



AKEL

100 YEARS of struggles
for the working class (1926-2026)

100
XPONIA
KKK-AKEL



Foundation:

AKEL, the Progressive Party of the Working People, held its founding Congress on 14th April 1941, successor to the Communist Party of Cyprus CPC established in 1926.

The CPC was born out of the historical necessity of the times and social conditions. The CPC, as the political party of the working class based on Marxist-Leninist principles fought heroically in illegality and despite brutal persecution led the struggle for the liberation from the British colonial yoke, for the working people's social, political and economic demands irrespective of nationality, origin and religion.

On the CPC's call, 60 Cypriot anti-fascists fought in the Spanish Civil War against Franco fascism, 15 of them sacrificing their lives.

AKEL: The Party of the Cypriot working class

AKEL was formed in April 1941 in response to the need for AKEL's formation in April 1941 expressed the need for the mass legal expression of the Cypriot people's struggle on all fronts. Following an appeal issued in 1943 thousands of AKEL members and antifascists joined the fight against Hitler fascism. All through its 100 years of struggles CPC-AKEL has been a class party uniting all the Cypriot working class, Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots, Maronites, Armenians and Latins. It played a leading role in the establishment of the first class-oriented trade unions and in the development of the broader People's Movement of the Left, thus forging solid links between the working people and AKEL.





AKEL and the Cyprus Problem

AKEL initiated a mass and organized political struggle considering it to be the way forward in forming a joint anti-imperialist front of all Cypriots against colonialism. This is why AKEL disagreed with the armed struggle of the nationalist EOKA organization (1955-59). Many Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot comrades were murdered by the ultra-right in an attempt to crush the Left and enforce the imperialist policy of "divide and rule". Following the declaration of a shackled Cyprus independence in 1960, AKEL struggled to defend democracy, the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus from constant foreign conspiracies and interventions.

These attempts culminated, with the CIA-engineered fascist coup d'état of the Greek junta and the fascist terrorist organization EOKA B' in July 1974, followed by the Turkish invasion and occupation of 37% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus. Many AKEL members and supporters sacrificed their lives defending democracy and the independence of Cyprus.

Since 1974 AKEL has been struggling to bring about the end of the Turkish occupation and reunify Cyprus and its people. At the same time, AKEL has intensified its work for the rapprochement of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, considering this to be essential for the implementation of a future solution of the Cyprus Problem. This goal remains central for AKEL to this day.

AKEL is fighting for a peaceful, lasting and viable solution based on international law, the UN resolutions and the High-Level Agreements, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, for a united state in the framework of a bizonal,

bicommunal federation, with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship, with political equality as described in the UN reports, with the fundamental human rights and freedoms of all Cypriots guaranteed. AKEL supports the dismantling of the foreign bases in Cyprus and the demilitarization of the island, though the primary objective now is the end of the occupation and the reunification of our island and people.

AKEL – a mass national political force

AKEL has succeeded in rejuvenating itself, by modernizing its political and ideological approaches and by further broadening inner-party democracy, whilst preserving its Marxist-Leninist character and identity, without ever abandoning its fundamental principles and values.

The policy of political alliances

Taking into account Cyprus' concrete conditions, the current stage of struggle and the urgent need for a solution, AKEL has always followed a policy of forming broad alliances with patriotic and democratic forces on short and medium-term objectives. Whether in government (2008-2013), supporting or participating in coalition governments or in opposition, AKEL's main goal has been to make a decisive contribution to the solution of the Cyprus problem based on principles and safeguarding and promoting working people's democratic and socio-economic rights and gains.

AKEL believes that its broader policy of alliances is consistent with its ideological character and ultimate goal of the socialist transformation of Cypriot society based on its own concept of socialism.

In this context, in 2023 AKEL announced the formation of the "Social Alliance" which is a new structure comprising individuals and groups allying with AKEL in elections and other political battles, based on collaboration on various issues

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

In 2007 AKEL took the historic decision to support for the first time a presidential candidate from its own ranks: its General Secretary at the time, Demetris Christofias. His election in 2008 with 53,3% of the vote in the 2nd round was of historic importance for the Party. The principal and



overriding objective was to promote a just solution to the Cyprus problem based on principles. Furthermore, AKEL also sought to promote a fairer society by implementing a broader progressive political programme.

Significant progress was made on the Cyprus Problem through the convergences recorded in the talks, as well as through the implementation of a multifaceted foreign policy, along with a broad pro-people socio-economic policy. For the first time privileges and ruling interests were threatened. Consequently, Christofias and AKEL were subjected to a fierce, all-out attack on all levels.

The consequences of the capitalist crisis and the opposition to right - wing governments

Unlike other governments, including two consecutive right-wing governments (2013-2018, 2018-2023) as well as the current one, AKEL and Christofias government did not shift the burden of the crisis onto the working people. Instead, they resisted the implementation of neoliberal and anti-worker policies that were fully in line with the Troika and EU dictates. In contrast, the right-wing began by imposing an unprecedented "bail-in" on bank deposits which had disastrous effects of the country's economy and people's lives. Over the years, AKEL and the People's Movement of the Left have played a leading role in mobilizing and defending workers' rights and social gains, which have been under fierce attack from EU policies and right-wing government decisions.

2023 Presidential Elections

In the 2023 presidential elections (Cyprus has a presidential system), AKEL aimed to create a majority stream that would put an end to a decade of conservative and neoliberal right -wing government.

In this context, AKEL supported the independent candidate Andreas Mavroyiannis on the basis of a progressive governance programme prioritising the solution of the Cyprus problem. This programme also included positions on important social issues such as labour relations, housing, public health, education, as well as on environmental protection and the rule of law.

Contrary to the expectations, Andreas Mavroyiannis not only made it to the second round of the elections, overtaking the then President of DISY, he also secured a percentage close to Nikos Christodoulides' in the first round.

Although he did not win in the second round, Mavroyiannis, secured a much higher percentage than estimated in previous months, polling 48.03% against Christodoulides' 51.97%.

New government

Although the new government is presenting itself as centrist, on most issues Nikos Christodoulides has clearly maintained the stance of the previous neoliberal, right-wing governments, which he served as spokesperson and Minister of Foreign Affairs. As the main opposition to the new government, AKEL raises key political issues both in the House of Representatives and through campaigns such as on the Cyprus Problem and social issues. Examples include price hikes in energy and goods, housing, young parents, defending COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment), salaries, etc.

2026 Parliamentary elections

In an adverse political and economic climate characterized by the deliberate daily cultivation by specific circles of apathy, de-politicalisation, rise of the far-right, AKEL participated in the Parliamentary elections held in May 2026 achieving to maintain its role as a dominant opposition force. The elections produced a significant result, with the party increasing both its percentage of the vote and the number of votes polled for the first time in 15 years, while maintaining its 15 MPs. AKEL scored 23.9% (+1.4%) and 88,777 votes (+8,864).

Year	Elections	Results
2023	Presidential	<u>1st Round:</u> Our candidate Andreas Mavrogiannis secured 29.59% among three main candidates and passed to the 2 nd Round. <u>2nd Round:</u> Andreas Mavrogiannis polled 48,03% - Nikos Christodoulides won with 51.97%.
2024	European Elections	21.5 (-6%) / 1 seat (-1)
2024	Local Elections	<u>14 (out of 20) Mayors</u> elected with AKEL's support <u>3 (out of 5) Presidents of District organizations</u> elected with AKEL's support 28% members of Municipal Councils (+5%)
2026	Parliamentary Elections	<u>23,9% (+1,4%)</u> <u>15 seats (same as 2021)</u>

24th Congress.

The 24th Congress of AKEL that was held on 20-22 June 2025 elected comrade Stefanos Stefanou General Secretary of AKEL as well as the new 120-member Central Committee. The election was by direct vote from the delegates of the Congress implementing for the first time the recent constitutional amendments.

100 years of CPC-AKEL.

In 2026 AKEL is commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Cyprus in 1926, of which AKEL became the successor in 1941. Throughout the year, AKEL is organising a series of events to honour this historical milestone, including an international conference to be held in November.

International Relations Bureau AKEL July 2026



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