resolutions, the High-Level Agreements, International and European Law; a solution that will demilitarize Cyprus and exclude any rights of intervention in the internal affairs of our country by foreign powers.

Only by a solution that will reunite the territory, the people, the institutions and the economy under a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality as described in the UN texts.

We stress again and again these principles, so that its absolutely clear to everyone that any agreement that will not include them will not be accepted by AKEL.”

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





“The target of NATO, the Greek junta and EOKA B was none other than the two major obstacles to the plans for the partition of Cyprus: The first target was President Makarios who rallied together almost all the people around the line of a united, non-aligned and independent Cyprus. The second obstacle was the existence of a strong Left, AKEL - the backbone of the popular resistance.

It is no coincidence that **during those years anticommunism had reached frenzied levels**. The National Guard had elevated anti-AKEL frenzy as the principal national duty. The Left and its militants were under constant surveillance. There was not a single Left family that wasn't under surveillance and had a file. The right-wing daily newspapers were urging Makarios to outlaw and ban AKEL to prove to them that he wasn't "pro-communist". The General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL, the late Ezekias Papaioannou, was on the death list compiled by EOKA B and the coup plans provided, inter alia, for the destruction of the "Haravgi" newspaper printing building. In those years, the militants of the Party and People's Movement of the Left were targeted by fascist violence and the terror exerted on them in the army during their military service, at school, in the neighborhoods and in every corner of Cyprus. However, we did not yield. We did not give in and consent.

We continued to support more combatively President Makarios and the line of independence. AKEL was the main force mobilizing in mass rallies the people in defense of democratic legality and to denounce EOKA B fascism and the Greek junta interventions. At the same time, AKEL never stopped urging President Makarios to take drastic measures to stamp out EOKA B terrorism; to give weapons to the forces of democracy and legality. **AKEL proposed the establishment of a mass People's Militia that would crush in the bud a possible coup**. We even gave a list of a thousand Party members, who were all willing to sacrifice if necessary their lives to defend democracy. Even up to a few days before the coup, AKEL and its newspaper issued warnings of the danger of a coup. Makarios, however, credited the Greek junta with the minimum of patriotism. But Makarios was wrong, because fascists are fascists. They have no country. For them there is nothing sacred. They committed what their masters ordered them to do.

With the outbreak of the coup **on the morning of July 15th, the Party called on the people to put up resistance. Thousands of AKEL members went to police stations demanding weapons to defend the state**. In most cases, instead of being given weapons they were thrown in prison by coup officers. Resistance rallies were organized, but they were attacked by EOKA B. In every village and neighborhood of Cyprus fascists raided the Local Clubs of the People's Organizations of the Left, the homes of AKEL members/militants and Makarios supporters to arrest, torture and murder them. This is the badge of honor of AKEL and its members and militants. These are our answers to those who believe today that their propaganda will uproot AKEL from the Cypriot people.”

Nikos Ioannou,
member of the Political Bureau of AKEL



“All armies out of Cyprus- independent island!”

Cyprus problem Why **demilitarization** matters

By Stavri Kalopsidiotou, member of the C.C.
and Cyprus Problem Bureau of AKEL

The direct negotiations on the Cyprus problem are taking place at a time when the war-torn region of the southeast Mediterranean needs a true success story for peace. The assumption of the leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community by a determined pro-solution Mustafa Akinci strengthens our hopes and resets the momentum for a Cypriot-owned solution. Taking stock of Turkey’s illegal occupation of the northern part of Cyprus over the last 42 years and the continuous ongoing human rights violations against both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, the current negotiations revolve around the core internal aspects of the Cyprus problem. Turkey on the other hand is the key actor that is expected to take concrete measures and allow the people of Cyprus to determine their own future in their common homeland.

Hence, the withdrawal of the Turkish army from Cyprus, a just solution on the issue of the illegal settlers in the occupied areas and the abolition of the anachronistic system of foreign guarantees, all depending on Turkey’s genuine commitment for a solution, are of huge importance.

Among the issues debated in Cyprus in relation to the content of a negotiated solution is the issue of the demilitarization of the island. **A brief historical review regarding the official positions of the Greek Cypriot side illustrates that demilitarization has never been the goal solely of the Left.**

In 1989 the goal of demilitarization was included in the unanimous decisions approved by the National Council. On 17th December 1993 Clerides submitted a proposal for the demilitarization of Cyprus to the UN Secretary-General. In 2002 the current Foreign Minister also acknowledged in statements he made that demilitarization constitutes an important parameter for the solution of the Cyprus problem. The National Council in its unanimous decisions approved in September 2009 reiterated precisely the same goal. Furthermore, the inclusion of the sought goal of demilitarization, included in numerous resolutions of the UN Security Council, [i.e. in Resolution 1251 (1999)] that were adopted during the period of Clerides’ administration, has often been perceived as a success.

What has therefore changed that we weren’t confronted with in the past? In reality, nothing has changed. However, **certain circles and forces are evidently exploiting the Cyprus problem in order to promote their ideologically-driven views on the issues with regards security.** With the position of certain circles and forces against demilitarization being covered up with a European mask, the argument is being made that Cyprus’ participation in the security and defense policy of the European Union (CSDP) presupposes the existence of an army, thus making demilitarization impossible. Nothing is further from the truth.

The EU does not need the five or six soldiers attributable to Cyprus to carry out its missions, neither however is Cyprus' participation in so-called "humanitarian interventions", the few that are not carried out under the leadership of NATO, dependant on the existence of a Cypriot army. In peacekeeping operations, search and rescue missions to provide assistance to affected areas hit by human-made and natural disasters, the management of crises, the participation and synergy of the federal Republic of Cyprus can be safeguarded with doctors, functionaries and expert technocrats.

However, why does this so obviously evident fact escape the attention

Turkish invasion and the 42 years of military occupation can only be achieved through demilitarization. All the above, explain profoundly quite rightly why **no previous President of the Republic of Cyprus abandoned the position in favor of demilitarization by accepting the existence of guarantor powers with sovereign rights to the detriment of the Cypriot people, or the presence of troops after the solution.**

Having said that, AKEL always remains absolutely committed and consistent to the demilitarization of Cyprus. All those circles and forces who are in a rush to abandon the long-standing position in favor of the demilitarization of Cyprus, by flirting with Cyprus' membership of NATO, the presence of military structures on our island, the continuation of hege-



“...AKEL always remains absolutely committed and consistent to the demilitarization of Cyprus. **All those circles and forces who are in a rush to abandon the long-standing position in favor of the demilitarization of Cyprus, by flirting with Cyprus' membership of NATO, the presence of military structures on our island, the continuation of hegemonic foreign guarantees or the existence of unilateral rights of intervention, must above all reflect on how they will solve the Cyprus problem without the support of a large section of the Cypriot people.**”

and knowledge of all those who invoke an EU obligation? Is it perhaps because they simply disagree with demilitarization, or is it because of the expediency that is hidden behind the pretext in question concerns the perspective of Cyprus' coupling with NATO through the establishment of NATO guarantees or even Cyprus' future participation and accession to NATO? However, once again, why are the ramifications of such positions so difficult to understand? Or to put it differently, why does the demilitarization of Cyprus matter?

The consequence of abandoning the principle of demilitarization automatically paves the way for Turkey to assert, with the solution, the permanent presence of a significant number of its troops in Cyprus. Furthermore, any army in Cyprus will possibly be mixed in its composition with equal proportions, as well as a rotating Commander in Chief. Can Cypriots accept this perspective, bearing in mind the bitter experiences of the past? Without doubt, one of the main arguments in rejecting previous peace plans submitted was the issue of people's insecurity. And certainly, this remains one of the issues that will play a decisive role in the approval of any future plan put before the people in a referendum.

The promise for safeguarding citizens' security and the overcoming of the real and psychological obstacles of insecurity created as a result of the

monic foreign guarantees or the existence of unilateral rights of intervention, must above all reflect on how they will solve the Cyprus problem without the support of a large section of the Cypriot people.

Unquestionably, past experience explains why security is a key issue for both communities in Cyprus. Nevertheless, the security of one community cannot be attained at the expense of the other. It is an issue that will be determined after the discussions on the internal aspects of the Cyprus problem.

Of course, the overall content of the solution is instrumental for the rebuilding of trust among the two communities, which is part and parcel of security on the island.

But most crucial are Turkey's intentions regarding the issues of security and guarantees. Regretfully, apart for some general statements, Ankara's intentions on the issue remain, so far, vague and unspecified.



Turkish Cypriot youth reject Turkey's "Coordination Centres"

From 1974 onwards, Turkey has always sought to consolidate its occupation in the northern part of Cyprus through the political, social and cultural assimilation of the Turkish Cypriot community. The policies of colonization, blatant interference in the political affairs of the Turkish Cypriot community, the promotion of political and religious models have all, inter alia, contributed to this effort. More specifically **the Erdogan government has tried to impose neoliberal policies, through Financial Protocols whilst at the same time seeking to promote the Islamist agenda by building mosques, theological faculties, importing religious lessons in schools etc.**

The latest development in these attempts was the agreement for the establishment of so-called "Coordinating Centres" between the right-wing leadership of the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey. Essentially these centres with their creation will be able to take decisions directly from Ankara on issues relating to youth, sports and culture. They in effect replace the corresponding "Ministry" that had the relevant powers.

This development has led to the formation of a significant progressive movement, made up mostly of young people, called "Reddediyoruz" ("We reject") which has been at the forefront of ongoing mobilizations, both when the relevant decision was due to be approved in mobilizations organized outside the so-called "parliament", as well as afterwards. In the movement's biggest mobilization approximately 4,000 people took to the streets, quite a large number for the Turkish Cypriot community's conditions. It was characteristic that the mass numbers of youth who took part in the relevant demonstrations were people not involved in politics, although the left and centre-left political organizations were the main coordinating force. Young "Members of parliament" from the two largest parties of the centre-left played a significant role in the developments.

Consequently, we are in essence referring to a youth movement. This is the Turkish Cypriot community's generation which has suffered the brunt of the neoliberal policies imposed by Erdogan's governments; the generation that suffered rising unemployment, immigration, reduction

of wages etc. It is the same generation, however, which opposes the attempts to impose the cultural assimilation of the Turkish Cypriots within the framework of Erdogan's Islamic agenda.

In the social media networks the #reddediyoruz movement becomes the new symbol challenging the "Turkification" of the Turkish Cypriot community through a campaign that appears to have continuity, both in time and in relation to the content of its political demands.

The decision to establish "Coordinating Centres", although voted and approved by the right-wing majority in the so-called "parliament" of the occupied eventually, was referred by the center-left "President" Mustafa Akinci to the so-called "constitutional court". Currently, it has not entered into force.

The initiative undertaken by the Youth organization of AKEL, EDON, to send a photo with members and cadres of EDON holding the slogan of the movement (on the day before the mass mobilization), as well as a relevant solidarity message from EDON, which was released in Turkish, generated marked enthusiasm. Several messages of gratitude from young Turkish Cypriots, who were replying to EDON's solidarity message, concluded the initiative's success.





EDON in solidarity with the struggle of Turkish Cypriot youth in their resistance to the imposition of the so-called "Coordinating Agencies"

During the past few days the Turkish Cypriot progressive youth organizations are holding numerous protests against the agreement that was approved by the right-wing leadership of the pseudo-parliament for the establishment of so-called "Coordinating Agencies" in the occupied areas. Other cultural and sports organizations also took part in these protest demonstrations.

The "Coordinating Agencies" represent a continuation of a process aiming to promote Turkey's further economic and political hegemony over the Turkish Cypriot community. A series of decisions on youth, culture and sports issues will now be taken directly by Turkey through its own policy-making offices which will be located in Cyprus. This action follows many other policies that are being implemented by Turkey threatening the very existence of the Turkish Cypriots as a community and their future in particular, which is none other than the young generation. This represents a very negative development, since it is taking place at the same time as intercommunal negotiations are ongoing for the solution of the Cyprus problem.

EDON express its solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot youth and stands on their side in the struggle they are waging for survival against the authoritarianism and repression of Turkey as an occupation force.

EDON calls on the young people of Cyprus from both sides of the "green line" to intensify the struggle for peace and reunification which is the only way for the real liberation of the young generation of Cyprus from foreign armies and rulers.

AKEL on worrying intensification of authoritarianism in Turkey

AKEL is monitoring with deep concern the developments in Turkey that followed the failed coup d'état on 15th July. On the pretext of purging the putschists from the public domain, and in parallel with the brutal treatment of soldiers who participated in the coup d'état, the Erdogan government is relentlessly proceeding to a witch hunt in various directions. Civil servants, journalists, academics, trade unions and parties of the Left are subject to a medieval persecution which is dismantling every notion of democracy in whose name these actions are supposedly taking place. These actions have already been denounced by many sides.

The coup d'état was correctly condemned by all the opposition sides in Turkey, but also internationally. However, it must not escape our attention that a number of EU member states and other Atlantic allies of Turkey hesitated to do so during the execution of the coup. The latter raises questions about the role of foreign circles.

At the same time, it is a fact that the presence of the Turkish people on the streets was a key factor in the failure of the coup d'état, despite the fact that the extreme actions of the supporters of Erdogan marred this action. Apart from these circles a large progressive section of the people resisted because of its real democratic beliefs despite the fact that politically they are resisting Erdogan's policies. Among them are the Kurds, communists, progressive movements, intellectuals etc.

However many of them are now being targeted by the authoritarian persecution waged by the Erdogan government which took the opportunity to seek the silencing of various progressive voices in the country. The arrest of 60,000 civil servants and the dismissal of 1,577 Rectors and Vice-Rectors, as well as more than 200,000 teachers is frightening, even more so when all this is done in the name of protecting "democracy".

AKEL expresses its solidarity with the Communist Party (KP), the People's Democratic Party (HDP), the Freedom and Solidarity Party (ODP), the Labour Party (EMEP) and other progressive forces who are struggling against their country becoming fascist, for a sustainable democracy in their homeland that does not interfere in foreign states and defends peace, social justice and worker's rights. AKEL maintains bilateral relations with these Parties that are based on mutual respect and the common desire for a solution of the Cyprus problem, for the termination of interventions in the internal affairs of states and for peaceful relations among the countries of our region stricken by wars.



AKEL at the forefront with volunteer brigades - Submits concrete proposals

Fires cause huge destruction to one of Cyprus' most precious forests

A huge fire struck Cyprus' most precious forest of the Troodos Mountain in mid-June. The scale of the disaster is not unrelated to the government's inability to coordinate the firefighting operation. The cuts in the Firefighting Service/Units and Forestry Department due to Cyprus' accession to the Troika's "Support Mechanism" were additional reasons contributing to this inability. AKEL and EDON were in the front line from the very outset with the formation of volunteer brigades and the tabling of concrete proposals to contribute towards extinguishing the fire.

In Cyprus the possibility of catastrophic fires is enormous because of our island's climate and the large area covered by its forests. The high temperatures and hot and dry climate are observed particularly during the summer, while throughout the duration of summer there is on average 11.5 hours a day of sunshine, even in the mountains. At the same time 18.9% of our island's territory is covered by forests. Under these circumstances, the outbreak of any fires is a menace and the relevant services must be on high alert and constantly ready to put them out.

The austerity policies of recent years, also within the framework of the impositions of the Troika's Memorandum of Understanding led to cuts in the Forestry Department, the Firefighting Service/Units, as well as to the closure of the only Forest College from which Cyprus foresters graduated from. In addition, the Anastasiades government's responsibilities are also related to the inability to effectively coordinate the operation to put out the fires and request immediate aid from abroad. More specifically, the air support which arrived from France, Italy and Israel, and which played a decisive role in combating the fires, could have been called to assist long before they did.

AKEL, as the biggest party of the opposition, demands that the responsibilities for the devastation and poor operation must be the subject of a

thorough investigation. At the same time, the Environment Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL **has proposed the following concrete measures that should be implemented:**

1. The government should proceed there and where necessary to provide economic aid to the population that suffered the consequences of fires.
2. AKEL proposes the implementation of anti-corrosion and anti-flood projects, mainly in the cases where built-up regions or anthropogenic activities are under threat, as well as the construction of projects to protect soil from erosion and prevent the creation of rock landslides, land falls and floods. The management - harvest of the burnt standing woody assets is required and finally,
3. Rehabilitation - restoration of the ecosystem with respect to vegetation. This must be done with the immediate and without exceptions declaration of burned forests as reforestation areas.
4. A comprehensive plan and organization of the prevention and protection of citizens, the natural and built-up environment from forest fires that will utilize modern technologies for the prevention and management of dangers must be elaborated. For example, we cannot just be satisfied with the arrival of firefighting planes from other countries.

The contribution of hundreds of volunteers was particularly important who offered to help extinguish the fires. Despite the late appeal issued by the Forestry Department for volunteers, this was eventually realized. **Among the volunteers were many comrades from AKEL and EDON together with Turkish Cypriot compatriots.** EDON, together with progressive Turkish Cypriot organizations, issued a joint statement on the issue of the fires, addressing a call to our country's young people to participate in the common struggle to protect our island's environment. In particular, they expressed their readiness to contribute to the restoration of the devastation through activities promoting reforestation and other initiatives, as well as to work to promote environmental awareness among the youth.

"Cuts that 'burn'
forests and fire-fighting services"



The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage is an example of the Cyprus we want

Just a few metres from the Nicosia buffer zone and the barbed wires of division imposed by the occupation, AKEL held its annual and renowned Cultural Service Award “T. Anthias and Th. Pierides” on 27th June. This year the Award had a symbolic meaning, reflecting AKEL’s consistent and practical commitment to rapprochement and cultivation of a common understanding and culture in the field of the arts and letters as well. The leaders of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, T/c Ali Tuncay and G/c Takis Hajidemetriou, were awarded this year. In excerpts from his own address AKEL General Secretary Andros Kyprianou noted the following:

“...Today we are here to honor the people who have assumed the task, with others, of lifting the burden of trying to **salvage our people’s cultural heritage not only monuments which we have a duty to protect, but as part of our country’s image, identity and beauty.**

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, appointed in 2008 by the Christofias government, drew up a list of monuments and started work immediately. For all the Committee’s work, but also for its overall work, allow me to warmly congratulate Ali Tuncay and Takis Hajidemetriou. The Committee has worked and is working in difficult conditions. That’s why it deserves a big thanks with AKEL’s humble signature through its Cultural Service Award “T. Anthia and Th. Pierides”.

For AKEL, the preservation of our cultural heritage isn’t a new cause, but a goal we set years ago and for its fulfillment of which we also contributed. I’ll just mention indicatively the signature gathering campaigns denouncing the destruction of our Cultural Heritage in 1991, the event held in Venice in 2002 on the same issue, but also our 1999 initiative to visit UNESCO to deliver 2,000 signatures from the people of Letters and Arts protesting at the destruction of Cyprus’ cultural heritage, as well as AKEL’s related publication regarding the study on Cyprus’ Cultural Heritage.

Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots have a common heritage. We share the same pain. We will not stop struggling so that future generations will live in a peaceful Cyprus that will have done away with barbed wires, refugee settlements and tears for the beloved dead. The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage is a model and an example of the Cyprus we want where **Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots will work together to**

Committee on Cultural Heritage, a successful project

In 2008 following a decision of the then leaders of the two communities, Demetris Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat, the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and the Advisory Board for the Preservation, Physical Protection and Restoration of the Immovable Cultural Heritage of Cyprus were established. These bodies work as mutually acceptable mechanisms for the implementation of practical measures for the proper maintenance, preservation, physical protection and restoration (including research, study and survey) of the immovable cultural heritage of Cyprus. They provide a space where the practical aspects of cultural heritage preservation can be considered in a non-political manner so that practical measures can be taken to improve the situation on the ground.

Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot colleagues work together to restore the island’s cultural heritage sites of particular historical, archaeological and architectural significance to both communities and have managed to turn the Committee on Cultural Heritage into a successful project.

heal the wounds of the past and learning from the lessons of history they will build Cyprus’ future. AKEL believes that our best allies are our compatriots who are fighting for our country’s vindication, reunification and peace. Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots who join hands over the barbed wire because they realize only together, united, do they have a future.”



Cyprus after the formal exit from the Memorandum The **Memorandum** is "over" but its barbaric policies continue

More than six months have gone by since Cyprus's formal exit from the Memorandum. This was preceded and followed by many celebrations on the part of the Government. However in reality, our country's situation, like Ireland and Spain, illustrate clearly that the exit from the Memorandum is nothing more than a formality. The exit from the Memorandum basically just means the end of

the payment of the installments from the European Stability Mechanism and the International Monetary Fund. In no way does it mean the end of the supervision over the financial policies implemented by Cyprus. Moreover, it does not mean an end to the Memorandum's anti-social policies and to the austerity we have subsequently inherited. After all, the path towards the fulfillment of the loan agreement is long and the date set for its

The labour force
has been reduced by
20,000
persons compared with the
same period of 2015

Each job vacancy
corresponds to
6
unemployed
people

Over the last three years
15.000
companies
have closed down

Unemployment has risen to 14.1%. 234,000 of our fellow citizens are living below the poverty line. The last two years the income of 10% of the most privileged has increased by 3.4% in contrast to 90% of society who have suffered an 8% reduction in their income, which in turn has seen the gap between the poor and rich increasing to record levels. Cyprus ranks last in Europe in terms of public expenditure on social protection for the elderly and people with disabilities. To all this one should add the unprecedented growth in social inequality and insecurity, poverty and long-term unemployment.

Furthermore, according to recent statistics released by Eurostat, Cyprus is the only country in Europe where there is a reduction in wages of the order of -7.1% and in working people's benefits

too for the third consecutive year. This has resulted in the percentage of working people classified as low income earners rising sharply. This reduction is also the biggest of any other EU country.

In addition, our country registers a significant lead in the number of non-performing loans and in the increase in public debt, while according to a European Commission working paper released in April 2016, yet another sad first for our country is recorded, namely with regards the lowest employability level among young graduates. At the same time Cyprus records very high youth unemployment numbers and a dramatic increase in net migration over the past two years, which exceeds 30,000 - mainly young people.

“While in 2012 the hourly labour costs in Cyprus had risen to 16.8 Euros, in 2015 – due to the austerity measures and cuts imposed – it fell to 15.6 Euros compared with 25 Euros in EU states and 29.5 Euros in the Euro zone.”

payment is by 2031.

The Anastasiades-DISY government in Cyprus may portray the exit from the Memorandum and the course of the exit so far as a “success story”, however the real truth is that **the only ones who endured and remain unscathed from the “successful” - as they call them - Memoranda policies of the government and DISY are none other than the plutocracy.** It’s just worth looking at the statistics on our country’s important socio-economic indicators to understand the harsh reality. The statistical figures for Cyprus prove where the neoliberal austerity policies imposed over the last three years have led us to and what the legacy of the Memorandum and DISY’s destructive policies have left us with.

Over the past three years the government and ruling forces have slashed wages and benefits for vulnerable groups of the population, and dismantled the welfare state generally. They cut benefits for health and thus restricted people’s access to adequate and effective treatment, while they proceeded to the privatization of the Ports Authority and insist on the selling off of other profitable public organizations, such as the Electricity Authority and the Telecommunications Authority. Housing and refugee policy have also suffered from the policies imposing cuts that have been followed and continue to be pursued.

All of these anti-social Memoranda policies implemented by the Anastasiades government have led to increased profits on the one hand and mass poverty on the other. They have led to the impoverishment of the people, the dissolution of the middle class and the transformation of Cyprus into the most unequal society in Europe after the Baltic countries.

In the period of Memoranda one thing is given: the government’s eco-

nomic policy remains the same, resulting in neither numbers, nor the people prospering. The Memorandum logic of destructive austerity, with the present government anything but abandoning but rather enhancing them fully expresses their ideological beliefs as well. **Let no one forget, moreover, that the Minister of Finance of Cyprus stated characteristically that the Memorandum could have been the “ideological manifesto of the Anastasiades government.”**

All these years AKEL has been the most consistent force against the class assault waged by the Anastasiades-EU-IMF government. It is the force that reveals to the Cypriot people the realities which the economic team of the government and mass media are hiding. It is the force at the forefront of the many strikes that have taken place. At the same time it is the force submitting proposals in the House of Representatives in the people’s interests to protect the primary family home, to ease the situation of small owners from taxation of immovable property, for the protection of small-borrowers and SME’s from the foreclosure of their properties. We have tabled proposals that contribute to making public health a right for all. We proposed a series of measures aimed at protecting labor rights and combating of youth unemployment. We proposed the extension of unemployment benefit. We strongly insist on the position for the non-privatization of profitable public organizations and promoted measures to alleviate households and SME’s burdened by excessive debts.

AKEL does not have any illusions about what the exit from the Memorandum actually means. The exit does not reverse any Memoranda policies. Instead, it leaves an unbearable legacy for workers which destroys their standard of living and dignity. AKEL will continue its struggles to end the government policies of vicious austerity, inequality and authoritarianism that are plunging the people into poverty and misery, resulting in the rich becoming richer and the poor poorer.

“...AKEL it is the force submitting proposals in the House of Representatives in the people’s interests to protect the primary family home, to ease the situation of small owners from taxation of immovable property, for the protection of small-borrowers and SME’s from the foreclosure of their properties. We have tabled proposals that contribute to making public health a right for all. We proposed a series of measures aimed at protecting labor rights and combating of youth unemployment. We proposed the extension of unemployment benefit. We strongly insist on the position for the non-privatization of profitable public organizations and promoted measures to alleviate households and SME’s burdened by excessive debts.”





December 2016 Municipal elections

This December local government elections are due to take place in Cyprus. These elections have assumed greater importance given that the current Anastasiades government is undermining the reform of Local self-government, seeking to curb its autonomy. AKEL is struggling to promote a unified comprehensive reform of local self-government, through administrative decentralization, a radical tax reform, with the democratic expression and participation of citizens guaranteed, through redistributing resources and power in favor of local and regional institutions. AKEL will proceed to the compilation of its candidate lists for local government elections in the early autumn.

The plenary of the C.C. of AKEL on the 10th of July discussed and decided the Party's goals, as well as AKEL's general political and organizational framework of action on the local government elections. In addition, timetables for the preparation of AKEL's election candidate lists were set which, according to the Party's Statutes and rules of functioning, are formed with the active participation of its local party base organizations.

Local Self-government is principally a popular democratic institution serving citizens and communities. Over time, it has contributed greatly towards improving people's quality of life. Its contribution is undisputable. The fact that the institution of local government is today at a critical turning point is also undeniable. To continue to respond to Local communities' current challenges and demands, local self-government

“Based on its great historical contribution to Local Government, its long-standing important intervention to the benefit of people's interests and local communities, AKEL will seek in the upcoming local and municipal elections to continue to have a strong presence. The C.C. of AKEL is convinced that through hard and consistent work this goal can be realized. The strong presence of AKEL in Local Government is a guarantee for the further strengthening of the institution which can meet the legitimate needs of local communities.”

must be reformed so as to get rid of the inaptness that plague it.

AKEL, whose role historically is extremely important for the successful realization and upgrading of local government, has very clear views on the reform of local government so that it can be modernized and properly organized so as to be able to respond adequately to contemporary demands.

2011 Local elections

In the 2011 municipal elections, **out of a total of 39 municipalities, AKEL managed to elect eight Mayors, and 10 supported by the Party.** AKEL also elected 145 municipal councilors, recording a small increase. The 2011 elections were held in an extremely negative political environment for AKEL just five months after the explosion at the Mari naval base, which was followed by an unprecedented campaign of exploitation by all other parties, targeting Christofias and AKEL. Another characteristic of past elections was the high rate of abstention, which reached 31%.



The Left and Local self-government

The Left has a long, honorable and creative presence in Local Government, given that during the years of British colonial rule the only elections that took place (and with long breaks) were municipal elections. The municipal elections during the 1920's and early 1930's saw the first appearance of the Communist Party of Cyprus, which, despite the anti-democratic electoral law, managed to record positive results.

Later, AKEL attached great importance to local government and used its presence in Municipalities and the Municipal Councils to promote the anti-colonial struggle. **The AKEL Mayors were always at the forefront of people's demonstrations and were often dragged to courts and thrown into prisons by the British colonialists.** At the same time, left-wing town councils promoted and implemented programs in the people's interests, such as building low-cost housing for the poor and popular strata etc.

AKEL's significant influence in Cyprus was recorded in the municipal elections during the 1940's, where the Left lists triumphed, provoking great concern among the colonialists and the local plutocracy. The

The members of the Left Municipal Council in Limassol which were imprisoned by the British colonialists in 1950 because of their anticolonial struggles.



1953 elections were the last elections held before the end of British colonialism and the proclamation of the Republic of Cyprus.

Nonetheless until 1986, the Mayors and city councils of Cyprus were appointed by the central government and unsurprisingly AKEL members were almost completely excluded from local authorities. However, AKEL was a leading force in solving local problems. AKEL was the force struggling for the abolition of the appointee system and ensuring the election to local authorities by the people and more recently to School Boards too, as well as the widening of popular participation in local government.

Municipalities and Communities

There are two types of local authorities, Municipalities and Communities, which are governed by separate laws. In principle, Municipalities constitute the form of local self-government in urban and tourist centres, while communities constitute the local structure in rural areas. According to the Municipality Law, a community may become a municipality by holding a local referendum, subject to the approval of the Ministerial Council, provided it has either a population of more than 5.000, or has the economic resources to function as a municipality.

The corporate structure of municipalities is defined by the 1985 Law. Mayors are elected directly by citizens on a separate ballot, for a five year term and represent municipal executive authority. Municipal councils, which constitute the policy-making bodies of municipalities, are elected directly by citizens for a five year term, but separately from the Mayor. The functions of Communities are in general similar to those of municipalities, although structurally different. Residents of communities elect the President of the Community and the Community Council for a five year term.



Currently, there are 39 Municipalities covering 65% of the total population, while there are 353 Communities covering 35% of the population and 90% of the territory of Cyprus.

Occupied Municipalities

Among the 39 Cypriot Municipalities, 9 are still under Turkish occupation since 1974 (Famagusta, Keryneia, Morphou, Lefkoniko, Akanthou, Kythrea, Lapithos, Lysi and Karavas), as a result of the occupation of 37% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey following the 1974 military invasion.

Since then, these 9 municipalities are considered "displaced": They continue to maintain their legal status, although their Mayors and councils have temporarily been displaced to the areas under the control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, as have the vast majority of their constituents who are refugees. Two of the displaced municipalities have more than 50,000 inhabitants.



When local elections are held in Cyprus, the inhabitants of the displaced municipalities vote for their Municipality, as well as in their new place of residence (one of the other 30 municipalities).



Human peace chain against NATO and wars

With a peace chain formed by hundreds of children and fighters for peace in Larnaca, the Cyprus Peace Council (CPC) sent out a powerful anti-imperialist and anti-war message. The mass event was held on 2nd July on the occasion of the NATO Summit in Warsaw.

Children, both Cypriot and refugee, sent their own messages of peace, leaving hand-made red paper boats in the sea with anti-war messages, symbolizing the loss of countless refugees, daily victims of ongoing imperialist wars and interventions. The event, organized by the CPC within the framework of the World Peace Council's international campaign on the recent NATO summit, was **supported by AKEL and the People's Movement of the Left (PEO, POGO, EDON and EKA).**

"We want to send our children to schools and universities - not to wars.

We want more money spent on health and education, not on armaments", said the President of the CPC Sylva Tingiridou. "We don't need to wait for their decisions and announcements. We already know both their decisions and policies. We as Cypriots have already suffered to our very bone the consequences of their decisions and policies. The NATO Secretary General has already called on its affiliated members to increase their military spending to 2% of their GDP. They want to strengthen their war machine", the CPC President pointed out.

"As AKEL we demand the dissolution of NATO", stressed the AKEL Larnaca District Secretary and member of the Political Bureau of the C.C Chrystalla Antoniou. "We Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, victims of NATO, who experienced the pain of war, the uprooting of our people as refugees and the loss of our loved ones are not fooled. We





say no to the imperialist wars massacring the peoples! We say no to NATO and denounce the crimes it is committing! We oppose its decisions and denounce them to the peoples! Analyzing the escalation of imperialist crimes and NATO's aggression in Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean and the Aegean, we condemn the deepening of EU-NATO coupling, but also the policies of "Fortress EU" which while shedding hypocritical tears is allowing thousands of lives to be lost in the Mediterranean".

“(the) Summit marks a new step in NATO's aggression and in the dramatic militarization that is developing in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. For some years now NATO forces have been concentrating their forces facing Russia. NATO's military presence is being reinforced and strengthened in a multitude of ways in our volatile region of the Eastern Mediterranean. In addition, NATO naval forces are patrolling the Aegean to intimidate those refugees trying to cross from Turkey to Greece.

The European Union, especially after the Treaty of Lisbon, is deepening its synergy and coupling with NATO. Instead of turning to its neighbors peoples with solidarity, with policies promoting growth and cooperation, the EU is supporting interventions and repressive policies; policies which have led to chaos and the destruction of countries; policies that are violating International Law. And it subsequently faces the consequences of its own actions and policies.

Instead of the EU reaching out to refugees who hope for a future for them and their children far from wars, disasters, and poverty - the result of the neo-colonial policies that undermine every opportunity of growth and development – it firmly shuts its gates. The EU is being transformed into a Fortress leaving thousands of souls to be lost in the Mediterranean Sea. **The EU then sheds hypocritical tears...**

Chrystalla Antoniou,
member of the Political Bureau of AKEL

“Our people's struggle against the Turkish occupation, against the foreign British bases that exist in Cyprus since 1960 and our struggle for the complete demilitarization of the island is essentially a struggle against NATO imperialism. The determined and militant stand of the peace movement and the Left of Cyprus against any thought of a NATO involvement on the Cyprus problem and Cyprus' accession to either NATO or the so-called Partnership for Peace program, have prevented - at least for now - such a development. The fact that **the Republic of Cyprus is the only EU member state that does not participate in either the NATO or the so-called Partnership for Peace program constitutes a gain for the people of Cyprus which we must guard and preserve.** Our firm position was and remains "Neither NATO in Cyprus, nor Cyprus in NATO." Our goal is to continue the struggle together both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots for a free, reunified homeland, liberated from the Turkish occupation, so that together we will achieve the abolition of the colonial legacy of the British bases in Cyprus.”



Sylva Tingiridou, President of the Pancyprrian Peace Council, to the Peace and anti-NATO Conference organized by the Confederal Group of GUE/NGL in the European Parliament
2-3rd June 2016, European Parliament, Brussels



AKEL statement on Warsaw NATO Summit 2016

NATO's decisions are **dangerous** for the peoples of the world



“With the decisions it approved the day before yesterday, NATO took a decision for a general escalation of its dangerous plans of all levels. Its aggressive policy towards Russia is intensifying dramatically and is expressed not only through NATO's provocative rhetoric, but mainly in its decisions for the further concentration of forces on the border with Russia and the completion of the so-called "missile shield".

Eastern Europe is being transformed into an arena of militarization and tension with NATO reiterating, on this occasion too, the capabilities of its nuclear arsenal. At the same time, NATO on the pretext of "asymmetric threats" and hotbeds of instability, which it itself has created, is building up its military presence in the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea, the Black Sea, the Baltic regions, the Caucasus, the Western Balkans and in North Africa. Indeed, the NATO plans go far beyond its own territory and region by including the Persian Gulf, Africa and Australia.

In the immense energy and geopolitical rivalries of our times, NATO is performing the role for which it was established: that is to say, it acts as the armed iron hand of the European-Atlantic bloc for the promotion of the interests of its leading members by all means.”

“An equally dangerous development is the joint EU-NATO Declaration which was cosigned in Warsaw with the main goal of further deepening the synergies and coupling of the two organizations. Is what the peoples of Europe are really demanding - the unemployed, homeless and the poor – an even greater increase in military expenditure as NATO is demanding? Indeed yet again, the EU and NATO are stressing the strengthening of their war armaments industry, thus reminding everyone that the bloody slaughter of the peoples, inter alia, are also an extremely profitable business for the war hawks on both sides of the Atlantic.”

“The Anastasiades government must explain to the people of Cyprus why the consent of Cyprus is given at an EU level to these designs and plans. The advocates of linking Cyprus to NATO will have to explain how this Alliance which supposedly cares about peace, security and the territorial integrity of states, did not find a single word to say about the continuing occupation of half of Cyprus by a country which is one of its leading members?”

"Looking back on the role of NATO"

Aristos Damianou, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL and AKEL MP, represented AKEL at the hearing organized in Berlin, Germany by the Left Party (Die Linke) with the title "Looking back on the role of NATO". In the discussion that took place on the role and historic responsibilities of NATO, there was a special session dedicated to **the role of NATO in the creation of the Cyprus problem**. The attempts to broaden NATO's role in the wider Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East were also discussed. The common view was expressed that the militarization of international relations which is being attempted through NATO is generating political instability, causing asymmetric threats and violating International Law and human rights.



“Between 1959-1960 the London-Zurich Agreements led to the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus following secret and public negotiations under the auspices of NATO between the so called motherlands, Greece and Turkey and the colonial power, the UK. It is worth mentioning that Karamanlis and Menderes, the Greek and Turkish prime ministers, signed a secret "gentlemen's" agreement which provided inter Alia that **Greece and Turkey would support entry of the Republic of Cyprus to NATO and the establishment of NATO military bases on Cypriot soil**. It further provided that they would both exert pressure on the President and Vice President of the Republic of Cyprus with the purpose of declaring the Communist Party illegal.”



“In the '60s, despite the granting of independence with British/NATO military presence secured on the island, the UK and the USA continued to treat the Republic as a NATO protectorate. As it was repeatedly mentioned, due to its location **Cyprus was destined to become an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" for NATO** operations in the region of the Eastern Mediterranean and as a spy and naval base against the peoples of the Middle East. NATO promoted a number of plans along the lines of a so called "double union", i.e. **to divide Cyprus between Turkey and Greece under NATO supervision and influence since both countries as well as the UK were NATO members**. Such plans were the Sandy-Ball Plan, the Lemnitzer Plan, the Cyrus Vans Plan and the Acheson Plan. All known and unknown at the time Plans had the same main features; the overthrowing of the elected government of President Makarios, the elimination of AKEL and eventually the abolition of the Republic of Cyprus through the effective control of Turkey and Greece under NATO military supervision and regulation of all constitutional matters under NATO auspices.”



“From official documents dating back to 1972 we now know that in the NATO Summit in Lisbon the "green light" was given to the fascist dictators ruling Greece at the time to instigate a coup in Cyprus and then to Turkey to invade. With the intervention of the Soviet Union their plans were cancelled, or postponed rather. Despite the efforts of the people of Cyprus, in 1974, the division of Cyprus became a tragic reality following the coup and the invasion. Using NATO personnel, NATO military equipment, with NATO blessings. **It is no exaggeration to characterize NATO as the demon of the people of Cyprus.**”

Aristos Damianou,
member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL, MP



The proposal of the five Presidents deepens neoliberalism

by Neoklis Sylikiotis,
member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL
and AKEL MEP

The austerity policies that are being imposed by the ruling EU circles have shown the true face of this system of exploitation. The proposal submitted by the Presidents of the five main institutions of the European Union is nothing less than an attempt to deepen neoliberalism further by using the crisis as a pretext.

This specific proposal creates "Troika regimes" in every Member State of the Eurozone area (the so-called "competitiveness principles"), through the establishment of "Competitiveness Councils" which will be set up in the Member States. These "Councils" will have the task of forcing wages down by connecting any wage increase with the increase in productivity. They will also create mechanisms for the negotiation of wages at a company level, thereby abolishing collective agreements and the institution of collective bargaining.

In addition, the deepening of both the economic union and the fiscal union in the Eurozone is also proposed. **The economic union provides for a common fund of up to 55 billion Euros, which they will give the banks.** However, such an amount cannot in any way cover the needs of rescuing the major banks of the Eurozone in the event of a crisis. At the same time however, they allow the banks to speculate to the detriment of the peoples.

Apart from the economic union being proposed, **the fiscal union promotes a common Finance Ministry for the Eurozone.** This will transfer all powers to Brussels, as a result imposing more austerity, and prohibiting Member States to pursue their own economic policy. Finally, through the deepening of this EU policy, bodies and mechanisms, such as the Eurogroup, will automatically be legitimized.

In Cyprus after three years of a neoliberal onslaught as a result of the imposition of the Memorandum, the right-wing Anastasiades government and the Eurogroup are portraying this policy as a "success story". Its results and consequences however have led to 65,000 people unemployed or 16% of the population, figures however which do not count the number

of non-registered unemployed and those who have been and are being forced to migrate.

Furthermore, approximately one in four Cypriots are living on the poverty line, and more than 60,000 people (or 13.4% of the population) depend on and are fed by social food banks. At the same time, the Memorandum and its policies, despite the formal exit, is continuing unofficially, given that Cyprus will be under supervision until 2031 or until Cyprus pays off 75% of the debt to its lenders.

In Portugal and Spain, things are no different. Despite the neoliberal austerity policies and Memoranda imposed on them, and which have brought them the worst economic situation, ECOFIN is now threatening them with the imposition of sanctions. Greece experienced the worst blackmail exerted by the Eurogroup and it eventually gave in and succumbed to the lenders.

The above examples bring to the fore the question of the future and architecture of the Eurozone, given that within its framework it is very difficult - if not impossible - to promote social reforms and policies. The Eurozone and the proposal of Presidents of the five main EU institutions are being used precisely to promote neoliberalism and Memoranda policies of brutal austerity, thereby dispelling any hope and any social development or even democracy.

As AKEL, we are again ready to **discuss the restoration of sovereignty to the Member States to push towards those social changes** that would give back to the peoples their dignity, strengthening the welfare state, promoting social insurance, collective agreements and bringing social growth and development. There are no simple solutions. We are once more discussing all possible alternatives, but at the same time we are continuing to struggle alongside the working people, the worker's movement and left-wing parties in Europe against neoliberalism. For the rights of workers and our peoples.



Government attempts to exonerate fascism through **anticommunism**

The right wing Anastasiades government of the Republic of Cyprus has launched a conscious campaign to equate communism with fascism. This follows the Ministry of Education's decision for pupils to pay visits to the hideout of Grivas and the ban on the Bicomunal Choir to visit a school. It has now chosen to engage in anti-communist propaganda in the History exam essay included in the national exams. Characteristically as demonstrated by the proposed solutions of the essay "the candidate receives an excellent mark if he/she identifies fascism and Nazism with communism and demonstrates that the communist party (!) and socialist ideas (!) led to the emergence of authoritarian regimes." (The exclamations are ours).

This anti-historic and provocative approach to equate fascism - Nazism with communism and socialism has provoked disgust and indignation. The Education Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL issued two statements which, inter alia, pointed out the following: "We don't know which anti-historic "historians" are proceeding to such wordings, but it is obvious that this represents unashamed propaganda which contradicts the very references included in the book of the Third Lukeio (Lyceum). We are very concerned about the new attempt by the Ministry of Education to conduct ideological propaganda because it comes at a time when fascism both in Cyprus and in Europe is on the rise. Not only are certain circles and forces apparently not concerned, but perhaps, consciously or unconsciously, it pleases them."

The Ministry of Education issued a public reply that focused on Stalinism. It didn't give a specific answer to the issue raised. That is to say, in the essay there is no reference whatsoever to Stalinism. In the essay itself reference

is made to the Communist Party, socialism and fascism in an obvious attempt at equating. Furthermore, in the instructions to those marking papers there is a clear instruction those school pupils who will identify and equate socialism and communism with fascism will receive an excellent mark!

"This attitude makes the Minister himself fully responsible and an accomplice. And because we know very well the behind the scenes scheming and what preceded, we put forth the following questions:

- Was there or was there not a fierce reaction among those setting the subject of exams and essays on an issue of ideological direction and ideological attack on a section of the children who were taking the exam?
- Why weren't the strong disagreements expressed taken into account? What is the reason behind this deliberate imposition?
- Does this mean that those pupils who answered that socialism and communism are not the same as fascism will be marked with a zero? That is to say, will they be punished because they are correct and the unhistorical 'historians' chosen by the Ministry of Education as setting the topics are wrong? Will the school pupils be punished because they have a different view than those who want to cover up fascism?

The Minister of Education is terribly exposed. He is jointly responsible and guilty so long as he refuses to rectify the situation and continues to cover up this unacceptable situation."



By Yiannakis Colocasides, member of the C.C. of AKEL

The people demand the lifting of the ban on AKEL The **mass rally** of 28th June 1959

The signing of the Zurich-London Agreements in February 1959 marked the beginning of the process to declare the independence of Cyprus. The state emergency was terminated. The concentration camps were abolished. All political prisoners were released and a general amnesty had been announced. Makarios and all the exiles returned to Cyprus. The Transition Commission was established to which power was gradually transferred and it began to function as a provisional government.

And while all these unprecedented developments were happening surrounding Cyprus, AKEL was still outlawed and in illegality since December 1955 given that the decree issued by British colonialism banning the Party and a number of People's Organizations and newspapers had not been lifted. Evidently the British colonialists, who were still the dominant force, were attempting to implement that specific provision of the secret Karamanlis Menderes Protocol*, which provided for the continuation of the prohibition of the Communist Party AKEL.

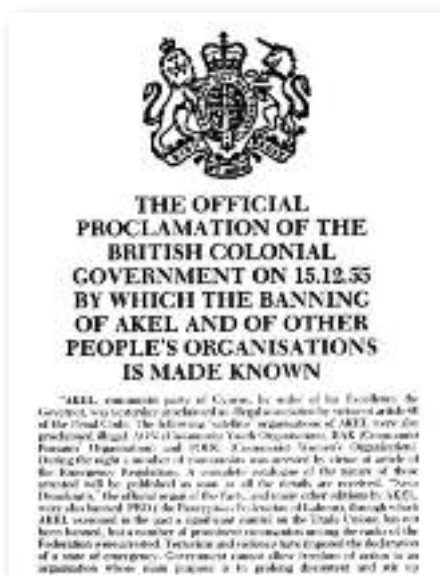
The General Secretary of AKEL Ezekias Papaioannou in his statements to "HARAVGI"

newspaper on 11th April 1959 characterizes as a "political scandal the fact that the party of the working people, AKEL, and all the other people's organizations and newspapers are still in illegality". He demands the immediate lifting of AKEL's banning, stressing that this "it is a question of political morality and fundamental democratic order."

The struggle for legalization

The refusal of the British colonial Governor to lift the prohibition against the Left, refusing even to accept an AKEL delegation, showed that strug-

gles are imperative to achieve this goal. The people of the Left organize mass mobilizations in this struggle. The governor is overwhelmed with resolutions which the local associations/clubs of the Left and organized groups send, demanding the immediate lifting of the ban imposed on AKEL. Mass pickets are organized throughout the whole of Cyprus. Campaigns are conducted to raise people's awareness and meetings are held. Brochures, pamphlets and posters are published and circulated, while slogans are written on walls demanding the legalization of AKEL. Signatures are collected.





"The most impressive and mass rally that took place in Cyprus ever"

Over 100.000 people demanded AKEL's legalisation, real unity, democracy, independence and peace"

"Haravgi" frontpage, 30th June 1959

The party leadership raises the issue with Makarios, who states on 21st May that he "fully agrees with the demand for the legalization of AKEL, and raised the matter categorically before the Governor." Numerous political and social figures, such as the Mayor of Nicosia Th. Dervis, figures from the districts of Limassol, Larnaca, Famagusta and Paphos, as well as EDMA** also support the call for the legalization of AKEL.

AKEL's mobilizations demanding the legalization of the Party, reach a climax with the organization of a mass rally, which takes place in Nicosia at the opening of Ayiou Antoniou on Sunday 28th June 1959. Tens of thousands of people from all over Cyprus gathered in Nicosia to demand the legalization of AKEL. Besides this demand, slogans in favor of unity and the democratic development of the Republic of Cyprus, which was due to be established, were also dominant at the rally. The speakers at the rally were the General Secretary of AKEL Ezekias Papaioannou and the AKEL Mayors Christodoulides of Larnaca, Partasides of Limassol and Pougiourous of Famagusta. In his speech, Papaioannou, apart from projecting the demand for the lifting of the proscriptions against the Left, submitted AKEL's positions on the various problems Cyprus was facing then, thus outlining the policy that the Party would follow in the early years of Cyprus independence.

The mass rally approved a resolution which, inter alia, underlined that "any attempt to build an independent Republic, at the same time as the banning of the party of the working class and working people continues, is incomprehensible". Any attempt at monopolizing political life was condemned, while the need for "unity and concord between all Cypriots, Greeks and Turks, regardless of political or other differences" was stressed.

Bright beacon

"HARAVGI" newspaper covered the mass rally in its edition of 30th June, which in fact published and circulated a special six-page edition, as op-

posed to the usual four-page edition. The newspaper report on the rally wrote among other things the following: *"The 28th June has now gone down in our island's history full of struggles as one of its brightest beacons, which will light up our difficult path forward. Every corner of Cyprus is vibrating and will still be shaking for a long time from the enthusiasm, the pulse, the conviction and determination of more than 100,000 people who flocked yesterday to the capital to demand the legalization of AKEL, progressive organizations and newspapers, the full restoration of the democratic rights of the people and to stress the need for true popular unity - the only path that can lead our homeland to prosperity and progress.*

The rally last Sunday is not only the most magnificent and mass peaceful political event ever seen in Cyprus. It also proves the correctness and popular support of the Left with regards the political, economic and other problems of the country. It represents an overwhelming reply to all the attacks and slanders launched against the Left. The mass rally shows the huge number of masses who follow the party of the working-class, AKEL and demonstrates in the most emphatic manner, that anyone who tries to ignore the Left or to subjugate it is not standing on solid ground and harms the cause of all the people."

Victory of the people

And indeed the rally was a resounding reply to many recipients. Among them, the British colonialists, who by banning AKEL, believed that they would eliminate the most consistent anti-imperialist force in Cyprus and also towards Grivas, who believed that with the crimes committed against the Left he had eradicated the party of the working people.

The struggle for the legalization of AKEL continued in the months that were to follow and eventually AKEL's struggle was completely successful. A few days before the first presidential elections took place, the British colonial governor was forced to publish a decree with which the proscription of the Party terminated. The people welcomed the lifting of the proscription of AKEL with mass demonstrations.

* Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis and his Turkish counterpart Menderes, both NATO countries, agreed and signed a secret protocol for the continuation of AKEL's prohibition.

** EDMA Eniaion Dimokratikon Metopon Anadimiurgias - United Democratic Reconstruction Front, political movement of former EOKA fighters

Honor and glory to the 23 Cypriot anti-fascist fighters

A trip of Remembrance and Honour to Spain

On 10-15th July, the "Prometheus" Research Institute organized a Journey of Remembrance and Honour to Spain, in areas where Cypriot volunteers of the International Brigades fought and sacrificed their lives during the Spanish Civil War.



On 10-15th July, the "Prometheus" Research Institute organized a Journey of Remembrance and Honor to Spain, in areas where Cypriot volunteers of the International Brigades fought and sacrificed their lives during the Spanish Civil War. The trip was made possible with the help of the International Relations Department of AKEL and the Communist Party of Spain PCE.

About 60 Cypriot anti-fascists, immigrants from the UK, the US, Canada and elsewhere, fought and died in the ranks of the Brigades which were formed by democratic anti-fascists from all over the world, the majority of whom were communists. The most well-known Cypriot volunteer was Ezekias Papaioannou, later to become General Secretary of AKEL. 23 Cypriot antifascists were killed fighting fascism.

Belchite the ghost town

First stop was the town Belchite. From August to September 1937 fierce battles took place between democratic and fascist forces for the control of the Valley of Ebro River. Among the dead were 9 Cypriots: Vasilis Pat-

tichis George Pantazis, Demetris Tsinikolas, Iracles Avgerinos, Kostas Avgerinos, Lucas Orphanides, Panagiotis Anthiros, Pantelidis Spyros and Christos Christodoulou. After the civil war, Franco issued an order for Belchite to remain in ruins to "commemorate" supposed communist crimes. In fact ruined Belchite evokes the horrors of civil war and the barbarism of fascism.

Jarama, the bastion of Madrid

Next stop was the valley of the Jarama River, just a few kilometers from Madrid. From 6-27th February 1937 the democratic forces and International Brigades waged a heroic battle, stopping the fascist advance to Madrid. The line of defense on the Jarama River was held until the end of the war. The antifascist defenders of Madrid not only fought but lived here for almost three years. A monument of a raised fist is at the top of the hill of trenches.

In the adjacent city of Mora the Cypriot group was received by the Mayor and 2 councilors from PCE. After a reception at the Town Hall and an

exchange of gifts they all went to the city cemetery where red carnations were laid at the monument to the International Brigades. In the battle at Jarama River Cypriot antifascists Angelos Romanos, Nikos Perdikos and Panagiotis Katsaronas were killed.

The Group visited a museum dedicated to the battle of Jarama. A particularly moving moment was the photo of Mihalakis Economides, a Cypriot Political Commissar wounded in the battle, on one of the walls of the museum.

Fuencarral Cemetery

To the north of Madrid is Fuencarral Cemetery where many antifascist defenders of Madrid are buried, among them the International Brigades. Franco, after his victory destroyed the cemetery, excavated graves and threw the bones in a mass grave somewhere else. The plate with the inscription in memory of the fallen fighters of the International Brigades was destroyed. Years after Franco's death the restoration of the site began. Plaques with references to the voluntary sacrifice of the International Brigades from different countries were placed. A plaque in memory of Cypriot volunteers was put in 2011.

In an emotional atmosphere the names of all Cypriot Volunteer were read out as a kind of political commemoration. The group sang the song "You fell fighting comrades" and together with the Spanish comrades they raised fists all together signing the "International".

The Group subsequently visited the monument to the International Brigades and Spanish Republicans who perished in Nazi concentration camps in the grounds of the University of Madrid, the outcome of an anti-fascist initiative. The official state is absent, cultivating forgetfulness and amnesia. After the Civil War, thousands of Republicans fled to France. When the Nazis occupied France all Spanish democrats were arrested and thrown in concentration camps as "stateless" because Franco didn't recognize them as Spaniards. Thousands of them perished in Nazi death camps.

Meeting with PCE

The trip ended with a visit to the C.C. Offices of the Communist Party



of Spain, where a meeting with the Organizational Secretary and other members of the PCE leadership was held. **The PCE comrades expressed the Spanish people's gratitude for the Cypriot volunteer's participation in the International Brigades** and informed about the political situation in the country. Yiannakis Colocasides, Chairman of "Prometheus" and AKEL C.C. member, thanked PCE for its help in the realization of the trip and stated that the two peoples are united by blood ties shed together in the struggle against fascism.

The Group visited the Museum of Modern Art to see the famous Picasso painting of "Guernica", inspired by the inhuman Nazi air strikes during the Spanish Civil War.

The Memory and Honor trip to Spain was for all those who took part an unforgettable and moving experience, in the places where AKEL comrades and compatriots, together with their Spanish comrades and fellow internationalists from all over the world, fought and sacrificed their lives in the antifascist struggle. As in the past, so today the duty of struggling so that fascism will not pass remains imperative, whatever mask fascism may disguise itself





29th Pancyprian Festival of Youth and Students of EDON

The 29th Pancyprian Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) of EDON took place on 6, 7 and 8th July in Nicosia. The EDON Festival yet again demonstrated that it is indeed our country's biggest political and cultural event, a Festival which is constructed and operates thanks to the hard work of hundreds of volunteers, members and militants of EDON.

It was a mass gathering of thousands of defiant Cypriot youth who do not compromise with the austerity policies that lead to poverty, unemployment and poverty but who are struggling for dignity in life. Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot young people together in the Festival also sent out powerful messages for peace, liberation and reunification, against

nationalism - chauvinism and the imperialist plans that want to shackle Cyprus to NATO's war machine.

Among other things, the Festival included the participation of various organizations and movements, thematic stands, debates and discussions, a Bicommunal Centre with the participation of Turkish Cypriot youth organizations, stages for musical bands and concerts, a children's playground, special folklore grounds and stands and exhibitions devoted to EDON's organized sections (students and young workers). Young people representing 14 foreign fraternal Youth Organizations joined their voices in the special International section of the Festival.



Musical concerts



Children's dance groups



Stand devoted AKEL's 90th anniversary



Debates on topical issues



Traditional handmade craftwork



The stand of the progressive pupil's organisation (PEOM)



Andros Kyprianou and Christos Christofias, General Secretaries of AKEL and EDON respectively, addressing the Festival



Book stands



Debate on the role of the mass media today



Thousands of young people at the Festival of EDON



On July 7th an International Meeting for the fraternal organizations took place under the title "The role and involvement of NATO and the EU in the refugee crisis." The keynote speaker was Vera Polycarpou, Head of the International Relations and European Affairs Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL.



House of Representatives approves
Resolution tabled by AKEL

Parliament calls for an end to EU sanctions on Russia

The House of Representatives (Cyprus' Parliament) has passed a Resolution on the 7th of July that was tabled by the Parliamentary Group of AKEL-Left-New Forces aiming at the lifting of the EU sanctions against the Russian Federation. **The Resolution was supported by all the Political Parties except from the ruling right wing DISY Party that chose abstention from the vote.**

As expected, the adoption of this resolution was condemned by the Foreign Minister of Ukraine claiming that this provides indirect support to Russia. In fact, this Resolution is the second that passes from a country of the European Union since a similar resolution was passed by the French Parliament recently. At the same time, it was well received by Moscow and it was covered by several Russian media.

The Parliamentary Spokesperson of AKEL Yiorgos Loukaides, explaining the framework in which AKEL tabled the Resolution said that "the sanctions imposed by the European Union against the Russian Federation have proved counterproductive and in no way have they contributed towards the solution of the crisis in Ukraine. On the contrary, they have brought wider negative political and economic consequences both for Russia and the EU Member states.

The sanctions have led to a regression in the overall situation in the European continent. They are simultaneously raising obstacles to the broader political cooperation that should govern the relations between

“1. Calls on the Government to work within the framework of the European Council for lifting the sanctions imposed by the European Union against the Russian Federation, pointing to the usefulness of dialogue and the need for peaceful cooperation in all fields.

2. Calls on the Government to take initiatives and proceed to actions in order to prepare the ground for lifting the sanctions of the Russian Federation regarding exports of Cyprus products to this country.

3. Calls on the Government to take concrete initiatives for lifting the sanctions affecting Russian nationals and mainly members of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

4. Decides to take initiatives in the framework of parliamentary diplomacy aiming at the restoration of relations and cooperation between the European Union and the Russian Federation in all fields.

5. Calls on all parties involved in the Ukrainian crisis to continue the political and diplomatic efforts for its peaceful settlement and to fully implement the Minsk Agreement of 12 February 2015.”

Extracts from the Resolution
of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus
for lifting the sanctions of the European Union
against the Russian Federation

Russia and EU Member States. Undoubtedly, the imposition of EU sanctions against Russia have provoked serious damage to various areas related to economic and trade relations between Cyprus and Russia. The sectors of tourism, the provision of financial and professional services and commercial shipping have mainly been affected in this period of economic crisis too”.

Contact AKEL

E-mail: interbureau@akel.org.cy

Tel: (+357)22817346

Fax: (+357)22767144

Follow AKEL

Website: www.akel.org.cy/en

Facebook page: @AKEL.International

Instagram: akel1926