

# AKEL Bulletin

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# We are responding to History's challenges

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

**A**s of Sunday night, we had stated that despite the fact that we hadn't won the election, we felt however morally and politically winners. We supported a candidate who addressed the people with seriousness, dignity, sincerity, honesty and ethics. We backed a candidacy that dared to put forth genuinely progressive political positions and proposals before society; positions and proposals that were steps ahead and clashed with establishment perceptions that have plagued Cypriot society for years.

We are proud of the choice we presented to the Cypriot people and of the political proposal we submitted before it. Stavros Malas has raised the bar of political credibility, honesty and political culture very high. This honors him and all of us who supported his candidacy.

A great deal has already been written about the day after the presidential election. One thing is certain: AKEL is ready to play its role in opposition. It is at the same time ready to discuss with its members and society about the day after. As the strongest force in opposition, we will support what serves the people's goals and interests. We certainly are under no illusions. **We have a radically different perception from Mr. Anastasiades on socio-economic policy. For five years he gave a great deal to the privileged few and took a great deal from the many.**

As far as the Cyprus problem is concerned, he has proved to be untrustworthy and we do not trust him. He put his personal ambitions and considerations over and above the prospect of a solution to the Cyprus problem. That is why our criticism will on the one hand be responsible and objective, but very strict.

The day after the presidential election finds AKEL strong and ready to wage new struggles. AKEL is consistently at the forefront of the struggles

for the working people and popular strata; consistent to its long-standing positions and policy for Cyprus, the people, the workers and the people. **AKEL is the powerful voice that will assert for everyone reunification, peace, progress and prosperity.** With positions and proposals for an economy based on knowledge and innovation and generating growth for all. We have already begun discussions to determine how we shall proceed on all fronts - in the elaboration, enrichment and consolidation of our political proposals. In the reorganization and strengthening of our organizational mechanism, in the improvement of our communication work, in the enhancement of our relations with society and citizens.

Towards that end, we shall rally and utilize our best militants. We have a lot of young and capable cadres; we have a golden capital in youth. We have all the prerequisites for renewal and bold steps that will establish AKEL as the protagonist in the coming decades.

We know that a large section of society shares common goals, common aspirations and visions with us. For the reunification of our country, for the modernization and democratization of the state and society. With many of these people we waged the battle of the presidential election together; politicized people, but not party affiliated. People that for whatever reason have distanced themselves from AKEL in recent years. It is all of these people who are suffocating from backward outlooks that are keeping our society trapped in all that is old and rotten. We may have our own analysis of society and on the economy, about the system in which we live in, but we want to discuss with them, to listen to their positions and ideas, and take joint initiatives.

**The day after the presidential election finds us ready to discuss in a dialectical and calm manner our presence, role and intervention in the Cyprus of the 21st century. History is ahead of us!  
And we are responding to its call!**





“We shall be **strict in our opposition both inside and outside parliament**, but objective and for sure guided by how best the interests of our country and the people are served.”



“What did rally and unite the people of AKEL is first and foremost the candidate we had supported. He was a personality with a lot of virtues. Ethos, sincerity, honesty, credibility and dignity. These are all characteristics that we as AKEL attach particular importance to. What also contributed to the rallying of AKEL's voters is the intense hard work carried out by our local election campaign organizations and the general messages we conveyed to our people. **We managed not only to rally more than 99% of AKEL's supporters, but we managed to bring to the ballot box people who hadn't voted in previous election campaigns.** The big challenge for us now is to keep this interest alive and to engage these people in the struggle to help our country move forward.



“We have declared many times that at **this specific stage of our struggle, namely the stage aiming at the liberation and reunification of Cyprus**, we do not set the goal of the socialist transformation of Cypriot society. This of course doesn't mean that we stop struggling for the interests of the working people, the unemployed, the young generation etc. On the contrary, today when the effects of the economic crisis have led to growing inequality and contradictions, it is more than ever before necessary to fight for the working people.”





## Results of the 2018 Presidential Elections

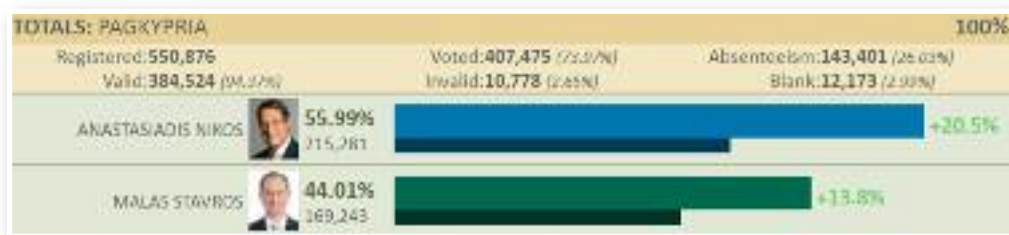
The presidential elections took place over two rounds: on 28th January and 4th February, with the reelection of Nicos Anastasiades who comes from DISY, the party of the neo-liberal Right of the Greek Cypriot community, after gaining 56% as against 44% of independent candidate Stavros Malas, (former Minister of Health in the Christofias government and coming from the center-left spectrum) who was supported by AKEL. The main of the nine candidates who participated in the first round, were Nicolas Papadopoulos, President of the center-right Democratic Party (supported by the Social Democratic EDEK, the Ecologists and right-wing Solidarity party), Yiorgos Lillikas (President of the centre "Citizens' Alliance"), as well as Christos Christou, president of the neo-fascist National People's Front.

The election debate centred on the handling of the Cyprus problem, after the last breakdown of talks in Crans Montana, Switzerland last July, Cyprus' energy prospects, as well as the socio-economic situation. Nicos Anastasiades attempted to defend his handling of the Cyprus problem aiming to attract sections of the nationalist audience, although he couldn't convincingly explain the fact that the UN Secretary-General's latest report

didn't apportion any responsibility on Turkey the occupation force, with the dangerous consequences that entails for the course of the problem. At the same time, with the help of a big section of the media, he tried to persuade citizens that he "saved Cyprus from the bankruptcy caused by the previous Christofias government", whilst covering up the responsibilities of the banks for the crisis, his own decision to impose a haircut on bank deposits in March 2013, as well as the dramatic social situation provoked by the Memorandum's imposition. Even more serious were the questions that Nikos Anastasiades was called upon to reply concerning corruption related issues surrounding his close circle.

Nicolas Papadopoulos, expressing a rejectionist line on the Cyprus problem, distanced himself from the Greek Cypriot side's long-standing position for a federal solution of the Cyprus problem. On the economy, he tried to portray a pro-people's social image, without of course succeeding, given that for years he fully identified with the Anastasiades government's neoliberal policies. The main accusations of the Anastasiades and Papadopoulos campaign against Stavros Malas were the claims that he was an "AKEL stooge" and responsible for the Christofias government's supposed "failed" economic policy.

Stavros Malas, a person of indisputable honesty and integrity, succeeded in rallying around his candidacy the most progressive sections of the electorate by proposing a progressive social program in all areas. By highlighting the visible danger of the finalization of partition, he tabled a specific proposal for the resumption of negotiations on the Cyprus problem aiming at finding a solution that would liberate Cyprus from Turkey and reunify the island and its people, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. He also addressed our Turkish Cypriot compatriots, although they don't participate in the election of the President, sending a message of peace and reconciliation.







“On the economy, he proposed the need to reshape Cyprus’ development model, focusing on the revitalization of agricultural production and the turn to Research, Innovation and high technology. He was the only candidate who explicitly clarified that he would not proceed with the privatization or shareholding of semi-governmental organizations (ports, electricity and telecommunications). One of his important proposals was the ensuring of a minimum wage, the protection of collective agreements and safeguarding of Sunday as a non-work day, while in relation to non-performing loans, he set the protection of primary family homes and small business premises as a principal goal. He also set out clear positions on the essential separation of the Church from the State, the elimination of all discrimination against LGBTI people and the composition of his new government reflecting an equal gender-balance. Also noteworthy was Stavros Malas’ choice to categorically specify that he wouldn’t negotiate with the neo-fascists and returned, without opening, the envelope with the ELAM questionnaire sent to the two candidates in the second round. Anastasiades on the contrary chose to proceed to an unprecedented for European norms act by replying to the Neo-nazi party’s letter.”

One of the main factors determining the election’s final result was the stand taken by the parties and candidates that didn’t pass into the second round. The centrist parties of the opposition, despite the fact that they had fought the elections on the basic slogan of getting rid of Anastasiades’ government, called on their supporters not to vote for any of the candidates in the second round and by doing so in this way favoured the DISY candidate who thus had a head start.

At the same time, the neo-fascist ELAM (a branch of the neo-Nazi "Golden Dawn" party of Greece) called on its supporters not to abstain and not to cast a “blank vote”, but rather advising them to vote "as they see fit" for one of the candidates, thus indirectly pointing to Nicos Anastasiades. It should also be noted that the Head of the economically and politically powerful Church of Cyprus, Chrysostomos II, took a public and indeed open position in favour of Nicos Anastasiades, as did the leading officials of the employers and industrialists organizations as well.

The result of the elections did not fulfill AKEL’s goal of liberating Cyprus from the right-wing Anastasiades administration. AKEL was, from the beginning, fully aware that the struggle would be difficult and uneven, given the socio-political landscape that exists on the island for some years now. Nonetheless, the result proved that the ethos, style and above all social orientation of Stavros Malas’ candidacy was appreciated. In addition, as the election analyses reveal, the Left voters rallied in record percentages in support of the Malas candidacy, who in his statement thanked AKEL and the people reiterating that "although I have never been a member of the Party of the Left, I will always honour and appreciate the History, struggles and role of AKEL, as well as the ethos of its people. This people, over the last few days, has really given its all to this immense struggle."

“Turkey always tried to hinder the exercise of the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), thus violating both conventional and customary law of the sea. This time, however, Turkey proceeded to the most serious provocation, namely preventing the Italian ENI drilling ship from fulfilling the goal of drilling in a delimited and licensed zone.



# The Cyprus problem at a **dangerous** crossroad

by **Toumazos Tselepis**, AKEL Political Bureau member and Head of the Cyprus Problem Bureau of AKEL

In Crans Montana, Switzerland, a negotiation procedure on the Cyprus problem, which lasted ten whole years, reached a climax last July. Unfortunately, the aspirations of the Cypriot people as a whole, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, were once again not fulfilled. Although the UN Secretary-General himself concluded in his report that we had come close to the solution, this wasn't accomplished. As a result, the Secretary-General in the relevant report submitted concluded that a historic opportunity for a solution has been missed.

The historical experience of the Cyprus problem since 1974, since the Turkish invasion took place and the ongoing to date occupation of 40% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, illustrates an unpleasant reality: Whenever talks collapse and there is a negotiation vacuum, we are confronted with serious provocations and fait accompli on the part of Turkey. Unfortunately, this is what is happening right now as well. Turkey always tried to hinder the exercise of the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), thus violating both conventional and customary law of the sea. This time, however, Turkey proceeded to the most serious provocation, namely preventing the Italian ENI drilling ship from fulfilling the goal of drilling in a delimited and licensed zone.

Turkey has two kinds of claims within the Cypriot EEZ. By refusing to sign the multilateral UN Treaty on the Law of the Sea, it is asserting on its behalf a significant part of the EEZ of the Republic of Cyprus. On the

weak and in violation of International Law argument that Cyprus constitutes... an extension of the Turkish continental shelf, which reaches even to our southern shores and in close proximity to our territorial waters. Turkey, of course, ignores the fact that the Law of the Sea recognizes a continental shelf to islands as well. Even worse, Turkey disregards the fact that Cyprus is not an island-part of a state, but is itself a sovereign and internationally recognized state.

In addition to the above unlawful claims, Turkey is the only state in the world that, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, recognizes the illegal pseudo-state which has been declared in the northern part of the island. It therefore considers that the pseudo-state has an EEZ too. Consequently, it asserts, in one way or another, about 70% of the Republic of Cyprus' EEZ, even though the latter has concluded delimitation agreements with Egypt, Israel and Lebanon (the latter has not yet been ratified by Lebanon because of its dispute with Israel and not with Cyprus).

It should be noted that since the beginning of 2010, the then leaders of the two communities, Christofias and Talat, had concluded important convergences on the marine zones, natural resources and the allocation of federal revenues, which comprehensively resolve the natural gas issue automatically with the solution of the Cyprus problem.

More specifically and in brief, they had agreed that all the maritime zones, including the EEZ, in a future solution would be a federal competence.



The same was also agreed with regards natural resources. This simply means that there will be one and only EEZ and that the natural resources will belong to both communities, regardless of where these will be identified. Natural gas is by definition a natural resource, and therefore the revenues from it will be federal and will be distributed to both constituent states of the federation in the way that has already been agreed. Consequently, everyone must focus on the effort for a solution to the Cyprus problem because only in this way will the natural gas issue be resolved. The only issue that will remain with the solution will be the demarcation of the EEZ with Turkey, which does not affect the energy plans to date.

However, meaningful talks in the midst of Turkish provocations cannot of course resume. Turkey must stop its illegal actions, the crisis should be defused and then the negotiation procedure can resume. In turn, it will be very hard for the procedure to resume if each side, especially Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership, set unacceptable conditions.

There is a pressing need for the relevant UN contributions to be accepted. Namely, the joint request by the two communities and all the involved parties to continue the procedure from where it had left off in Crans Montana, with a package approach to the core outstanding issues. We agree with the UN Secretary-General Guterres that if a strategic common understanding is reached on these issues, the chances for a speedy solution to the Cyprus problem increase sharply.

**We are asking for solidarity from our friends during these critical moments for Cyprus so that Turkey can be persuaded to cooperate in practice for a mutually acceptable solution in the interests of the two communities, our people as a whole, of Turkey itself, but also of the peoples of this so volatile region of the Eastern Mediterranean.**

“...The Republic of Cyprus’ exploratory program must continue fully aware, however, that so long as the Cyprus problem remains unresolved - and indeed without Turkish intransigence being apportioned any responsibility - we will continually find obstacles before us and the escalation of the provocations on the part of Turkey.

It is evident that the developments are also related to the stagnation on the Cyprus problem. Consequently, we should focus on the efforts to resume the negotiations, given of course that the crisis is defused. We recall that the negotiation, according to the UN Secretary-General, will not start from scratch, but from the point where it had been suspended by preserving the negotiation’s body of work. This

body includes the abolition of the guarantees and rights of intervention and sets out only an advisory role to the guarantor powers. The negotiation’s body of work also includes the Christofias-Talat convergence that are related to the hydrocarbons issue and which convincingly reply to all the Turkish side’s malicious claims.

We call on our Turkish Cypriot compatriots to abandon any positions arguing for so-called interim arrangements and to focus together on the efforts to solve the Cyprus problem. **The solution to the Cyprus problem is the most effective way for us together to reap the benefits that can emerge from the utilization of hydrocarbons.”**

AKEL C.C. Press Office, 22nd February 2018





# Struggles for freedom and democracy in the Turkish Cypriot community



Turkey's direct political interventions in the Turkish Cypriot community's internal affairs are not an unprecedented phenomenon. A powerful force of progressive resistance has always reacted to these interventions. This resistance reached a climax after the recent attacks waged against the Turkish Cypriot newspaper "Afrika", which were triggered by Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's own encouragement.

The Turkish President had been extremely annoyed by the fact that "Afrika" very clearly came out opposing the ongoing Turkish invasion of Afrin in Syria. The newspaper very aptly compared Turkey's invasion in Arfin with its invasion of Cyprus in the summer of 1974. This led Erdogan to publicly urge his supporters to give a "public answer" to the newspaper, resulting in dozens of his followers, of Turkish origin, attacking and van-

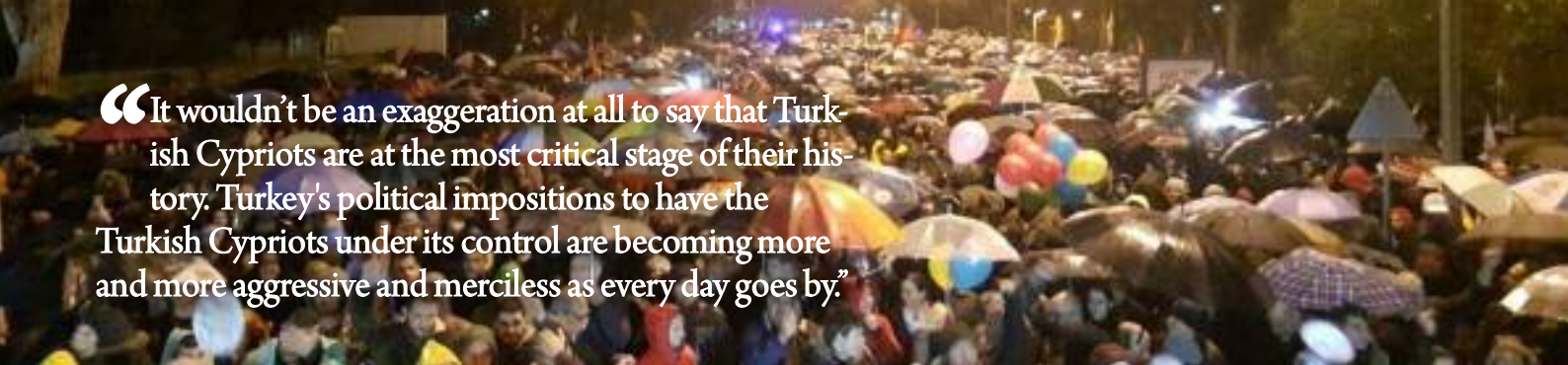
dalizing the newspaper's offices in occupied Nicosia on 22nd January. Verbal incidents and attacks were subsequently launched against the left-wing Turkish Cypriot "MP" Dogus Derya in the "parliament" of the illegal pseudo-state when she read out an anti-war message during her speech. These incidents provoked the rage of the progressive Turkish Cypriots who demonstrated their condemnation of these actions in various ways, which culminated in the mass demonstration held under the slogan of "Peace and Democracy" on 26th January organized by the Turkish Cypriot Trade Union Platform with the participation of thousands of protesters who filled the streets despite the rain.

AKEL denounced the violent incidents and expressed its solidarity with both the journalists of the newspaper "Afrika", but also towards the progressive Turkish Cypriots.



Mass demonstration held under the slogan of "Peace and Democracy" on 26th January organized by the Turkish Cypriot Trade Union Platform with the participation of thousands of protesters who filled the streets of the occupied part of Nicosia despite the heavy rain.





“It wouldn't be an exaggeration at all to say that Turkish Cypriots are at the most critical stage of their history. Turkey's political impositions to have the Turkish Cypriots under its control are becoming more and more aggressive and merciless as every day goes by.”

## "Here, Erdogan is the Leader, here Turkey is the state!"

Article by Nuri Silay, Member of Rapprochement Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL

After 1974, a lot of actions by well-known offenders were committed in the northern part of Cyprus. People and newspapers came under attack, their human rights and freedoms were violated and subsequently they were brought before the "courts".

The political parties of the opposition were targeted in attacks and shootings, even offices were set on fire. They were accused of being "traitors", of betraying their homeland and of being "agents of the Greek Cypriots", that they became the ones who would "go to Moscow or to the south". Journalist Kutlu Adali, who was investigating Turkey's secret plans in Cyprus, was murdered one night outside the door of his home. The newspaper "Avrupa" and Sener Levent were proclaimed as "agents of the Greek Cypriots" by Rauf Denktaş (Note: former right-wing nationalist leader of the Turkish Cypriot community). The newspaper became the target of an attack by explosive devices and shots. How many times were paid assassins sent to Cyprus to kill Sener Levent? Levent was arrested and imprisoned by the Denktaş regime, who declared that he "has seen the evidence" that Levent is an agent. No one has assumed responsibility for these attacks, but everyone knows that Turkey and its local puppets in Cyprus are all behind it.

However, there is a fundamental difference between the above and what happened on the morning of 22nd January 2018. For the first time these attacks were carried out as a result of a clear call issued by Turkey against the newspaper "Afrika". The attacks targeted people's lives and property. This was the result of the call issued by Erdogan, which specifically said, "I am addressing my brothers in northern Cyprus who must give an answer." (Note: Erdogan refers to the "Afrika" newspaper headline: "Second invasion operation by Turkey in Afrin").

The images after the attack on the "Afrika" newspaper's offices reminded one of a scene from a war. The newspaper's employees faced being lynched. Chief Editor Sener Levent was forced to be vigilant, holding his revolver. All this happened with the police watching what was happening passively, while the Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci repeatedly called for the police to intervene.

As if all of this wasn't enough, the attacks continued. Dogus Derya, (Note: a member of "parliament" of the opposition Turkish Republican party CTP), suffered a coordinated attack waged by the National Unity Party UBP (Note: the main right-wing nationalist party) and the Rebirth Party YDP (Note: the party of the settlers from Turkey) in a meeting of the "par-

liament" because she was bold enough to write "No to War!" on social media networks. Those who climbed on the roof of the "parliament" were waving the flags of Turkey and the "Kayi" tribe. The fact that the perpetrators of the attack did not face any "legal" persecution conveyed to the Turkish Cypriots a very clear and humiliating message: "Here, Erdogan is the Leader – here, Turkey is the state!"

It wouldn't be an exaggeration at all to say that Turkish Cypriots are at the most critical stage of their history. Turkey's political impositions to have the Turkish Cypriots under its control are becoming more and more aggressive and merciless as every day goes by. Regretfully, after the events and attacks committed that shocked a significant section of the Turkish Cypriot community, the parties in "parliament" which are in favour of the solution of the Cyprus problem and peace failed to react as they should have. For them this attack, carried out on Turkey's orders, became an issue that ought to be addressed with "restraint and tolerance". The Republican Turkish Party CTP and the Communal Democracy Party TDP called for "common sense" to prevail in the community through a joint statement issued with the National Unity Party UBP, which had sent a message to its members to participate in the "protest" held against "Afrika" newspaper and with the "Rebirth" party YDP, whose president is Erhan Arikli, who made a speech addressing the attackers in front of the offices of "Afrika" and the party's General Secretary who is the one that attacked Dogus Derya! All this shows that **there isn't anytime left for the Turkish Cypriots to wait for the solution of the Cyprus problem.** The problems provoked by the status quo cannot be postponed any longer for after the comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem.

**Yes, there are forces who are putting up resistance in the north of Cyprus and they will continue to exist. These forces are the ones that will be protesting in the march under the slogan of "For Peace and Democracy" being organized by trade union organizations which is expected to be massive. However, the truth is that day-by-day the room for resistance is narrowing and undermining the possibility for resistance. The Turkish Cypriots, who are trying to resist Turkish nationalism, are also obliged to resist Greek nationalism in the south of Cyprus as well.**

Progressive Greek Cypriots and the Republic of Cyprus in particular must follow very closely what is happening in the north of Cyprus and they will find, together with the Turkish Cypriots, a different common path beyond the usual one. Anything to the contrary would be nothing more than a new nightmare for all Cypriots.



# Solidarity Statement

with the People of Cyprus  
by 62 Communist and Worker's Parties

## The freedom and reunification of Cyprus is a milestone against imperialist aggression

- We assert that the Cyprus problem is the result of foreign intervention and imperialist aggression; in July 1974, the Greek junta and the fascist organization EOKA B staged a coup d'état against the elected President of the Republic of Cyprus Archbishop Makarios.
- We recall that Turkey exploited the coup d'état to materialise its expansionist plans in Cyprus, invading illegally the island which remains occupied to this day in flagrant violation of international law.
- We recall that the double crime of the coup d'état and invasion was planned by the US and NATO aiming to divide Cyprus and impose union of one part to Greece and the other to Turkey, as both countries were NATO members.
- We emphasize that the persisting violation of the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, the continuing violation of the human rights and freedoms of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, the perpetuation of the division of the people of Cyprus and the illegal mass settlement of the occupied territory to alter the demographic character of the island, form another expression of the imperialist aggression in the region of the Eastern Mediterranean and the world.
- We reiterate that the Cyprus problem is in essence an international problem of invasion and illegal occupation, in violation of the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the UN, but also has an internal aspect, of restoring relations between the two communities of Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot.
- We underline the negative prospects for the future of the negotiations following the recent failure of the peace process in Switzerland.
- We stress that the recent failure cannot be the end of all efforts to liberate and reunify Cyprus but that the leaders of the two communities, echoing the calls of the UN Secretary-General, should return to the table of the negotiations with the political will to reach a solution within the agreed

framework of bicommunal, bizonal federation and in accordance with international law.

- We reiterate that Turkey's departure from its long-standing intransigence that has hindered any concrete progress in the last 42 years remains a prerequisite for the comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem; for the termination of the occupation, the demilitarisation of the Republic of Cyprus, the annulment of the anachronistic Treaty of Guarantee and the exclusion of any right of foreign intervention.
- We underline that the status quo entrenches the long-term aspirations and objectives of Turkey against Cyprus and is not counter-productive for the strategic goals of NATO to maintain the geostrategic and military control of our region. On the contrary, we emphasise that the comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem within the agreed framework is the only way to reunite our people and country, thus providing the impetus for common class struggles and a future socialist transformation.

### The Communist and Workers' Parties signing the present Statement:

1. Demand the immediate withdrawal of Turkish army, the demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus and the abolishment of foreign guarantees and of any rights for foreign intervention; it is within this context that permanent peace can be pursued, that would allow indeed the reunification, independence and freedom of the Cypriot people as a whole.
2. Demand the solution of the Cyprus problem the soonest possible, on the basis of international law and the UN Security Council resolutions. The solution must restore the human rights and freedoms, provide for the transformation of the Republic of Cyprus from a unitary state to a bicommunal, bizonal federation with a single and indivisible sovereignty, a single international personality and single citizenship with due respect to the principle of political equality, as this is prescribed in the relevant UN resolutions.



3. Call for an immediate verification of the fate of the remaining missing persons of the Cypriot tragedy.
4. Deplore the policies of Turkey in the occupied part of Cyprus aiming to the consolidation on the ground of the divisionist faits accomplis; including the enforced economic and cultural assimilation of the Turkish Cypriots, as well as the recent imposition of "charges" for medicines and basic supplies transferred to Greek Cypriots enclaved in the occupied part of the island.
5. Express their strong support for the resumption of the direct negoti-

ations as soon as possible and call on Turkey to commit itself in abandoning its long-standing intransigent stance against Cyprus.

6. Call on the international community to stop tolerating the continuing illegality that is taking place in Cyprus, and exert its influence on Turkey in order to terminate its divisive policies on the ground and take concrete steps for the solution of the Cyprus problem within the agreed framework.

7. Express their solidarity with and support to the struggle of the Cypriot people for the liberation and reunification of its country.

1. Communist Party of Argentina
2. Communist Party of Australia
3. Bahrain - Democratic Progressive Tribune
4. Communist Party of Bangladesh
5. Workers' Party of Bangladesh
6. Communist Party of Wallonia-Brussels
7. Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB)
8. Communist Party of Britain
9. New Communist Party of Britain
10. Communist Party of Bulgaria
11. Party of the Bulgarian Communists
12. Communist Party Of Canada
13. Communist Party of Chile
14. Colombian Communist Party
15. Socialist Workers' Party of Croatia
16. Communist Party of Cuba
17. Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (Czech Republic)
18. Communist Party in Denmark (KPiD)
19. Communist Party of Denmark
20. Communist Party of Ecuador
21. Egyptian Communist Party
22. Communist Party of Finland
23. French Communist Party
24. German Communist Party (DKP)
25. Unified Communist Party of Georgia
26. Communist Party of Ireland
27. The Workers' Party of Ireland
28. Hungarian Workers' Party
29. Communist Party of India
30. Communist Party of India (M)
31. Tudeh Party of Iran
32. Iraqi Communist Party
33. Communist Party of Israel
34. Party of the Communist Refoundation (Italy)
35. Communist Party of Jordan
36. Lebanese Communist Party

37. Communist Party of Luxembourg (KPL)
38. Party of the Congress for Independence of Madagascar (AKFM)
39. Communist Party of Malta
40. Communist Party of Pakistan
41. Palestinian People's Party
42. Palestinian Communist Party
43. Party of the People of Panama
44. Communist Party of Peru (Patria Roja)
45. Portuguese Communist Party
46. Romanian Socialist Party
47. Communist Party of the Russian Federation
48. Russian Communist Workers' Party
49. Union of Communist Parties-CPSU - Russia
50. Communists of Serbia
51. New Communist Party of Yugoslavia -Serbia
52. South African Communist Party
53. Communist Party of Spain
54. Communists of Catalonia
55. Syrian Communist Party
56. Syrian Communist Party (Unified)
57. Sudanese Communist Party
58. Communist Party of Turkey (TKP)
59. Communist Party Of Ukraine
60. Communist Party of Uruguay
61. Communist Party of Venezuela
62. Communist Party of Vietnam





# PEO at the forefront of the struggle

## The working people of Cyprus are on the counterattack

What characterizes today's era at the class level is the impact of the capitalist crisis on workers and, more broadly, on the popular strata. The policies imposed on the peoples by the EU confirm that capitalism's contradictions are today expressed in their most extreme and inhumane form. Regardless of what is being declared, in practice, what really is being implemented is the curbing of labour and social rights and the creation of all the economic, institutional and legal preconditions for the further acute exploitation and enhancement of the profitability of multinational capital and domestic capitalists.

Cyprus was no exception. In our country too, working people have and are still confronted with punishing anti-worker policies and vicious attacks against their rights and gains. **The result of the implementation of the agreement between the Anastasiades neo-liberal government and the Eurogroup and the signing of the Memorandum with the Troika in 2013 saw the dramatic rise in unemployment, the redistribution of wealth in favour the privileged few and the curbing of the economic and social rights of working people and pensioners.**

Cyprus following the Memorandum's imposition, is the country with the most dramatic and rapid widening of social inequality across the EU. During this time of the crisis' peak and imposition of Memoranda measures, PEO organized the working people's resistance and mobilization. The platform of trade unions and social organizations which we led the efforts for its creation has organized many, significant and mass mobilizations, unprecedented for our country's modern times. Our pensioners have held dozens of mobilizations, rallies and protests. We took to the streets against foreclosures and to protect popular families from evictions that

are imminent if the policy which the banks and vultures of the so-called investment funds seem to be pursuing doesn't change. Trade unions have fought hard to defend collective agreements. The construction workers strike, which lasted for 22 days, paralyzed the entire industry. In the Semi-governmental organizations sector, fierce struggles have been waged to build a united front against privatizations and to create the preconditions for effective resistance; struggles that we consider positive and effective.

Of course we have proceeded to take other actions too. PEO has a clear class and internationalist orientation and its actions aren't restricted solely to labour issues. We have taken actions and organized initiatives for solidarity with refugees and immigrants with an anti-racist and anti-fascist content. We supported and actively participated in the mobilizations of the People's Movement of the Left against NATO, for solidarity with the Palestinian people, against war, for anti-imperialist solidarity, etc. We continued and substantially upgraded bi-communal activities in collaboration with "DEV-IS" and other progressive Turkish Cypriot trade unions.

Three months ago, we had the opportunity to proceed to an overall assessment of our activity during our 27th Congress. The general assessment is that we withstood attacks, resisted and were mostly combative. We are now implementing our policy of waging a counter-attack. We have retained the basis on which we are forming the preconditions for our further organizational growth and fulfillment of our goals.

It is important to note that, despite all the difficult conditions, we have managed to protect and preserve our collective agreements. For sure agreed concessions were unavoidably made in 2013, but on a temporary



form. Already in their vast majority collective agreements have been restored, either all of them or to a large extent of the concessions made. We managed to prevent the privatization of large public utilities of general interest in the telecommunications and electricity sectors. We have succeeded in preserving the institution of **Automatic Cost of Living Allowance**.

It is clear that in the sectors and enterprises where PEO is strong and col-

lective agreements apply, the situation for workers and their rights is better. However, it is also true that the crisis, working people's insecurity and terrorization have significantly influenced their organizational strength, with the result that deregulated and temporary work is constantly growing. The deregulation of work and labour relations are accelerating dramatically. All these issues were discussed at the recent PEO Congress, which defined the following as its main priorities in the period ahead:



- Continue and step up our counter-attack, asserting through collective agreements the **full restoration** of what was granted through special agreements or otherwise.
- Demand institutional and legislative measures by the state so that **collective agreements** be applied by everyone. For workers not covered by collective agreements, we demand legislative intervention for the formulation of a **minimum framework** of labour rights.
- Struggles for the reconstruction of the **welfare state**, which has unfortunately been dismantled over recent years.
- Determined and persistent struggles for the full implementation of the **National Health Scheme**, as agreed and approved by Parliament.
- We demand that **pensioner's rights** be restored to the level they were before the government's cuts, that the criteria providing support for large families, the disabled, students and other vulnerable groups be reexamined, that a **housing policy** which existed and has been completely abolished by the current government, be promoted again, that the unemployed are supported and that **primary family homes** and **small business premises** of people which are in danger from banks are protected.

- High among our priorities is the protection of the pension system and the struggle for the return of a state debt relief program to the **Social Insurance Fund**. We also demand that the reexamination of the levelling 12% penalty to all those opting for retirement at 63.



# The capitalist crisis and its consequences in Cyprus

By Aristos Damianou,  
AKEL Political Bureau Member  
and AKEL MP

In September 2008 the capitalist crisis in the US was coming to an end, which for those who have some knowledge of the situation came late. It was the biggest crisis since the 1929-30 crash. In fact it was much worse in terms of its impact. Besides stressing in the harshest way the system's dead ends, it led its enthusiasts to a total incapacity to timely assess, but also to explain everything that followed. In the cradle of capitalism they even reached the point of nationalizing banks to "rescue" the US economy. At the same time, 465 banks were led to closure during 2008-2012. The "bubble" of mortgaged real estate preceded in 2007 and then developed into a banking crisis too.

Inevitably, within the context of a globalized economy, in 2009 the crisis spread to the EU and more specifically to the Eurozone countries. This article's purpose isn't to analyze the failure of the crisis' handling by the EU ruling circles. However, the fact that, as a consequence of the crisis, there were official admissions made about the failure to centrally tackle the consequences on the economies of at least five Member-States (Greece, Portugal, Ireland, Spain and Cyprus), while so-called "institutions" and supervisory mechanisms were established in hindsight, is proof of how they were caught unprepared, particularly given that the Memoranda "solutions" that were imposed worsened instead of improving the situation, to the detriment of the low income-middle strata in particular.

## Non-performing loans

However, the most damaging wound afflicted is the multiplication of non-performing loans (NPL's). Even today, nearly one in two loans, that is 44%, is a NPL, while the so-called "insolvency framework" agreed by the government with the Troika and presented as the means to partially address the problem has failed. The most important impact – due to the mortgage lending procedure over a number of years – is the danger of foreclosures, especially with regards primary family homes and small business premises.

What was called a "debt crisis" in Europe plagued the Cypriot economy as well with considerable delay. 2012 was a critical year. The Christofias government was forced to engage in a dialogue with the Troika with a view to concluding a Memorandum. By mid-autumn, it was clear that the International Monetary Fund, the European Commission and the European Central Bank didn't prefer the signing of a Memorandum because of the government's resistance to the imposition of extremely anti-social measures. They even admitted it publicly, declaring they would wait for March 2013 (after the presidential elections) when they would have, according to them, "a more receptive President". **They found such a President in the leader of the Right-wing leader Nicos Anastasiades, whose Party has an active participant in the European People's Party.**

Breaking his pre-election and post-election pledges, Mr. Anastasiades agreed to the haircut on bank deposits, consenting to Cyprus becoming an experimental guinea-pig with the imposition of the "bail-in". The consequences had a domino effect and were disastrous for Cyprus' real economy. Apart from the disorderly closure of the second biggest systemic bank, namely "Laiki", there was a multi-billion dollar cash outflow abroad. The liquidity of banks was stifled, together with that of small and medium-sized businesses and households.







During the period 2014-2015, the AKEL-Left-New Forces Parliamentary Group, foreseeing the consequences of the anti-social measures and legislations, particularly as far as foreclosures are concerned, promoted – even though it was in the opposition - several proposals aiming at protecting the people from foreclosures. Our proposals, inter alia, aimed at ensuring for borrowers:

- The right of appeal to the court and to issue an order for the postponement of the foreclosure of the property in question
- Temporary right to postpone the payment of a debt
- Exclusion of third parties (guarantors) from the principal debtor's debts in case of foreclosure
- Exemption of small-borrowers with debts of up to € 25,000
- Prohibition of the sale of immovable property of impounded buyers who did not secure a title, either due to the insolvency of a land developer or for town planning purposes
- Prohibition of the sale of loans to non-licensed non-credit institutions, for example private investment funds
- Set interest on the arrears of up to 2%
- Legal assistance to borrowers for the foreclosure procedure, etc.

Some of these proposals are being implemented and have their value. However, the majority of these proposals, on the Anastasiades government's initiative, were reversed at the Supreme Court and others - in the course of time – rejected by the majority of parties in the House of Representatives. Currently, we have brought back a number of proposals to be tabled in the House in order to act in advance of the social onslaught of foreclosures, especially as regards the primary family home and small business premise.

It is obvious that the banking crisis in Cyprus, in conjunction with the vicious austerity policies imposed by the Memoranda and the Anastasiades government, has driven a large section of the Cypriot society to poverty. About one third of the population lives on or below the poverty line. **It is also evident that these neo-liberal policies represent the Cypriot Right's ideological manifesto, as the Minister of Finance had publicly stated. It is the same Right-wing and social-democratic governments that decide at an EU-level these policies and measures which they subsequently imposed on a national level too.**

For the Left, there is no alternative other than resistance. People, especially working people and the vulnerable groups of the population, are looking to us to re-create the preconditions, immediately and in the medium term, to assert the restoration of all the social and labour rights that have been abolished in the crisis. In the workers' and communist movement, the progressive and radical Left are struggling for a more just society that will respond to the needs of economies in a balanced way where the interests of the majority will be placed over and above those of a select and privileged few.







# The Church of Cyprus as an extension of the country's political history

by Elias Demetriou,  
member of the International Relations  
Department of the C.C. of AKEL

Cyprus, although a country belonging to Europe, as regards relations of religion and state, has always had anachronistic elements compared to other European countries. It is very characteristic that until 1977 the religious leader of the country, namely the internationally renowned leader Makarios the Third, was also the President of the Republic. Today, despite the fact that many things have changed, the current Archbishop continues his involvement in political affairs. He announces his preferred choice of party and presidential candidate in every electoral campaign. His statements often concern political developments on the Cypriot problem, the Church's business investments and the stock exchange or on the direction of our country's foreign policy. In this frenzy, the mass media are always eager to cover his every statement, while he also has political allies within the political system, ranging from the centre spectrum to the right-wing.

Of course, this reality can't be understood if one doesn't study the historical roots of these relationships. The Church of Cyprus from the Byzantine Period (4th-12th centuries) had become the bastion of the Byzantine Empire towards the East, a fact which gave it numerous political privileges from the imperial centre.

Despite the intense marginalization of the Orthodox Church during the Latin period (12th-15th century), it managed to regain its important po-

litical and economic role during the Ottoman period (15th-19th century). The Ottoman administration system, although it assigned a hegemonic role to Islam, established the rest of the religious leaderships as political hegemonic agencies for the populations to which each religion belonged to. Thus, **the Church of Cyprus subsequently gained enormous political and economic benefits, while making it an agency that was heading or a participant in all forms of socio-political life (central and local government, tax collection, commercial activity, education, social institutions, etc.). Also, through its big trading companies, it had become a leading factor in the development of modern capitalist relations on the island.**

When the British arrived on the island in 1878, they tried to question the role of the Church. Although the ruling class gradually began to become secular, the Church by maneuvering manages to dominate in political affairs by developing a more radical and ethnocentric rhetoric. It was essentially led to play this role so as to be able to identify with the masses whose support was now imperative to maintain its political dominance. The culmination of this process was the adoption of the policy of Enosis, namely the Union of Cyprus with Greece, which is consolidated officially from 1910 and as a basic political demand of the Greek Cypriot community.



Photo / engraving: Priests bless the British flag at the Metochi of Kykkos, in the presence of the first British High Commissioner Garnet Wolseley (The Illustrated London News, 1878)





Furthermore, the current Archbishop Chrysostomos' characteristics are of particular interest as a phenomenon, since he has all the characteristics of the Church's history. This is expressed with an authoritarianism as a figure who can't be challenged and who has an opinion on every subject. He supports ultra-right, racist and nationalist views. At the same time he acts with the realism of a modern capitalist. The Archbishop's stand and the conservatism of the Church of Cyprus' structures brings it into conflict with the ideas characterizing a modern society. The identification with the ultra-right, promotion of nationalism, its opposition to LGBT rights and the right to an abortion and other issues automatically clashes with society's general trends.

In the period that followed, the first political force which strongly questioned the Church's role in society and political affairs was the Communist Party of Cyprus with its foundation in 1926. From then onwards the Church was a fierce opponent of the Left and the struggles waged by the class-orientated trade union movement which had reached a climax in the 1940's.

In the 1950's, the Church in identification with the anti-communist Right, led the way in the armed dimension of the anti-colonial struggle. The struggle gave the British colonialists the opportunity to generate and promote the division between the two communities further, a development which attached to the anti-colonial struggle its bicomunal dimension. This ultimately led to Turkey's direct involvement in Cyprus' post-colonial future.

The independent Cypriot state and the 1960 constitution was established under the leadership of the Church in the Greek Cypriot community. In addition, the Church was a key factor in the writing of the provisions with regards the internal aspect of the Constitution. The specification of the population in the Constitution on the basis of citizen's religious status, as well other privileges given to the Church as an institution, is not accidental.

With the death of Makarios in 1977 the Church tried to maintain its role in the country's socio-political affairs, adapted to the new conditions. The long-standing identification of the religious with the national identity which was cultivated by the ruling class constituted a vital element for the preservation of this relationship.

It is a fact that the Greek Cypriot community, with a long tradition of relations with religion, didn't acquire strong resistances to religion's role in society. On the contrary, the main voices of resistance which were expressed at a political level through AKEL were considered as "heretic",

even by agencies/forces that portray themselves as "modern".

For example, the **Church's direct involvement in education is anachronistic**. The Right-wing and centre governments have consented to this involvement, starting from the issue of the appointment of the Minister of Education to the compulsory teaching of Religious Courses in the school curriculum. Children begin their day in the morning with a prayer under the religious symbols and photographs.

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Ultimately, however, the question of the separation of the church and state in contemporary conditions is certainly not simply an issue concerning legal and constitutional relations. It is principally a question of political culture that is cultivated with the participation by all of society's agencies, from the ruling power, institutions, and political parties to the mass media. The charting of a division line between religion and the state from a society is promoted when, for example, journalists provide less coverage of the Archbishop's political interventions, when political figures don't use Churches to preach political messages, when political parties do not engage with the Church regarding its internal issues, when Ministers of Education are not appointed with the blessings of the given Archbishop.



# The struggle is on to isolate neo-fascism

On AKEL's initiative Parliament approved a Resolution denouncing the ultra-right

On AKEL's initiative, the Cyprus Parliament adopted a resolution last November on the rise of the ultra-right and neo-fascism in Europe, given that "in recent years in a number of national and local parliaments across EU Member States ultra-right, neo-Nazi and nationalist parties have been elected and grown stronger". The Resolution was backed by all the parties in the House of Representatives – apart from the two MP's of the neo-fascist party, the National People's Front (the Cypriot branch of the "Golden Dawn" party in Greece), which indeed launched a vicious anti-communist attack against AKEL for taking the initiative to promote and table the resolution.

The resolution of the Cypriot Parliament adopts the position that the ideological myths and practices of racism, xenophobia, chauvinism, discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin, religion, language, gender, sexual orientation and disability are morally, and legally deplorable. The economic crisis and exacerbation of inequalities has led to poverty and as a result to despair among large sections of European societies, thus creating the ground for the forces of extreme-right populism and neo-fascism. At the same time the Resolution points out that "the exacerbation of social inequalities does not necessarily and automatically imply the rise of the ultra-right and fascism and that the tolerance and/or indirect support of extreme right actions and rhetoric by state institutions, economic interests, political agencies, the mass media and other influen-

tial forces contribute decisively towards strengthening these movements."

In addition, the Resolution denounces the "existence and activity of neo-fascist and neo-Nazi movements in Europe, whether they openly proclaim their identity or disguise it as an insult to the history of the continent and to the millions of victims of World War II". It goes on to stress that "knowledge of the history, character and practices of fascism-Nazism must be a constant duty for the education systems in Europe."

One of the most important points of the resolution is the House's appeal to the Cypriot authorities "to monitor the development of the "Golden Dawn" trial in Greece and to take all the necessary steps in due course to determine whether the committing of criminal offences of "Golden Dawn" arises in Cyprus too". In this trial, 69 members of "GD", including

all of its MP's, are accused of setting up a criminal organization, the murder of Pavlos Fyssas, committing attempted murders and other criminal offenses.

This issue is of paramount importance, given that ELAM is not simply a "fraternal party" of "GD", but its branch incorporated and subordinated to i "GD's hierarchy. Besides it should also be taken into account that according to the "GD" - ELAM ideology, Cyprus is part of Greece, and not an independent state, so

therefore in the event of "GD" being convicted, the question for a criminal investigation of ELAM itself in Cyprus arises.

“...fascism and the ultra-right are not some other voice in democracy that we must tolerate (...) its existence is an insult to our culture, our history, our morals, the values and interests of our people

## An appeal to the government to take concrete action

Among the House of Representative's demands to the government for specific actions are:

- Implementation of the recommendations of the Resolution 2011/2014 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the combating of manifestations of neo-Nazism and right-wing extremism, calling on the EU member states to develop strategies and action plans for combating neo-Nazi ideology and the ultra-right.

- Elaboration of a national action plan to combat racism, xenophobia and hate rhetoric/crimes, with the participation of all agencies and organizations active in this field.

- The full and timely implementation of the UN Commission Concluding Observations to the Republic of Cyprus (May 2017) during the assessment of the implementation in Cyprus of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.



Anti-racist Anti-fascist Demonstration on the International Day for the elimination of Racial Discrimination, in Nicosia (March 2018)



“... above all else, it is necessary to have  
**a strong workers movement**  
that unites working people on the basis  
of their interests, rather than  
dividing them on the basis  
of their language or ethnicity.”

“Such a Resolution is necessary, because in the country that gave birth to democracy, namely Greece, there is today in the Greek Parliament an openly National Socialist party, which unapologetically praises the Nazis who butchered the Greek people during the Occupation; a party which unashamedly raises the flag with the symbol of the fascist Junta which oppressed the Greek people and shed the blood of the Cypriot people. It is necessary for the House of Representatives to take a position, **because we live in a country that every day sees illuminated on the occupied Pentadactylos mountain range the results of fascism**; because we are still burying our dead of the crime committed against Cyprus in 1974, in which the EOKA B (Note: fascist armed illegal organization) of Grivas collaborated with the Greek Junta and the Turkish militarists; because our mothers are passing away, still waiting to learn the fate of their betrayed beloved ones victims of the betrayal of 1974; because generations of Cypriots are growing older in refugee settlements yearning to return to their homes and properties; because, despite all that has happened, there are political forces in our country who are still insisting today on honouring and paying tribute to all the rabble that

brought the betrayal, from Grivas to Nicos Sampson; because democratic consciousness, above all, is based on democratic historical memory.

(...) We as the Left are fully aware that the ultra-right and its parties in each country are - first and foremost - targeting the popular strata suffering from the crisis and the government policies of Member State and of course of the EU itself. From this podium and on this opportunity, we repeat that the far-right parties that propagate that immigrants, but not the system itself, can never represent an alternative solution to the system. **A party and an ideology that divides working people and cultivates racist hatred between them cannot be in the interests of the people and workers.** The xenophobic populist extreme-right that doesn't want refugees to be given shelter in Europe, but supports the imperialist wars that create refugees, cannot be an alternative. The ultra-right and its parties, in all their forms, represent all that is most rotten society generates, the most backward and sinister which History leaves behind.

Yiorgos Loucaides,  
Spokesperson of the Parliamentary Group of AKEL-Left-New Forces

## ELAM: the branch of the Nazi “Golden Dawn” in Cyprus


ELAM was founded in 2008. Initially it attempted to register as “Golden Dawn-Cyprus branch”, but this was rejected. The application was submitted again as ELAM - “National People's Front”. Most of its members served in the ranks of “GD” in Greece. ELAM denies that it is a Nazi party and declares that it is simply “nationalist”. Nonetheless a great deal of evidence has been gathered on the party's Nazi background and its officials who declare themselves as “the seed of the losers of 1945” (of World War II). It has strong ideological-political elements from the Greek dictatorship 1967-1974 and the Greek Cypriot fascist organization EOKA B which was active in Cyprus before 1974. Anti-communism and anti-AKEL frenzy is a key component of its rhetoric.

**On the Cyprus problem, ELAM vehemently opposes a federal solution and the coexistence of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, since it is based on the notion that Cyprus must be a part of Greece and not an independent bi-communal state.**



It also opposes the presence of refugees and immigrants in Cyprus because it considers them as an “Islamic invasion” and “a threat to the cohesion of the Nation and race”, while they have been involved in violence against foreigners. ELAM has repeatedly launched attacks on LGBT people, multiculturalism, gender equality, etc. It is characteristic that a large section of the Greek **Cypriot establishment is positively inclined towards ELAM, given that it enjoys privileged coverage by the mass media.** Furthermore, the Archbishop of Cyprus has repeatedly expressed his positive opinion about ELAM's presence on political scene. Unlike many other fascist parties, in Cyprus no other political force - other than AKEL - understands the pressing need for its political isolation.

ELAM participated for the first time in elections in the 2009 European elections where it got 0.22% of the vote. Since then it has participated in all the elections. In the 2016 parliamentary elections it received 3.71% and entered the House with 2 seats. In the municipal elections it elected local councilors in 14 different Municipalities and more recently in the February presidential elections with its leader as candidate it received 21,841 votes or 5.65%.



# The vicious circle of the arms race

By Vera Polycarpou,  
Head International Relations Bureau,  
Member C.C. AKEL

**G**oing through the SIPRI (The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) list for the 2016 military expenditure database, one finds that Saudi Arabia ranks fourth with a 63.7 billion US dollars budget making up 10% of its GDP.

The recent multi-billion deals reached between Saudi Arabia and the US are bound to feed even more this course. Following these developments, one cannot but conclude that both the timing and volume are closely connected to the ongoing Saudi-led war against Yemen. This war was actually ignited by the US on the well-known justification of its “war on terror” that led to escalation of tensions and interventions by a number of countries of the region. For a long time this war and its disastrous results was hidden behind a curtain of secrecy and misinformation, and behind the enormous tragedy of the war in Syria. Now three years on it can no longer be concealed that over 5000 civilians have died and 50 thousand children are “expected” to die of starvation ... A vote in the US Senate aiming at putting an end to the US support to the bloodshed in Yemen, failed by 55-44; a clear indication that also US lawmakers see clearly the connection between arms exports and war.

However, Saudi Arabia has also openly declared its intention to not just acquire nuclear energy facilities, but also acquire the possibility of building nuclear bombs, citing Iran as the pretext ... and why doesn't it cite Is-

rael, which already possesses nuclear weapons, albeit undeclared? This goes hand-in-hand with the current US-Administration's intention to overturn the Iran nuclear deal. The fact that these two states have been long-standing close allies is well-known. Nonetheless, one might have expected both to keep some pretenses: the US on defending human rights, which Saudi Arabia has a notorious record; and Saudi Arabia on the US administration decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The stakes for both are far too high to be inhibited by principles.

The above is but part of the bigger picture of developments concerning the arms race in the region of the Middle East, Arab peninsula, Gulf area, the Eastern Mediterranean, but also linked to the militarization of the neighbouring East Africa region. The opening of military bases in Sudan and Somalia by Turkey, marks yet another stage of Turkey's expansionist policies and ascertains its claims for dominance among Arab and Muslim countries. This policy is part and parcel of Turkey's involvement, invasion and occupation in Syria and its further plans there and in Iraq, its continuing occupation of 37% of Cyprus and its provocations in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Cyprus. It is clear that Turkey, a NATO-member, and EU aspirant, is violating International Law, pursuing aggressive external policies. It is a common secret that German tanks were used in Afrin and probably military equipment used there originated from other EU member-states. In addition, Turkey is buying S400 missiles from Russia and F35 planes from the US ... Another case where one can directly see the end result of arms race.





In its March 2018 Plenary the European Parliament took a vote on the Decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations on establishing the **European Defence Industrial Development Programme aiming at supporting the competitiveness and innovative capacity of the EU defence industry**. The vote was taken on the request of our political group, the GUE/NGL, and that of the Greens. The decision was to enter into interinstitutional negotiations as 471 members voted in favour. The vote was tantamount to a “green light” for the continuing or rather the upgrading of the militarization of the European Union, being part of the growing arms race. And when there is production there have to be buyers and conflicts and “threats” to oblige or encourage countries to arm themselves and stockpile.

Hence, with this and other decisions the EU is part of the vicious circle of the arms race. In that sense (but not only) the EU, instead of being part of the solution, is rather part of the problem, of the wars and conflicts in the Middle East and beyond. **With recently launched “PESCO” (Permanent Structured Cooperation) by 25 EU member-states boosting further military cooperation, the EU is being converted into a military actor rather than “a global actor for peace”.**

“With recently launched “PESCO” (Permanent Structured Cooperation) by 25 EU member-states boosting further military cooperation, the EU is being converted into a military actor

rather than “a global actor for peace”. The fact that this is part of EU Commission President’s Juncker declared ultimate

The fact that this is part of EU Commission President’s Juncker declared ultimate goal to have a fully fledged Defence Union by 2025 shows clearly the intended course of EU development. With EURO 38.5 billion planned to be allocated between 2021-2027, the European Defence Action Plan (EDAP) is a perilous development for the peoples of EU member-states and for peoples in countries beyond the EU, as arms are produced in order to be used! To silence objections or dampen reactions against their plans, EU officials present the build-up as a “job machine” offering jobs at times of crisis ... taking people out of unemployment ... Besides being a far cry from the truth of job creation, this rings badly in my ears. It brings chills to my spine and is reminiscent of the darkest times Europe lived through leading to the Second World War.

Extreme right-wing, neo-Nazi forces are on the rise all over Europe and beyond, and they feed on the environment and atmosphere created by the crisis and arms race frenzy. All forces seeing the dangers have to stand up boldly and united against the militarization. We have to work urgently to raise awareness and strengthen the peace movement to put an end to the new arms race and demand the channeling of arms expenditure into social expenditure to secure a healthy perspective for us and our children in a peaceful world.

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# Solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle

## AKEL Internet Solidarity Campaign with the Palestinian people's struggle

Within the framework of the 29th November International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People - established by the United Nations in 1977 (10 years after the beginning of the occupation in 1967 - the International Relations Bureau of AKEL organized a social media solidarity campaign. With the completion of the campaign, dozens of photographs of people were gathered, holding solidarity messages with the Palestinian

people's struggle. These included members of the AKEL leadership, the AKEL-Left-New Forces Parliamentary Group, the Palestinian Ambassador to Cyprus, AKEL MEP's, the EDON Youth and PEO Trade Union leadership, trade unionists and others.

Through #CyPalSolidarity, thousands of social media users saw and shared our campaign. The online chain of solidarity photographs aimed to send a solidarity message with the Palestinian struggle, particularly this year, with the completion of 50 years of Israeli occupation.







## Theatrical Performance "Lions" dedicated to the Palestinian People

The AKEL Delegation to the Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) organized a special performance of the "Lions" performance of the "Antigone" theatrical group. The show was dedicated to the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and began with an address by AKEL MEP and AKEL Political Bureau member Neoclis Sylikiotis. The play was also attended by tens of Palestinians living in Cyprus, given that automatic translation was provided in English.

## AKEL denounces the US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's indivisible capital

The US government's unilateral provocative decision to proceed to the recognition of Jerusalem as the indivisible capital of Israel in violation of International Law and UN resolutions has provoked the outrage not only of the Palestinians, but also of the entire international community, except the United States. AKEL reaffirms its position on the need for the universal respect for International Law. It expresses its full solidarity in the just struggle of the Palestinian people to end the Israeli occupation and for the recognition of an independent and viable Palestinian state on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. Within this framework, AKEL participated in the mobilization organized by the Cyprus Peace Council on 12th December outside the US Embassy in Nicosia.



## AKEL meeting with the Palestinian Ambassador

An official delegation of AKEL, headed by the General Secretary of AKEL Andros Kyprianou, visited on 29th November the Palestinian Embassy in Nicosia on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People's Struggle held annually on this date. After the meeting, the General Secretary of AKEL stated, inter alia, the following:  
 "... The turbulent region of the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean is perhaps experiencing the most tragic period of its history... The Palestinian problem is at the heart of our region's problems. At the heart of the Middle East. In every respect, its just solution by restoring international law and implementing UN resolutions is an urgent need. The responsibility of all UN member states is to recognize the Palestinian State as an independent, sovereign and viable state with territorial cohesion, on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

AKEL reaffirms its unreserved solidarity with the heroic struggle of the



Palestinian people. We will continue to do our utmost from every podium and forum at our disposal (European Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, international bodies) to express our solidarity and to support the efforts for a just and peaceful solution of the Palestinian problem ..."

# Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution



Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution is an enduring duty and a constant priority for AKEL and, more broadly, for the People's Movement of the Left in Cyprus. AKEL and all the organizations of the People's Movement organize multi-faceted actions to express solidarity and promote Cyprus-Cuba friendship, while simultaneously actively supporting the activity of the Cyprus-Cuba Friendship Association.

In the recent period in particular, the events organized on the occasion of the completion of a year since Fidel's death, as well as the campaign to collect money on the initiative of the Cyprus-Cuba Friendship Association for solidarity with the victims of Hurricane Irma which struck Cuba just a few months ago, stood out.



## One Year Without Fidel: The Revolution Continues!

An event under the slogan "One Year Without Fidel: The Revolution Continues!" was organized on the 24th of November by AKEL, the Embassy of Cuba, the People's Organizations of the local community of Defera and the Cyprus-Cuba Friendship Association, with the Cuban Ambassador to Cyprus and AKEL Political Bureau member Stefanos Stephanou as keynote speakers.



“Fidel showed and proved this determination, cleverness and boldness countless times. Besides, one needs determination and boldness to be 160 miles away from the US, challenging its supremacy, policies, and exposing its aggression and crimes. You need courage and determination - and a lot of love for the people and its happiness - to abandon the warmth of a family mansion, to sleep on the wet soil with a rifle as your comrade, to be thrown in jail and exile, for them to be planning your assassination and you to be waging the struggle, defiant and unforgiving to continue “Be realistic, demand the impossible!”

**Stefanos Stefanou, AKEL Political Bureau member, MP**



## Solidarity campaign towards the victims of Hurricane Irma

During the solidarity campaign organized by the Cyprus-Cuba Friendship Association for the victims of Hurricane Irma various friends of Cuba, but also numerous organized groups such as AKEL, the Lions Club of Nicosia Onassagorou which organized a Cuban Evening for this purpose, the Festival of the organized fan club of "OMONIOIA" football club ("Gate 9") and others, made their own financial contribution to the campaign. One of the most moving moments of the campaign was the visit of the 98-year-old member of AKEL from Larnaca, comrade Takis Fotis, the well-known "violinist of the streets of Larnaca", who visited AKEL's offices to give – as he said - his first contribution of 100 Euros for Cuba "which stands alone holding high the banners of socialism."



## “Solidarity Carols” of the Children’s Movement of EDON

This year the “Solidarity Carols” organized annually by the Children’s Movement of EDON Youth Organization “EDONopoulla” during the Christmas period were dedicated to the children of Cuba. These “Solidarity Carols” are held every year to express practical international solidarity to struggling and suffering peoples of the world and are considered as one of the EDON Children’s Movement’s main activities.

**This year’s campaign raised the sum of 4,312.93 euros** and in a special event held in March, the sum was handed to the member of the International Relations Bureau of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba (UJC) and General Secretary of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) Jose Angel Maury De Toro, who expressed the sincere thanks of the Cuban Young Communists for the solidarity expressed by EDON and the Cypriot people. In his own greeting, the General Secretary of EDON Youth Organization Christos Christofias, among other things, stressed that together with the amount gathered by the campaign, EDON also expresses its deep appreciation towards Cuba, as well as its support for the difficult struggle Cuba and its people are waging to this day against imperialism’s attacks.



## International Solidarity Meeting with Cuba

The Cyprus-Cuba Friendship Association participated in the International Solidarity Meeting with Cuba held last November with the participation of dozens of solidarity movements towards Cuba from Central and Eastern European countries. The Association was represented by the member of the Association’s Secretariat Iakovos Antoniou. The meeting, which was coordinated by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), discussed the issue of the coordination of international solidarity towards Cuba. Dr. Aleida Guevara, Che’s daughter, who is internationally active as ambassador of the Cuban people’s struggle, was present as always in the meeting.



A symbolic ceremony to lay flowers at the Fidel-Che Monument in the Municipality of Tseri was held on the first anniversary of Fidel’s death.



A modest event and ceremony where flowers were placed at the Monument of José Martí in central Nicosia was held on the anniversary of the birth of Cuba’s national hero and poet in January.



- international activities



### International Conference "100 Years since the Balfour Declaration" (2-4 November)

Stavri Kalopsidiotou, member of the Central Committee of AKEL, represented the Party in the International Conference held in Ramallah, under the title "100 Years since the Balfour Declaration". The Conference was organized by the Fatah Movement on 2-4 November 2017. A number of parties and organizations from around the world participated in the Conference.



### European Forum Marseilles (10-11 November)

The European Forum convened in Marseilles on 10-11 November 2017. AKEL was represented by Vera Polycarpou, Head of the International Relations and European Affairs Bureau of AKEL and Member of the C.C. of AKEL. The Forum was held on the initiative of the Party of the European Left with the participation of progressive parties, political movements, social organizations, NGO's and social movements across Europe. Vera Polycarpou was a keynote speaker in the debate "For a Europe with Peace and Freedoms".



### AKEL at the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB) (17-19 November 2017)

AKEL was represented at the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB) by Elias Demetriou, member of the International Relations Office of AKEL. The Congress was held on 17-19 November in Brasilia.





### Meeting of Modern Left Parties (22-23 February 2018)

AKEL participated in the Meeting of Modern Left Parties, which took place in Bergen, Norway, on 22-23 February 2018. The Party was represented by Yiorgos Loucaides, Parliamentary Representative of AKEL - Left - New Forces in the House of Representatives and member of the Political Bureau of AKEL. The meeting mainly involves left parties from northern Europe. Hosted by AKEL last year in Cyprus, this year the Socialist Left Party of Norway hosted the meeting.



### 3rd Congress of the Peoples' Democratic Party -HDP (11th February)

The 3rd Regular Congress of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) of Turkey convened in Ankara, Turkey. AKEL was represented by Yiorgos Koukoumas, member of the C.C. of AKEL and International Relations Bureau. AKEL in its message to the Congress, expressed "solidarity towards the heroic struggle HDP and other progressive forces of the country are waging for democracy, freedom and the respect for basic rights in Turkey. This is a struggle linked to the struggle for the rights of the working class and all the working people of your country, for the a world of social equality and peace. We express our concern because the rise of authoritarianism within Turkey also extends as an intensification of the government's aggression abroad, in neighboring Syria, as well as in the turbulent suffering region of the Eastern Mediterranean as well, including our homeland, Cyprus. Moreover, you also know that in the occupied northern part of Cyprus, the democratic and progressive voices of the Turkish Cypriots are subject to the violence and terror carried out by the circles aligned to Tayyip Erdogan, with the latest example being the attack on the Turkish Cypriot newspaper "Afrika".

At the same time, as AKEL, we have denounced and continue to denounce Turkey's operations in Syria, which violate the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Syria, and which are once again targeting the Kurds who waged and are waging a heroic struggle

against the murderous formation of IS. NATO, the United States and the European Union bear enormous responsibilities as a consequence of their stand with regards the ongoing bloodshed. AKEL was, is and will be in solidarity with the struggle of the Kurds against oppression, state terror persecution and authoritarianism; with your struggle for prosperity and the restoration of your national rights. We believe that the solution to the Kurdish issue will make a decisive contribution to peace and security throughout the whole of our region.

The struggle of AKEL and the people of Cyprus for the liberation and reunification of our homeland is a part of the struggle for peace and security in our wider region as well; a struggle to end Turkey's occupation and colonization of the occupied areas and to free our island from foreign "guardians" and imperialist interventions. Our struggle aims to reunite Cyprus and its people so that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots can together become the true masters of our common homeland, in a united, independent, sovereign and federal state. On this occasion, we would like to repeat that **nothing separates the peoples of Cyprus, Turkey and Greece. Our common enemy is nationalism and militarism. Our peoples' common enemy has been and still remains imperialism that perceives the countries and peoples of the world as dispensable in their plans and machinations.**"

Excerpts from the speech of Vera Polycarpou,  
Head of the International Relations Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL at the  
19th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties

# Socialism and peace are identical and intertwined concepts



“... The Revolution of October with the storming of the Winter Palace, the overthrow of the Provisional Government and simultaneous assignment of all power to the Soviets proved in practice through the deliberations of the 2nd All-Russian Congress of the Soviets of workers, soldiers and peasants that it was ready to implement the popular demands.

The first legislative act of the Soviets was the Decree on Peace - the day after the storming of the Winter Palace (October 26th/November 8th 1917), which recorded the proposal of the new Soviet power addressed to all warring peoples and their governments to begin negotiations, aiming at ending the war and the signing of a just and democratic peace. (...) Therefore, the first Decree of the newly created as a result of the October Revolution of the Soviet state of workers and peasants was for Peace, through which it called upon all warring countries to conclude a ceasefire and sit down at the negotiating table; negotiations however that were to be conducted without any demand whatsoever for the annexations of territories (that is, without the conquest of foreign territories, without the forced annexation of foreign peoples) and compensations. At the same time, the abandonment of secret diplomacy was proclaimed and the desire of the new Government was expressed to struggle for the liberation of countries and the peoples from colonial oppression.

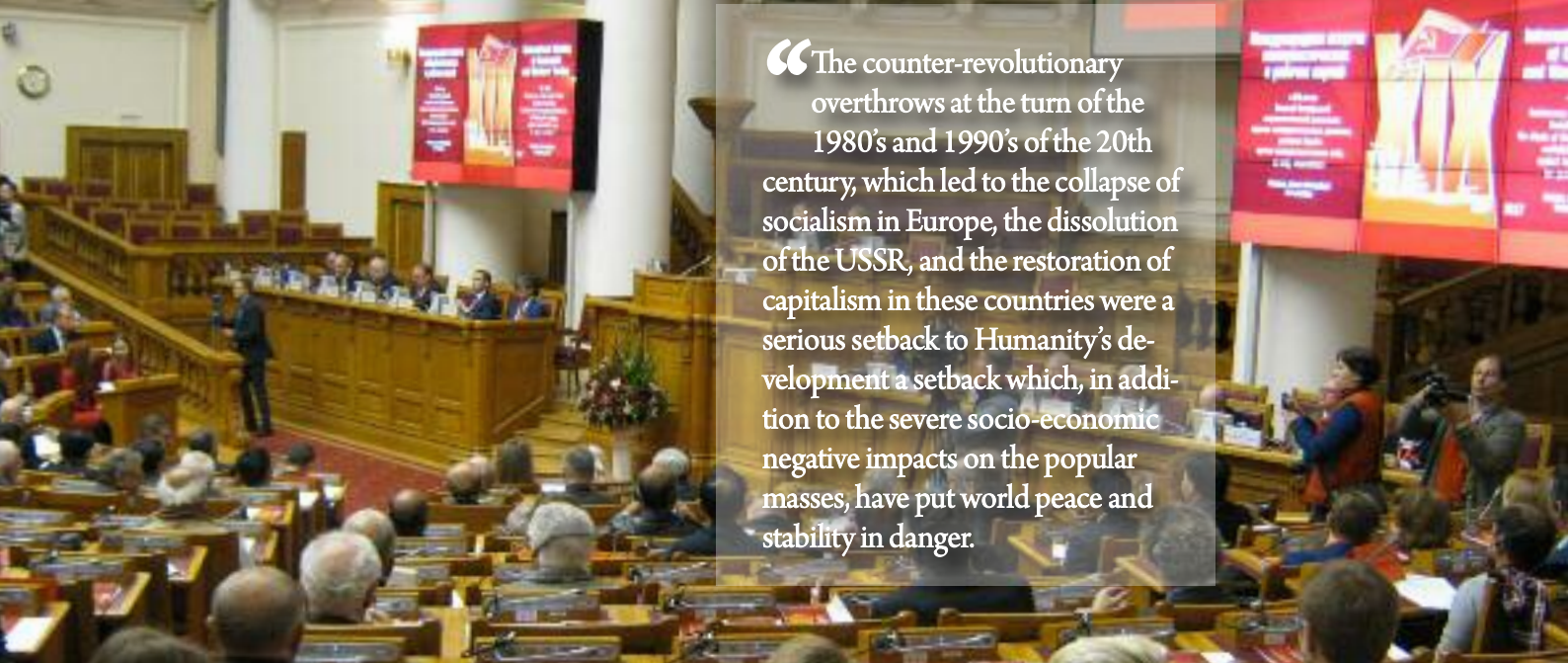
Reading the Decree on Peace today, one could argue that its content is naive because it was addressed to the imperialist warring states, calling on them to end the war and conclude peace without territorial annexations and compensations. However, was V.I. Lenin so naive when he signed the first Soviet Decree? The very objective situation itself at the end of 1917 shows us that in Germany there was growing dissatisfaction with the prolonged war that was increasingly radicalizing German society. In addition, almost the rest of Europe was only just and barely holding back and containing the revolutionary upheavals. Gradually people began to perceive the absurdity of the war and the relation it had with super-profits for the ruling class. That's why it was no coincidence that the Decree addressed the ordinary citizen. Therefore, the Decree, I repeat, was addressed to "all warring peoples and their Governments".

Consequently, the Decree on Peace was an all-European popular demand that had the utmost international significance, because along with the foreign policy moves subsequently pursued by the young Soviet state, it set as its main objective the creation of the best possible conditions for growth/development and the strengthening the socialist revolution in Russia, but also the establishment of world peace and security for the Peoples. At the same time, **the Decree on Peace expressed the Soviet people's willingness to live peacefully with all other nations**, while it also constituted a legal document where the effort for a broad international understanding and cooperation was expressed which represented the solid basis of Soviet foreign policy throughout the 70 year old path of its existence.

“**Socialism and peace are identical and intertwined concepts, and Communists have to be at the forefront of the struggle for peace, attaching a deep social content to it. The struggle for peace particularly today assumes a strong anti-imperialist character and Communists, on the one hand, must not and cannot be absent from and on the other hand they have an obligation and must express their solidarity with all struggling peoples because this is what the history and action of the International Communist and Workers Movement dictates.**

**100 years have elapsed since the victorious Socialist Revolution of October 1917 in Russia, and its universal timeless teachings and visions that have nurtured generations and generations of people, remain unchanged, maintain their realism, timelessness and relevance, shaping consciousness to this day too and strengthening today the will of working people and the oppressed to overthrow and overcome capitalist barbarism, to build a socialist society, for world peace to prevail.**





“The counter-revolutionary overthrows at the turn of the 1980's and 1990's of the 20th century, which led to the collapse of socialism in Europe, the dissolution of the USSR, and the restoration of capitalism in these countries were a serious setback to Humanity's development a setback which, in addition to the severe socio-economic negative impacts on the popular masses, have put world peace and stability in danger.

(...) the efforts of Soviet foreign policy to achieve a system of "collective security", whose implementation would have at least signified in Europe the cooperation of the first socialist state - the USSR with the capitalist countries of England and France (bourgeois democracy) against fascism/Nazism - were also rejected; an effort which unfortunately for humanity did not materialize with the imperialist circles of England and France primarily responsible, who were pursuing the policy of "appeasement" of Hitler Germany, which led to the Munich Pact (September 1938) between Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy, that aimed to direct the Hitlerites towards the east. Eventually, the anti-Hitler coalition operated with its ups and downs, even if proper consistency hadn't always been demonstrated, even if the collaborators in this coalition had other plans and designs against the USSR; **thoughts expressed openly and publicly after the anti-fascist Victory of the peoples, the greatest burden of which was undertaken by the Soviet Union, while the Soviet people paid a heavy price in millions of dead, with the declaration of the Cold War and the pursuance of the "atomic bomb policy"**.

On the one hand, the Soviet Union is proceeding to annihilate the atomic bomb's political power by developing its own atomic arsenal, thus creating a balance of forces, even though it is based on the "terror of a nuclear disaster". On the other hand the country of the Soviets acts as a steadfast fighter for Peace and Security of the Peoples, and setting an example to other nations, **the Supreme Soviet of the USSR voted in March 1951 the Defence of Peace Act and proclamation of propaganda in favour of war a Crime against Humanity**.

It is through such concrete actions that an impetus was given to the Peace Movement, which developed and embraced all the countries all over the world; a Movement that, from its first steps, stood firm on positions of principle against war, subordination, colonial oppression and racial discrimination, which pose a threat to world peace.

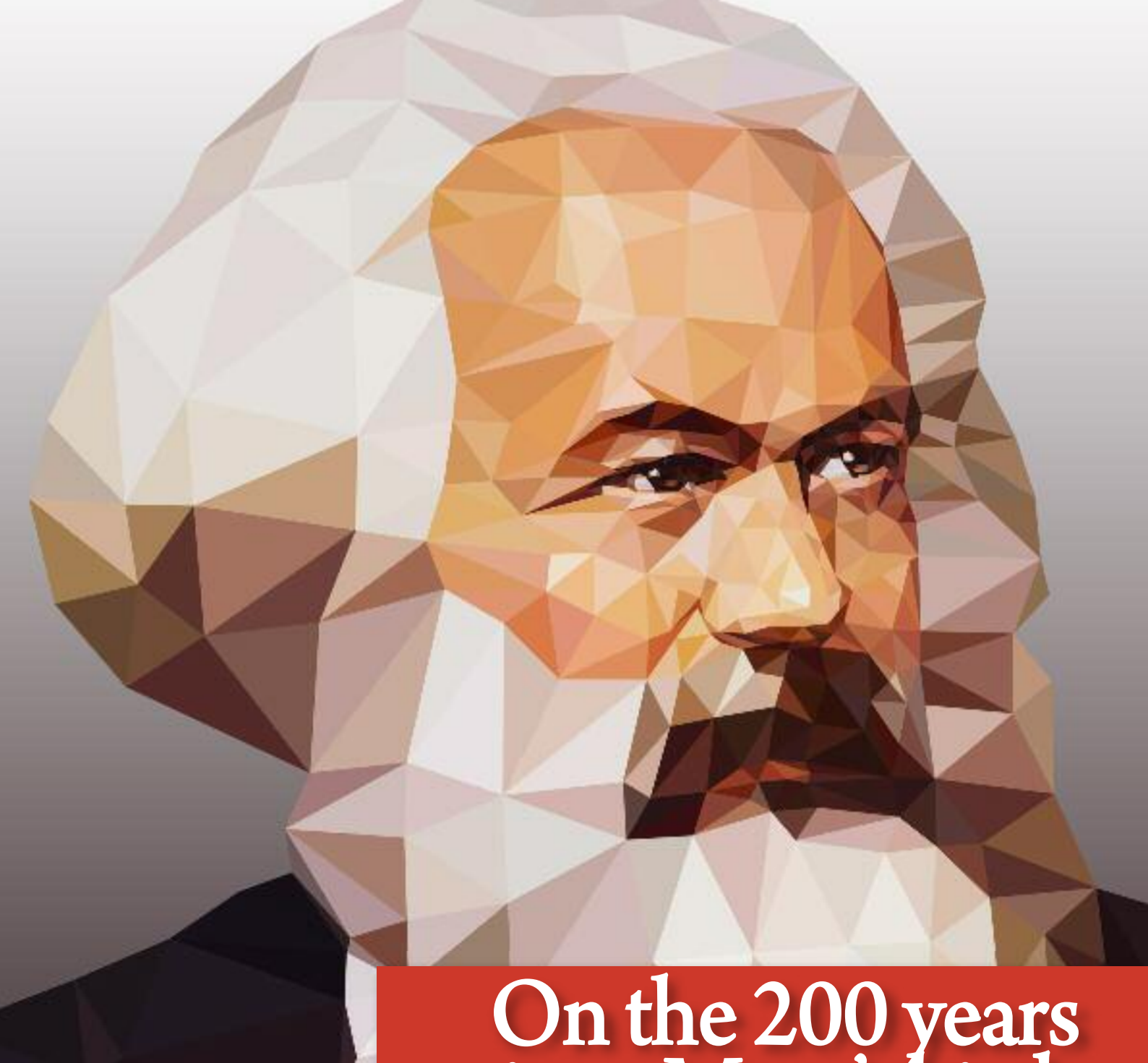
The counter-revolutionary overthrows at the turn of the 1980's and 1990's of the 20th century, which led to the collapse of socialism in Europe, the dissolution of the USSR, and the restoration of capitalism in these countries represented a serious setback to the development of Hu-

manity; a setback which, in addition to the severe socio-economic negative impacts on the popular masses, have put world peace and stability in danger.

It would be an unforgivable mistake if today, under the pressure of the negative developments for socialism, we throw the foreign policy pursued on peace issues by the USSR and the socialist system after the Second World War and beyond in the bin; a policy that contributed to changing the balance of forces and which created favourable conditions for advancing the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America to assert a better life.

Contrary to the enthusiastic declarations of various apologists of capitalism with the prevalence of a "new international order", which supposedly was stabilizing world peace and that would lead to a reduction in armaments, a growing aggression of the US-NATO-EU Euro-Atlantic Front is being observed in violation of the principles of International Law and the Helsinki Final Act, with tactics not only promoting the destabilization and undermining of the sovereignty of states, but also the waging of blatant military interventions and raids. **Not only has NATO globalized its action, which it has done in association with the EU, but it is modernizing and expanding its arsenal, seeking to "legitimize" its supposedly pre-emptive, military interventions.**

The lack of the "opposing pole", which was provoking the socialist system, was an encouragement to imperialism, which today, with multinational capital as its spearhead, is intensifying the processes for the control of geostrategic points in areas not only rich in energy reserves, within the framework of inter-imperialist competitions for the redistribution of global and regional spheres of influence. Despite the inherent inter-imperialist contradictions and antagonisms, in most cases an increased collective aggressive activity of the ruling imperialist states is being observed, based principally on the fact of the diversification of national monopolies and their transformation or subordination to multinational capital, which, although apparently acting supra-nationally, does not however cease promoting the geostrategic interests of a minority ruling oligarchy of ruling imperialist countries."



# On the 200 years since Marx's birth

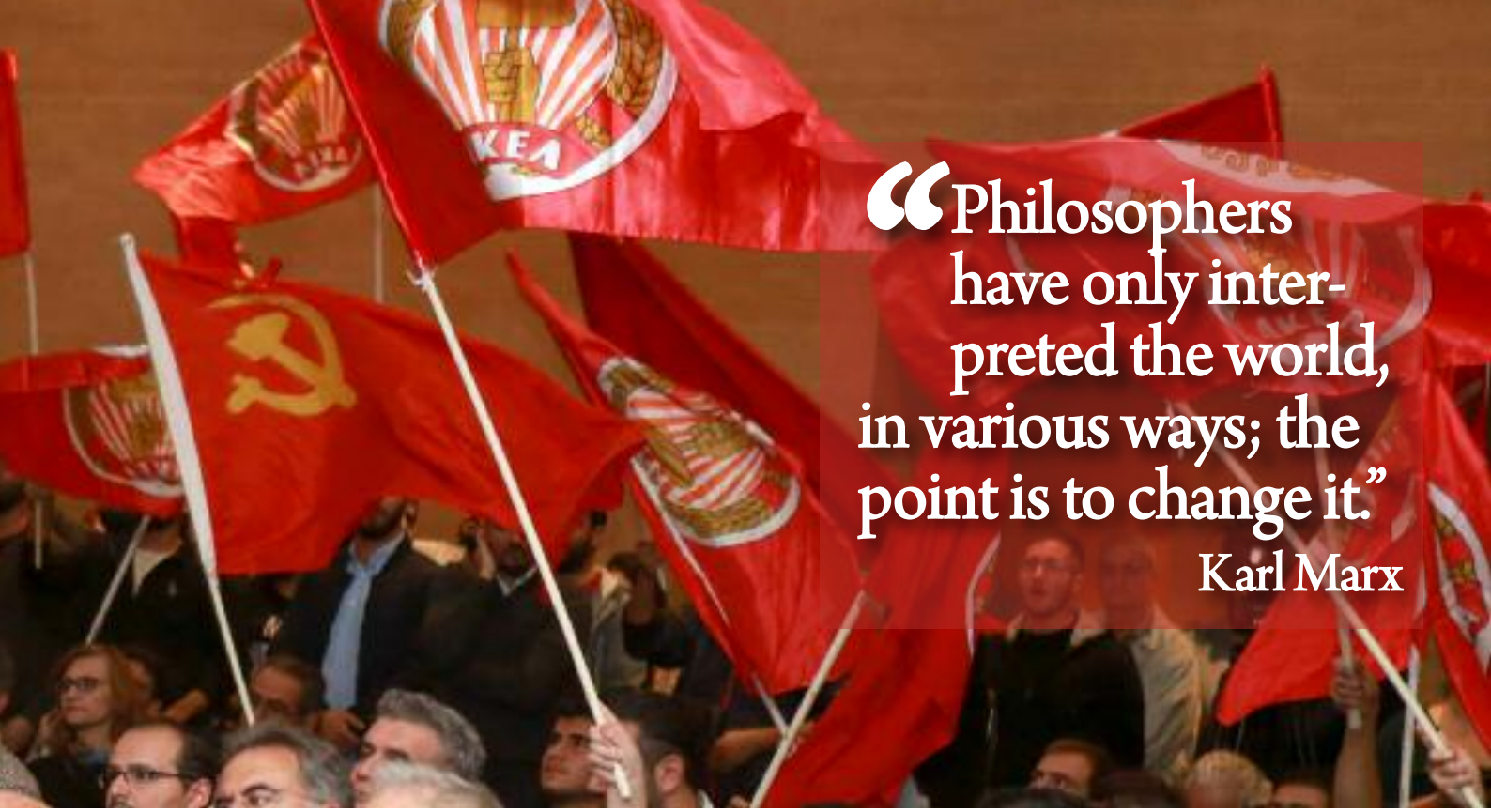
By Nicos Kouzoupis,  
member of the C.C.  
Head of Ideological Bureau of AKEL

This year marks 200 years since the birth of Karl Marx, the man whose ideas and views have influenced and continue to exert a positive influence on the development of the world to this day. Marx's worldview and outlook, namely what is termed Marxism, has proved through time its endurance and timeliness, continuing to leave their mark on the practices and actions of the revolutionary workers' movement around the world. Marxism's vitality lies in the fact that, based on the dialectic method of analysis, it simultaneously maintains its philosophical system open with the perpetual motion of "thesis, antithesis and synthesis (new position)". Marx's theory, assisted by F. Engels, began to be formulated in the 1840's at a time when the proletariat was already being transformed from a "class in itself" into a "class for itself", commencing mainly with outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe.

At the same time, Marxism did not appear on the sidelines, but on the avenue of human knowledge and thought, based on the pioneering achievements of classic German philosophy (the dialectic of Hegel and Föhrbach's materialism), classical English political economy (Smith and Ricardo) and French utopian socialism, which though constituting its three basic sources, however also represent the basis of the three component parts of the Marxist worldview.

The essence of Marxism, which maintains its timeliness to date, is because, on the basis of objective analysis, it not only interprets the problems of social development, but provides and proposes ways to resolve and overcome them. Mainly, however, Marxism records that specific social force which, until now, is the vehicle and agency of progress, and will, by





“Philosophers  
have only inter-  
preted the world,  
in various ways; the  
point is to change it.”  
Karl Marx

its very nature, liberate society from the kingdom of barbarism, as expressed by capitalist exploitation.

This social force is none other than the working class, which is the creation of capitalism itself, but which at the same time is also its undertaker. Precisely this momentous epoch-making role of the working class means that this emerging power class with the socialization of the means of production abolishes exploitation, overthrowing the capitalist relations of production and beginning the building of socialist society as the first stage on the path to an advanced society without classes.

Marxism, because it is not a dogma, cannot be neither absolute, nor remain static, but develops, is enriched and updated on the basis of the changing objective reality, aiming at the best possible and in-depth understanding of it. Marxist positions and conclusions are objective, but not absolute, and as all scientific positions and conclusions are relative, providing however the perspective of a consecutive approach to the objective "truth." Marx's theory therefore develops qualitatively in specific stages of society's development, and its full creative renewal is combined with the constant struggle against its open and/or disguised opportunistic revision.

A characteristic example of the creative development of Marxism is Leninism, which, in the new conditions created at the beginning of the 20th century (capitalism dominated by monopolies and the creation of financial capital reaching its imperialist stage of development), develops, updates and upgrades Marxism. The creative application of Marxist theory in practice is observed after the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1917, when the titanic effort to build socialism began.

The theoretical and practical intellect bequeathed by Marx and Engels

continues worthily with Lenin's theoretical and practical activity, who with his concrete example showed Marxism's inexhaustible force and enormous scientific, theoretical potential, developing it into an organic combination of continuity and innovation. Lenin confirmed in practice that the Marxist worldview must develop creatively with the changing objective conditions of life, thought, and consciousness. At the same time, surpassing the old, Marxism itself needs always be renewed, modern, and at the same time be able to envisage the existing trends over time in the newly formed objective and subjective, global, regional and concrete national conditions.

As a consequence, Marxism cannot remain stagnant because society itself, in this case capitalist society, changes. Imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism within a century of its existence has also changed and been subject to transformations. The balance of forces are also constantly changing. Globalization generates more and more new complex problems and contradictions in all spheres of capitalist society.

Despite all this however the essence of capitalism and imperialism with all their modernizations, renewals and glamorization, continues to be the same because it is based on the exploitation of people with the creation of surplus value in the production process, working people's alienation from the means of production, the appropriation of the produced socialized wealth produced by an ever-shrinking group of magnates of capital, public opinion's manipulation through the control of the mass media, the suppression of every progressive thought, the perpetuation and expansion of wars and the looting of the natural environment.

**This is therefore the reason why Marxism is still topical and revolutionary because it is based on the position expressed by K. Marx that "philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it" and that is its main objective.**





“The 8th March is a struggle – a daily and all-year struggle! A class and organized struggle”

# Bread and Roses

With the slogan “Bread and Roses”, hundreds of women and men demonstrated in the streets of Nicosia on 10th March on the occasion of International Women's Day demanding women's rights and gender equality. The demonstration organized by the Women's Movement of POGO and the Working Women's Bureau of PEO began with a meeting outside the Finance Ministry and continued with a march to the Presidential Palace, where a memorandum of demands was handed to the government.

Equal pay and equality at work, social support for maternity, the need for social infrastructures to provide support for families, the modernization of family law and abortion legislation, specialized policies required for women's health issues, the combating of stereotypes in education and the mass media are just some of the demands that the demonstrators marched for and demanded. The General Secretary of POGO and AKEL MP Skevi Koukouma in her address sent a characteristic signal to the Anastasiades government:

“Don't dish out any wishes and compliments to the female sex. Tell us – it is indeed preferable – if you are prepared and ready to confront employers and big business interests so that we can at long last achieve equal pay, an increase in maternity leave, the implementation of a paid parental leave scheme, and improvements in paternity leave. Don't tell us how much you respect and appreciate women and their role in society. Tell us who you are and if you're ready to resist the conservatism and interventions of the Archbishop and the Church, who even want to decide about issues related to women's bodies as well.”

“Don't congratulate us on the multiple roles women fulfill in society. Tell us whether you will continue to implement your economic policy that is dismantling the welfare state, abolishing working people's gains and shrinking social infrastructures that provide support to families. You told us blatantly the day before yesterday that it is NOT the state's job to operate state-owned infrastructures to support working families. And if it is not the responsibility of the state then whose responsibility is it then – the Church's?”

“The 8th March was not and will NEVER become a fiesta. **The 8th March is a struggle – a daily and all-year struggle! A class and organized struggle.** A struggle that is worth waging and a struggle we shall win! That's why we are and will stand firm until we gain the life we deserve because no one will ever grant us parity without struggle. We will gain parity through struggles. We continue on our militant path, with conviction and determination, with persistence and a fighting spirit. Together with the Women's Movement of POGO and the class-based trade union movement of PEO. Together and united with everyone who is struggling in a mass, collective and militant way”

