

Geography

Location, Area and Population

Cyprus is situated in the north-eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, 33° east of Greenwich and 35° north of the Equator and has an area of 9.251 square kilometres, of which 1.733 are forested.

The present population of Cyprus is 765.000 of whom 653.000 (85,3%) are Greek Cypriots, 87.700 (11,5%) are Turkish Cypriots and 24.500 (3,2%) are foreigners residing in Cyprus.

The capital of the island is Nicosia (Lefkosia) with a population of 200.500 in the sector controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. It is situated roughly in the centre of the island and is the seat of government as well as the main business centre. The 1974 Turkish invasion and occupation of 35% of the island's territory literally cut the capital in half. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Nicosia remains the only militarily divided capital in the world.

The second largest town is Limassol in the south which has around 157.500 inhabitants. It is Cyprus' main commercial port and an important tourist resort.

Larnaca, in the south-east of the island, has a population of 70.500 and is the island's second commercial port and also an important tourist resort. To the north of the town is located the island's oil refinery, while to the south is situated Larnaca's International Airport.

Finally, Paphos in the south-west with a population approaching 45.900 is a fast developing tourist resort, home to the island's second International Airport and it has an attractive fishing harbour.

In the Turkish occupied area, the town of Famagusta, the centre of the pre-1974 tourist industry, is now a ghost town, deserted since 1974 when its inhabitants fled from advancing Turkish troops. The town of Kyrenia, another important tourist resort on the north coast of Morphou situated in the important agricultural area of western Messaoria, is now inhabited almost exclusively by Turkish Cypriots and Turkish settlers as the Greek Cypriots were forced in 1974 to abandon their homes and properties and move to the south under the threat of guns of the Turkish occupation army.

Since the Turkish invasion and occupation of over a third of the island, the demographic balance has changed dramatically as a result of Turkey's population policies. There are now around 115.000 illegal Turkish settlers in the occupied area, while an estimated 55.000 Turkish Cypriots have emigrated.

Geology

Cyprus is divided into three geological zones, the Pendadaktylos or Kyrenia range to the north, the Troodos massif to the south, and the Messaoria plain separating the two.

The Troodos Range

This is a dome-shaped highland of mainly infertile igneous rocks forming the backbone of the island and situated in the central-western part of the island. It is a region of high relief rising to 1.951 metres in Mount Olympus. Several torrents spring radially from Troodos ending in the sea. The forests which cover the Troodos massif combined with its steep slopes and precipices and narrow valleys and crevices help create a beautiful scenery. The hard igneous rocks are surrounded by a lower belt of dome-shaped pillow lava, a most infertile area which levels gradually towards the coast.

The Troodos Mountains, geologically described as the Troodos massif of Troodos Ophiolite Complex, occupy a roughly oval area of 3.200 km² in the central and western part of the island. The Troodos massif, formed almost entirely of uppermost Cretaceous (about 85 million years ago) mafic and ultramafic igneous rocks, is regarded as one of the best exposed and underformed ophiolites (fragment of oceanic lithosphere and upper mantle).

The Kyrenia Range

This northern mountain range, mainly of limestone, rises up to 1.024 metres at Kyparissovouno. Part of this range consists of a finger-shaped mountain known as "Pendadaktylos" (five-fingers). It is in this picturesque mountain range that the three famous castles of St. Hilarion, Buffavento and Kantara are found. A number of crevices have helped the development of a network of communications with the northern coastal valleys. Karpassia, the northeastern part of the range, is a continuation of Pendadaktylos consisting of hills, slopes and valleys free of foldings and other tectonic features.

The Pendadaktylos Range is made of a succession of mostly allochthonous sedimentary formations ranging from Permian to Middle Miocene in age. The oldest rocks consist of a series of allochthonous recrystallised limestones and dolomites (Dhikomo, Sykhari and St. Hilarion Formations) the age of which range from Permian to Middle Cretaceous.

The Messaoria or Central Plain

The central plain is situated between the Troodos and Kyrenia mountain ranges and has a low relief, not exceeding 180 metres near Nicosia. This plain is composed of flyschtype rocks carried by rivers from the Troodos and Kyrenia ranges and was formed during a very recent chronological period (holocene).

The Messaoria plain is formed of a succession of upper cretaceous to pleistocene sedimentary rocks.

The Coastlands

Cyprus is almost surrounded by coastal valleys. In the north is the Kyrenia valley with its narrow dentelated coasts; in the south are the Larnaca and Limassol valleys; in the west are the Paphos and Chrysochou valleys; in the east is the Famagusta valley. The soil is alluvial and fertile suitable for agriculture.

In the southern and southwestern parts of the island allochthonous masses of a variety of sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks of Mesozoic age (Mamonia Complex) are found overriding or encased in the bentonitic clays of the Kannaviou Formation (Campanian-Maestrichtian).

All the exploitable metallic and some of the non-metallic (asbestos) mineral deposits of Cyprus are confined to the Troodos ophiolite complex. The most important of

these are the cupriferous pyrite deposits that occur in the pillow lava series and the chromite deposits which are found in the dunite close to its contact with the harzburgite.

Umber (terra umbra), generally varying from a yellow brown through dark brown to black colour, occurs predominantly as lenticular bodies in depressions of the pillow lavas.

Gypsum deposits (Kalavassos Formation) are widespread in Cyprus and are found mainly near the top of Pakhna Formation. Extensive bentonite deposits are found in the southern part of Cyprus. Investigations have proved that they can be upgraded to be used in most industrial applications.

Natural Vegetation

Notwithstanding its small size, Cyprus has a wide variety of natural vegetation. This includes forests of hardwood, evergreen and broadleaved trees such as pinus latepensis, cedar, cypressus and oak. About 17% of the whole island is classified as woodland. Where the forest has been destroyed, tall shrub communities may survive. Over most of the island untilled ground bears a grazed covering of garigue, largely composed of low bushes. Where grazing is excessive this covering is soon reduced, and an impoverished batha remains, and a few stunted herbs. There are about 1.900 species and subspecies of flowering plants, 140 of them endemic.

Birds and animals

Cyprus has been endowed with a rich fauna including a large number of endemic birds, reptiles and animals. Because of its position, Cyprus is also a vital stop-over place for thousands of migratory birds which find the island an ideal place for both feeding and refuge. Among the animals the moufflon occupies an outstanding position and is considered as one of the natural treasures of the island. The moufflon belongs to the sheep family but this species is unique in the world. This interesting and noble beast, which is the symbol of the Cyprus Republic and is used on its coins, had long been in danger of extinction, but it is a fully protected animal, today.

The fauna of Cyprus includes 25 species of mammals, 26 species of amphibians and reptiles, 357 species of birds, and a great variety of invertebrates. The coastal waters of the island give shelter to 197 fish species and to various species of crabs, sponges and echinodermata.

Climate

Cyprus has an intense Mediterranean climate with the typical seasonal rhythm strongly marked in respect of temperature, rainfall and weather generally. Hot, dry summers from mid-May to mid-September and rainy, rather changeable winters from mid-November to mid-March are separated by short autumn and spring seasons.

The average rainfall from December to February is about 60% of the average annual total precipitation for the island as a whole, which is 500 mm. Autumn and winter rainfall, on which agriculture and water supply generally depend, tends to be variable. Snow occurs rarely in the lowland and on the northern range but falls every winter on ground above 1.000 metres.

Temperatures are high in summer and the mean daily temperature in July and August ranges between 29°C on the central plain to 22°C on the Troodos mountains, while the average maximum temperature for these months ranges between 36°C and 27°C respectively. Winters are mild with a mean January temperature of 10°C on the central plain and 3°C on the higher parts of the Troodos mountains and with an average minimum temperature of 5°C and 0°C respectively.

Relative humidity of the air is on average between 60% and 80% in winter and between 40% and 60% in summer with even lower values over island areas around midday. Fog is infrequent and visibility is generally very good. Sunshine is abundant during the whole year and particularly from April to September when the average duration of bright sunshine exceeds 11 hours per day.

Winds are generally light to moderate and variable in direction. Strong winds may occur sometimes, but gales are infrequent over Cyprus and are mainly confined to exposed coastal areas as well as areas at high elevation.

Environment

The island's largest wild animal, the moufflon (*Ovis gmelini ophion*), is a rare type of wild sheep that can be found only in Cyprus. This rare endemic animal is strictly protected and its population has revived from near extinction, at the beginning of the century, to about 1.500 animals, at present.

The island is used by millions of birds during their migration from Europe to Africa and back again, the main reason being the occurrence on the island of two coastal wetlands, with unique and international importance, i.e. the Larnaca and Akrotiri Salt Lakes. Of the numerous wild birds of Cyprus, birds of prey are the most fascinating and among them the Eleonora's Falcon (*Falco eleonarae*) and the Imperial Eagle (*Aguilla heliaca*) are the jewel of the crown. From the sea creatures, such as seals and turtles, the Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) breed regularly on the island's sandy beaches. A successful conservation project was launched in order to protect the Green and Loggerhead turtles. The programme, which includes a hatchery, is a model one in the Mediterranean. As far as seals are concerned, although they no longer breed in the coastal sea caves, however, occasional sightings have been reported. Seals, dolphins and turtles are protected under the Fisheries Law.

The setting up of National Parks and Nature Reserves is now receiving priority attention. There are six National Forest Parks one at Troodos, two at the coastal area (Liopetri and Cavo Greco) and three around Nicosia. There are also two Nature Reserves at Troodos Mavri Gremmi and Tripilos, which includes the Cedar Valley. A systematic effort is now underway to finalise the national list of areas to be proposed to the European Union for inclusion in the "NATURA 2000" network.

Environmental Management

The Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment is responsible for the rational management and sustainable use of natural resources as well as being the coordinating Ministry for the protection of the island's environment.

Cyprus has endorsed the principles of sustainable development and has undertaken a process to integrate environmental considerations in its economic and social

development policy. In this process, the country is guided by the principles adopted at the Rio Conference and the European Union's respective policies.

There is no question, anymore, that economic development and protection of the environment are concepts interlinked and mutually supportive. However, when it comes to operationalise this concept in practice, conflicting issues do arise, since the short-run goals of the economy may not be compatible with the longer-term goals of environmental sustainability.

In spite of the above, the goals and objectives of the integration of environmental concerns into all sectors of the economic policy have been incorporated in the country's most recent Strategic Development Plan for 1999 – 2003. A similar initiative relates to the preparation of a new strategy for sustainable mining and quarrying. Cyprus also pursues the introduction of stronger environmental concerns into other major policies, such as in transport, agriculture and tourism.

Cyprus has ratified a number of major Conventions such as the Basel Convention on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, the CITES Convention of the trade in endangered species, as well as the Conventions on transboundary air pollution, ozone depletion, biological diversity and climate change, the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean against pollution and its Protocols, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat and Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

Several major studies and projects have also been undertaken, aiming at a harmonisation with the European Union's environmental policy, many of them financed by the EU.

Cyprus has actively participated in regional and global environmental activities such as the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Council of Europe's environmental programmes, the environmental follow-up actions in the framework of the Organisation on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership established by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference.

Brief Historical Survey

Cyprus, according to mythology, is the birthplace of the goddess of love and beauty, Aphrodite. The island is both an ancient land, with an eleven thousand year-old history and civilisation as well as a young independent Republic since 1960. Its geographic location at the crossroads of three continents—Europe, Asia and Africa – and at the meeting point of great civilisations, has been one of the factors influencing the course of the island's history throughout the centuries.

Neolithic Period (8200-3900 BC)

Remains of the oldest known settlements in Cyprus date from this period. This civilisation developed along the North and South coasts. At first, only stone vessels were used. Pottery appeared on a second phase after 5000 BC.

Chalcolithic Age (3900-2500 BC)

Transitional period between the Stone Age and the Bronze Age. Most Chalcolithic settlements were found in western Cyprus, where a fertility cult developed. Copper was beginning to be discovered and exploited on a small scale.

Bronze Age (2500-1050 BC)

Copper was more extensively exploited bringing wealth to Cyprus. Trade developed with the Near East, Egypt and the Aegean, where Cyprus was known under the name of Alasia.

After 1400 BC Mycenaeans from Greece first came to the island as merchants. During the 12th and 11th centuries, mass waves of Achaean Greeks came to settle on the island spreading the Greek language, religion and customs. They gradually took control over Cyprus and established the first city-kingdoms of Paphos (Pafos), Salamis, Kition and Kourion. The hellenisation of the island was then in progress.

Geometric Period (1050-750 BC)

Cyprus was then a Greek island with ten city-kingdoms. The cult of the Goddess Aphrodite flourished at her birthplace Cyprus. Phoenicians settled at Kition. The 8th century BC was a period of great prosperity.

Archaic and Classical Period (750-310 BC)

The period of prosperity continued, but the island fell prey to several conquerors. Cypriot Kingdoms became successively tributary to Assyria, Egypt and Persia. King Evagoras of Salamis (who ruled from 411-374 BC) unified Cyprus and made the island one of the leading political and cultural centres of the Greek world.

The city-kingdoms of Cyprus welcomed Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, and Cyprus became part of his empire.

Hellenistic Period (310-30 BC)

After the rivalries for succession between Alexander's generals, Cyprus eventually came under the Hellenistic state of the Ptolemies of Egypt and belonged from then onwards to the Greek Alexandrine world. The Ptolemies abolished the city-kingdoms and unified Cyprus. Paphos became the capital.

Roman Period (30 BC – 330 AD)

Cyprus came under the dominion of the Roman Empire. During the missionary journey of Saints Paul and Barnabas, the Proconsul Sergius Paulus was converted to Christianity and Cyprus became the first country to be governed by a Christian. Destructive earthquakes occurred during the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD and cities were rebuilt. In 313 the Edict of Milan granted freedom of worship to Christians and Cypriot bishops attended the Council of Nicaea in 325.

Byzantine Period (330 - 1191 AD)

After the division of the Roman Empire Cyprus came under the eastern Roman Empire, known as Byzantium, with Constantinople as its capital. Christianity became the official religion. Empress Helena visited Cyprus and founded the Stavrovouni Monastery. New earthquakes during the 4th century AD completely destroyed the

main cities. New cities arose, Constantia became capital and large basilicas were built from the 4th to 5th century AD.

In 488, after the tomb of St. Barnabas was found, Emperor Zeno granted the Church of Cyprus full autonomy and gave the Archbishop the privileges of holding a sceptre instead of a pastoral staff, wearing a purple mantle and signing in red ink. In 647 Arabs invaded the island under Muawiya. For three centuries Cyprus had been constantly under attack by Arabs and pirates until 965, when Emperor Nicephoros Phocas expelled Arabs from Asia Minor and Cyprus.

Richard the Lionheart and the Knights Templar (1191 - 1192)

Isaac Comnenus, self proclaimed «Emperor» of Cyprus, behaved discourteously to survivors of a shipwreck involving ships of Richard's fleet on their way to the Third Crusade. Richard in revenge defeated Isaac and took possession of Cyprus marrying Berengaria of Navarre in Limassol (Lemesos) where she was crowned Queen of England.

A year later he sold the island for 100.000 dinars to the Knights Templar who resold it at the same price to Guy de Lusignan, deposed King of Jerusalem.

Frankish (Lusignan) Period (1192 - 1489)

Cyprus was ruled on the feudal system and the Catholic Church officially replaced the Greek Orthodox, which though under severe suppression managed to survive. The city of Famagusta (Ammochostos) was then one of the richest in the Near East. It was during this period that the historical names of Lefkosia, Ammochostos and Lemesos were changed to Nicosia, Famagusta and Limassol respectively. The era of the Lusignan dynasty ended when the last Queen Catherine Cornaro ceded Cyprus to Venice in 1489.

Venetian Period (1489 - 1571)

Venetians viewed Cyprus as a last bastion against the Ottomans in the east Mediterranean and fortified the island, tearing down lovely buildings in Nicosia (Lefkosia) to reduce the boundaries of the city within fortified walls. They also built impressive walls around Famagusta (Ammochostos), which were considered at the time as works of art of military architecture.

Ottoman Period (1571 - 1878)

In 1570 Ottoman troops attacked Cyprus, captured Nicosia (Lefkosia), slaughtered 20.000 of the population and laid siege to Famagusta (Ammochostos) for a year. After a brave defence by Venetian commander Marc Antonio Bragadin, Famagusta fell to the Ottoman commander Lala Mustafa who at first allowed the besieged a peaceful exodus, but later ordered the flaying of Bragadin and put all others to death. On annexation to the Ottoman Empire, the Latin leadership was expelled or converted to Islam and the Greek Orthodox Church restored; in time, the Archbishop, as leader of the Greek Orthodox, became the people's representative to the Sultan. When the Greek War of Independence broke out in 1821, the Archbishop of Cyprus, Kyprianos, three bishops and several prominent Cypriots were executed. The Muslim minority during the Ottoman period eventually acquired a Cypriot identity.

British Period (1878 - 1960)

Under the 1878 Cyprus Convention, Britain assumed administration of the island. It remained formally part of the Ottoman Empire until the latter entered the First World War on the side of Germany, and Britain in consequence annexed Cyprus in 1914. In 1923 under the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey relinquished all rights to Cyprus. In 1925 Cyprus was declared a Crown colony. In 1940 Cypriot volunteers served in the British Armed Forces throughout the Second World War. Hopes for self-determination being granted to other countries in the post-war period were shattered by the British who considered the island vitally strategic. After all means of peaceful settling of the problem had been exhausted, a national liberation struggle was launched in 1955 against colonial rule and for union of Cyprus with Greece. The struggle ended in 1959 with the Zurich-London agreements signed by Britain, Greece and Turkey as well as representatives of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Republic of Cyprus - 1960

According to the Zurich-London agreements, Cyprus became an independent republic on the 16th August 1960. As an independent country it became a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement. According to the above treaty, Britain retained two sovereign bases (158,5 sq. km) on the island, at Dhekelia and Akrotiri-Episkopi.

The Zurich - London agreements comprised the Treaty of Establishment, the Treaty of Guarantee and the Treaty of Alliance. Under the Treaty of Establishment, Britain retained sovereignty over 256 sq. kilometres in Dhekelia and Akrotiri. These are known as the Sovereign Base Areas. Under the Treaty of Guarantee, Britain, Greece and Turkey pledged to ensure the independence, territorial integrity of Cyprus as well as respect for its Constitution. The Treaty of Alliance between Cyprus, Greece and Turkey was a military alliance agreed for defence purposes. These agreements also became the basis for the 1960 Constitution.

The Constitution incorporated a system of entrenched minority rights unparalleled in any other country, making it not only divisive in nature but also unworkable. The Turkish Cypriot leadership's use of its extensive powers of veto gave rise to deadlock and inertia. In November 1963, when President Makarios put forward proposals for amendment of the Constitution in order to facilitate the smooth functioning of government, Ankara promptly rejected them, before the Turkish Cypriot side had time to consider the matter.

The Turkish Cypriot ministers withdrew from the Council of Minister and Turkish Cypriot civil servants ceased attending their offices. The ensuing constitutional deadlock gave rise to intercommunal clashes and Turkish threats to invade. Since then, the aim of the Turkish Cypriot leadership, acting on instructions from the Turkish Government, has been the partitioning of Cyprus and its annexation to Turkey.

Turkish Invasion and Occupation

On 15 July 1974 the ruling military junta of Greece staged a coup to overthrow the democratically elected Government of Cyprus.

On 20 July Turkey, using the coup as a pretext, invaded Cyprus, purportedly to restore constitutional order. Instead, it seized 35% of the territory of Cyprus in the north, an act universally condemned as a gross infringement of international law and the UN Charter. Turkey, only 75 kms (47 miles) away, had repeatedly claimed, for decades before the invasion and frequently afterwards, that Cyprus was of vital strategic importance to it. Ankara has defied a host of UN resolutions demanding the withdrawal of its occupation troops from the island.

On 1 November 1974, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution 3212, the first of many resolutions calling for respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus and for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign troops.

Furthermore, the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations as well as the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and other international organisations have demanded the urgent return of the refugees to their homes in safety and the full restoration of all the human rights of the population of Cyprus.

The invasion and occupation has had disastrous consequences. About 142.000 Greek Cypriots living in the north – nearly one quarter of the population of Cyprus – were forcibly expelled from the occupied northern part of the island where they constituted 80% of the population. These people are still deprived of the right to return to their homes and properties. A further 20.000 Greek Cypriots enclaved in the occupied area were gradually forced through intimidation and denial of their basic human rights to abandon their homes. Today there are fewer than 600 enclaved persons.

The invasion also had a disastrous impact on the Cyprus economy because 30% of the economically active population became unemployed and because of the loss of:

- 70% of the gross output
- 65% of the tourist accomodation capacity and 87% of hotel beds under construction
- 83% of the general cargo handling at Famagusta port
- 40% of school buildings
- 56% of mining and quarrying output
- about 41% of livestock production
- 48% of agricultural exports
- 46% of industrial production
- 20% of the state forests

Furthermore, Turkish forces occupied an area which accounted for 46% of crop production and much higher percentages of citrus fruit production (79%), cereals (68%), tobacco (100%), carobs (86%) and green fodder (65%).

About 1.500 Greek Cypriot civilians and soldiers disappeared during and after the invasion. Many had been arrested and some were seen in prisons in Turkey and Cyprus before their disappearance. All together 1.493 cases have been submitted to the Committee of Missing Persons for investigation but the fate of all but a handful remains unknown. To resolve this humanitarian issue it is essential to have Turkey's cooperation.

Turkey has also promoted the demographic change of the occupied territory through the implantation of Anatolian settlers. Since the invasion some 115.000 Turks from Turkey have been illegally imported in the occupied area.

The large influx of settlers has negatively affected the living conditions of the Turkish Cypriots. Poverty and unemployment has forced over 55.000 to emigrate and they now make up only 12% of the native population.

35.000 Turkish soldiers, equipped with the latest weapons and supported by the Turkish air force and navy, are still in the occupied area making it, according to the UN Secretary-General, Mr Boutros Boutros Ghali (December 1995), «one of the most densely militarised areas in the world».

The illegal regime in the occupied area is deliberately and methodically trying to eradicate every trace of the ancient cultural and historical heritage of the island as part of a policy to erase all evidence of its Cypriot character and Turkify the island. Specifically:

- at least 55 churches have been converted into mosques
- another 50 churches and monasteries have been converted into stables, stores, hostels, museums, or have been demolished
- the cemeteries of at least 25 villages have been desecrated and destroyed
- innumerable icons, religious artefacts and all kinds of archaeological treasures have been stolen and smuggled abroad
- illegal excavations and smuggling of antiquities is openly taking place all the time with the involvement of the occupying forces
- all Greek place names contrary to all historical and cultural reason were converted into Turkish ones.

The impenetrable «Attila line» («Operation Attila» was the code-name Turkey gave to the invasion of Cyprus) artificially divides the island and its people and prevents Cypriots from moving freely in their country.

On 15 November 1983 the Turkish-occupied area was unilaterally declared an independent «state». The international community, through UN Security Council Resolutions 541 of 1983 and 550 of 1984, condemned this unilateral declaration by the Turkish Cypriot regime, declared it both illegal and invalid, and called for its immediate revocation. To this day, no country in the world except Turkey has recognised this spurious entity.

In an effort to enhance the prospects for a settlement and safeguard the security of all Cypriots, President Clerides formally proposed on 17 December 1993 the total demilitarisation of Cyprus. He proposed the disbanding of the Cyprus National Guard and Turkish Cypriot armed forces who would hand their weapons and military equipment to UN Peace-keeping Force (UNFICYP). The Turkish occupying forces would also have to withdraw at the same time and UNFICYP would have the right of inspection to ascertain compliance with these measures. Turkey refused to consider the proposal and continues to maintain its military hold on the island.

UN-sponsored efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem have so far failed and the two sides remain divided over the nature of a settlement. The Greek Cypriot side insists on the creation of a bicomunal and bizonal federation with a strong central government that would ensure the unity of the state and preserve its sovereignty. Basic human rights, such as freedom of movement and residence and right to ownership, would be safeguarded. These positions are contained in the UN

resolutions and the 1977 and 1979 high-level agreements between President Makarios and Mr Denktash and President Kyprianou and Mr. Denktash.

The Turkish Cypriot leadership on the other hand is seeking the establishment of a confederation made up of two provinces with separate sovereignties which would have very loose links between them and in effect function as two independent states. The Greek Cypriots would have to forgo their human rights in the part of the island that would come under the Turkish Cypriot administration and Turkish troops and weapons would continue to be deployed in the north. These positions have been fully endorsed by Turkey.

The United Nations, with the backing of the USA, Britain and the other members of the Security Council, has emphasised that a fair and viable settlement must envisage a single state with one sovereignty and respect for human rights under a bicomunal and bizonal federal structure. It has, moreover, stressed the importance of demilitarisation.

Constitution

According to the Constitution of 1960 the government of Cyprus was constituted in the following manner. Executive power: Article 1 provides that the Republic will have a President who shall be a Greek Cypriot and a Vice-President who shall be a Turkish Cypriot, elected by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities respectively. The Constitution stipulates further that the President will appoint seven Greek Cypriot Ministers and the Vice-President three Turkish Cypriot Ministers.

Legislative power according to the Constitution is exercised by the House of Representatives comprising 50 Representatives, 70% (35) elected by the Greek Cypriot community and 30% (15) by the Turkish Cypriot community.

The administration of justice is carried out by the following judicial institutions: The Supreme Court, the Assize Court, the District Courts, the Military Court, the Rent Control Courts, Industrial Disputes Court and Family Courts.

The 1960 constitutional set up lasted for only three years. Following the Turkish Cypriot rebellion against the state in December 1963, the Turkish Cypriot leadership withdrew all members of the community from all the organs of the state.

In the executive branch, ministerial portfolios increased to 11 with the addition in 1965 of the Ministry of Education, which was later renamed Ministry of Education and Culture. In view of the withdrawal of the Turkish Cypriots from the Government, all Ministers are Greek Cypriots and are appointed by the President of the Republic. The post of Vice President remains vacant.

In the legislative branch the Turkish Cypriot representatives also withdrew from the House in 1963 and their posts remain vacant to this day. Under a special law the number of seats in the House of Representatives has increased to 80 (56 for Greek Cypriots, 24 for Turkish Cypriots). Changes have also taken place in the judiciary where, since 1965, all judges have belonged to the Greek Cypriot community.

Executive Power

The President and the Vice-President of the Republic were jointly responsible for establishing a Council of Ministers. Of three key ministries - foreign affairs, defence,

and finance, one was to be held by a Turkish Cypriot. The President and the Vice-President were also given the right to terminate the appointment of any Minister designated by themselves.

The President and the Vice-President of the Republic were granted considerable authority in relation to the legislature, including either conjointly or separately, a right of final veto on any law or decision of the House of Representatives relating to foreign affairs, defence and security. Furthermore, they had, either separately or conjointly, the right to return any law or decision of the House of Representatives, or any decision of the Council of Ministers.

The President and the Vice-President of the Republic were required to promulgate a law or decision of the House of Representatives by publication in the official Gazette of the Republic within 15 days of notification unless they chose to exercise their right of veto, their right to return the legislation or to refer it to the Supreme Constitutional Court for a ruling on its constitutionality.

The main organ for the exercise of the executive power under the 1960 Constitution is the Council of Ministers, which enjoys all the residuary of executive power other than that specifically reserved for the President and the Vice-President of the Communal Chambers.

Legislative Power

The legislative power of the Republic is exercised by the House of Representatives in all matters not expressly reserved for the Communal Chambers (Article 61). The 1960 Constitution stipulated that there should be 50 members of which 70%, that is to say 35, were to be elected by the Greek community and 30% that is to say 15, by the Turkish community. Under a special law passed in 1985, the number of seats in the House of Representatives was increased to 80. The representatives are elected for five years.

Under the 1960 Constitution, the President of the House of Representatives was to be a Greek Cypriot elected by the Greek Cypriot representatives, and the Vice-President a Turkish Cypriot elected by the Turkish Cypriot representatives. Both were to be elected, separately, at the same meeting, following parliamentary elections.

A simple majority vote of the members of the House of Representatives present is required for laws and decisions passed by the House of Representatives under the 1960 Constitution, except in the case of modification of the Electoral Law, the adoption of any law relating to the municipalities or of any law imposing duties or taxes. In such cases a separate simple majority of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot members of the House of Representatives is required (Article 78).

This last provision was one of the factors which eventually undermined the 1960 Constitution since it meant that one Turkish Cypriot Representative (if only two of them were present and voted) could, with a negative vote, block any of the aforementioned legislation - including that relating to taxation. Abuse of the separate voting provisions of the Constitution enabled Turkish Cypriot representatives to block a bill to extend taxation laws due to expire on 31 March 1961, thus leaving the Republic without taxation legislation for a time. On 18 December 1961, Turkish Cypriot representatives also voted against the Income Tax Bill, which authorised direct taxation. In both cases, the Turkish Cypriot representatives voted against the

legislation not because of their views on its content but in order to compel the Government to yield to their claims in areas having no connection with taxation at all.

Judicial Power

The administration of justice is exercised by the island's separate and independent judiciary. Under the 1960 Constitution and other legislation in force, the following judicial institutions have been established: The Supreme Court of the Republic, the Assize Court (Permanent Assize Court for all Districts), District Courts, the Military Court, the Industrial Disputes Court, Rent Control Courts and Family Courts.

The Supreme Court is composed of thirteen judges, one of whom is the President of the Court.

The Supreme Court adjudicates on all matters of constitutionality of legislation referred to it by the President of the Republic or arising in any judicial proceedings including complaints that any law or decision of the House of Representatives or the Budget is discriminatory; it also adjudicates on matters of conflict or contrast of power or competence between state organs and questions of interpretation of the Constitution in cases of ambiguity.

The Supreme Court is the final Appellate Court in the Republic and has jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals in civil and criminal cases from the Assize Court, District Courts as well as appeals from decisions of its own judges when sitting alone in the exercise of original and revisional jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

As a result of the enactment of the Courts of Justice (Amendment) Law 1991 (No. 136/91), a Permanent Assize Court has been constituted as from 6/5/91 which deals with cases within the jurisdiction of an Assize Court for all districts of Cyprus.

There is a District Court for each district. The District Courts exercise original criminal and civil jurisdiction including jurisdiction in admiralty cases referred to them by the Supreme Court and matrimonial cases.

Public Service of the Republic

The Public Service of the Republic under the 1960 settlement was to be comprised 70% of Greek Cypriots and 30% of Turkish Cypriots. A Public Service Commission consisting of a Chairman and nine other members - seven Greek Cypriots, and three Turkish Cypriots - appointed for a term of six years by the President and the Vice-President of the Republic, was also created. The Commission was given responsibility for allocating public offices between the two communities and appointing, promoting, transferring and retiring staff as well as exercising disciplinary control, including dismissal and removal from office.

Human Rights

The definition and protection of fundamental human rights and liberties was catered for in the London Agreement rather than the Zurich Agreement. Article 5 of the Treaty of Establishment of the Republic undertook to secure for everyone within its jurisdiction, human rights and fundamental freedoms comparable to those set out in Section 1 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, to which Cyprus is a party.

Part II of the Constitution sets out a broad range of human rights, including all eighteen rights provided by the European Convention and its Protocols. These cover both individual and social rights such as the right to life, prohibition of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, prohibition of slavery or forced or compulsory labour, the right to liberty and security of person, the fair and public hearing of civil and criminal trials, the right to privacy, the right to marry, the freedom of thought and expression, the right to property, the right to education and the right to effective remedy. Other rights include the right to a decent existence and social security, the right to work, the right to enter into any contract, the right to form and join trade unions, the right to strike, the right to address written petitions or complaints to the competent authorities for a remedy, and the right of equality before the law. Justice is guaranteed to any person without any direct or indirect discrimination.

Executive

Cyprus is an independent sovereign Republic with a presidential system of government.

Under the 1960 Constitution, executive power is vested in the President of the Republic, elected by universal suffrage to a five-year term of office. The President exercises executive power through a Council of Ministers appointed by him. The Ministers may be chosen from outside the House of Representatives.

Each Minister is the head of his Ministry and exercises executive power of all subjects within that Ministry's domain.

1998 Presidential Elections

In February 1998, Glafcos Clerides was re-elected President of the Republic. Clerides with the backing of his former party, the Democratic Rally, and independent candidate, George Iacovou, who was supported by AKEL and the Democratic Party were the winning contestants in the first round. In the run off election, Clerides won by a narrow majority, gaining 50.8% of the votes.

Legislature

The Legislative power of the Republic is exercised by the House of Representatives in all matters. The term of office of the House of Representatives is five years. Members of the government may not be members of the House of Representatives. The two offices are incompatible, and if a member of the House is appointed by the President to become a minister, he must relinquish his seat in the House. Both representatives and ministers have the right to introduce bills in the House. However, representatives are not permitted to introduce any bills related to an increase in budgetary expenditure.

The President of the Republic and the Vice-President have the right of veto on any law adopted by the House which concerns certain specified issues of foreign affairs, defence and security. As far as other types of legislation are concerned, the President and the Vice-President jointly or separately have only delaying power. They may return a law or a decision to the House. In such a case the House must again pronounce on the law within fifteen days or, if it concerns the budget, within 30 days. If the House persists in its decision, then the President and Vice-President are

bound to promulgate the law or decision in question by publishing it in the normal way in the Gazette of the Republic.

Membership of the House

Following a constitutional amendment in 1985, the House has 80 seats - 56 for Greek Cypriot and 24 for Turkish Cypriot representatives - with members elected by universal suffrage of adults over the age of 18. Direct and secret ballots are held on the same day for both communities. However, since 1964, Turkish Cypriot members have not attended the House, and no elections have been held among the Turkish Cypriot community in accordance with the Republic's Constitution. Despite this anomaly, the House has kept the seats allocated to the Turkish Cypriot community vacant. These seats remain at the disposal of Turkish Cypriot representatives should they be elected according to constitutional provisions.

Candidates for election to the House must be citizens of the Republic, must have attained the age of 25, must not have been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude or dishonesty and must not be incapacitated for reasons of mental health.

The Maronite, Armenian and Latin minorities also elect representatives who attend meetings, though without a right of participation in the deliberations. They are consulted in matters concerning the affairs of their religious groups. The current electoral law provides for a simple proportional representation system.

Procedures of the House

Ordinary sessions of the House of Representatives run from the beginning of September to July the following year. Meetings take place once a week, usually on Thursdays.

The House is in quorum when at least one-third of the total number of its members is present. The laws and the decisions of the House are passed by a simple majority vote of the members present.

Parliamentary Committees

The parliamentary committees are set up by the Committee of Selection which consists of the President of the House as chairman, the Vice-President of the House as vice-chairman, and eight other members elected by the House.

The committees of the House are representative in the sense that political parties are adequately represented in each committee in proportion to the total number of their seats in the House. The parliamentary committees of the House generally correspond to the ministries of the Government and are set up to consider every bill or private bill or any other particular matter that may be referred to them by the House. The committees have the right to summon any interested party, authority, organisation, society, association, trade union, person or corporate body to give information and evidence or to express and explain an opinion or view on any bill or subject under consideration.

The decisions of committees are taken by majority. In case of equality of votes the chairman or the member deputising for him has a second or casting vote. Quorum for the committees consists of at least one half of the total number of their members.

Parliamentary Elections

Eight parliamentary elections have taken place - in 1960, 1970, 1976, 1981, 1985, 1991, 1996 and 2001- since the establishment of the Republic.

2001 Parliamentary Elections

The eighth parliamentary elections took place on 27 May 2001. They were held under the system of proportional representation adopted in the 1996 elections, according to which a party receiving 1/56 of the valid votes or 1,79% elected a House member. The new voting system encouraged the participation of more parties in the elections. The following political parties took part in the 2001 elections – ADIK (FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT), AKEL- Left-New Forces, DIKO (DEMOCRATIC PARTY), DISY (DEMOCRATIC RALLY), EDI (UNITED DEMOCRATS), ECOLOGISTS, KISOS (SOCIAL DEMOCRATS MOVEMENT), NEW HORIZONS.

Islandwide Final Results

Registered voters	467.543
Abstentions	38.562 (8,25%)
Votes cast	428.981 (91,75%)
Valid votes	410.987 (95,81%)
Invalid votes	10.188 (2,37%)
Blank votes	7.806 (1,82%)

Party	Votes	%	Seats
ADIK (FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT)	8.860	2,16	1
AKEL- LEFT-NEW FORCES	142.648	34,71	20
DIKO (DEMOCRATIC PARTY)	60.986	14,84	9
DISY (DEMOCRATIC RALLY)	139.721	34,00	19
EDI (UNITED DEMOCRATS)	10.635	2,59	1
ECOLOGISTS	8.129	1,98	1
KISOS (MOVEMENT SOCIAL DEMOCRATS)	26.767	6,51	4
NEW HORIZONS	12.333	3,00	1
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES	908	0,21	-

Parliamentary Political Parties

1. Progressive Party of Working People - AKEL

(Anorthotiko Komma Ergazomenou Laou)

Left wing party, founded in 1941, based on Marxist-Leninist principles, taking into account current international political and economic developments.

It supports an independent, demilitarised and non-aligned Cyprus, and a federal solution of the internal aspect of the Cyprus problem. It places particular emphasis on rapprochement with the Turkish Cypriots. It supports entry into the European Union with certain reservations.

The party secured 34,71% of the votes in the 27 May 2001 elections (gained 1 seat, +1,71%), gaining 20 seats in the House of Representatives.

The party is successor to the Communist Party of Cyprus which held its first congress in 1926 but was declared illegal by the British authorities in 1931. Constituted in 1941, AKEL absorbed the Communist Party. It was declared illegal during the anti-colonial struggle from 1955 to 1959.

* MHR: Member of House of Representatives

2. Democratic Rally - DISY

(Dimokratikos Synagermos)

Right wing party founded in 1976.

Member of the European People's Party, Christian Democrat International, European Democrat Union, and International Democrat Union.

It supports Cyprus' accession to the European Union and advocates greater involvement by the EU and the international community in the search for a settlement of the Cyprus problem within the framework of the EU *acquis communautaire* and on the basis of a bizonal, bicomunal federation.

The party secured 34% of the votes in the 27 May 2001 elections (lost 1 seat, 0,47%), gaining 19 seats in the House of Representatives.

3. Democratic Party- DIKO

(Dimokratiko Komma)

Centre right party founded in 1976.

It supports a settlement of the Cyprus problem based on UN resolutions, Cyprus' entry into the European Union and a strong defence. It has accepted the idea of federation.

The party secured 14,84% of the votes (lost 1 seat in the 27 May 2001 elections, - 1,59%), gaining 9 seats in the House of Representatives.

4. Movement of Social Democrats - KISOS

(Kinima Sosialdimokraton)

The party officially succeeded the Socialist Party EDEK* on 20/2/2000. It is a member of the European Socialist Party and Socialist International.

It supports an independent and united Cyprus within a federal system with a strong central government and a settlement based on UN resolutions and the implementation of human rights for all its citizens. It also supports Cyprus' accession to the European Union which it considers a top priority.

The party secured 6,51% of the votes in the 27 May 2001 elections (lost 1 seat, - 1,62%), gaining 4 seats in the House of Representatives.

*(The Socialist Party EDEK was originally founded as EDEK in 1969 by the honorary President of KISOS Dr Vassos Lyssarides who was President of EDEK and later KISOS until July 22, 2001. EDEK is a Greek acronym for National Democratic Union of Cyprus.)

5. New Horizons – NE.O

(Nei Orizontes)

It supports the establishment of a unitary state and is opposed to the establishment of a bizonal, bicomunal federation based on ethnic criteria. It also supports Cyprus' entry into the European Union.

It secured 3% of the votes in the 27 May 2001 elections (+1,29%), gaining 1 seat. It has entered the House of Representatives for the first time.

6. United Democrats - EDI

(Enomeni Dimokrates)

Party of the centre, founded on 1 December 1996. It participates as an associate member in the European Liberal Democrats (ELDR). It advocates the creation of a federation and a settlement based on UN resolutions. It supports Cyprus' entry into the European Union.

The party secured 2,59% of the votes in the 27 May 2001 elections (lost 1 seat, - 2,54%), gaining 1 seat in the House of Representatives.

(The Movement of Free Democrats (KED) led by Mr George Vassiliou and the Democratic Socialist Reform Movement (ADISOK) of Mr Michalis Papapetrou merged on 1 December 1996 to form the United Democrats. KED had secured 3,69% of the votes and won two seats in the May 1996 elections. ADISOK had received 1,44% of the votes and no seats).

7. Fighting Democratic Movement - ADIK

(Agonistiko Dimokratiko Kinima)

Party of the centre right founded in March 1999. (Its President was formerly a member of the Democratic Party)

It supports an independent and united Cyprus and a settlement based on UN resolutions. It considers Cyprus' entry into the European Union a top priority.

It secured 2,16% of the votes in the 27 May 2001 elections, gaining 1 seat. The party has entered the House of Representatives for the first time.

8. Ecological-Environmental Movement

(Kinima Ekologon-Perivallontiston)

Also calling it self the Cyprus Green Party the Ecological - Environmental Movement is run by a 7-member Committee and members act as the General Coordinator in turn.

The party, founded in March 1996, is a member of the European Federation of Green Parties.

It is opposed to any geographical division of the island and the people of Cyprus based on ethnic origin or religion and supports Cyprus' entry into the European Union. It is not in favour of any arms build-up.

It secured 1,98% of the votes in the 27 May 2001 elections (+0,98%), gaining 1 seat. It has entered the House of Representatives for the first time.

Administration

Cyprus is divided into six administrative districts. These are Nicosia (the island's capital and seat of government), Famagusta, Limassol, Paphos, Larnaca and Kyrenia.

District Administration

Each district is headed by a District Officer who is essentially the local representative or extended arm of the central government. The District Officer holds a position analogous to Prefect in France or Commissioner in some other countries. The District Officer acts as the chief-coordinator of the activities of all ministries in the district. District Officers report and are answerable to the Ministry of the Interior, which is headed by a Permanent Secretary as chief administrator.

Local Authorities

The general local administrative structure in Cyprus operates through a 3-tier system, with municipal councils at the top, improvement boards in the middle and village commissions at the lowest level. These are independent bodies responsible for the management of affairs in their respective areas and there is no hierarchical relationship between them. Municipalities provide the local government for district towns and a number of large villages, while improvement boards and village commissions constitute the local structures in all remaining villages. Economically stronger villages whose communities are able to shoulder heavier burdens and responsibilities are promoted to the intermediate level of Improvement Boards, whose functions and authorities are wider.

Members of the above bodies are elected by universal suffrage of citizens over 18 years old. Central government involvement is essentially limited to the provision of technical and administrative support and supervision.

Law and Order

Cyprus Police

The Cyprus Police has a history of over one century. Its structure is basically identical to that of the British Police Service and most of the existing rules and regulations are based on British laws due to the fact that Cyprus was a British colony from 1878 until 1960.

The main duties of the Police are the maintenance of law and order throughout the Republic, the preservation of peace, the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the protection of the population and public installations, the improvement in the movement of road traffic and the reduction in road accidents.

Prisons

The Prisons Department operates under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. It comprises a closed prison, an open prison and a guidance centre for outside employment and rehabilitation, as well as a prison for women, all located in the same area in Nicosia.

The daily average prison population for the year 2000 was about 300 inmates. Nearly 35% were foreigners.

The safe custody of the prisoners and their humane treatment as well as the application of a number of programmes through which efforts are made to encourage and promote the rehabilitation of the prisoners constitute part of the government's policy.

In accordance with the statistics of the Council of Europe, Cyprus has one of the lowest incarceration rates among the member-states of the Council of Europe. This is mainly due to the fact that criminality in Cyprus has been kept at comparatively low levels.

Independent Officers and Bodies

A number of officers and bodies are independent and do not come under any Ministry. The independent officers of the Republic under the Constitution are the Attorney-General and Auditor-General, who head the Law Office and Audit Office respectively, and the Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus. The Ombudsman is also an independent officer of the Republic whose position, however, was created much later, in 1991.

The bodies with independent functions include the Public Service Commission, the Educational Service Commission and the Planning Bureau.

Attorney-General of the Republic

The Attorney-General of the Republic is appointed by the President of the Republic from among lawyers of high professional and moral standard, and holds office until the age of sixty-eight.

The Attorney-General who takes precedence over all other persons appearing before any Court, is the Head of the Law Office of the Republic which is an independent office and is not under any Ministry. The Attorney-General is the legal adviser of the Republic, of the President, of the Council of Ministers and of the Ministers. He has the power, exercisable at his discretion in the public interest, to institute, conduct, take over, continue or discontinue any criminal proceedings.

Furthermore, the President's constitutional prerogative of remission, suspension or commutation of any sentence passed by a Court in the Republic is exercised on the recommendation of the Attorney-General.

The Attorney-General is Chairman of the Advocates Disciplinary Board and of the Legal Board.

Auditor-General of the Republic

The Auditor-General of the Republic is appointed, according to the Constitution, by the President of the Republic.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic, the Auditor-General is responsible for the control of all disbursements and receipts and the audit and inspection of all accounts of moneys and other assets administered and of liabilities incurred by or under the authority of the Republic. He/she is also responsible, pursuant to the provisions of the respective laws or by administrative arrangements, for the audit of the accounts of Statutory Bodies, Local Authorities, Special Funds and other agencies. The Auditor-General may also examine and report on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which any department, authority or other auditee has used its resources in discharging its functions.

The Ombudsman

The Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) is appointed by the President of the Republic on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers and following the approval of the House of Representatives.

The basic function of the Ombudsman is to review, after the submission of a complaint, an action of the administration either because it has violated one of the fundamental rights and liberties of the individual, or because the action complained of is contrary to law or the principles of proper administration.

The Ombudsman prepares a report in respect of any case for which an investigation has been conducted by him. The report is submitted to the administrative authority involved, with copy to the complainant. If the complaint is found to be valid, recommendations for remedying the situation are made. In the case where the administration does not comply with the suggestions made in the report, the Ombudsman may submit the so-called Special Report to the Council of Ministers and the House of Representatives, in which the administration's non-compliance is denounced. Further measures are taken by the Council of Ministers and the House of Representatives.

The Public Service Commission

The Public Service Commission is a constitutional body duty-bound to appoint, confirm, emplace on the permanent establishment, promote, transfer, second, retire and exercise disciplinary control over public officers (civil servants), including dismissal or removal from office.

The Commission has a Chairman and four other members appointed by the President of the Republic for a six-year term.

The Educational Service Commission

The Educational Service Commission has the duty to appoint, confirm, place in permanent posts, promote, transfer, second, retire and exercise disciplinary control over the educationalists of all levels serving in public schools and institutions including dismissal or compulsory retirement.

The Educational Service Commission has a Chairman and four other members appointed by the Council of Ministers for a six year term.

The Planning Bureau

The formulation and implementation of economic and social development policy in Cyprus has been based, from the very start of the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus, on the institution of indicative planning. According to the concept of indicative planning, economic activity is by and large the domain of private initiative, whereas the government's role is concentrated on the creation of the necessary economic and social infrastructure, the cultivation of a favourable entrepreneurial climate, and the simultaneous guiding of the private sector towards the desired directions, as well as the administration of social policy.

The medium-term development policy of the government is presented in the Development Plans, which include macroeconomic and sectoral policy, covering all economic and social sectors and activities of both the public and the private sector, always within the framework of indicative planning. The main instruments for the implementation of the Plan at the government level are the annual Development Budget, which reflects the investment and development expenditure programme of the public sector, and the appropriate macroeconomic and sectoral policies.

The Island's International Position

The Republic of Cyprus became an independent sovereign state on 16 August 1960. Soon after independence the Republic became a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Council of Europe. Following on, Cyprus became a member of other international organisations, including the Organisation on Security and Cooperation in Europe, formally the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In 1990, the Government of the Republic submitted Cyprus' application for accession to the European Union. Following successive decisions of the European Union in favour of Cyprus' application and future membership, Cyprus today is conducting accession negotiations aiming at completion in 2002.

In 1974, Turkey, in violation of international law and the United Nations Charter, invaded Cyprus and since then continues to illegally occupy, by the use of military force about 35% of the Republic's territory. The international community has stated categorically its support for the internationally recognised sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus over the whole of its territory, including the occupied part. United Nations resolutions reaffirm, inter alia, the right of the Republic of Cyprus and its people to full and effective control over the entire territory of Cyprus and natural and other resources and call upon all states to support and help the Government of the Republic to exercise these rights (United Nations General Assembly resolution 37/253, of 13 May 1983 adopted during the last recourse).

In 1983 the occupation regime arbitrarily and unilaterally declared the independence of the occupied part of Cyprus. The Security Council of the United Nations by its

resolution 541(1983) deplored this declaration, considered it as legally invalid and called for its withdrawal. Furthermore, by its resolution 550(1984), the Security Council condemned all secessionist actions and called upon all states not to recognise the purported state of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" and not to facilitate or in any way assist the secessionist entity.

By the same resolutions as well as by a number of other resolutions the United Nations called upon the international community not to recognise any Cypriot state other than that of the Republic of Cyprus and to respect its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity.

The independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the legality of its internationally recognised Government have been recognised repeatedly in numerous resolutions and decisions of other international bodies too, such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement, etc. The international community, with the sole exception of Turkey which prompted the purported declaration of independence of the occupied part, recognises only one state in Cyprus, the Republic of Cyprus and its legal Government.

United Nations

Cyprus is a member of the United Nations since 20 September 1960. Cyprus firmly believes in the primacy of the United Nations and its Charter. Through its membership and participation in the UN bodies, Cyprus contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The Security Council, the General Assembly and other bodies of the United Nations, such as the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, UNESCO, etc., have been seized with the question of Cyprus and have adopted numerous resolutions on all aspects of the problem over the years.

Landmark resolution 3212 (XXIX) of 1 November 1974, which was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly including the positive vote of Turkey and subsequently unanimously endorsed by the Security Council (resolution 365 of 13 December 1974) calls, inter alia, for the respect of the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus, for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign armed forces from the Republic, the cessation of all foreign interference and for the taking of urgent measures for the return of the refugees to their homes in safety.

Subsequent resolutions of the Security Council and of the General Assembly contain all the essential elements for the solution of the Cyprus problem. They reaffirm the principled position of the international community in support of the unity of the Republic of Cyprus, its recognition of the Cyprus government and its condemnation of the declaration of the purported secession of part of the Republic, which it considers legally invalid and has called for its withdrawal.

In its resolution 939 of 29 July 1994, the Security Council "reaffirms its position that a Cyprus settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded and comprising two politically equal communities as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions in a bicomunal and bizonal federation, and that such a settlement must exclude union in whole or in part with any other

country or any form of partition or secession". This position has been reiterated in subsequent United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Cyprus has been an active member of the United Nations having been elected periodically to numerous committees and bodies of the United Nations including the Economic and Social Council. Additionally, Cypriot officials have served on numerous committees in their personal capacity, including the Human Rights Committee, International Law Commission and Special Committee on the Charter of the UN and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organisation.

Cyprus is also a member of the United Nations specialised agencies and other autonomous bodies including the:

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO),
International Labour Organisation (ILO),
International Maritime Organisation (IMO),
International Monetary Fund (IMF),
UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
World Health Union (WHO) and
World Trade Organisation (WTO)

It is furthermore a member of the:

International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD),
International Development Association (IDA) and
International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Cyprus is presently not a member of the Economic and Social Council, which is composed of 54 member states. It nevertheless attends its annual sessions as an observer.

Regional Economic Commissions: Cyprus is a member of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

Council of Europe

Cyprus is a member of the Council of Europe since May 1961 and participates in all its bodies and organs, including the Parliamentary Assembly.

Cyprus has always contributed actively to the implementation of the Council's principles and values, particularly in the field of safeguarding and promoting of human and social rights. Cypriot experts participate in most of the Council's specialised Committees and their contribution has been widely acknowledged.

The Council, responding to Cyprus' applications, has found Turkey, through the relevant reports of the European Commission of Human Rights, responsible for serious violations of the European Convention on Human Rights in the part of Cyprus occupied by Turkey. Also in a landmark decision on 10 May 2001 the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe found Turkey guilty of gross violations of human rights in Cyprus arising from the 1974 invasion. In a judgement passed by 16 votes to one - the dissenting vote being Turkey – the Strasbourg Court rules that Turkey has violated 14 articles of the European Convention on Human Rights involving, inter alia, the living conditions of the Greek Cypriots enclaved in the occupied part of the island, Turkey's refusal to investigate the fate of the missing persons and the right of the displaced persons to return to their homes. Moreover in another judgment on 18 December 1996 concerning the case of Titina Loizidou, a

Greek Cypriot woman, the European Court of Human Rights held that the denial to the applicant of access to her property in the Turkish occupied territories of Cyprus and the loss of control of her property, was imputable to Turkey and its subordinate local administration. In fact, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Loizidou remains the legal owner of her property, in Kyrenia, and that by not allowing her access to her property, Turkey is in violation of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights. Turkey has so far refused to comply with its obligations under the European Law of Human Rights.

Close cooperation exists also between Cyprus and the Council of Europe in the fields of education, culture and health as well as on many other technical and specialised matters.

Cyprus has assumed the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the top executive body of the Council, four times since its accession to the organisation.

Organisation on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Cyprus is one of the 35 signator states of the Final Act concluded in Helsinki in 1975, and an active participant in the process of then Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) which on 1st January 1995 became an international organisation under the name Organisation on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Since the conception of the CSCE in the early, 1970's, Cyprus, together with the other neutral and non-aligned (N+N) states of Europe, have striven to make the CSCE a process of common European progress, where the division between East and West would gradually diminish and eventually disappear. Cyprus was a founding member of the group of the N+N countries, which assumed the role of bridge-building between the opposing interests of East and West.

The CSCE Conference in Vienna, which took place from November 1986 to January 1989, and its Concluding Document marked the new era in European relations following the rapprochement between East and West. Cyprus has made its contribution to the achievement of the results of the Vienna Conference promoting the finding of solutions to important issues such as the military security in Europe, the Mediterranean, the environment and the principles guiding relations between states.

In the field of the ten principles guiding the relations between states, known as the Helsinki Decalogue, Cyprus has promoted the adoption of new and concrete obligations concerning the territorial integrity of states and human rights. In particular the adoption in the Vienna Concluding Document of provisions for the non-recognition of situations which violate the territorial integrity of a state and the recognition of the right of all refugees to return to their homes in safety, underlines the influence of the Cypriot stand in these fields.

In the Budapest Summit of December 1994, President Clerides made concrete suggestions for the enhancement of the effectiveness of the OSCE in conflict prevention, crisis management and peace keeping. A proposal of Cyprus at the Budapest Conference for a closer cooperation between the OSCE and the other European Organisations, such as the Council of Europe, was adopted.

Cyprus and the Commonwealth

Cyprus became a member of the Commonwealth in 1961, soon after attaining its independence. It has been actively participating in all Commonwealth activities which cover cooperation in fields as varied as economic development, agriculture and food production, industry, law, education, health, youth, women's affairs, science, public management, parliamentary affairs and the professions.

Cyprus is firmly committed to the principles and ideals of the Commonwealth. They provide a basis for international understanding and world peace. Cyprus will continue to cooperate closely with the other members in the common interest of their people and for social justice and economic progress among its members and in the wider world.

The Commonwealth has consistently supported Cyprus in its struggle for a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) have repeatedly expressed the Commonwealth's collective support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. It has repeatedly called for the implementation of United Nations Resolutions on Cyprus. It has condemned the illegal Turkish secessionist acts in the occupied area of Cyprus and all attempts aimed at altering the demographic structure of Cyprus. It has stressed the importance of securing compliance with all the UN resolutions on Cyprus and in particular it emphasised the need for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces and settlers from the Republic of Cyprus, the return of the refugees to their homes in safety, the restoration and respect for the human rights of all Cypriots and the accounting for those missing and that the demand for recognition of a separate state in the occupied part of Cyprus is unacceptable. This was reiterated at the last CHOGM held in Durban, South Africa in 1999.

Cyprus and the Non-aligned Movement

Cyprus joined the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) directly after its independence.

The Non-Aligned Movement has been a constant supporter of a just and viable solution of the Cyprus problem and in this regard, the Movement established a Contact Group to render support to the efforts for a solution.

NAM's Declarations on Cyprus contain all the vital elements which are needed for a solution of the Cyprus problem.

The Heads of State and Government Meeting, held in Durban, South Africa from on 29 August to 3 September 1998, reiterated «support for the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus». They called once again for the withdrawal of all occupation forces and settlers, the return of the refugees to their homes in conditions of safety, the restoration of and respect for human rights of all Cypriots and the accounting for all missing persons.

The Heads of State and Government reiterated that the status quo in Cyprus, created and maintained by the use of force, is unacceptable and underlined the importance and urgency by the effective implementation of all United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions.

The Durban Conclusions also recognised the fact that no progress had been achieved in the search for a just and viable solution because of Turkish intransigence.

Non Proliferation and Disarmament Issues

Cyprus became a member of two important Export Control Regimes, the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Australia Group in June and October 2000, respectively. Thus Cyprus joined her forces with the other member states in the effort to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Cyprus has signed or is a party to all the major disarmament related treaties or conventions.

At the Threshold of the European Union

European Union

Since the early 70s Cyprus has established and maintained excellent relations with the European Union. The Republic of Cyprus was among the first countries which signed an Association Agreement with the then European Economic Community.

In 1971 the government of Cyprus entered into negotiations with the Community which led to the signing on 19 December 1972 of an Association Agreement between the two parties. The final goal of the Agreement was the establishment, in two stages and within a period of ten years, of a Customs Union between Cyprus and the EEC. The Agreement came into force on 1 June 1973.

The Turkish invasion of 1974 and occupation of about 35% of Cyprus' territory and the subsequent catastrophic effects on the economy of the country delayed the normal development of the Association Agreement and in particular the actual implementation of its second stage.

After successive extensions of the first stage, a Protocol for the second stage of the Association Agreement was signed in Luxembourg on 19 October 1987, thus paving the way towards the progressive realisation of a Customs Union between the two parties. The Protocol came into force on 1 January 1988.

In accordance with the provisions of this Protocol, the Customs Union between Cyprus and the EU should be completed by the year 2002 or 2003 at the latest. During this period of time the parties to the agreement are required to eliminate all tariffs and quantitative restrictions on all manufactured goods and on a number of agricultural products. In parallel Cyprus will adopt progressively the Common Customs Tariff (CCT) of the Union.

The first phase of the Customs Union was completed on 1 January 1998 and the second phase of the Customs Union is expected to be completed by the year 2002 or 2003.

Cyprus' Accession Course

The starting point of Cyprus' accession course was the application for accession to the EU filed in July 1990. Following the positive Avis (Opinion) of the European Commission in June 1993, the prospects for the accession of Cyprus to the European family took shape. The Avis recognised the island's «European identity and character» and its «vocation to belong to the Community» and considered Cyprus as «eligible for membership». The decisions of the European Council at Corfu (June 1994) and Essen (December 1994), which defined that the next enlargement phase of the EU would include Cyprus and Malta, are also considered to be of great importance. Next, the Council of Ministers of the fifteen member

countries, with its landmark decision of March 1995, determined that accession negotiations with Cyprus would begin six months after the completion on the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference.

At all subsequent summits of the European Council, the above were repeatedly reaffirmed. The completion of the Intergovernmental Conference in mid 1997 led to concrete positions by the European Union as regards the enlargement process and to the reinforcement of the pre-accession strategy for the benefit of all applicant countries.

The climax of the deliberations to secure the accession course of Cyprus was the decision taken at the European Council of Helsinki (December 1999) to dissociate the decision for the accession of Cyprus to the EU from a solution to its political problem.

In view of the beginning of accession negotiations the former President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. George Vassiliou was appointed, in March 1998, Chief Negotiator for the Negotiations for the Accession of Cyprus to the European Union and Coordinator of the Harmonisation Process. In this capacity, he assumed the overall responsibility for the guidance and management of the negotiations, the supervision and coordination of the harmonisation process and the conducting of the necessary dialogue with the House of Representatives and the private sector.

Accession Negotiations

According to the procedural arrangements set by the European Commission, the accession negotiations are to be conducted in two phases. The first phase consists of the analytical examination of the *acquis communautaire* - the body of law and institutional framework of the European Union: (acquis screening), while the second one covers the substantial accession negotiations.

The first above began in April 1998 and was completed by the end of 1999. The second phase of substantial negotiations began in November 1998 and all 29 chapters have been provisionally closed. The harmonisation process is expected to be fully completed by January 2003.

The EU expects it will be «in a position to welcome those new member states which are ready as from the end of 2002, in the hope that they will be able to take part in the next European Parliament elections» according to the European Council Nice Summit conclusions of 9 December 2000.

Latest Developments

The Seville European Council (21-22 June 2002) reaffirmed the determination of the European Union to conclude accession negotiations with Cyprus, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia by the end of 2002, if these countries are ready and reiterated that the objective remains that these countries should participate in the elections for the European Parliament in 2004 as full members.

The Seville European Council also reaffirmed that the Helsinki conclusions are the basis of the European Union's position regarding Cyprus and noted that the EU's

preference was for the accession of a reunited island. The Seville European Council expressed its full support for the efforts of the UN Secretary General and called upon the leaders of the two communities on the island «to intensify and expedite their talks in order to seize this unique window of opportunity for a comprehensive settlement, consistent with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, hopefully before conclusion of the negotiations».

The 2002 Regular Report on Cyprus' Progress Towards Accession (9 October 2002) notes that Cyprus (and Malta) are the only two candidate countries that, to date fulfill both the political and the economic Copenhagen criteria and reiterated the conclusions of the 2001 Report, adding that Cyprus has achieved robust economic growth during the year under review.

In its 2002 Report, the Commission finds that Cyprus has achieved a good degree of alignment with the *acquis* in most areas and is advanced towards reaching adequate administrative capacity to implement the *acquis* in a considerable number of fields. It also notes that Cyprus is, generally meeting the commitments it has made in the accession negotiations and concludes: «Bearing in mind the progress achieved since the 1998 Regular Report, the level of alignment that Cyprus has achieved at this point in time and its track record in implementing the commitments it has made in the negotiations, the Commission considers that Cyprus will be able to assume the obligations of membership in accordance with the envisaged timeframe».

Participation of Cyprus in EU Policies

A. European Common Security and Defence Policy

As stated in the conclusions of the Helsinki European Council, the Union will ensure the necessary dialogue, consultation and cooperation with NATO and its non-EU members, other countries who are candidates for accession to the EU as well as other prospective partners in EU-led crisis management operations. In accordance to this decision, Cyprus participated in the follow-up to the Capabilities Commitment Conference, held in Brussels on 21 November 2000, where all countries which are candidates for accession to the EU and non-EU European NATO members announced their contributions to improve European Military capabilities.

B. Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

Equipped with its complementary European and Mediterranean identities, Cyprus participates actively in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, which remains the main and comprehensive policy of the EU in the Mediterranean region since 1985. The aims of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership are: (1) to establish a common Euro-Mediterranean area of peace and stability, based on fundamental principles including respect for human rights and democracy, (2) to create an area of shared prosperity through the progressive establishment of a free-trade area between the EU and its 12 Mediterranean partners, and (3) to develop human resources, promote understanding between cultures and rapprochement of the people in the Euro-Mediterranean region, as well as to develop free and flourishing civil societies.

EU and the Cyprus Problem

On the question of Cyprus, the EU has taken a clear and firm position in support of a solution that respects the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of

the country, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the high-level agreements. The EU position that the status quo imposed by the Turkish invasion of 1974 and the continued occupation by Turkish troops of about 35% of the island's territory is unacceptable, was stated in the Dublin European Council Declaration (26.6.90), the Lisbon European Council Conclusions (27.6.92), and was repeated on numerous other occasions.

The government of Cyprus believes that the country's accession process can facilitate efforts of finding a solution to the political problem of Cyprus, a belief which is largely shared by the EU. In the words of Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides, during the opening ceremony for the enlargement process on 30 March 1998, «this process and the prospect of EU membership which will benefit the population of Cyprus in its entirety, will act as a catalyst, inducing all sides to work for an early solution».

Along these lines, the Helsinki European Council in December 1999 reiterated, in its conclusions, its «strong support for the UN Secretary-General's efforts to bring the process to a successful conclusion», and stated categorically that the solution of the Cyprus problem does not constitute a pre-condition for Cyprus' accession to the European Union.

The government of Cyprus has always favoured the involvement of the Turkish Cypriot community in the process of accession. With this position as a given, the European Council of Luxembourg requested that «the willingness of the government of Cyprus to include representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community in the accession negotiating delegation be acted upon», and called on the Presidency and the Commission to undertake the necessary contacts towards this aim.

In the spirit of the Luxembourg conclusions and the policy of the Cyprus government, the President of the Republic Mr Clerides extended, in March 1998, an invitation to the Turkish Cypriot community to nominate representatives to be included as full members of the Cypriot team negotiating accession. The invitation was communicated by the British Presidency to the Turkish Cypriot leadership, but was rejected out of hand. The EU Presidency, as well as the member states welcomed President Clerides' invitation and expressed their hope that it would be duly considered in the future. The invitation remains open. In the words of Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides, in his speech during the accession negotiations, «it is our wish that our Turkish Cypriot compatriots work with us and share with us the task of preparing Cyprus for accession and enjoy with us the benefits».

Introduction

Cyprus has a record of successful economic performance, reflected in rapid growth, full employment conditions and external and internal stability, almost throughout the post-independence period. The underdeveloped economy, inherited from Colonial Rule in 1960, has been transformed into a modern economy, with dynamic services, industrial and agricultural sectors and advanced physical and social infrastructure. In terms of per capita income, currently estimated at US\$13.125 (2000), Cyprus is classified among the high-income countries. These achievements appear all the more striking, bearing in mind the severe economic and social dislocation created by the Turkish invasion of 1974 and the continuing occupation of the northern part of the island by Turkey.

The success of Cyprus in the economic sphere is attributed, inter alia, to the adoption of a market oriented economic system, the pursuance of sound macroeconomic policies by the government as well as the existence of a dynamic and flexible entrepreneurship and a highly educated labour force. Moreover, the economy has benefited from the close cooperation between the public sector and the social partners.

During the last decade, the Cyprus economy intensified its links to Europe. The relations with the European Union, the largest trading partner of Cyprus, are currently governed by a Customs Union Agreement, which basically provides for a gradual and mutual dismantling of trade barriers. In July 1990, the government of the Republic of Cyprus submitted an application to become a full member of the European Union. The European Commission, in its opinion on the application of Cyprus, recognised the ability of the Cyprus economy to adapt rapidly to the *acquis communautaire*.

In 2000 the Cyprus economy registered a growth rate of 5% which is considered satisfactory compared with the growth rates of the EU and the world economy. Full employment conditions continued to prevail as the employment rate was only 3,3%. Inflation rate accelerated to 4,1% due to higher international oil prices and the serious drought which affected the agricultural sector. The fiscal deficit declined to 3,5% and it is in line with the targets for macroeconomic convergence with the Maastricht Criteria.

Developments in 2001

For the fourth consecutive year, the Cyprus economy in 2001 recorded a satisfactory rate of growth. The main factors that contributed to this development were the generally favourable climate among consumers and investors during the first eight months of 2001, i.e. the period that preceded the terrorist attacks in the USA on the 11th of September, further rises in disposable income, the large increase of the per capita tourist expenditure and the further exploitation of the comparative advantages of Cyprus in the services sectors, other than tourism. Additional contributing factors were the decline in international oil prices, which implied a terms of trade gain for oil importing countries, such as Cyprus, as well as the more favourable weather conditions for agricultural production.

A factor restraining growth of the Cyprus economy was the less favourable external environment particularly after the events of the 11th of September in the USA and the subsequent military operations in Afghanistan, which created an international climate of insecurity and affected adversely in particular the external demand for tourist services in the last four months of 2001.

More specifically, the rate of economic growth reached 4%, in real terms, in 2001, following a rate of growth of 5,1% in 2000. From the demand side, the main engines of growth were the further expansion of the external demand for services, including tourist services, despite the generally less favourable external environment, as well as the expansion of domestic demand.

The external demand for goods and services expanded by a rate exceeding 4%, in real terms, as compared to 9,1% in 2000. Given the adverse external environment, the satisfactory expansion of the external demand is, inter alia, attributed to the further development of international business in Cyprus and the comparatively significant increase of the per capita tourist expenditure. The considerable rise in per capita tourist expenditure may represent the success of the efforts aimed at upgrading and enriching the tourist product of Cyprus and attracting higher income

tourists. Other factors contributing to the expansion of external demand were the significant increase in the volume of agricultural exports, due to the favourable weather conditions, as well as the substantial rise in the volume of re-exports. In contrast, the volume of domestic exports of manufactured products showed a small decline, owing mainly to the adverse external environment, the problems of competitiveness of the clothing and footwear sub-sectors as well as other exogenous factors. Concerning the latter, for example, the significant expansion of the domestic demand for cement owing to the recovery of the construction sector led to a fall in the volume of cement available for export.

The expansion of the domestic demand, in particular private consumption and gross fixed capital formation, is mainly attributed to the generally favourable expectations that prevailed among consumers and investors. The positive effects of the decrease of the nominal and real interest rates during 2001 are expected to have their most discernible impact in 2002, given the time lag required for the economic agents to adjust their behaviour.

The rate of increase of private consumption decelerated in 2001 to around 5%, in real terms, following the large increase of 8,7% in 2000. The still relatively rapid growth of private consumption was mainly attributed to the increase of employment and the real disposable income, as well as to an anticipated increase in the VAT rate. The latter boosted the purchases of durable consumer goods, such as cars and furniture during the second half of 2001 and electrical appliances during the last quarter of the year. The maintenance of a relatively high rate of increase of private consumption, despite the sharp fall of the stock exchange index during 2000 and 2001, may be due to the fact that over 75% of the purchases of shares by households were financed by own funds destined for "future, unspecified for the time being needs of the family".

The rate of expansion of public consumption, excluding defence, was limited to around 2%, in real terms in 2001, mainly as a result of the containment of public employment within the framework of the implementation of the fiscal consolidation programme.

Gross fixed capital formation rose by around 1,5%, in real terms, in 2001, following an increase of 4,6% in 2000. Excluding the purchases of ships and aircrafts, the increase during 2001 was greater and amounted to almost 4%, as compared to 2,1% in the previous year. The continued expansion of investment demand is mainly attributed to the generally positive business climate that prevailed among investors and more particularly to the recovery of investment activity for construction works, due to the increased interest by the private sector for investment in residential and commercial buildings and tourist accommodation. Fixed investment in machinery and equipment increased strongly, reflecting mainly the efforts for modernisation of the business units and their adjustment to the conditions of intensified competition, as well as the channelling of funds obtained through the stock exchange market to fixed investment of machinery and equipment. Fixed investment in transport equipment, excluding the purchase of ships and aircrafts, recorded a relatively high rate of expansion, a development which reflects the increased need for replacing the existing transport equipment following the subdued investment demand for transport equipment observed during the previous two years.

From the supply side, the robust growth of the Cyprus economy continued to be mainly based on a wide range of tertiary sectors and in particular the sectors of telecommunications, real estate activities and business and other social services, wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants and financial services. In total, the

value added of the tertiary sectors of services increased at a rate of almost 5%, in real terms in 2001, following an increase of 7% in 2000.

A positive development in the year 2001 was the recovery of the construction sector after eight consecutive years of contraction, owing mainly to the increased investment interest of the private sector. Moreover, there was also a significant expansion of the agricultural sector in 2001, as against a contraction in 2000; a development attributed to the boosting of crop production, particularly of potatoes and cereals, due to the more favourable weather conditions that prevailed in 2001.

In contrast, the recovery of the manufacturing sector observed in 2000 did not continue in 2001. This was mainly the result of the more unfavourable external environment, in conjunction with a containment of the rate of increase of tourist and private consumption demand, beyond the consumption demand for durables.

The satisfactory, overall, growth of the Cyprus economy was also reflected in the labour market, where full employment conditions continued to prevail, with a further reduction in the rate of registered unemployment from 3,4% of the economically active population in 2000 to 3,0% in 2001.¹

Labour productivity increased at a rate of 2,1% in 2001, following a rate of improvement of 2,7% in 2000. The lower rate of improvement in labour productivity was attributable to the relative deceleration in the rate of growth of the economy, i.e. to cyclical factors. Nevertheless, it continued to be significantly higher than the corresponding rate of growth of labour productivity in the EU, thus narrowing further the difference in productivity levels between EU and Cyprus.

The rate of inflation recorded a significant deceleration and was limited to 2% in 2001, as compared with 4,1% in 2000, satisfying the relevant Maastricht convergence criterion. The containment in the rate of inflation is attributed, mainly, to the lower rate of increase in prices of imported products, to the related decline in the prices of electricity resulting from the fall in the international oil prices, as well as to the significant containment of the increases in the prices of agricultural goods that reflected more favourable weather conditions. These factors, together with the contractionary fiscal policy and the containment of the rate of increase of wages and salaries allowed interest rates to fall without causing inflationary pressures.

The current account deficit of the balance of payments fell to 4,3% of GDP in 2001 from 5,2% in 2000. This reduction is attributed mainly to the moderation in the rate of increase of imports, particularly in the last four months of the year, due to the deterioration in the expectations resulting from the September 11th events, in conjunction with a relatively satisfactory expansion of exports of goods and services. The current account deficit was financed mainly by direct and portfolio investment inflows in equity securities and by external borrowing by the banks associated with the extension of foreign currency loans to domestic residents.

The deficit of the consolidated central government recorded a marginal increase to 2,8% of GDP in 2001 as compared to 2,7% of GDP in 2000, a development mainly explained by cyclical factors, i.e. the relative moderation in the rate of growth of the economy as well as increased security and defence outlays. In 2001 there was a small increase of the general government gross debt to 54,6% of GDP from 54,8% in 2000.²

Monetary developments during 2001 were characterised by the liberalisation of the interest rates as from 1.1.2001 and the simultaneous liberalisation of medium and

long-term borrowing in foreign currency. An additional characteristic of monetary developments in 2001 was the successive cuts in the Central Bank interest rates, that is the Lombard rate and the overnight deposit rate. The first interest rate cut decided by the Central Bank Board on the 10th of August aimed at curtailing borrowing in foreign currency due to the interest rate differential for loans in CYP and in foreign currencies, while the two subsequent reductions were directed primarily at ameliorating the anticipated possible negative effects of the terrorist attacks of the 11th of September in the United States and the military operations that followed in Afghanistan.

Total liquidity expanded by 13,3% as compared to 8,2% in 2000. Net bank lending continued to be the primary source of monetary expansion in 2001, while the financing requirements of the government further facilitated this growth. Net foreign assets also exerted an expansionary influence on broad money growth. The increase in the net foreign assets is attributed mainly to the observed tendency to borrow in foreign currency and mostly in euros, owing to the lower level of interest rates for loans in euro, as compared to interest rates in Cyprus pounds. This foreign borrowing by the private sector threatened to undermine the achievement of the goals of monetary policy and led to an expansion of Cyprus' external debt. The Central Bank Board acting in a precautionary way and aiming at the containment of borrowing in foreign currency, decided, as already mentioned, at its meeting on the 10th of August to reduce basic interest rates by half a percentage point, simultaneously with the abandonment of the policy of maintaining the narrow fluctuation margins of $\pm 2,25\%$ around the central parity vis a vis the euro, so that the bands of $\pm 15\%$ are currently in place, in line with ERM II. As a result of the cut in interest rates by the Board of the Central Bank, borrowing in foreign currency registered a fall in the last four months of 2001.

The long-term external debt to GDP ratio and the debt service ratio increased to 34,4% and 9% respectively, as compared to 28,1% and 7,7% in 2000; of the increase in total foreign debt of £462 mln in 2001, the financial private sector was responsible for £502 mln and the non-financial private sector for £29 mln, while the central government and semi-government organisations reduced their external debt.

In summary, the Cyprus economy continued during 2001, to exhibit a relatively satisfactory rate of growth, despite the adverse external environment, with the tertiary sectors of services providing the main engines of growth, from the sectoral point of view. The rate of economic growth amounted to around 4% in real terms in 2001, following a higher rate of 5,1% in 2000. The registered unemployment rate was further reduced to 3,0% of the economically active population in 2001 and the fiscal deficit recorded a marginal rise to 2,8% of GDP in 2001. The rate of inflation decelerated significantly to 2%, whereas there was also an improvement in the current account, the deficit being reduced to 4,3% of GDP as against 5,2% in 2000.

¹ In Cyprus the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate are traditionally estimated on the basis of registered unemployed at the District Labour Offices. This methodology is different than the one used in the EU, which is based on the results of a Labour Force Survey, on the basis of the answers of a representative sample of households to a relevant questionnaire. As from 2000, Cyprus conducts a harmonized with the *aquis communautaire* Labour Force Survey. Given the two different methodologies used the results differ. Consequently, the unemployment rate derived by the traditional methodology, 3% for 2001, differs from the one derived on the basis of the Labour Force Survey conducted by the Statistical Service in the second quarter of 2001, 3,9%. The main difference is that the Labour Force Survey also registers persons who claim they are willing to work, but for several reasons are not registered at the District Labour Offices. More specifically, in the case of Cyprus, the difference is attributed to a great extent to persons (mostly women) who do not register as unemployed, but wish to work only on a part time basis. The unemployment rate, excluding this category, is contained to 3,1%, which approximately coincides with the level of unemployment derived through the traditional methodology.

² It is noted that in the fiscal notification to the European Commission of April 2002, figures on the gross debt of the general government according to the EU methodology were submitted for the first time. In this definition government borrowing specifically earmarked for contributions to the government's sinking fund deposits are excluded. These sinking fund deposits are government financial assets held at the Central Bank and are used solely for the redemption of the government's long-term debt.

Tourism

Foundations and Growth

The foundations of Cyprus' tourism were laid in the early sixties. Its progress had been smooth and successful until the summer of the 1974 Turkish invasion. All economic activity came to a standstill and the tourist sector suffered a devastating blow when the two highly-developed regions of Famagusta and Kyrenia fell in the hands of the invaders. This had as a result the loss of 13.000 beds constituting 71,7% of the total bed capacity at the time, plus 5.000 beds under construction and about 40% of the island's tourist facilities in restaurants, cafes, bars and nightclubs.

The government, through the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO), which is a semi-government organisation responsible for the planning, promotion and marketing of the tourist industry, and the island's hoteliers and other related tourist professionals, worked hard for the reactivation of tourism in the free areas of the Republic and the re-establishment of Cyprus on the world tourist map. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism oversees the activities of the Organisation.

Tourism a Booming Industry

Tourist inflow in 2001 increased by 0,6%, compared to 2000 reaching 2.696.732 tourists as against 2.686.205 in 2000. In 2001 the average expenditure per tourist came to C£ 441,50. Receipts from tourism recorded an increase of about 6,95% in 2001 over 2000, as they came up to C£ 1.277 mln as against C£1.194 mln in 2000.

The tourist sector is estimated to employ some 40.500 people directly involved in the industry representing 13,77% of the gainfully employed population.

By the end of December 2001 the island's bed capacity was 89.056.

What attracts holidaymakers to Cyprus in addition to the sun and sea is the hospitality and friendship of its people and its rich history, and natural beauties. Apart from sea-related activities, the holidaymakers can "escape" to pine clad mountains, visit archaeological sites, including ancient settlements, rich burial sites, beautiful mosaics and byzantine churches and enjoy the warm hospitality of the locals.

One particularly interesting factor in tourist statistics is that a significant number of holidaymakers who come to Cyprus are "repeat visitors", the best award a tourist could perhaps give a holiday destination.

Participation in International Organisations

The government, through the CTO, participates actively and makes a constructive contribution to international tourism organisations such as the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), the European Travel Commission (ETC), the International Congress and Conventions Association (ICCA), the European Federation of Conference Towns (EFCT) and others.

Cyprus is regularly represented at the annual meetings of the European and North American national or international travel trade associations such as the British ABTA, the German DRV, the American ASTA and others.

CTO's other activities include participation in overseas exhibitions and seminars on tourism.

Major Tourist Markets

The major share of the tourist traffic to Cyprus originates from Central and Northern Europe. In 2001 the United Kingdom remained the major source of tourist traffic followed by Germany and Central Europe. Compared to 2000, in 2001 there was a major increase of tourist traffic from the UK and Ireland, a modest increase from the Nordic countries, and various degrees of decrease from all other markets.

The contribution of tourism to the country's economy is of vital importance. In 2001 total revenue reached C£1.277 billion, which represents 46,8% of the total receipts from the export of goods and services in 2001.

Accommodation

Cyprus offers a wide variety of holiday accommodation ranging from modern, large and luxurious establishments to small and simple family-run operations.

Holiday accommodation includes hotels, hotel apartments, tourist villages, tourist villas, camping sites, traditional houses, tourist apartments, furnished apartments, guesthouses and youth hostels.

Accommodation in private houses is not available in Cyprus.

Most hotels and hotel apartments have swimming pools, tennis courts, sports facilities, sauna, central air conditioning, etc. The rates charged by these establishments are approved by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation and most hotels offer special off-season discounts on the accommodation rates usually during the period from the 16 November to the 15 March, excluding the fortnight between 20 December and 6 January.

English is spoken in all hotels; French and German are also widely spoken.

The Cyprus Hotel Guide, issued by the CTO, includes the hotels and tourist establishments officially registered and classified by the CTO in accordance with the provisions of the Hotels and Tourist Establishments Law and Regulations.

All the accommodation establishments are listed by town/area, type and class, and are in alphabetical order. Detailed information on terms of stay, rates, discounts and facilities offered by each hotel operation is included in the Guide, a copy of which can be obtained, free of charge, from any of the CTO Offices in Cyprus and abroad.

Particular Forms of Tourism

In the general effort for the upgrading of tourism, great emphasis is placed on the further development of particular forms of tourism such as conference tourism, winter tourism, agrotourism and special interests tourism. Their development and expansion can potentially alleviate the present problem of seasonality and may be a step towards a more rational utilisation of bed capacity which could lead to a balanced disbursement of accommodation.

Conference Tourism

Cyprus has already gained a reputation as an international conference venue thanks to its location, facilities, trained personnel and a first class communications system which links the island with the outside world. Its proximity to the important Middle East markets makes it an ideal regional centre too.

More and more businesses and international organisations choose the island for their meetings.

Winter Tourism

Even though the seasonality problem is not so acute in Cyprus due to the long tourist season, nevertheless special marketing efforts are devoted towards encouraging the tourist flow during the winter period. Cyprus is heavily advertised as a winter destination as Cyprus' mild winters of bright sunshine offer a major attraction.

Furthermore, efforts to attract third-age, conference tourism and special interest tourism also contribute to the increase of winter tourist traffic.

The progress witnessed during the past few years in this field is remarkable and Cyprus has now been established as a favourite winter destination in the winter brochures of a large number of tour operators in nearly all European markets.

Domestic Tourism

The CTO and the Government attach great importance to domestic tourism because it constitutes a significant area of tourism. Therefore, during the last years efforts towards developing domestic tourism have intensified still further.

Such efforts include a number of infrastructural and development projects, as well as improvement works of existing facilities and projects. Hoteliers offer attractive prices during the summer months.

The aim of these projects is to provide better services and facilities for Cypriot holidaymakers and develop domestic tourism on a traditional basis. Within the context of this policy, the CTO continues to extend and improve existing beaches and public pavilions.

In addition, the special scheme operated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance of subsidising workers' summer holidays has been successfully operating for many years. In 2001, a total of 8.666 people benefited from the scheme, of which 5.592 took their holidays in the mountain resorts and 3.074 at the seaside resorts.

Agrotourism (Green Cyprus)

A new chapter in Cyprus tourism is the programme for the development of agrotourism/rural tourism in Cyprus. This programme, as designed and launched by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, encourages the conversion of traditional houses in the picturesque villages of the hinterland for tourist use (accommodation establishments, taverns, restaurants, cultural centres, handicraft centres etc).

A significant number of traditional houses have already been converted into accommodation establishments in accordance with the relevant regulations and received their classification and operation licence from the CTO. Yet others are currently going through the above procedure.

«The Cyprus Agrotourism Company» a non-profit Organisation, which draws its membership from owners of traditional houses, has been established in 1996 to help coordinate individual marketing efforts and incoming bookings. To this end, the Cyprus Agrotourism Company has already developed the website-www.agrotourism.com.cy - which will be connected with a central reservations system that will provide the Company with the capability to accept realtime bookings.

Furthermore, the Cyprus Agrotourism Company has also produced two interesting publications. The one, which is the basic promotional tool of the agrotourism product is an attractive pamphlet, with general information on the product itself. The other is a Traditional Homes Guide, which provides detailed descriptions of 50 such homes, combined with information on the 28 villages that host them.

The general information pamphlet is published in English and German whereas the Guide is published in Greek, English, German, French and Italian. Both these publications are available free of charge from any CTO office in Cyprus or abroad.

In all, in the face of agrotourism, a promising sustainable tourist product is being developed. In fact, the potential of agrotourism in Cyprus was duly recognised by British Airways which presented the Cyprus Agrotourism Programme with the European Winner Award of the prestigious «Tourism of Tomorrow» Awards.

For further information, please contact the Cyprus Tourism Organisation at:
email: Maro.Kazepiecto.org.cy
www.visitcyprus.org.cy

Nature Trails

Before the technological revolution and the dominance of the motor vehicle, paths and cart tracks made up the main road network in Cyprus and the only link among the villages and between the villages and the towns.

Nowadays, the cart tracks have virtually disappeared, with only a few traces remaining near old bridges, while post paths are now covered in thick vegetation. The remaining few are used mainly for exercise, nature study and recreation. With financial support from the CTO, the Forestry Department has created fifty (50) paths or trails which cover a total distance of 200 km in various parts of the island, from Cavo Greko at the southeastern end to Akamas in the west.

These have been carefully designed to cover areas with rich natural vegetation and cultural interests. They have been constructed on gentle gradients and are, as a rule, circular so that all groups can use them with ease.

Many of these trails have been networked and grouped in areas.

The European Blue Flag Campaign

Cyprus introduced the European Blue Flag Campaign, an environmental information and education campaign, and became a full member of the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe (FEEE) in 1995.

The «Blue Flag» is an exclusive eco-label awarded to beaches which fulfil a number of criteria, including the quality of the bathing water, environmental education and information and beach area management and safety.

In 2002 the International Jury awarded the «Blue Flag» to more than 2.800 beaches and marinas in 23 countries including 35 beaches in Cyprus.

The successful implementation of the Blue Flag Campaign in Cyprus has made a positive contribution towards the qualitative improvement of the island's beaches as well as the overall tourism promotion of Cyprus abroad. It is undoubtedly an

important initiative within the framework of the harmonisation effort with the European Union *acquis communautaire*.

In addition, the Campaign has made a positive impact on the improvement of the tourist product of our coastal areas which are invaluable national assets and vital components of island's tourist product.

Banking

Banks

Cyprus has a well-developed banking system which offers a wide range of services catering for the needs of businesses and individuals. The domestic banking system comprises the Central Bank of Cyprus, twelve commercial banks and three specialised financial institutions. It should be pointed out, however, that since the Turkish invasion of 1974 three of the commercial banks are not under Central Bank supervision, as they operate in the area occupied by the Turkish troops, which is inaccessible to the official authorities of the Republic of Cyprus.

The Central Bank was established in 1963 and is responsible for formulating and implementing monetary and credit policy. It also administers the foreign exchange reserves of the Republic, supervises banks and acts as banker and financial agent of the government.

Eight out of the nine commercial banks operating in the government-controlled area are locally incorporated. These are: Bank of Cyprus Ltd., Cyprus Popular Bank Ltd., Hellenic Bank Ltd., Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., Universal Bank Ltd, National Bank of Greece (Cyprus) Ltd., Alpha Bank and Commercial Bank of Greece (Cyprus) Ltd.. The latter three are foreign controlled. There is also one bank operating as a branch of a foreign bank, Arab Bank plc. The Co-operative Central Bank Ltd acts as banker to numerous co-operative societies whose main activities are the collection of savings and the extension of loans to their members.

The specialised financial institutions are: The Cyprus Development Bank Ltd., the Housing Finance Corporation and Mortgage Bank of Cyprus Ltd.. The Housing Finance Corporation specialises in long-term housing loans. The Cyprus Development Bank Ltd. was established in 1963 in order to meet the needs of medium and long-term financing for development purposes. In addition to extending financing, it also provides technical and management consulting services to companies. Mortgage Bank is a mortgage subsidiary of the biggest domestic bank.

In addition to the above, a well-developed international banking system is operating in Cyprus. It comprises twenty seven international banking units (IBU) as well as two administered banking units (ABU) and two Cyprus representative offices of foreign banks. International Banking Business Licences are granted only to banks of good international reputation established in countries which exercise, in the opinion of the Central Bank of Cyprus, adequate banking supervision and which subscribe to the principles embodied in the "Concordat" ("Principles for the supervision of banks' foreign establishments") issued by the Basle Committee on Banking Supervision.

The Cyprus Co-operatives

The first Co-operative Society in Cyprus was established in 1909. Cyprus today has a strong and very well organised Co-operative Movement which is composed of 469 active co-operative societies activated in several sectors, i.e. 363 co-operative credit societies, 43 co-operative store societies and 63 other co-operatives of several types, which cover all the towns and villages of the free area of Cyprus.

As a result of the Turkish invasion and the occupation of the north part of Cyprus by the Turkish troops, 225 co-operatives were displaced and had to close down. Eighteen of these societies reopened in the non-occupied areas.

The Co-operative Credit Societies, which control about one third of the local deposits, have their own Co-operative Central Bank and the Co-operative Store Societies their own Co-operative Supply Organisations.

There are also Co-operative Societies which operate in the sectors of trade and industry and are dealing with the concentration, transformation and disposal of agricultural products of their members. In the sector of Services there are strong co-operatives which offer important services to the co-operators.

The Government is supporting the Co-operative Movement, and with the Department for Co-operative Development which is under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism provides services towards the further development of the Movement.

In recent years the Co-operative Movement has shown an impressive growth, particularly in the co-operative credit sector. It is expected that this growth will continue in the future and Cyprus' accession to the European Committee will bring the Movement in a stronger position.

Currency

The Cyprus pound is divided into 100 cents. Banknotes currently in circulation are in the denominations of twenty pounds, ten pounds, five pounds and one pound. The Central Bank of Cyprus has placed into circulation as from 6.5.97 a new series of £1, £5, and £10 banknotes and as from 4.3.98 a new £20 banknote with upgraded security features. The coins currently in circulation consist of fifty cents, twenty cents, ten cents, five cents, two cents and one cent.

Foreign Exchange Regime

Current payments abroad have been liberalised since 1991. These payments are handled by the commercial banks, in accordance with authority delegated to them by the Central Bank of Cyprus. Most capital movements have also been liberalised, in the context of harmonisation with the *acquis communautaire*.

Direct investment as well as portfolio investment in Cyprus from European Union (EU) member states was liberalised in January 2000. At the same time, restrictions on direct investment abroad by residents of Cyprus were abolished; henceforth, the transfer of capital abroad is effected as soon as the Central Bank of Cyprus is satisfied that it concerns a genuine direct investment. As regards investment in real estate abroad by households, every resident family (including parents and children under 25) is entitled to transfer abroad up to CYP200.000 for the purpose of acquiring a secondary residence. Furthermore, any resident natural person (18 years old or over) may transfer abroad up to CYP20.000 annually for portfolio investment or

for deposits with foreign banks. Residents of Cyprus may also borrow on a long-term basis (original duration greater than two years) any amount in foreign currency from banks in Cyprus or from abroad, in order to finance their activities in Cyprus.

In accordance with the programme for harmonisation with the *acquis*, the remaining restrictions on capital movements, which concern mainly outward capital flows by residents, will be removed gradually until the date of accession of Cyprus to the EU.

Establishing a Business in Cyprus

Under the Exchange Control Law the Central Bank is responsible for authorising the acquisition by non-residents of equity in legal entities registered in Cyprus. In order to enhance the role of the Central Bank, the government has assigned to it the responsibility of promoting and coordinating most matters concerning direct investment, international business activities and shipping business. The Central Bank co-operates closely with government departments and private parties with a view to improving facilities, incentives, requirements and procedures so that Cyprus will become an even more attractive centre for the conducting of international business affairs.

Non-residents wishing to participate in Cypriot legal entities that are not quoted on the Cyprus Stock Exchange should apply through an appropriate professional (lawyer or accountant) practising in Cyprus. The professional will submit to the Central Bank an application containing the requisite information, ie share capital, economic activities etc. Applications are classified into one of three main categories:

Direct Investment covering Cypriot legal entities, which may belong partly or wholly to non-residents and which may carry on business and derive income within Cyprus.

International Business Companies covering Cypriot legal entities which belong entirely to non-residents and which carry on business and derive income exclusively outside Cyprus.

Shipping Business covering Cypriot legal entities which may belong entirely to non-residents and which limit their objects to the ownership, bareboat chartering and operation of ships in international transport.

Permits concerning international business and shipping companies are normally issued by the Central Bank within a few days, depending on the availability of the requisite information or assurances. This speedy response is due to the consensus that these companies make a positive net contribution to the national economy.

Upon receipt of the necessary permit, the non-residents' shares or participation must be registered in their names or in the names of their nominees at the Department of the Registrar of Companies under the Companies or Partnerships Laws, as the case may be. These laws are also based on the corresponding acts of the United Kingdom. Matters relating to the registration of ships are handled by the Department of Merchant Shipping.

Legal procedures pertaining to the registration, reorganisation and liquidation of business entities must be completed through advocates practising on the island. At the same time, business entities with non-resident participation are required to prepare and submit to the Central Bank and the Department of Inland Revenue annual financial statements audited by local practising accountants.

Applications by foreigners wishing to live or work in Cyprus are handled by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labour under the Aliens and Immigration legislation. In the case of international enterprises, arrangements have been made whereby the Ministry of Interior may issue and renew the temporary residence-employment permits of their expatriate executives upon the recommendation of the Central Bank, while it retains ultimate authority over all such permits.

Direct and Portfolio Investment in Cyprus

Direct investment (acquisition of 10% or more of the equity capital of an enterprise) as well as portfolio investment (acquisition of less than 10% of the equity capital) in Cyprus from EU member states was liberalised in January 2000. Natural or legal persons from EU member states who intend to undertake direct investment in Cyprus only need to submit statistical information to the Central Bank of Cyprus. For direct investments from non-EU countries, approval by the Central Bank of Cyprus is required and certain restrictions are still in force concerning the maximum percentage participation and/or minimum amount to be invested, depending on the sector of the investment. In particular, the equity participation of non-EU investors is subject to a limit of 49% in the following sectors: agriculture, hotels, travel agencies, restaurants and recreational centres, agencies representing imported goods or services and companies listed on the Cyprus Stock Exchange.

As regards portfolio investment in companies listed on the Cyprus Stock Exchange, stockbrokers and public companies have been authorised to carry out the relevant transactions with non-residents (both from EU and non-EU countries), without reference to the Central Bank of Cyprus.

International Business Companies

The term «international business companies» (IBC) refers to any legal entity whose beneficial ownership and business activities lie outside the country of its registration. Since the introduction of the first incentives in 1975, more than 54.000 permits have been issued by the Central Bank for the registration of such entities. Cyprus' entrepreneurial environment and supporting facilities compare favourably with those of the best-established centres in the world. The island is considered to be a primary international business centre among approximately 50 countries offering facilities for these purposes.

Regulatory Framework

The Central Bank, through its exchange control permit to non-resident investors, imposes certain conditions with regard to beneficial ownership, business activities, financial arrangements and reporting procedures.

IBCs may be run from Cyprus but none of their objects may be carried out within the island. Such enterprises can only derive income from activities abroad. They are not allowed to deliver any goods or services in Cyprus, either to residents or non-residents, or to act as middle-men for foreign products or as exporters of Cypriot products. However, IBCs may:

- contact each other and deal among themselves, provided the object of business is confined outside the island,
- pay each other from their foreign currency accounts, provided the goods or services involved are delivered outside the island.

Those IBCs with common ownership of 50 percent or more may share a fully-fledged office and offer administrative services to each other in Cyprus.

If confidentiality is desired, it is possible to use nominee or trustee shareholders since only their names will appear in the records kept by the Registrar of Companies. Central Bank employees are bound by oath to secrecy thus the names of the non-resident beneficial owners are kept strictly confidential as is information on individual IBCs. Only aggregate data are published from time to time in order to enable the government and the public to assess progress in this sector.

Fiscal Incentives

The major fiscal incentives offered to IBCs are as follows:

- IBCs as well as international business branches managed and controlled from Cyprus are taxed at only 4,25 percent of their profits. However, there are plans to increase this to 10 percent
- International business branches which are managed and controlled from abroad and international business partnerships are totally exempt from corporation or income tax
- The beneficial owners of IBCs are not liable to additional tax on dividends or profits over and above the amount paid or payable by the respective legal entities
- Expatriate employees of IBCs living and working in Cyprus are taxed at half the rates applicable to locals ie from 0 to 20 percent. However, there are plans to increase this to a maximum of 28 percent
- Expatriate employees of IBCs living and working outside the island are exempt from income tax if they get paid through any bank in Cyprus or are taxed at one tenth of the rates applicable to locals if they get paid directly abroad
- No capital gains tax is payable on the sale or transfer of shares in an IBC
- No estate duty is payable on the inheritance of shares in an IBC.

IBCs are exempt from stamp duty on all documents relating to their business activities outside Cyprus and they and their expatriate employees are also exempt from the Special Contribution to the Defence Fund.

Cyprus has concluded an impressive number of treaties for the avoidance of double taxation. There are currently 32 in force. The existence of these treaties offer significant possibilities for international tax planning through the island.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing and Industry

Even though the blow inflicted on the manufacturing sector by the Turkish invasion of 1974 was severe, recovery during the 1975-1983 period was remarkable. In the post invasion period, in particular during 1975-1983, the sector has been growing at an average annual rate of 9,1% and has become increasingly important for the economy, especially when emphasis was geared to supplying the foreign markets. By 2000 the sector accounted for about 10% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and about 13% of employment. Exports of manufactured products in 2000, compared to 1973 figures (C£15mln), recorded a large increase and reached C£185mln. The most important sectors in terms of value added are food and beverages, clothing, furniture and metal products. Other industrial sectors, which continue to expand, include printing and publishing, plastics, chemical and pharmaceutical products.

The manufacturing industry of Cyprus went through difficult times in the past decade experiencing a fall in the growth of production, exports and employment. This development has been the result of an erosion in our competitiveness, both abroad and in the local market, at a time of increasingly intensified, international competition. At the root of these problems lie the structural weaknesses of the sector, the drastic reduction of tariff protection due to the participation of Cyprus in the World Trade Organisation, the rising labour costs and the low productivity. As a result the share of the manufacturing sector in the Gross Domestic Product and in employment remained stagnant.

International competition is increasingly intensifying mainly from two directions: on the one hand, the high-wage producers, who have combined design, quality and new forms of flexible production to cut working and capital costs and improved response time and on the other hand, the low-wage mass producers of South-East Asia.

Faced with this situation the government, having thoroughly considered ways and means for the reconstruction and development of the sector and taking seriously into account proposals put forward by industrialists and their respective organisations, has eventually resorted to the following basic goals which form the central core of the government's new industrial policy: Assistance of existing high-tech industries and the attraction and development of new ones, assistance and reconstruction of Cypriot traditional industry, productivity improvement and attraction of capital intensive foreign investment.

Within the overall effort to attain these goals the new industrial policy comprises, among others, the following chapters:

(a) The introduction of business incubators in Cyprus and the creation of a centre for carrying out applied research and development which are considered to be essential components of the effort to develop new high-tech products in Cyprus.

(b) The creation of a Foreign Investors Services Centre (One-Stop-Shop) which will offer advice to foreign investors, provide assistance during the application procedures and the securing of the required permits and generally look after investors in the island. At a later stage these services will be extended also to local investors.

(c) The introduction of schemes for the provision state grants for assisting the technological upgrading of the manufacturing sector, for the creation of laboratories in Cyprus, for energy conservation and for the promotion of exports.

Electricity Generation

The Electricity Authority of Cyprus

The Electricity Authority of Cyprus (EAC) is an independent, semi-government corporation established under the Electricity Development Law of 1952 in order to exercise and perform functions relating to the generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy in Cyprus.

EAC is are governed by a Board, the members of which are appointed by the Council of Ministers.

Electricity generation is by far the main user of imported energy. Electric energy consumption represents around 15% of the total final energy consumption of the country and around 38% of the total requirements in imported raw energy. Due to the large share of electric energy consumption in the energy balance of the country, the EAC plays a major role in the definition of the energy policy of the country. The average annual growth rate in electric energy sales registered between 1996 and 2001 was approximately 6,22%.

The total number of consumers by the end of 2001 was 385.452 compared to a mere 19.869 in 1952. Generation of electric energy has similarly grown from 12 million kWh in 1952 to 3.552 million kWh in 2001. For the latter, a total of 897.466 metric tones of fuel was used at a cost to the economy of C£72,3mln.

One of the EAC's primary and continuous concerns is to minimise the impact of electric energy generation on the environment. During the last four years EAC has invested a sum in excess of C£4,5mln in various projects aimed at the protection of the environment.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications in Cyprus

CYTA offers its customers a wide range of telecommunications services based on market demand and tried and tested state-of-the-art technology. These services satisfy fully the demands of its customers for all types of communication services, fixed and mobile, voice, video and data transmission. Particular emphasis is placed on the provision of value added services, such as various Internet-based multimedia services that promise to be a dominant business activity in the next decade.

In order to provide the best possible response to new, increased customer demands, CYTA has recently introduced i-choice, a DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) technology based service that allows users to have a continuous connection to a number of broadband services. One of such broadband services offered by CYTA via i-choice is NetRunner, a Fast Internet Service offered on a fixed monthly fee basis.

In parallel, CYTA continues to invest in the area of mobile telephony, constantly upgrading the infrastructure and expanding the coverage of the mobile telephony network. Moreover, the first mobile portal in Cyprus, cybee, is now offered commercially. Other technologically modern services are also provided, like the Short Messaging Service (SMS), CytaWap and the prepaid mobile service soeasy.

The fully digital national network of CYTA, the provision of ISDN services, the installation of the ATM network and the intelligent Network make Cyprus one of the most developed countries in terms of telecommunications. The continuous upgrading of CYTA's telecommunications infrastructure and its portfolio of services, combined with its policy of steadily reducing international telephone charges to competitive rates, have made Cyprus an attractive base for international companies.

Taking advantage of the island's privileged geographical location at the crossroads of three continents, CYTA cooperates with neighbouring countries on an extensive network of fibre optic submarine cables. The island is linked via submarine cables to Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. CYTA participates in other regional and

global cable systems such as the SEA-ME-WE 3, which links Western Europe and South East Asia via the Mediterranean and the Middle East. It has also participated actively in the planning and implementation of the Black Sea Fibre Optic Cable System-BSFOCS, which connects to the CYTA network via Bulgaria and Greece.

In parallel to the network of submarine cable systems, CYTA also operates an extensive network of satellite earth stations, which are linked to the INTELSAT, EUTELSAT and ASIASAT satellite systems, as well as to INTERSPUTNIK, SIRIUS and ARABSAT. CYTA is forging strategic alliances with foreign organisations and companies with the aim of expanding its activities beyond the boundaries of Cyprus. A recent example is the creation of IRIS Gateway Satellite Services Ltd via its subsidiary DIGIMED. IRIS is a joint venture between CYTA and Merlin Communications and provides turnaround satellite services between Asia and Europe.

As part of Cyprus' strategy for harmonisation with the EU's *acquis communautaire* and given the country's commitment to full liberalisation of the telecommunications sector by January 1, 2003, CYTA is also implementing specific harmonisation action plans.

External Trade Developments in 2001

Cyprus, due to its small domestic market and the open nature of its economy, considers access to international markets as of utmost importance. As a result, trade has always been one of the main sectors of the Cyprus economy, contributing considerably to the economic growth of the island. During 2001, exports accounted for about 11% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

The value of foreign trade in 2001 was recorded at C£3.157m, experiencing an increase of 5,4% from the previous year. This development was mainly due to the rise in imports, which have shown an increase of 5,3%, reaching in 2001 C£2.529m, in comparison with C£2.402m in 2000. Total exports increased by 6%, reaching C£628m, compared to C£592m in 2000.

Total Imports

Total imports in 2001 reached C£2.529m, as compared with C£2.402m in 2000, showing an increase of 5,3%.

Imports by Economic Destination (Group of Products)

Imports of consumer goods and intermediate inputs (raw materials) make up for most of total imports, accounting for 31,4% and 29,1% of total imports, respectively. They are followed by transport equipment (13,0%), fuels and lubricants (12,0%) and capital goods (10,7%). In 2001, imports of raw materials (intermediate inputs) reached C£737m in comparison with C£710m in the previous year. The overwhelming majority of the 2001 imports of intermediate inputs were raw materials for the manufacturing sector. Imports of consumer goods have risen slightly to C£793,2m, from C£793,1m in the previous year. Imports of capital goods have also risen, reaching C£269,6m, from C£254,8m in 2000.

Imports of transport equipment and parts increased and reached C£329m in 2001, compared to C£302,4m in 2000. Passenger motor vehicles accounted for nearly half of total transport equipment imports, followed by parts for transport equipment and motor vehicles for the transport of goods. Finally, imports of fuels and lubricants declined to C£302,5m from C£310,3m in 2000.

Geographical Origin of Imports

The European Union countries continued in 2001 to be the biggest suppliers of goods in Cyprus, providing 50,8% of total imports of goods valued at C£1.285m, as compared with C£1.239m in 2000. The major European Union countries exporting to Cyprus were the United Kingdom, Greece, Italy and Germany.

The second most important group of suppliers in 2001 were the Asian countries, that supplied Cyprus with goods valued at C£510,4m or 20,2% of the total. Japan, Israel, China, Thailand, Taiwan and South Korea were the most important suppliers. Imports from Japan, the biggest supplier from the Asian countries, increased to C£154m in 2001 from C£139m in 2000.

Imports from North and Central America declined from C£259m in 2000 to C£246,4m in 2001 (9,7% of the total). Imports from the USA, one of the biggest suppliers of Cyprus and the main in this group, declined to C£238m as compared to C£249m in the previous year.

Imports from other European countries, including the former socialist countries, represented in 2001 8,1% of total imports. They increased slightly in comparison with the previous year, reaching C£206m, from C£192m in 2000. The major supplier from this group was Russia, followed by Ukraine and Switzerland.

Imports from the Arab countries represent about 5,3% of Cyprus` total imports. During 2001, they showed increase reaching C£134,6m from C£132,3m in 2000. Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia were the major suppliers.

Imports from the rest of the world, account for 5,8% of total imports. They have also increased in 2001, almost doubling, to C£147m compared to C£75m in 2000. Argentina, Brazil and South Africa are the most important suppliers in this group.

Domestic Exports

During 2001 domestic exports reached C£234m. They have registered an increase of about 4,5% from the previous year.

Exports by Broad Economic Sector (Group of Products)

Exports of manufactured products, which constitute the bulk of Cyprus` domestic exports with a 64,3% share in 2001, increased slightly to C£150,5m, from C£148,8m in 2000.

Domestic exports of raw agricultural products increased significantly, reaching C£43,8m compared to C£34,4m in 2000 (27% increase), representing 18,7% of domestic exports. Exports of processed agricultural products decreased slightly and reached C£28m representing 12% of the total.

Exports of Manufactured Products

Exports of manufactured products (i.e. industrial products of manufacturing origin) constitute the bulk of Cyprus` domestic exports and represent 64,3% of total exports. In 2001 they increased slightly, reaching C£150,5mln, compared to C£148,8mln in 2000.

The most important products exported during 2001 were pharmaceuticals (C£39,4mln), clothing (C£19,7mln), cigarettes (C£10,8mln), cement (C£8,4mln), furniture (C£6,8mln) and paper products (C£6mln).

Exports of Agricultural Products

In 2001, exports of raw and processed agricultural products accounted for 18,7% and 12% of total domestic exports, respectively.

Specifically, during 2001, exports of raw agricultural products increased sharply to C£43,8mln from C£34,4mln in 2000. Potatoes and citrus fruit were the most important products, with exports valued at C£17,5mln and C£14,7mln, respectively.

On the other hand, exports of processed agricultural products decreased slightly during 2001 to C£28mln from C£28,2mln in 2000. Wines, halloumi cheese and fruit and vegetable juices are the main products included in this group.

Geographical Destination of Exports

The European Union countries constitute the most important markets for Cyprus. In 2001 they absorbed 49,5%, or C£122,3mln of Cyprus` domestic exports, compared to C£114,8mln in 2000. The major EU export market for Cyprus products is the United Kingdom, followed by Greece and Germany.

The Arab Countries, the second most important group, absorbed during 2001 about 22,6% of Cyprus` exports. However, they decreased to C£55,8mln, from C£59,6mln in the previous year. The major markets in this group are the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan.

Exports to other European countries, comprising mostly of Eastern European countries, reached C£25,7mln in 2001 from C£18,9mln in 2000, representing about 10,4% of Cyprus` domestic exports. The major export markets are Russia, Romania, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Norway and Albania.

Domestic exports to Asia represent 6,8% of the total and reached C£16,7mln from C£16,5mln in 2000. The major markets are Israel, Hong Kong and Malaysia. Exports to the rest of the world and mainly to the USA decreased slightly from C£14,3mln in 2000 to C£13,5mln in 2001. Their share to the total was 5,5%.

Shipstores of domestic products declined from C£16,8mln in 2000 to C£13mln in 2001, representing 5,3% of total domestic exports.

Re-exports

A significant share in foreign exchange earnings comes from re-exports, which in 2001 reached C£381mln.

The bulk of these re-exports was directed mainly towards the countries of the European Union and the Arab countries. Another significant share of these re-exports was directed towards Central and Eastern European countries. The main products involved are tobacco and alcoholic beverages.

Promotion of Exports

The government of Cyprus, through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism and within the framework of supporting and developing trade, follows a policy, which aims at the expansion and diversification of exports. The ministry attaches also particular attention to the promotion of professional services, a sector that is again a major contributor to the gross national product, while at the same time promoting Cyprus as an international business centre.

In order to implement this policy, the ministry is active on the domestic front, in creating and developing tools to encourage exports. To this end, it has introduced a number of export-oriented schemes, aiming at the expansion of exports of goods and services. The schemes, operated during 2001, involved the participation in international trade fairs, the organisation of trade missions abroad, advertising and market research. In addition, the ministry operates the insurance scheme for exports, which provides insurance to Cypriot exporters, in terms of losses resulting from causes beyond their control.

On the international front, the ministry has signed bilateral trade agreements with third countries and maintains also close relations with international organisations involved in trade issues. Furthermore, the ministry is actively involved in the negotiations concerning Cyprus' application to join the European Union.

Finally, but not least, the ministry operates 12 trade centres, situated in carefully targeted markets. At present, the ministry maintains centers in Austria, the Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the USA. Their sole responsibility is the promotion of exports of goods and services.

Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver

The Department of the Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver comes under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism and consists of three independent sections, namely a) Companies, Partnerships and Business Names, b) Intellectual and Industrial Property, that is, Trade Marks, Patents, Industrial Designs and Copyright and c) Insolvency, which includes Companies Liquidation and Bankruptcy. The Department operates all over Cyprus from its headquarters in Nicosia.

The Companies section is responsible for the registration, follow up and control of local, offshore and overseas companies as well as Partnerships and Business Names. The Intellectual Property and Industrial Property Section is responsible for the registration of trade marks, patents and Industrial Designs and all matters arising under the Trade Marks Law and the Patents Law while the Insolvency Section is responsible for the official handling of property of insolvent persons and companies.

The Department follows international developments in the area of copyright and represents Cyprus internationally, that is, before the bodies of the EPO, WIPO and OHIM.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Agriculture

The broad agricultural sector, despite the reduction of its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product and total employment, continues to be a fundamental sector of the Cyprus economy, both with respect to the production of essential food items for the population and exports and with respect to the employment of thousands of rural residents and the containment of the depopulation of the villages.

During the period 1960-1974, the agricultural sector expanded rapidly, but in 1974 it was severely affected by the Turkish invasion and occupation of part of Cyprus. The Turkish forces occupied and displaced non-Turkish population from an area which accounted for 46% of crop production and much higher percentages of citrus (79%), cereals (68%), tobacco (100%), carrots (86%) and green fodders (65%), while 47% of livestock production also emanated from the area.

Despite the concentration of population in the less productive part of the island, it was possible through concerted efforts and heavy investment in land improvement and irrigation to reactivate the agricultural sector and to reach the pre-1975 production levels. Nevertheless, the occupation of a great part of Cyprus is still causing problems in the agricultural sector, particularly with respect to the difficulties faced by displaced farmers, the shortages of fodders, the rational development of water resources, the spread of plant and animal diseases and many others.

Despite all problems, the broad agricultural sector contributed, in 2000, at current prices, some C£358,8 mln or about 3,8% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employed approximately 25.200 persons (full-time equivalent) or 8,3% of the total economically active population. Value added reached £206,9 mln as compared to £203,8 mln in 1999. Agricultural exports (raw and processed) reached C£62,6 mln, constituting 28,0% of total domestic exports, compared to C£61,8 mln or 29,9% of total domestic exports in 1999.

At constant (1995) prices, gross output reached £341,3 mln in 2000, as compared to £356,7 mln in 1999. Value added reached £201,4 mln or about 4,2% of Gross Domestic Product.

The two major sub-sectors of Cyprus agriculture are crop production and livestock production, which, in 2000, contributed, at current prices, 55,2% and 29,3% respectively to the value added of the broad agricultural sector. The contribution of the other sub-sectors was as follows: Ancillary production (milk and grape products processed on-farm) about 3,7%, fishing 5,5%, forestry 0,7% and others 5,6%.

Development policy aims at restructuring and upgrading the agricultural sector in order to be able to successfully cope with the conditions prevailing in the European Union and international competition and for exploitation of the opportunities created by European Union orientation and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The most important elements of development policy are improvement of productivity and competitiveness, further development of comparative advantages, improvement of quality and structural and institutional modernisation.

Gradual harmonisation with Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union and the *acquis communautaire*, in general, is in progress and will be the basic objective as regards the agricultural sector, during the coming years.

Veterinary Services

The Veterinary Services through the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment are responsible for the prevention, control and treatment of animal diseases, the protection of public health from zoonoses and foodborne diseases, the genetic upgrading of animals using artificial breeding and the promotion of animal welfare.

The Veterinary Services give emphasis to the prevention of the introduction and spread into the country of animal diseases, particularly those that cause epizootics from neighbouring or other countries where such diseases exist or appear. For this purpose it organises and carries out preventive vaccinations and epidemiological surveillance of animal diseases. In parallel, disease control programmes for eradicating and preventing the spread of various contagious diseases detected in the country are planned and implemented. The main diseases that have been efficiently and effectively eradicated from the island are anthrax, swine fever, bovine hypodermosis and newcastle. The Veterinary Services are always on the alert, due to the existence of the ceasefire line along the turkish-occupied part of Cyprus and the existing danger or introduction of serious contagious diseases in the free country from Turkey. Also imports of animal products are allowed only from countries free from contagious diseases.

For the comprehensive and effective facing of animal diseases the Department has established close contact with relevant international organisations and institutions like FAO, UNEP, OIE, WHO, WHOMZCC, MINEADEP and the World Association of Food Hygienists. The Department has harmonised its legislation according to EU requirements.

Fisheries and Marine Research

The Cyprus Fisheries produced 4,1 tons of fish during 2001 at a value of C£12,8 mln. Fish production is mainly derived from the inshore, the trawl fishery (territorial and international waters) and purse seining as well as from aquaculture.

The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research is responsible for the sustainable management of living marine resources, the development and research of aquaculture and the protection and research of the marine environment.

As far as fisheries resources are concerned, a number of management measures are being applied and relevant legislation is being enforced. Restructuring of this sector is being undertaken having in mind the common fisheries policy of the European Union.

Aquaculture continued to develop producing about 50% of Cyprus total fisheries production and 60% of its value. New specific on aquaculture legislation was implemented and research, particularly on the diversification of species, was intensified.

The construction, improvement and maintenance of fishing shelters are among the major activities of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research.

The Department's activities also focus on research and study of the marine environment in the sea around Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean, which includes, among others, oceanographic research, marine ecological studies and marine pollution studies.

Agricultural Research

The Agricultural Research Institute undertakes mainly applied research aimed at providing answers to plant and livestock production problems and determining how the agricultural potential of the island may best be developed.

The Institute maintains a Central Experimental Farm and several sub-stations where research is carried out on nutrition, reproductive physiology and breeding of ruminants and on rainfed cereals and irrigated forage crops.

The Institute is cooperating with a number of international organisations (FAO, UNDP, IAEA, EU), other research institutes and universities abroad.

In 2000, the Agricultural Research Institute achieved great recognition in the domain of basic and applied research. It was selected by the European Union as a "Centre of Excellence in Agriculture and Environment". In the context of this programme, the European Union, contributes towards research initiatives and other specialised work in the areas of training, networking and twinning with universities and other centers of excellence, organizations of workshop and research on specific topics.

Meteorological Service

The Meteorological Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment is responsible for the provision of meteorological services for the requirements of civil aviation, the collection of meteorological data and information, the compilation of climatological statistics and monitoring of the climatic variations and trends and the preparation of climatological studies and reports. It is also responsible for the issuing of public weather forecasts and for the provision of weather information and consultative services and for the provision of weather information and consultative services for applications in various fields such as agriculture, water resources, fisheries and shipping industry, regional planning and development, tourism, architectural and civil engineering works, renewable energy sources, environmental studies, etc.

Public weather forecasts are issued three times daily. Weather forecasts and weather services to shipping and marine activities in general were improved considerably in recent years following the acquisition of modern equipment including a weather satellite receiving station and a meteorological radar. Also the Meteorological Office at Larnaca Airport is permanently connected to the National Meteorological Service of Greece receiving continually meteorological information and data about the weather, which are available through the Global Telecommunication System.

The Meteorological Service operates surface synoptic meteorological stations at Larnaca and Paphos Airports and at Athalassa. It also operates an upper air meteorological radiosonde station at Athalassa, a Radiation Center, about 40 climatological stations, 105 rainfall stations, and 18 automatic weather stations, 14 of which are accessible through a telephone line.

Water Development

Throughout its long history Cyprus has always been confronted with the problem of water shortage. Droughts are a very usual phenomenon and many times in the past Cyprus came close to desertion as a result. For this reason the government gives utmost priority towards the optimum utilisation of all the island's water resources.

Cyprus has no rivers with perennial flow while rainfall is about 500 millimetres but records indicate that rainfall has decreased considerably and the average for the last fourteen years is now estimated at 449 millimetres. More significantly, the flow of water into dams, built especially for collection and storage, has fallen by a much higher percentage.

Since groundwater is reliable, clean and most importantly cheap, water resources development in Cyprus initially focused on groundwater, and until 1970 groundwater was the main source of water for both drinking and irrigation purposes. As a result almost all aquifers were seriously depleted because of over pumping and seawater intrusion was observed in most of the coastal aquifers. At the same time large quantities of surface water were lost to the sea.

The relevant Authorities identified the water shortage problem in time and in consultation with International Organisations, prepared a long-term plan for solving the problem.

Right after independence, attention was turned to the systematic study and construction of water development works, both for storage and recharge purposes. The first step involved the carrying out of a comprehensive survey of the island's water resources followed by the implementation of a long term plan for the construction of major development projects, which involved the construction of a large number of dams.

So today, the storage capacity of surface reservoirs has reached 307,5 mln cubic metres (MCM) of water approximately from a mere 6 MCM in 1960, a truly impressive achievement when compared to other countries of the same size and level of development as Cyprus.

The Major Water Development Works, such as the Southern Conveyor, Vasilikos-Pendaskinos, Pitsilia, Paphos and Phrysokhou, as well as some other smaller works were constructed in the context of this planning and constitute the basic infrastructure on which the agricultural development, the domestic water supply of towns and villages as well as the development of many other sectors of the economy depend.

Unfortunately, because of the increasing demand and the reduction in rainfall, the quantities of water available both for drinking and irrigation purposes have not been adequate and in the past few years water-rationing measures have been introduced with adverse effects not only on agriculture but also on the everyday life and generally on the economy of the island.

Therefore, it is with special satisfaction that the government announced that as of 22nd January 2001 every household in every part of free Cyprus will have continuous supply of drinking water on a 24-hour basis and that the regime of water cuts is finally terminated.

The solution of the problem was made possible because the whole government's planning on water supply and especially the program of desalination has progressed

significantly. Thanks to contemporary technology Cyprus has managed to solve the water shortage problem and have water sufficiency for household use.

The government's water policy is not restricted to the issue of the desalination plants alone. The use of other, non-conventional, sources of supply such as recycled water is also promoted. Recycled water is used for irrigation purposes and the enrichment of aquifers. Furthermore the Government also proceeds with the implementation of the projects included in the Strategic Water Development Plan, which spans until the year 2015. In this context, Arminou dam on Dhiarizos river and Tamassos dam on Pedhieos river were completed in 1998 and 2002 respectively, while Kannaviou dam on Ezousas river is under construction.

The current government policy, in addition to increasing supply from primary and secondary sources, also provides for demand management measures such as water saving measures and the creation of awareness among the public for the proper use of this unique natural resource.

Furthermore legal drafting of the new unified Water Law, providing for the integrated management of all the water resources and including provisions for management monitoring and cost recovery as per Directive 2000/60/EC, was completed in February 2001. The Law has been submitted to the House of Representatives for enactment.

The overall government policy will provide satisfactory solutions to all the aspects of water supply. However, water should not be taken for granted. The shortage of water is one of the most critical problems faced by humanity. Water is a commodity, which nature, as it seems, will provide us with increasingly less quantities.

For more information see the website of the Water Development Department (WWW.pio.gov.cy/wdd)

Desalination Programme

Desalination of seawater was first introduced in Cyprus, on a large-scale basis, in April 1997 with the operation of the Dhekelia plant. This plant provides water to the cities of Larnaca and Nicosia and the coastal tourist areas of Ayia Napa and Paralimni. Furthermore a new desalination plant, of 51 667 m³/day nominal capacity, has been built next to Larnaca airport.

The new desalination plant near Larnaca Airport, the largest of Cyprus in this sector, coupled with the Dhekelia plant produce 33 MCM of water a year. This quantity along with the quantity of water in the dams constitutes safe quantities for completely lifting restrictions.

The desalination programme of the Government envisages also the construction of an additional desalination unit for the Limassol area, expected to be commissioned by April 2004, and with a capacity of 20.000 cubic metres per day. Another desalination unit is also considered to be constructed at a later stage, for the Paphos area.

The government today, thanks to the desalination plants, supplies adequate quantities of potable water. After many long years of hardship caused by the well-known water-rationing measures, every household has, at last, a continuous supply of water. Water rationing belongs to the past. The significance of this change is well

understood if we recall the fact that cities such as Larnaca and Nicosia until recently were supplied with water for only 30 and 35 hour per week, respectively.

The Central Waste Water Treatment Plant at Vathia Gonia

The appropriate utilisation of every water resource in the country is a steadfast policy of the government. A vital source of water is the recycled water that originates from the treatment of wastewater, which replaces equal quantities of potable water.

In this framework, the government promoted the construction of the wastewater treatment plant at Vathia Gonia for the treatment of domestic septage and industrial wastewaters from the districts of Nicosia and Larnaca.

Geological Survey

The sustained development of the island's natural resources, such as mineral deposits, groundwater and construction materials, requires knowledge of their location, quality and a constant search for new deposits. Major constructions on land must also take into account the underlying geological conditions and the magnitude of any hazards inherent in a seismically active region. Information needed for both sets of tasks is provided by the Geological Survey Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment.

Over the past 40 years the Geological Survey Department has made the island a veritable geological laboratory where hypotheses have been tested and applied worldwide.

In mineral exploration the emphasis has shifted from metallic to non-metallic and industrial minerals. Prospecting for industrial clays, limestone, gypsum and construction materials has been very successful, whereas all necessary quality control mechanisms for these materials have been set up at the Department. The project "Strategy for a Sustainable Quarrying and Mining Development" for the next 25 years has just been launched.

Environmental degradation due to human activity mainly in the fields of mining, quarrying and waste disposal constitutes a major cause of concern. This, in view of the possibility for pollution of the progressively diminishing water reserves, has aroused interest toward the identification and eventual neutralisation of pollutant sources and the rehabilitation of abandoned mines. Hydrogeological data concerning possible pollution sources of aquifers are being gathered.

Groundwater reserves studies, drilling of production wells and exploration for new aquifers is an expanding line of activity. The phenomena of seawater intrusion due to aquifer overpumping are being studied. In cooperation with foreign institutions through EU Projects, the subsurface water hazard evaluation from subsurface natural radioactive elements and other potentially toxic trace-element concentrations was accomplished, whereas new projects underway include the "Quantitative and Qualitative Re-evaluation of Groundwater Resources of Cyprus", the "BOREMED Project" aiming at studying Boron in groundwater and the "Protection of Aquifers from Nitrate Pollution from Agricultural Sources".

Geological, geotechnical and geophysical investigations relating to developmental and other construction projects are also carried out. A lot of effort is geared towards the "Microzoning Study of the Paphos Broader Urban Area" that has just been launched in cooperation with the Aristoteles Salonica University and the Institute of

Technical Seismology and Antiseismic Structures of Salonica. Similar studies are the "Lefkosia Broader Urban Area Seismic Hazard Assessment Study" carried out under the auspices of UNOPS and in cooperation with the USA Geological Survey, expected to be completed next year, whereas the Larnaca and the Limassol Broader Area Microzonic Studies carried out in cooperation with the Institute of Geophysics of Hamburg University and with the Aristoteles Salonica University respectively have been completed.

In the search of minerals and groundwater reserves and the study of geotechnical problems geophysics play an important role. In cooperation with the Hamburg University microseismic surveys were carried out; as a result the seismic activity in the Cyprus region was investigated and active seismic faults were determined.

Research in the field of seismology is another area of the department's activities. The seismic network now telemetered for rapid data acquisition has been upgraded and expanded except to that part of the island now under Turkish occupation. The Seismological Center, now functioning on a fully computerised basis, provides information, which is translated into a form useful to the engineer so as to design earthquake resistant structures. Cyprus participates in the regional programme RELEMR under the auspices of UNESCO, which aims at reducing earthquake losses in the area.

Mining – Quarrying

The mining industry has been on the decline (practically non-existent) for the last three decades. The only mining activity is the Skouriotissa Copper Mines.

There is extensive quarrying of rocks and industrial minerals in Cyprus. There are about 250 quarries producing various materials. They produce for local use havana, sand and gravel aggregates, building stone, limestone, clay, gypsum and others, and for export building stone, limestone, clay, gypsum and others, and for export buildings stone, gypsum, bentonite, umber, ochre and others. There is also local production and export of quick and hydrated lime, Portland and other types of cement, gypsum, plasters etc.

Concerning the prospecting of metals there is a great interest for copper and precious metals, especially gold. There is also great interest from foreign companies for prospecting of gypsum.

The total exports in 2001 for ores and industrial minerals amounted to C£11,9 mln compared with C£12 mln in 2000.

Agricultural Insurance Organisation

The Agricultural Insurance Scheme provides for the compulsory insurance of deciduous fruits against losses due to hail, frost and windstorm and additionally on cherries at ripening stage due to rain, of grapes against losses due to hail, frost and heatwave, of citrus against losses due to hail, frost and windstorm and additionally on "Local" and "Clementine" mandarine varieties due to waterspot, of cereals against hail, drought and rust, of dryland forage crops against drought and hail, of potatoes against hail, frost and flooding, of beans against hail, frost, flooding, prolonged rainfalls and not dry wind and of artichokes and loquats against hail and frost.

The premium paid by farmers amounts to 3% of the gross income derived from the insured crops. As from 1998, an equivalent amount to the premiums collected, is granted annually to the Organisation by the government, as subsidy.

The total premiums paid by the insured farmers during the period 1978-2001 reached the amount of C£33 mln, while the total government subsidy during the same period amounted to C£23,4 mln. Total indemnities paid to producers during this period reached the amount of C£62,6 mln.

The ultimate aim of the Organisation is the gradual improvement and expansion of the Agricultural Insurance Scheme, to cover all main crops against all major natural calamities.

Land Consolidation

The Land Consolidation Department is responsible for the coordination, administration and execution of measures of land consolidation in Cyprus, in accordance with the agricultural policy of the government, which aims at raising the agricultural income and creating a better working and living environment for the farmers and the rural population.

In order to accomplish these objectives the department exercises the grouping-up of the fragmented and scattered land ownerships into compact holdings, the construction of a new rural road network serving all new plots, the enlargement of small holdings by purchasing private, church, and state land and distributing it on specific criteria to the farmers, the creation of regularly-shaped plots of land and the elimination of dual and multiple ownerships.

All these changes led to increases in production, by 100% in capital and labour productivity by 45% up to 100% and in the number of economically viable holdings by 16% with consequent rises in the agricultural income, up to 300%.

The I.R.R. (Internal Rate of Return) in 15 completed schemes was found to be 10-22%, which means that all projects are economically viable.

The end of 2002 marks the completion of 57 land consolidation schemes with a total area of 13,309 ha, the implementation of another 23 schemes, with a total area of about 6,307 ha and the promotion of another 41 schemes of a total area of about 11,602 ha. The main results obtained from the so far implementation of land consolidation refer to the increase in the size of ownerships by 34,21%, on average, the elimination of land fragmentation by 55,84% and the enlargement of the land plot size by 125,81%, the abolition/elimination of mixed land tenure by 91,76% and the increase of the farm road network by 196,5% over the pre-consolidation total, which was 403 km.

Moreover, the Cyprus Land Consolidation legislation provides for landscape renovation within land consolidation areas, which focuses, among other things, on the planting of shrubs and trees, the creation of small parks/recreation areas in non-agricultural land and the protection/consolidation of the cultural heritage and physical environment within land consolidation areas, such as the restoration of traditional fountains, old watermills and railway lines.

The Cyprus Forests

The forests of Cyprus (state and private) cover about 25% of the total area of the island. The Cyprus forests are natural, consisting mainly of Brutia pine (*Pinus brutia*), while the Black pine (*Pinus nigra* ssp. *Pallasiana*) covers the higher slopes of the Troodos Range. Other species are Cypress, Juniper, Plane, Alder and Golden oak (*Quercus alnifolia*), which is endemic, etc. Cedars (*Cedrus brevifolia*), also an endemic species, occur in the Paphos Forest.

The Department of Forests, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, administers the State Forests, implements Government Policy with regard to forests and is responsible for implementing plans for forest development.

National Forest Programme for Cyprus

The forests of Cyprus are an important national resource and the forest sector is subject to pressures coming from many directions to which it has to respond. Forests provide timber and non-wood products; more importantly they contribute significantly to the beauty of the landscape, preservation of the national heritage, protection of water supplies, rural life, village communities and the general well-being of Cypriot citizens and they attract visitors from abroad. With effective conservation and sound management the forest resource offers multidimensional opportunities for socioeconomic development, especially in rural areas

The Forestry Department with the assistance of FAO experts has adopted a 10-year period «National Forest Programme». The main objectives of the Programme are: the forest development, the forest management on a sustainable basis, the rationalist and prudent multiple use of forest and the harmonization of forest policy with that of European Union.

The new forest policy aims at the protection and improvement of the natural environment of Cyprus for the benefit of all citizens.

Fire danger

Fire is by far the most destructive single agent, threatening the forests of Cyprus and no real progress can be made in Forest Development unless the forests are adequately protected. The long hot and dry summers, the frequent strong winds, the configuration of the ground and the flammability of the vegetation favour the outbreak and quick spread of fires. Furthermore the urbanization, the abandonment of rural areas and the increased number of visitors in the forest for recreation raise the fire hazard to very high levels.

Forest recreation

The Department of Forests is responsible for the creation, improvement and extension of picnic and camping places as well as for the establishment, development and maintenance of National Forest Parks in the state forest. During the recent years many nature trails were established, at Akamas, Paphos, Troodos, Limassol, Adelphi and Macheras Forest and at Cavo Greco. The nature trails attract many walkers both from Cyprus and abroad.

Troodos Visitor Center

The Troodos Visitor Center, situated near Troodos Square, is the first of its kind developed in Cyprus. Its development is placed among the objectives and the aims

of the new Forest Policy of the Department of Forests. Troodos was chosen as the nesting place of the first Visitor Center due to its unique environmental value.

The Visitor Center has a recreational, educational, training and informative character giving emphasis on the local environment and the elements compiling it. Its main objectives are:

- to present to the visitors the values and functions of the forest;
- to present the attempts to protect the natural heritage and to make people understand the reasons behind such an effort;
- to inspire the respect and love for the nature, contributing to the development of an integrated and creative relationship between humans and the environment.

Forest Education

The Cyprus Forestry College is a Government International Institution of Tertiary Education. Since its establishment in 1951, the college has trained students from Africa, Europe, Asia, Middle East, Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean in the general principles of forestry and forestry practices. By the end of 2002, there were 778 college graduates, out of 309 being overseas students. The Cyprus Forestry College is participating in the European programs Erasmus and Leonardo da Vinci.

Since the college is an international training institution, the language of instruction is English. The college is a residential institution with its own accommodation, boarding and transportation facilities.

The Cyprus Forestry College offers the following courses:

- a three – year forestry course, leading to the award of the Diploma in Forestry;
- a six – month post diploma course, leading to the award of the Higher Diploma in Forestry;
- a short training course, leading to the award of the Certificate in Forestry.

Labour and Industrial Relations

Employment

As a result of the satisfactory performance of the Cyprus economy throughout the eighties and nineties, the labour market in Cyprus has exhibited conditions of full employment, with unemployment at around 3% of the economically active population. The structure of employment by sector has gone through major changes in the last two decades, with a large increase of employment in the tertiary sector and a decrease in the primary and secondary sectors.

In general the labour market in Cyprus is considered to be relatively flexible and well functioning. In 2001, employment increased by 1,9% thus giving rise to the employment rate (15-64 years) which reached the level of nearly 68%. The increase in employment during 2001 was observed in the tertiary sector, with its share to total employment reaching 71%. The percentage of part-time employment to total employment was 7%.

The education level of the workforce in Cyprus is considered high. About 39% of the labour force had completed upper secondary education and 31,5% tertiary education.

Employment policy and programmes are designed within the framework of the overall Strategic Development Plans. Among their basic goals is the full and more productive utilisation of the labour force in conditions of full employment.

Since the early nineties, Cyprus has resorted to the employment of foreign workers, on a temporary basis, in order to satisfy shortages in certain sectors of the economy.

The Department of Labour is responsible for the effective and smooth functioning of the labour market. To this end, the Department:

- assists and participates in the development and evaluation of employment policy;
- assists and advises on the identification and assessment of labour market problems;
- co-operates and collaborates with other public and private bodies with a view to achieving optimal distribution, effective use and mobilisation of human resources;
- assists job-seekers to find suitable employment and helps employers to find suitable workers, through registration and placement services at district level,
- facilitates occupational and geographical mobility of labour, through the provision of information to job-seekers and employers;
- provides vocational guidance and counselling on employment and training opportunities;
- initiates and operates programmes and schemes for workers facing special problems, such as the Apprenticeship Scheme, which is designed for young persons who have completed three years of compulsory secondary education and have a vocational outlook, and the Self-Employment Scheme for Tertiary Education Graduates, which provides financial incentives in the form of subsidised loans with a view to creating self-employment.

In addition to the above, the Department of Labour is responsible for the following fields of legislation and policy:

- maternity protection and protection of young persons at work;
- equal treatment of men and women in employment;
- private employment agencies ;
- hours of work in retail trade;
- port workers employment and working conditions;
- equal treatment and protection of foreign workers.

Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled

The Service for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled, which operates within the Department of Labour, coordinates all relevant activities in the public sector. Its main objective is to deal with issues concerning disabled persons and disabilities, and to promote the equalisation of rights and opportunities of the disabled persons, in order to help such persons achieve full participation in the economic and social life of the country.

Through this Service, the Department of Labour implements programmes for vocational assessment and guidance, vocational training and retraining, placement in employment in the open market, sheltered employment, and self-employment of disabled persons. It also provides allowances to cover the special needs of severely disabled persons, financial assistance for the acquisition of technical aids, equipment

and wheelchairs, financial assistance to organisations of the disabled, and subsidies for summer vacations of persons with disabilities.

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work

The workers' right to safe and healthy working conditions is safeguarded by appropriate legislation. The core of the said legislation is a framework law, namely the Safety and Health at Work Law, which is in line with the provisions of the ILO Convention on Occupational Safety and Health, and incorporates all the provisions of the European Union Framework Directive 89/391/EEC.

A substantial number of regulations under the above framework Law impose specific legal provisions regarding the minimum health and safety requirements for workplaces, work equipment, personal protective equipment, work signs, manual handling, visual display units, the exposure of workers to asbestos, biological, chemical and carcinogenic agents, drilling works, etc.

The Safety and Health at Work Law covers all workplaces in all sectors of economic activity regardless whether the workplace is private or public, and imposes duties on employers, self-employed persons and employees, as well as on designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers of articles and substances for use at work.

The active involvement of both employers and workers in securing a safe and healthy working environment is promoted by legislation regulating the establishment and operation of Safety Committees at the workplace. Safeguarding of the health and safety of persons from the operation and use or handling of machinery, such as pressure vessels, lifts and hoists and cranes, is realised through the relevant provision of the Factories Law and Regulations issued under it.

The protection of the safety and health of persons at work and of the environment from activities involving ionising radiation is realised through the Ionising Radiation Protection Law and Regulations issued under it.

The protection of the safety and health of persons and of the environment from the use of chemical substances is effected through the enforcement of the Dangerous Substances Law and Regulations issued under it.

In the field of education and training on safety and health at work, the Training Centre on Occupational Safety and Health of the Department of Labour Inspection is actively involved in organising and implementing training programmes, seminars, and other training events for the inspectors as well as for other groups of persons playing a role in health and safety at work.

Industrial Pollution Control

The Industrial Pollution Control Section of the Department of Labour Inspection is responsible for enforcing the Atmospheric Pollution Control Law, which came into force in 1993. Through the licensing procedure established by the above Law, the applications of several industrial units have been examined by the Technical Committee on the Environment, chaired by the representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, and the relevant Registration Certificates have been granted. On the Registration Certificates that were issued, specific operating conditions and emission limits have been set for the effective protection of the environment. The emissions of the large industrial plants are monitored for

compliance periodically. For this purpose a well-equipped mobile monitoring station is used.

A Life Project under title "Integrated Control of Industrial Pollution and Chemical Substances in Cyprus", which was promoted jointly with the National Technical University of Athens, has been successfully concluded in September 2001. The main topics that have been covered were the establishment and implementation of an integrated management system for industrial emissions (gaseous and liquid effluents, volatile organic compounds) and for chemical substances in Cyprus. Furthermore, a database has been developed. It includes technical and environmental data of industrial units, which can be statistically processed in order to provide the reports required by the relevant E.U. Legislation. The results of the Life Project were presented in a seminar in Nicosia which was attended by representatives of the other candidate countries as well as civil servants and representatives of industrial units and environmental organisations. The Life Project contributed significantly towards the strengthening of the administrative structures and mechanisms of the Department of Labour Inspection, as well as the training of its staff in implementing and enforcing effectively the environmental legislation.

Regarding the harmonisation of Cyprus legislation with the EU environmental acquis, the drafting of legislation for the transposition of EU Directives concerning the Control of Atmospheric Pollution and Air Quality is in progress. For this purpose three new Laws and 14 relevant regulations have been drafted referring mainly to topics such as the Incineration of Waste (hazardous and non hazardous), Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds, Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control, Emissions from Large Combustion Plants and Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management.

For the monitoring of ambient air quality, four mobile stations, fully equipped with automatic analysers, are in continuous operation. Measurements of the most significant ambient air pollutants at different places in Cyprus show that the air pollutants in these areas are within the Air Quality Objectives for Cyprus. Periodically relevant reports on the status of air quality in Cyprus are published.

In December 2001 a two-year bicommunal project funded by UNOPS (Environmental Protection – Initial Assessment of Ambient Air Quality in Cyprus), was initiated by the Department of Labour Inspection in cooperation with the University of Stuttgart, F.R. of Germany.

The main objectives of the project are:

- to make preliminary assessment of ambient air quality and to draw up zones of pollution in Cyprus according to the EU Framework Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management;
- to assist Cyprus to optimise the ambient air quality monitoring network in order to comply with the relevant directives of the EU including the reporting to the European Commission;
- to supply the necessary input for the formulation of air pollution management policies in Cyprus including preparation of plans on how to meet the EU limits and other EU requirements;
- to increase public awareness on the issues of urban and rural air pollution.

The measurement campaigns will focus primarily in urban areas throughout Cyprus to determine the geographical areas that receive the heaviest pollution load. The urban areas will be divided in grids in which diffusive sampling of pollutants will be carried out. Additional measurements will be carried out at selected points in rural areas to complete the whole picture.

Industrial Relations

Government policy in the field of industrial relations aims at sound industrial relations and the maintenance of industrial peace with a view to increasing social cohesion, productivity, the establishment of democratic practices and the strengthening of socio-economic progress. The targets in this field include:

- the safeguarding of the freedom of association;
- the encouragement of the growth of strong worker and employer organisations, and the fostering of tripartite cooperation;
- the promotion of free collective bargaining as the main method for determining terms and conditions of employment;
- the provision of assistance for the prevention and settlement of labour disputes, within the interest of the public as a whole;
- the protection of workers, by determining their basic conditions of employment through legislation.

It is widely recognised that since the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus, industrial relations in Cyprus have been quite satisfactory, due to the high sense of responsibility shown by both trade unions and employers_ organisations in facing labour problems. This cooperation and understanding became particularly evident during the period following the Turkish invasion in 1974. Cyprus is considered to be a country of peaceful labour relations.

The Industrial Relations Service of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, as the competent authority for the application of Government's policy in the area of industrial relations, provides assistance to both sides of industry for the settlement of labour disputes, following the provisions of the Industrial Relations Code. The Industrial Relations Service also assists in the prevention of labour disputes by:

- providing assistance to industry for the development and functioning of effective mechanisms for collective bargaining and mutual agreements;
- collecting data, undertaking studies and participating in seminars on industrial relations and terms and conditions of employment.

The main method used by the Industrial Relations Service for resolving labour disputes is that of mediation. Accordingly, it must be noted that the Service mediates in around 250-300 cases of labour disputes annually, of which, around 90% are resolved without the use of strikes.

Transport and Communications

Roads

Cyprus has developed a road network which services the transportation needs of industry, agriculture, trade, tourism and the public.

On the basis of recent provisional statistics (2001), the road network in the free areas of Cyprus consists of about 6.982 km of paved and 4.426 km of unpaved roads. The Department of Public Works is responsible for about 35% of paved roads which constitute the main road network of the island. The remaining roads come under the jurisdiction of the Municipalities and the District Administration. The Department of Forests is responsible for unpaved roads in most of the forest areas.

In 2001 the government spent about C£33mln on road construction.

The Turkish invasion of 1974 changed radically the programmes of road development and created new priorities in order to cover the augmented needs in the government controlled areas, where 80% of the population and the greatest portion of development has concentrated.

Under these circumstances new development schemes were prepared and their implementation began immediately. Road development has been executed mainly under the «Third» and «Fourth» Highway Projects and the «Transport Sector Development Programme» which were partially financed by the World Bank (IBRD) and the Kuwait Fund (KFAED).

All major towns - Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos - are connected by four-lane highways.

A major project underway is the Dhekelia-Famagusta highway, which will connect Larnaca northern by-pass with the tourist area of Protaras and Agia Napa. It is expected to be completed by mid-2002 and will cost C£9 mln.

Another major project, which is expected to start by the end of 2002 is a 26 km 4-lane highway extending the Nicosia-Kokkinotrimithia highway to Astromeritis which lies about halfway between the Nicosia-Troodos route. Works are expected to be completed by the end of 2005 at a preliminary cost of C£26mln.

Road Transport

The total number of motor vehicles circulating in Cyprus at the end of 2001 was about 526.000. Routes and time-tables of public buses and transurban taxis are fixed by the Licensing Authority. The fares for all the passenger service vehicles are fixed by the Ministry of Communications and Works.

All motor vehicles circulating in Cyprus need a motor vehicle licence issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. Public service motor vehicles also need special road service licences which are issued by the Licensing Authority, an independent body appointed by the Council of Ministers.

Public Service licences are valid for five years. Drivers of all types of motor vehicles must be holders of driving licences which are issued after a relevant test.

Visitors importing a motor vehicle temporarily for their personal use, which is accompanied by a proper certificate of registration and a valid circulation licence, are not obliged to register and they can use it on the roads of Cyprus. If the vehicle is not accompanied by the above documents, the owner must apply to the Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles within 15 days from the date of importation, for securing a temporary registration certificate. In case the foreign circulation licence of a motor vehicle expires during its stay in Cyprus, the importer must pay to the Department of Road Transport the circulation fees.

A visitor holding a valid driving licence of his country or an international driving licence can drive on the roads of Cyprus. If the licence expires during the holder's stay in Cyprus, a temporary licence is issued on the strength of the expired one.

Before driving on the roads of Cyprus, a third party insurance cover by a Cyprus Insurance Company is essential unless the importer of the vehicle is in possession of an International Insurance Certificate (green card).

All types of motor vehicles have to be inspected before registration. In addition, mechanical inspection of motor vehicles is carried out in accordance with local rules and regulations.

Air Transport

The Republic of Cyprus is a signatory to the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation. Cyprus is a member country to International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a body of United Nations, a full member of the European Organisation for the Safety to Air Navigation (Eurocontrol) and a member of the Airport Council International (ACI). It is also in the negotiation process of becoming a member to the European Common Aviation Area, where the EU directives and regulations concerning air transport will be applied. It is envisaged that by 1.1.2003 (upon accession) full liberalisation of the sector will take place.

In 2001 Larnaca airport handled 5.304.151 passengers and Paphos airport 1.539.296.

At both Larnaca and Paphos airports scheduled and charter operators connect Cyprus direct with countries of the European Union, Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

Island's National Carrier

Cyprus Airways' contribution to the tourist industry and the island's economy in general, is a very significant one since it provides the necessary link with 30 destinations in Europe, the Middle East and the Gulf area, hence an important source of foreign exchange. It has 2.000 employees.

Cyprus Airways, in close collaboration with the Government and other important bodies such as the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, the Association of Cyprus Travel Agents and the Cyprus Hoteliers Association, undertakes joint ventures for the promotion of Cyprus' tourism.

In 2001 the company together with its charter subsidiary Eurocypria, carried 1,8 million passengers.

To meet the growing traffic demand, Cyprus Airways renewed and expanded its fleet. Cyprus Airways' fleet consists of 4 Airbus A310s and 10 Airbus A320s.

In 1992 Eurocypria, Cyprus Airways' charter subsidiary started operations. Eurocypria is designed to compete in the ever-increasing charter market to Cyprus. Its fleet comprises four new Airbus A320s. The airline operates flights to 46 destinations in 11 European countries.

Ports

Sea-borne traffic is serviced in Cyprus by a modern and highly integrated national port system composed of the multipurpose ports of Limassol and Larnaca, the

industrial port of Vasilliko and four specialised oil terminals at Larnaca, Dhekelia, Moni and Vasiliko.

Limassol port serves the country's external trade and sea-borne passenger traffic, acting also as a transshipment centre for the region. It offers the full complement of services required during a ship's call in port which include ship repair, container repair, bunkering and ship-handling etc.

Larnaca port, serves some specialised trade and is scheduled for redevelopment into a specialised state of the art passenger/leisure port.

The smaller ports of Paphos, Latchi, Zygi and Limassol Old Port are currently used as marinas and fishing shelters.

The ports of Famagusta, Kyrenia, Karavostassi and Xeros are in the area occupied by Turkish troops since 1974 and have been declared by the government of the Republic of Cyprus closed to shipping and navigation and as prohibited ports of entry and exit.

About 80 shipping services include Cyprus in their regular schedules to and from 5 continents and over 5000 ships totalling 20 million net registered tonnes call at Cyprus ports each year.

Passenger traffic has been posting consistently high rates of growth, 3,5% p.a., over the last decade, not taking into consideration year 2001, because of the September 11th events. Limassol port, currently serving almost 700.000 passengers, is the leading port in the East Mediterranean in cruise traffic, one of the top two in Europe and serves, inter alia, as the home base for a number of cruise ships.

Cargo traffic served through our ports amounts to 7,5 million tonnes which include 1,0 million in transit and 0,24 million containers. Cyprus ports were pioneers in the region in the development of container terminals and over the last decade served as major transshipment centres in the region reaching a peak of 400.000 containers in 1996.

Industry structure

All port facilities of the island are under the jurisdiction of the Cyprus Ports Authority (CPA), a statutory body set up in 1973. The role of CPA is to implement and promote government policy but it also has the obligation to be commercially oriented as it has to be self financed. It is practically the only investor in ports and it carries out part of the port operations mainly pilotage, crantage and store keeping.

However the bulk of the activity, stevedoring and shore operations, is in the hands of the private sector. This has enabled our ports to reach high standards of productivity and our private sector to develop an integrated package of services to cater for customer needs. These services extend beyond the boundaries of ports and indeed overseas, to cover logistical support, warehousing, distribution and feeding services to a wide international region.

Merchant Shipping

International enterprises operating from Cyprus also include a number of agents and brokers as well as a number of firms, which provide a wide range of services to insurance companies without themselves engaging in insurance business for which an insurance licence would be required.

Under the Cyprus Merchant Shipping Legislation, which was enacted in 1963, a ship can be registered under the Cyprus flag only if more than one half of the shares of the ship are owned by a Cypriot or by a corporation established and operating under and in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Cyprus, and having its registered office in the Republic. The mere holding of shares in a Cyprus shipping company by a foreigner does not disqualify the company, since the company is a legal entity independent of its shareholders.

The procedure of registration in Cyprus of a shipping company is quick and can generally be completed in a matter of days through a local representative. An exchange control approval is required from the Central Bank of Cyprus but this is easily secured if the business entity concerned is wholly owned either directly or indirectly by aliens and the entity derives all its income from sources outside Cyprus (international companies).

Registration and deletion procedures are quick provided that all the necessary documents are in order. Normally five to seven days are adequate for registration and one to two days for deletion. Cyprus Consuls posted in countries all over the world may issue certificates for provisional registration for deletion and for encumbrances.

By the end of 2001 2.240 vessels were registered in Cyprus of 25 mln gross tonnage.

The Cyprus Merchant Shipping Legislation provides that no income tax is payable on the profits derived from the operation of the ship registered in the name of a Cyprus company. The dividends paid to the shareholders of such a company are tax-exempt and no estate duty is payable upon the inheritance of its shares. Also, no capital gains or other tax is payable upon sale or transfer of the ship or of shares in a Cyprus registered ship owning company.

The interests of mortgages on Cyprus ships are fully protected under the existing law. This fact has been fully appreciated by all main international Banks engaged in granting loans to ships under the Cyprus flag. There is also no stamp duty on ship mortgage deeds.

A significant number of ship management companies have been established in Cyprus and manage a sizeable proportion of the Cyprus merchant fleet as well as a large number of vessels under foreign flags. One of these companies has established a marine training school in Cyprus, following an agreement with the Cyprus Government, training both Cypriot and foreign seamen.

The Cyprus Government has been taking a series of measures in order to improve the image of the Cyprus merchant fleet in world shipping circles. Thus, an age limit of 15 years was imposed for the registration of ships and strict requirements have to be fulfilled at the time of provisional registration and at any subsequent transaction.

The Cyprus Government attaches considerable importance to the need for safer ships and improved working and living conditions for their crews. Serious work began a few years ago for the review, updating and codification of the Cyprus Merchant

Shipping Legislation and a Law Reform Committee has been set up by the Council of Ministers to propose appropriate legislation.

Postal Services

The Department of Postal Services offers to the public full range, fast and safe services at low cost.

During the last years, the work volume has increased significantly as a result of economic and social growth. Due to concrete measures taken in the operational level and the quality improvement, several services show an upward direction.

The postal network constitutes an important part of the national infrastructure. Businesses as well as private customers, who use it regularly, pay great importance to it for its effectiveness and its correct way of operation. In addition, it satisfies their basic postal needs and offers them all the important additional services. The aim of the Cyprus Postal Services is to establish a postal network, which will be the channel of communication between the customers.

The Cyprus Post is bound to satisfy the needs of its customers for regular and reliable postal services. At the same time, it operates in such a manner so as to continue its profitable way of business and survive in the competitive environment, contributing to the general Cyprus economy. For this reason the inspection and the training of the staff are among the priorities of the Cyprus Post.

Aiming to achieve the quality standards set by the European Union, i.e. next day delivery, a new sorting centre has been established and equipped with an automatic letter sorting system.

The Cyprus Post offers a variety of special services such as «Postage Paid Service», «Business Reply Service», «Delivery of unaddressed items», «Official Franking Machine» and others.

Both EMS/Datapost courier service, linked with almost every country in the world, and Intelpost, the high facsimile transmission service, are provided either by telefax or by delivery within two hours. Post Office Box letter delivery is provided on a continuous basis during the office hours, while house-to-house delivery is provided daily on working days

Overall Social Policy

The importance of an effective social services system has been especially apparent in Cyprus since the Turkish invasion of 1974. The uprooting of a quarter of the population created many social problems and increased the dependence of vulnerable groups on the state. Initially, government policy focused on meeting the basic survival requirements of refugees and others through cash grants and aid in kind. Since then, it has gradually moved towards providing long-term housing services, free secondary education, health services and a wage-related social insurance scheme, scholarships and loans for needy students to study abroad, infrastructural building such as new schools, hospitals and various welfare institutions such as old people's homes, geriatric centres, community welfare centres, children and youth homes, hostels and day care centres.

The basic objectives of government social policy are:

- to secure a minimum acceptable standard of living for all citizens, especially for those who do not participate - or participate to a limited extent - in the productive process;
- to attain a more equitable distribution of the national income and of the tax burden, both between different income groups and regions (special emphasis is attached to improving the income position of refugees); and
- to implement and improve existing social programmes while preparing the introduction of new programmes, institutions and schemes.

Health

The standard of health of the Cypriot population compares favourably with that of the population of developed countries.

Cyprus has been successfully freed of common infections and parasitic diseases and the pattern of morbidity resembles that of developed industrial nations with cardiovascular diseases, malignancies and car accidents predominating as the causes of death. It should be pointed out that Cyprus has successfully eliminated malaria in the past and more recently echinococcosis, through the implementation of special campaigns. Current educational and preventive programmes are proving successful in almost eliminating the incidence of thalassaemia, which was a severe health problem.

Health Services

The medical needs of the Cyprus population are met through three systems of health services: The government health sector, the private health sector, and a number of schemes covering specific sections of the population.

Government Provision

Health care is provided free through government facilities to those who are eligible. The groups formally covered by this scheme are: government employees, individuals earning less than C£6.000 per annum, households earning less than C£10.000 per annum increased by C£600 for each dependant child and households with more than three children. Individuals with an income between C£6.000 and C£9.000 per annum and households with an income between C£10.000 and C£14.000 per annum increased by C£600 for each dependant child, have health care provided at 50% of the prescribed rates.

Furthermore, medical care free of charge is provided in all cases receiving treatment at the accident and emergency departments irrespective of the economic situation or the nationality of the person involved, including visitors. However, if these cases need hospitalisation, subsequent care fees have to be paid.

Private health sector

It is open to all those who can afford to pay for their treatment. Private medicine is dominated by a large number of physicians in individual practice. A number of polyclinics have also been established in urban areas with a number of physicians offering a range of medical services.

Special Schemes

A number of special schemes cover specific sections of the population. These include:

- Medical Services provided by the Trade Unions to the employed persons and their dependents. These services provide mostly primary health care.
- A number of employer-sponsored arrangements, all of which provide free medical care mainly through public health facilities.

Primary Health Care

The primary health care needs of the Cyprus population are met through rural and urban health centres and also through the outpatient departments of the district hospitals.

The centres provide curative as well as preventive and promotive services i.e. maternal and child health care, immunisation coverage, health education and school health care.

Primary health care is also provided by doctors from the private sector having their own surgeries mainly in the cities.

Appropriate services for prenatal care, education and family planning have been developed, together with the introduction of improved pregnancy tests for the early detection of congenital anomalies.

The public psychiatric services are being decentralised. A network of services in all districts is gradually being set up so that they are directly accessible to the community (primary and preventive services, nursing services at home, psychiatric clinics in hospitals, daycentres etc.). Also, specialised services have been established such as for child psychiatry, detoxification and family therapy. As a result of these developments, the number of institutionalised patients has been reduced substantially.

Health Promotion and Education

Health promotion and education is now seen as a lifelong benefit for the health of the population. Awareness of the hazards of unhealthy lifestyles is growing amongst the population not only as a result of national policies and practices but also as a result of the diffusion of information at schools and other places and via the media.

Government expenditure on health promotion and education covers activities on smoking and nutrition, AIDS and hepatitis, accidents, oral health, poisonings and narcotics, cancer screening, diabetes, blood pressure, CAD etc.

Health Care Reform

The present system of health care has for long been criticised for the fragmentation of services, the lack of coordination between the public and private health sector, the lack of equity in its financing and in general its inability to respond to the expectations of the population.

On 20 April 2001, the House of Representatives enacted a law for the introduction of a National Health System (NHS), which will provide health care free at the time of

delivery. It will be universal as regards population coverage and will be financed by contributions from the state, the employers, the employees, the self-employed, the pensioners and all those who have non-employment incomes.

Social Protection

Social Insurance

Social Insurance Scheme

In October 1980, a new Social Insurance Scheme was put into operation. With some minor exceptions the scheme covers compulsorily all employed and self-employed persons in the island. Both employers, employees and the State contribute to the Scheme. Non-employed persons may, under certain conditions, join the scheme on a voluntary basis.

The Social Insurance Legislation provides equality of treatment for nationals and non-nationals. Non-nationals have the same rights and obligations under the scheme as nationals.

The scheme provides the following benefits: maternity allowance, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, old-age pension, invalidity pension, widows pension, orphans benefit, missing persons allowance, marriage grant, maternity grant, funeral grant and benefits for employment accidents and occupational diseases i.e. injury benefit, disablement benefit and death benefit.

Employees are entitled to all the above benefits, but self-employed persons are not entitled to unemployment benefit and benefits for employment accidents.

Voluntary contributors are not entitled to maternity allowance, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, invalidity pension and benefits for employment accidents.

The scheme also provides free medical treatment to victims of employment accidents and occupational diseases and to invalidity pensioners.

The benefits provided under the scheme are payable outside Cyprus, with the exception of maternity allowance, unemployment benefit, sickness benefit and injury benefit.

Child Benefit Scheme

The main objective of the Child Benefit Law is to provide additional income support for families with at least four dependent children. The General Revenue of the Republic finances the child benefit, which is tax-free.

Child Benefit Scheme to families with three children

The child benefit to families with three children is payable to families who have their residence in Cyprus and have three dependent children. The benefit is payable only for one child and is financed out of the General Revenue of the Republic.

Social Pension Scheme

The main objective of the Social Pension Law is to provide pensions to persons residing in Cyprus who complete the age of 65 and are not entitled to a pension or other similar payment from any source and satisfy the residence conditions specified in the Law.

Mother's Allowance Scheme

The Mother's Allowance Law provides for the payment of an allowance to mothers commonly residing in Cyprus, who:

- have four children and are not entitled to child benefit, or ceased to be entitled to child benefit,
- ceased to be entitled to child benefit in accordance with the Child Benefit Scheme to Families with Three Children Law.

Annual Holidays with Pay Scheme

Under the Annual Holidays with Pay Law, the provision of annual holidays to all persons employed under a contract of service is mandatory.

Currently, the minimum period of annual leave provided under the legislation is three weeks – 15 working days (for employees working on a five-day week) and 18 working days (for employees working on a six-day week). As from 1.1.2003 the minimum period of annual leave will be increased to four weeks – 20 working days (for employees working on a five-day week) and 24 working days (for employees working on a six-day week).

Termination of Employment Scheme

The Termination of Employment Scheme covers all persons employed under a contract of service. Its objectives are, among other things, to protect employees against arbitrary dismissals by compelling the latter to pay compensation and to cushion the effects of redundancy resulting from technological and social changes by the provision of redundancy payment out of the Redundancy Fund.

Provident Funds

The Provident Funds Law provides for approval and registration of every provident fund before it is put into operation and ensures the good management of such funds.

The benefits from the provident funds are lump sum payments payable on termination of employment, permanent invalidity and retirement or death.

Social Welfare

The basic objectives of government's policy in the field of welfare services are:

- the support of the family, the prevention of family dysfunction and the tackling of problems with a view to the integration of individuals in society;
- the protection, welfare and securement of the interests of children;
- the safeguard of a decent standard of living to every person who legally resides in Cyprus;
- the protection of promotion of optimum social functioning of the elderly and of persons with disabilities;

- the activation and support of communities so as to enable them to deal with the needs of their members at the local level, with a view to collective action for furtherance of social development.

Family and Child Services

Preventive Services: They aim to support families in their adjustment to new and changing roles. Counselling and other services are provided to families at risk or families in crisis at the earliest possible stage of problem emergence.

Children in Care: In cases where a family cannot cope with the responsibilities involved in the protection and care of a child, the Director of Social Welfare Services is empowered by legislation to take the child into his/her care and to assume parental rights. The child may then be removed from the biological family and be placed in a foster family or a group foster home. residential placements (in a children's home, a boys_ hostel or girls_ hostel) are used as a solution of last resort, in cases of children with serious behavioural problems and other difficulties.

Adoption: According to relevant legislation, the Department of Social Welfare Services has a consultative and supervisory role in securing the best interests of children to be adopted. It does not function as an adoption agency. Intercountry adoptions have become the norm since there are hardly any children available for adoption in Cyprus.

Day-Care Service: The Department of Social Welfare Services operates 11 state day-care centres for pre-school children, mainly in refugee settlements. Three of the state day-care centres operate for both pre-school children and infants. The main aim is to serve children of working parents. Fees are on a sliding scale so that families pay according to their income.

Juvenile Delinquency: Decriminalisation of offences committed by children has been applied since 1977. Administrative procedures are used as an alternative measure to children's exposure to court proceedings.

The court may issue probation orders for offences committed by children or adults. Welfare officers act as probation officers for a specified period to provide the convicted person with the necessary support and social network.

Housing

The Turkish invasion of 1974 turned housing into one of the most serious social problems faced by the government and the country. Overnight, 36,2% of the housing stock was lost, creating a serious shortage. The government's response was to provide temporary accommodation in tents at 25 designated camps for about 25.000 displaced people unable to find alternative accommodation. In parallel, the government formulated a long-term strategy for increasing and improving the housing stock. In the medium-term, government policy has been aimed at providing better accommodation to as many refugee families as possible. From the early 1980s, following some easing of the extreme pressures in refugee housing needs, a longer-term policy has also been formulated with the aim to provide for the housing needs of low and middle income non-refugee families and the population in general.

Schemes and Policy Measures for Refugees

Within the context of the housing policy for the refugees, the government has introduced four basic schemes, which are the following:

Low Cost Government Housing Scheme: Through this scheme, low-cost houses are provided free of charge to low-income families.

Self-Help Housing Programme on Government Land: This scheme is also intended for the low-income families. Serviced building plots are allocated to refugees accompanied by financial aid towards meeting part of the cost of erecting their houses.

Self Help Housing Scheme on Private Land: This scheme provides grant-in-aid to eligible refugees to cover part of the building cost of their houses on their own land.

Purchase of a House/Apartment Scheme: This scheme was introduced in 1981 and provides grant-in-aid for purchasing a house/apartment from the private sector. The eligible applicants are given grants-in-aid towards meeting part of the acquired cost for building their own housing unit.

Under another scheme the government has undertaken the improvement of abandoned Turkish Cypriot houses and provided infrastructural and other facilities.

Policy Measures for the Population in General

In addition to meeting the housing needs of refugees, the government has attempted to meet those of the rest of the population through the provision of housing for new households, the replacement of old houses and the reduction of overcrowding. The longer-term policy of dealing with the housing problem of the low and middle-income families has been strengthened with the establishment in the 80's of the Cyprus Land Development Corporation (CLDC) and the Housing Finance Corporation (HFC). The objectives of the two corporations, which operate in the field of social housing, are respectively to provide houses and building sites to families of middle and low incomes at reasonable price and attractive terms of sale.

Generous housing subsidies such as grant-in-aid and long term low interest loans, which reduce the cost of housing, are extended to families earning less than £10.000 p.a.

Citizen's Charter

All the departments of the Ministry of the Interior, which offer services to citizens, have drawn up a Citizen's Charter with a view to providing fuller information and quicker services to the public.

This important innovation marks the start of a new era in the relations between the Ministry of the Interior and the citizens, a relation based on mutual respect,

understanding and cooperation and mainly on the provision of substantive, immediate and impartial services to the public.

The departments which have prepared and implemented the Citizen's Charter are: Land and Survey's Department, Town Planning and Housing Department, Civil Registry and Migration Department, Special Service for the Care and Rehabilitation for the Displaced, and Management of Turkish Cypriot Properties.

Cyprus Youth Board

The Youth Board, an independent, semi-government organisation was established in 1994. The 7-member governing board is composed of one representative from each of the youth organisations of political parties represented in the House of Representatives and three members, who are appointed directly by the Council of Ministers. The Minister of Justice and Public Order acts as the link between the Youth Board of Cyprus and the Council of Ministers. The Board's budget is covered by state subsidy.

Its objective is to promote progress and prosperity among all young people of Cyprus, irrespective of religion and ethnic origin, by dealing with their concerns in an efficient way. It also promotes their active participation in the social, economic and cultural development of the country.

The Youth Board of Cyprus deals with various matters that are of immediate concern to young people with the aim of shaping a comprehensive policy and proposing it to the executive and the legislative power. Through its campaigns, programmes, studies and researches, it tries to promote concrete measures and practical ways for the solution of the various problems young people are facing.

The Youth Board operates the Drugs Hot Line which provides counselling and psychological support to young people and others who seek for assistance.

Youth Centres

Youth Centres are an institution that exists in the whole of Europe and was developed in Cyprus many years ago. Currently, there are approximately 100 youth centres with 8.000 members which provide the means for the healthy utilisation of the leisure time of young people and the channelling of their creative energy. Youth workers are engaged to strengthen the youth centres and enable them to cope with the continuously changing conditions of society today.

Bicommunal Cooperation

The Cyprus Youth Board has been organising bicommunal meetings so far in Budapest. 15 Greek Cypriot young people from political youth organisations and 15 Turkish Cypriot young people from three political parties of their community participated in the last meeting. During the meeting various matters were discussed such as the solution of the Cyprus problem and the role of the young people in improving the relations between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

Infrastructure

One of the major goals of the Youth Board is the creation of infrastructure. To achieve this goal a Youth Information Center has been established, which provides free internet access and general information for young people in Cyprus. Along the same lines, a Multipurpose Youth Center, named «Ekali», is about to be developed, in collaboration with the Nicosia Municipality, to shelter arts workshops, a library and entertainment and recreation facilities.

To ensure youth participation in the decision making processes, Communal and Municipal Youth Councils have been institutionalised and operate with great success. At the same time, the participation of young Cypriots living abroad is secured with the organisation of World Youth Conferences of Young Cypriots living abroad. This group presents their concerns and issues of interest with open discussions, while the results are collected and evaluated by the Youth Board, so that to develop more inclusive programs.

Sports

The sports history of Cyprus dates back many centuries.

Inscriptions found in various archaeological sites both on the island and in Greece bear witness to the Cypriots' love for sports, and also to their success in the Panhellenic and Olympic contests of ancient times at Olympia, Nemea, Pythia, Isthmia and elsewhere.

In its effort to promote sports, in 1969 the government of Cyprus set up the Cyprus Sports Organisation (CSO).

This body is the official spokesman of government policy on sports matters. The CSO is responsible for a wide range of activities including supervision of out-of-school sports, financing the construction and maintenance of sports stadia and facilities, giving technical assistance to clubs and supporting Cyprus' participation in international meetings. The CSO is an autonomous and independent semi-governmental body and has its own budget. Its funds are used for assisting financially the federations and clubs for the promotion of their athletic programmes, for the creation, maintenance and running of the basic athletic infrastructure (stadium, indoor halls, sport facilities, equipment) to the highest possible standards and for the repayment of the financial obligations of the Organisation. The Administrative Board of the Organisation is made up of nine members appointed by the Council of Ministers for a period of at least 3 years.

Cyprus participated in the Sydney Olympics with teams in track and field (athletics), swimming, shooting and sailing. Our shooter Andreou Antonis was placed 9th.

Agreements have been signed with Greece, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Jordan, Poland, Syria, Cuba, Bulgaria and China, while agreements with Russia, Malta and Israel are being prepared.

As a member of the Council of Europe, Cyprus has ratified all the conventions it has signed, such as anti-doping and violence.

In view of new trends in world sports, the CSO has been successfully running a Centre for Sports Research whose main aim is to assist athletes of all fields to excel at international meetings. The Centre cooperates with other similar centres in Europe, particularly with the one in Greece.

Cyprus' sporting activities in the past years have been considerable. The World Shooting Cup and three international tournaments (basketball, track and field, and tennis) were held in Cyprus, as well as the World Gymnasiade.

Abroad, Cyprus took part in many international meetings in all sports, the most important being the Commonwealth Games held in Malaysia. In addition Cyprus participated in many international sports conferences.

Mass Media and Information Services

Freedom of the Press

The press in Cyprus functions as a free and independent institution without intervention or control by any state authority.

The freedom of the press is enshrined in the Cyprus Republic's Constitution which stipulates: «Every person has the right to freedom of speech and expression in any form. This right includes freedom to hold opinions and receive and impart information and ideas without interference by any public authority and regardless of frontiers».

The proliferation of newspapers in Cyprus-both Cypriot and foreign-reflecting a wide range of opinions and ideologies, attests to the plurality of views prevailing in the country and the freedom they enjoy. Criticism of persons in office, public figures, state institutions and government policies, and the freedom to expose malpractices where these occur, are accepted as a healthy manifestation of democracy.

Press Law

The 1989 Press Law safeguards the freedom of the press, the unhindered circulation of newspapers, the right of journalists not to disclose the sources of their information and access to official information.

Non-statutory guidelines have been laid down and journalists are expected to exercise self-regulation in the absence of a functioning Press Council to deal with complaints or non-compliance with journalistic standards. Cyprus journalists have their own Code of Conduct and have set up a committee to monitor its implementation.

The Press

There is a relatively developed press with seven dailies, numerous weeklies and periodicals of varying frequency, expressing a broad spectrum of ideologies and covering a wide variety of subjects. One daily paper and two weeklies.

Foreign News Agencies

The Associated Press (AP), Reuters, UPI, French News Agency (AFP), TASS, XINHUA, ANSA and other international news agencies use Cyprus as a regional base in the Middle East. The BBC, ABC and NBC also maintain news gathering units and television crews in Cyprus.

Cyprus Radio-Television Authority

The Cyprus Radio – Television Authority is an independent regulatory body established under the 1998 Radio and Television Stations Law. It is composed of the

Chairman, Vice-Chairman and five members, appointed by the Council of Ministers for a six-year term:

The Cyprus Radio-Television Authority is the competent regulatory body for the establishment, installation and operation of private radio and television stations in Cyprus.

The independence of the Authority is guaranteed by the Law and by the powers that is accorded. The Authority has its own services and it is self – funded through the income derived from licence fees and advertising revenues.

The Authority has, inter alia, the following powers and duties:

- to grant, recall, renew and amend licences with a view to serving the public interest;
- to issue circulars, directives and recommendations for the observance of the code of journalistic conduct;
- to control the actual ownership status of stations;
- to ensure the journalistic and creative independence of the employees of the stations;
- to impose sanctions for violations, after hearing the interested parties;
- to monitor international development in the audiovisual field and submit suggestions to the Council of Ministers for improvement, modernisation and upgrading of the relevant legislation;
- to monitor the programme content, so that it complies with the provisions of the law and the regulations.

The Authority can impose sanctions for non-compliance with the law or the regulations, which include warnings, administrative fines, suspension and revocation of licences. Infringements of the law may also, under certain circumstances, constitute a criminal offence, which carry penalties including imprisonment.

The Cyprus Radio-Television Authority is a member of the European platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) and of the Mediterranean Network of Media Regulatory Authorities.

The Cyprus Television System

General Characteristics and Recent Developments

Cyprus was one of the few countries in Europe where the public service system maintained its monopoly as late as April 1992. Since then a real «revolution» has occurred in the electronic media environment encouraged by the passage of the Law on the Establishment, Installation and Operation of Television Stations that very year.

The results of this media revolution have been dramatic. Whereas in 1991 only one television channel, the single public service channel, was broadcasting for less than 50 hours a week, at present there are in operation two public service channels, three private channels and two pay TV channels broadcasting nationwide. There are also five local television stations.

The Press and Information Office

The PIO is a government department, under the Ministry of the Interior, which has been assigned the responsibility of publicising government policy. It is further entrusted with the task of promoting and informing the Cypriot public about the work

of the government, the House of Representatives and the semi-government organisations.

It is the central agency for briefing world public opinion on the Cyprus problem, implementing decisions in this regard taken by the Advisory Committee on Enlightenment.

It is also the central publishing agency for the government and maintains the web pages of the Republic. In addition it is responsible for the application of the press and cinema laws, the official certification of translations and the implementation of the decisions taken by the Advisory Committee on Enlightenment concerning audio-visual productions.

The PIO also maintains a microfilm archive of newspapers, including the very first one, dating from the beginning of British colonial rule in 1878.

A Press Centre has also been created by the PIO for use by both foreign and local journalists. The Centre also houses the Ethics Committee on the mass media.

The PIO is also responsible for the setting up and operation of the Cyprus Film Archives as well as the promotion of the national audio-visual industry. It also runs the Secretariat of the Cinema Advisory Committee which was set up in 1994 in order to subsidise Cypriot film productions – short films, documentaries and feature films.

Press Offices Abroad

There are eighteen Press Offices of the Republic of Cyprus abroad including Moscow which are staffed by Press Counsellors and Attachés. Their chief task is to help increase awareness of the Cyprus problem, make the positions of the Cyprus government known, and enhance the image of Cyprus in general.

Cyprus News Agency

The Cyprus News Agency (CNA) was established in 1976, under the auspices of the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC).

Immediately after its establishment, CNA became a member of the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP).

In 1989, the House of Representatives unanimously approved legislation providing for the official establishment and operation of the Cyprus News Agency.

CNA is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors composed of professional journalists including representatives from the Union of Journalists, the Publishers' Association, the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation and the Press and Information Office. The members of the Board are appointed by the Council of Ministers for two-year terms.

Under the Law, CNA is an independent and autonomous corporation, enjoying editorial independence and functioning within the framework of the Cyprus Press Law.

A landmark in CNA's history, especially in the technical field, is the signing in 1996 of a cooperation agreement with the Athens News Agency (ANA).

Over the years, CNA has expanded its cooperation with other national news agencies through cooperation agreements and exchange of news.

Through the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (AMAN), CNA exchanges news items in English with 17 other AMAN members. These stories are translated into Arabic and offered to all mass media in the Arabic speaking countries.

At the same time, CNA has expanded its international relations through membership in various influential and prestigious media organisations, unions and associations.

CNA is a full member of the European Alliance of Press Agencies, the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies and the Commonwealth Press Union.

CNA has appointed correspondents or stringers in the major towns in Cyprus, as well as in major news centres abroad, including Washington, New York, London, Brussels and Athens.

CNA transmits news items in Greek, English and Turkish. Major stories are translated into other languages through agreements with other news agencies. CNA stories are also translated into other languages by news agencies which have correspondents in Cyprus and subscribe to CNA.

CNA currently has commercial agreements with Reuters, AFP, ITAR-TASS, RIA NOVOSTI and MENA and cooperation agreements with ANA, SANA, XINHUA, ANSA, IRNA, PAP, APS and ATA. CNA also exchanges news with the Macedonian News Agency (Thessaloniki), BTA, STA and ROMPRES.

Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation

Radio and Television

The Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC) began life in 1953 as the Cyprus Broadcasting Service transmitting on one radio channel. It began television broadcasts three years later and became a Corporation in 1960 when the island gained its independence from Britain. Today CyBC is transmitting island wide on three radio and two television channels.

The CyBC is administered by a 9member Board of Directors appointed by the Council of Ministers for a three year-term.

The Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation, which is a non-profit making organisation, uses its entire income for the promotion of its objectives i.e. providing information, culture and entertainment to the people of Cyprus.

The Corporation derives its income most of its revenue from government subsidy and advertising in the form of commercial sports and a limited number of sponsored programmes.

Foreign news agencies and film crews are frequent visitors to the CyBC for satellite feeds and links transmitted all over the world. CyBC also provides foreign networks with state-of-the-art radio and television recording and tape editing facilities on site at all major international conferences held on the island.

Live television and radio programmes are an important part of CyBC's contribution to the public. These range from current affairs programmes and talk shows with public

phone-ins, to variety and games shows. The Corporation actively supports and promotes local writers and composers by transmitting drama and comedy for radio and television. It also includes in its broadcasts public information films and commercials, produced in cooperation with various ministries and agencies.

In addition to its two television channels (1 and 2) and the two radio channels, (1st and 3rd) which are aimed at the Greek speaking public, CyBC also broadcasts programmes for Turkish, English and Armenian-speaking listeners on radio channel 2. English programmes include three ten-minute news bulletins a day, a live afternoon magazine programme and music and chat from DJs throughout the evening. During the summer season there is an additional early evening programme (in four European languages) for foreign visitors to the island.

Through satellite technology CyBC is also able to broadcast on its first television channel and its radio channels to the Greek-speaking public abroad who take every opportunity to air their views on live phone-in programmes.

Television Broadcasting

The Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation is a member of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and it is linked via satellite to Euronews transmission for news and other programmes. CyBC participates in the annual Eurovision Song Contest as well as in the Contest for Young Musicians and Young Dancers.

Internet

CyBC has set up its own site on the Internet at <http://www.cybc.com.cy>. Since April 1997 Cypriots living abroad who have access to the Internet can listen to CyBC's three radio programmes.

Private Television Broadcasting

Logos/Mega Channel

The first private channel to operate in Cyprus, after the ratification of the 1992 Broadcasting Law by the House of Representatives, was LOGOS, the church-owned channel, on Holy Saturday, April 1992.

The channel was owned and managed till 1999 by the Autocephalous Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus. This fact was reflected in its programming policy which gave special emphasis to quality programming of an informational, cultural and religious nature. Later there was a trend towards a higher proportion of entertainment programmes in an effort to gain some points on the audience ratings race with other channels.

In 1999 the management of Logos was taken up by Mega Channel (Cyprus), which since then has been broadcasting on the frequencies previously occupied by Logos. This change in management has caused a radical change in the programming policy of the station, which is much more market oriented and devotes the highest percentages of its time to entertainment programming. Emphasis is also given to news programmes.

Antenna-1 (Cyprus)

Antenna-1 (Cyprus) is the second private channel to broadcast in Cyprus. It started regular broadcasts during June 1993. It is sister company of Antenna-1 (Greece) with substantial local financiers. It has a Board of Directors but the day-to-day running of the station is carried out by the Director-General.

Its programming is dominated by the entertainment segment which consists mainly of Greek and US feature films, series, soap operas, situation comedies, game shows, reality shows and, even, gossip shows.

The station has also developed a strong news team and this fact has helped the station achieve top audience ratings till 2001.

Sigma TV

Sigma TV is the third private channel to be added to the Greek Cypriot media landscape in April 1995. It is owned mainly by press conglomerate – Dias Ltd. The station's programming policy is to provide the viewer with locally-focused news and entertainment.

Entertainment programming is based on foreign feature films-usually US. It also comprises US and Latin American series as well as locally produced talk shows, and magazine programmes. This combination has helped the station reach top spot in audience ratings since 2001.

Pay-TV and Local TV Stations

There are also two Pay-TV channels: Lumiere TV and Alpha TV, private radio stations and 5 private TV stations transmitting locally. There are 8 private radio stations broadcasting island-wide and 32 broadcasting locally.

Education

Overall responsibility for education rests with the Ministry of Education and Culture. However, a small number of vocational and post-secondary professional institutions come under the Ministries of Labour and Social Insurance, Agriculture and Health.

Education is provided through pre-primary and primary schooling, secondary general and secondary technical/vocational schools, special schools, third level institutions and non-formal institutions and centres.

Public schools are largely state-funded, while private institutions raise their income mainly from tuition fees, small state subsidies and, in some cases, from foreign aid given by overseas agencies and religious organisations.

The educational system is highly centralised with the appointments, transfers, promotions and disciplinary matters of teachers controlled by the State. School curricula and textbooks are prescribed by governmental agencies, and schools at all levels are visited by the state inspectorate. This offers in-service training, advice and supervision. The inspectorate is also responsible for evaluating schools.

Educational policies are formulated by the Ministry of Education and Culture on the advice of the Education Council - a widely representative body - and approved by the Council of Ministers. The construction, maintenance and equipment of school buildings are the responsibility of local school committees. Private schools are owned

and administered by individuals or bodies, but are liable to supervision and inspection of the Ministry of Education.

Pre-primary Education

Pre-primary education covers the children in the age-range of 3 - 5 8/12. It takes on the responsibility to complement the family's role, to provide ample support and augment the developmental stage of the children and to satisfy their basic needs for a wholesome personality in an experiential environment, so as to enable them to recognise their capabilities and enhance their self-image.

Pre-primary schools fall under the three following categories:

Public kindergarten schools, established by the Ministry of Education and Culture in collaboration with parents' associations and community authorities.

Communal kindergarten schools, established and run by parents' associations or community authorities. The Ministry of Education and Culture contributes with a substantial yearly subsidy.

Private kindergarten schools, established and run by individuals with the approval of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Primary Education

The vast majority of primary schools are the state schools financed and administered by the Government, which provide six years compulsory schooling to children who complete 5 years and 8 months of age. Primary education is free. At the national level, the official pupil-teacher ratio is 17:1.

Experiential and meaningful learning is promoted in the curriculum through an emphasis on environmental, science and social subjects, language development, music, physical education, home economics, art, design and technology. Information Technology is not treated as a separate subject but as a powerful means of learning and teaching. The acquisition of the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics is central in all six grades.

Special Education

In Cyprus, education for children with special needs is at the stage of rapid development. The incorporation of children with special needs into mainstream education is a firm policy of the Ministry of Education and Culture, which follows international policy decisions.

In the case of children with severe needs, additional educational help offered by special education teachers assigned to mainstream schools aims at supporting their educational and social integration.

An exception to the integration policy is the form of education offered to children with severe mental, physical, sensory and emotional problems who are still segregated into special schools.

General Secondary Education in Cyprus

Secondary education, whether public or private, encompasses a large sector of the education structure in the Cyprus Republic. It is compulsory for children to the age of fifteen.

Private Secondary Education

A number of non-profit and profit-making secondary establishments ranging from missionary boarding schools to vocationally-oriented institutions and foreign language centres offer tuition in specialised fields. Although private secondary schools maintain a considerable degree of independence in their operation and curricula, they are registered with the Ministry of Education and Culture and comply with certain curriculum and facility requirements mandated by law. Foreign language schools have six- or seven-year curriculum programmes, with English, French, Italian or Arabic as the basic languages of instruction.

Public General Secondary Education

Public secondary education offers a six-year programme of instruction for children aged twelve to eighteen.

The Lower Secondary School, (Gymnasio), caters for pupils aged twelve to fifteen and offers a broad spectrum of general education.

The Upper Secondary School, (Lykeio), which is open to all pupils who have successfully completed the Gymnasium, offers diversity and encompasses three distinct programme curricula, all leading to a school leaving certificate, «APOLYTIRION».

(a) The «LEM» Lyceum i.e. the «Subject Selection Lyceum» (Lykeio Epilogis Mathimaton), offers pupils a three-year programme with three categories of subjects which are structured in the following five streams or combinations:

- classical studies;
- mathematics, physics and chemistry;
- economics and mathematics;
- clerical skills and accounting;
- foreign languages and social studies.

Some of the subjects are common to all combinations (compulsory core subjects) while some others form the specialisation ones that are characteristic of the combination.

(b) The Technical Schools: Technical and vocational education is offered in the technical schools that are offering a variety of courses in two streams: the technical stream with more time allocated to theoretical subjects, mathematics and physics than to workshop practice and the vocational stream focusing on workshop practice and mainly aiming at training craftsmen.

(c) The Eniaio Lykeio It is a form of comprehensive upper secondary school and it aims at providing a combination of general education with emphasis on learning mechanisms, research and initiative, knowledge of foreign languages, use of the new

information technology, preparation for life-long and autonomous learning, bridging theory and practice, development of skills for flexibility and delimiting specialisation.

Secondary Technical and Vocational Education in Cyprus

Technical and Vocational directions in STVE

There are two different directions in Cyprus STVE:

- Technical Direction (Technical Level Courses)
- Vocational Direction (Craft Level Courses)

The difference between the two is the focus of the course, which is reflected by the difference in the time allocated to general education and science subjects compared to the time allocated to technological subjects and workshop practice. In Technical Direction the emphasis is on general education and science subjects, with only 40% of total time allocated to Technology and Workshop practise.

The reverse is true for the Vocational Direction where the emphasis is on Technology and Workshop Practise which takes up 57.5% of total teaching time while general education subjects take up the rest.

Higher and Tertiary Education

During the academic year 1997/98, about 62% of all secondary school leavers continued their studies beyond secondary level. Of these, about 33% attend higher education institutions in Cyprus and the remaining 29% attend higher education institutions abroad.

During the academic year 1989-99 there were 12.488 Cypriot students at tertiary institutions abroad distributed by country as follows: Greece 49%, U.K. 25%, U.S.A. 15%, other countries 11%.

During the academic year 1999-2000 there were 9 public and 21 private institutions of higher education in Cyprus, with a total of 11.744 students, including 2.577 (22%) overseas students.

Students at tertiary education institutions are distributed as 36% to public institutions and 64% to private institutions.

Foreign students in Cyprus mainly come from countries of the British Commonwealth and the Middle East.

The institutions of higher education are: University of Cyprus, Public Higher Education and Private Schools of Higher Education.

University of Cyprus

The University of Cyprus was founded in 1989 and started operating in 1992. At present it has four faculties and thirteen departments, with 3000 students attending.

Expansion with other faculties is planned during the next years and is expected to reach full capacity with about 8.000 students. Research is promoted and funded in all departments with an aim to contribute to scholarship in general, and to meet local

and international needs and demands. The University of Cyprus also offers postgraduate programmes at the Master's and Ph.D. level.

The University of Cyprus currently offers programmes through the following faculties and departments:

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, with Departments in Education, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Social and Political Science and Turkish Studies.

Faculty of Pure and Applied Science, with Departments in Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics, and Natural Science.

Faculty of Economics and Management, with Departments in Economics, and Public and Business Administration.

Faculty of Letters, with Departments in Byzantine and Modern Greek-Studies, Classics and Philosophy, and History and Archaeology.

The House of Representatives has approved the expansion of the faculties and two new departments will operate soon, the Department of Law and the Department of Biology.

Since December 2000 and after the decision of the Council of Ministers on the 25th of January 2001, a number of measures have been taken for the commencement of the operation of a new University of Applied Sciences and Arts, which will include five of the current public institutions now operating.

Public Higher Education

During the academic year 2000-2001, there were eight public institutions of higher education which operate under the guidance of the relevant ministries. Seven of these institutions offer courses at the sub-degree level in various fields of study. The other institution offers a Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Management for university graduates.

The public institutions are:

- 1. The Cyprus Forestry College** of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. It offers a two-year diploma course in Forestry, a six-month post-diploma course in Forestry and a short training course in Forestry. The language of instruction is English.
- 2. The Higher Technical Institute (H.T.I.)** of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance offers three-year sub-degree level courses for the diploma of Technical Engineer in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Marine Engineering and Computer Studies.
- 3. The Higher Hotel Institute** of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance offers a three year diploma programme in Hotel and Catering (specialising in food and beverage and room division), a three year diploma programme in Culinary Arts, a one year diploma programme in Front Office and a one year diploma programme in Housekeeping. The language of instruction is English.
- 4. The School of Nursing** of the Ministry of Health offers basic courses of a three-year and three-month duration in General Nursing and in Psychiatric Nursing

(Registered Nurses) and a post-diploma course of a twelve-month duration in Nursing Administration, Midwifery, Intensive Care and other specialised fields. The language of instruction is Greek.

5. The Mediterranean Institute of Management (M.I.M.) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance offers a post-graduate management diploma programme of eleven-month duration, which is repeated annually between September and July.

6. The Public Health Inspectors School functions under the Ministry of Health, whenever a need arises to train public health inspectors. Its medium of instruction is the English language. The School offers a three-year course which leads to the award of the «Diploma of Public Health Inspector».

7. The Tourist Guides School functions under the Cyprus Tourism Organisation whenever arises a need to train guides. Its medium of instruction is the Greek language. The School offers a one-year course, which leads to the award of the «Diploma of Tourist Guide».

8. The Cyprus Police Academy functions under the Ministry of Law and Public Order. Its medium of instruction is the Greek language. The Academy offers a three-year course, which leads to the award to the «Diploma of Probationary Policeman».

Private Schools of Higher Education

Private schools of tertiary education are controlled and supervised by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The programmes offered by these institutions are subject to educational accreditation regulated by the corresponding legal procedures. The competent authority for the accreditation of programmes of study offered by private schools of tertiary education is the Council of Education Evaluation – Accreditation. The Council sets up committees of experts to examine the quality of the programmes of study and advise the Minister on the level of each programme. The final decision on the accreditation of each programme rests with the Minister of Education and Culture.

Twenty-one tertiary education institutions are registered with the Ministry and offer specific courses leading to the awards Certificate/Diploma/Higher Diploma/Bachelor. They offer programmes in various fields of study (e.g. secretarial studies, business administration, electrical, civil and mechanical engineering, hotel and catering, banking, accountancy and computer studies).

In 2000 a committee was appointed to establish the rules and regulations for the transformation of private institutions to private universities, having as a general goal to establish Cyprus as a regional education centre. In addition efforts are underway to establish an open university in Cyprus.

Cyprus Council for the Recognition of Higher Education

(Kypriako Symvoulío Axiologisis Titlon Spoudon, KY.S.A.T.S.)

The Cyprus Council for the Recognition of Higher Education is responsible for the recognition of higher education qualifications awarded by higher or university level educational establishments.

Cyprus Research Centre

The Cyprus Research Centre's mission is to enable Cypriot and other scholars to study systematically the island's history and civilisation. The Centre plans and executes research projects relating to the main disciplines of Cypriology, namely the History, Language, Philology, Folklore, Ethnography and Society of Cyprus, as well as to other subjects according to the country's requirements, all within a broader regional context. It has produced publications on the history of Cyprus, philological linguistic folklore and other relevant subjects.

The Centre also promotes scientific cooperation with similar institutions abroad.

The Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus

The Pedagogical Institute has a developmental mission which covers all levels of education. The Institute's main activities are professional training in education, educational research and evaluation, educational documentation and educational technology.

Culture

The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for formulating and implementing the cultural policy of the Government through its Cultural Services.

The responsibility that falls within the jurisdiction of the Cultural Services is to awaken cultural awareness by fostering the creative drive in the field of Letters and Arts both in individuals and groups, making culture available to all and disseminating and projecting cultural achievements abroad in order to highlight its links with international culture.

The Cultural Services are accountable for a broad range of activities including:

Literature-Books

Literature has a long tradition in Cyprus and in the last 30 years there has been a marked improvement both in quality and quantity. Today, more than 250 literary books are published annually and several literary magazines are issued.

In order to encourage Cypriot writers in their intellectual activity, the Cultural Services have institutionalised a number of state prizes for

- literature awarded biennially for poetry, novel, short-story and essay, and new writers under the age of 30
- children's literature, awarded biennially
- young Cypriot writers.

In addition, awards for Excellence are awarded annually (since 1993) for outstanding contribution to the cultural life of the island. Annual honorary grants are also awarded (since 2001) for creative artists who are over the age of 63 and who have made a significant contribution to the development of arts in Cyprus.

Publications

The publications programme of the Cultural Services, which aims at promoting and supporting Cypriot book publications, includes seven series: Miscellaneous Topics (anthologies, albums, symposia proceedings and others), Cypriot Folk Poetry and Art, Greek Literature of Cyprus Works of Young Cypriot Writers and Memorial Lectures, Art Books and Visual Arts Exhibition Catalogues and Doctoral Theses. In addition the English periodical «Cyprus Today» covers all cultural activity on the island.

Libraries

In pursuit of its aim to make books available to the reading public, the Cultural Services play an important role in the organisation, running and establishment of libraries. Within this framework they offer subsidies to Municipal Libraries and have established new rural public libraries.

Lectures

The Cultural Services organise scientific seminars, symposia and lectures throughout Cyprus. Within the concept of decentralisation, lectures are also delivered in rural communities. Speakers deal with topics of wide interest including literature, education, psychology, art, cinema, environment and architectural heritage. A welcome novelty has been the live music, performed to support the music lectures, and a mobile exhibition accompanying the art lectures.

Music

In the field of music there are two Orchestras, the Cyprus State Orchestra (CSO) and the Cyprus State Youth Orchestra (CSYO). At present the CSO prepares approximately 10 series of concerts a year which are performed on a permanent basis in all major towns in the free areas of the island. In addition, it gives regular concerts in schools and occasional concerts on various occasions. The CSYO, consisting of 70 members aged 11-25, prepares 2-3 programmes a year which are presented in the major towns. The Cultural Services also organise concerts of Cypriot artists who reside permanently abroad and by foreign ensembles invited within the framework of the programme of cultural exchanges between Cyprus and other countries.

Associations – Foundations

The Cultural Services provide financial aid to nearly 80 associations or foundations which are interested in cultural development. Financial support and assistance are also offered to municipalities in organising local art festivals. Within the concept of cultural decentralisation, encouragement is given to private initiative too and occasional grants are offered.

Dance

Financial aid is also provided for Cyprus folk dance groups and for modern dance groups. Groups are also encouraged to perform abroad. Seminars are organised to provide a basis of study of the traditional Cypriot dances in order to avoid alienation of regional dances and to improve performance.

Given our imminent accession to the European Union and European orientation, the European Dance Festival has been held on an annual basis since 1998.

The Cultural Services have subsidised, since 1994, the Summer Dance School, which is organised by the «Friends of Dance». Subsidies are also given to the «Youth Ballet» and to various foundations and organisations.

Cultural Decentralisation

In order to ensure the quality of life of people living in rural areas and to give all citizens of Cyprus access to the island's cultural wealth, the Cultural Services have extended the decentralisation project «Athena» which includes a wide range of activities, traditional Cypriot music, shadow and puppet theatre performances, screening of films, theatre performances and lectures.

In order to encourage the participation of children in the process of artistic creativity, the Cultural Services organise workshops on art in rural areas during the summer period.

Visual arts

The Cultural Services organise exhibitions of contemporary Cypriot artists both in Cyprus and abroad as well as exhibitions which come within the framework of cultural exchanges with foreign countries or in collaboration with overseas museums and institutions of art.

They also arrange and support the participation of Cypriot artists in large international exhibitions such as the Biennials of Art in Venice, Sao Paulo, Alexandria, India, Cairo, the Biennial of Young Artists of the Mediterranean and others.

In order to enhance, support and promote the work of Cypriot artists, as well as to enrich the State Art Collection, a number of their works is selected for purchase by a special committee (chaired by a Cultural Officer).

The State Gallery houses the Cyprus Collection of Contemporary Art but at times it hosts important exhibitions from abroad or retrospective exhibitions of Cypriot artists.

Museums

The National Struggle Museum comes under the jurisdiction of the Cultural Services. Founded in 1962, it was housed in the restored ruins of a 14th century Franciscan Cathedral alongside the old Archbishopric. The museum contains relics, documents and photographs relevant to the National Struggle of 1955-1959 waged by EOKA (the National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters for Liberation). About 35.000 people visit the museum annually of which 16.000 are pupils. The museum has now been renovated and extended into an adjoining building.

Considerable financial assistance is given to the Museum of Folk Art (now the Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus) and to rural museums for renovation or maintenance.

Kypria

The International Festival «Kypria», first introduced in 1991, is organised every year by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture during the months of September and October, and constitutes the first and most important cultural event on the island.

The programme offers an extravaganza of cultural events of the highest quality, encompassing theatre, ballet, opera, concerts, art and the cinema, presenting Cypriot, Greek and foreign ensembles as well as leading figures from the world of art.

The main objective of the Festival is to give Cypriot audiences the opportunity to enjoy high quality performances, and also to provide Cypriot artists with incentive to create cultural happenings of major significance.

Cinema

Under the auspices of the Cultural Services, special cinema gala weeks with films from Greece and other countries are organised. Film societies and clubs are encouraged and sponsored by the Cultural Services to promote quality films in Cyprus. Furthermore, financial aid is also provided for the production of short documentaries on cultural topics.

Finally, in association with the Greek Cinema Centre, the Cultural Services have proceeded to examine the regulations pertaining to the functioning of the Joint Fund for Coproduction of Films by Greece and Cyprus, which is expected to function in the near future.

Theatre

Alongside the Cyprus Theatre Organisation, the Cultural Services play an important role in organising theatre performances in rural areas, offering financial assistance and collaborating with the Cyprus Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI). The Cultural Services also promote theatre performances from abroad. In collaboration with the ITI, they promote ancient Greek Drama with the establishment of the International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama on an annual basis, and the Festival of Higher Theatre Schools.

International Cultural Agreements

The Cultural Services are responsible for the formation and implementation of the provisions and programmes of cultural exchanges, which fall within the framework of cultural agreements, between Cyprus and around 40 other countries. Within the framework of cultural agreement programmes, the Cultural Services organise a large number of activities (book and art exhibitions, concerts, theatre performances, screening of films, folk cultural events, etc), as well as exchange visits between individuals or ensembles.

The Cultural Services are in constant contact with international organisations such as UNESCO, represent Cyprus in the Culture Committee of the Council of Europe and participate actively in all its programmes.

The Cultural Services are on the National Committee of UNESCO, «Memory of the World», which, under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice and Public Works, will examine and submit «Archives in Cyprus», which will be included in an international catalogue of World Heritage Archives.

The Cyprus Theatre Organisation

Theatre in Cyprus has flourished since antiquity and there is wonderful proof of this with the existence of the ancient theatres of Kourion, Paphos, Salamis and Soli. The theatres of Salamis and Soli, have been under Turkish military occupation since 1974.

The Cyprus Theatre Organisation (THOC) was founded by law in 1971 with the aim of promoting the Theatrical Arts in Cyprus and aiding cultural links with other countries. The creation of THOC was the first serious attempt by the government to create a state theatre.

During its thirty years of operation the Cyprus Theatre Organisation has staged more than 260 plays from the classical and modern repertory as well as plays by Greek and Cypriot playwrights. On average, nine new productions are presented each year, five by THOC'S Central stage, two by its New Stage and two by its Children's Stage.

THOC employs on a regular basis 23 actors and works with a group of internationally acclaimed stage directors, stage designers and composers. Foreign directors, stage designers and composers are occasionally invited to work on a number of THOC's productions.

The Organisation has toured abroad extensively giving performances in the UK, Egypt, Germany, Bulgaria, Russia, Greece and the USA. Since 1980 THOC has taken part in the annual Epidaurus Festival, with plays from the Ancient Greek Drama repertory. Apart from the Epidaurus Festival, the production also toured to another 6 important performance centres and festivals of Greece.

The Cyprus Theatre Organisation is also responsible for the development of theatrical art in Cyprus, undertaking the building of new and the renovation of old theatre buildings throughout Cyprus. It subsidises the «Independent Theatres», organises theatre seminars, playwriting competitions, symposia and annual competitions for amateur drama groups as well as school drama clubs. It also financially supports theatres of Cypriot communities abroad.

In cooperation with the Municipality of Limassol, the Cyprus Theatre Organisation has founded the Cyprus Theatre Museum.

The Cyprus Theatre Organisation is administered by a nine-member Board appointed by the Council of Ministers for a period of three years.

Antiquities

The Cyprus Department of Antiquities is responsible for the excavation, conservation, protection and promotion of the cultural heritage of Cyprus. The activities of the Department include restoration, conservation and protection of existing and recently excavated monuments and antiquities, and their presentation to the wider public for pleasure and education.

The Department of Antiquities issues several publications (from scientific periodicals to popular reports on its activities) which circulate both amongst the general public and the world of experts in archaeology.

Currently the Department of Antiquities is responsible for excavation work in six sites, while foreign missions carry out such work in another twenty-three sites. All this aims at the discovery and study of the remains of the various phases of the island's civilisation, dating from the Neolithic Period (9th M.B.C.) to the 19th century.

Complementary to the excavations is the task of maintenance and protection of ancient monuments and antiquities. This includes restoration and/or maintenance of ancient theatres, sanctuaries, castles, churches and other monuments of every nature as well as movable antiquities such as sculpture, ceramic, metal objects, handicraft, icons, items of religious and folk art of the Neolithic Period to 1900 A.D. The conservation of mosaics and frescoes is also included.

There is an archaeological museum in Nicosia, known as the Cyprus Museum, with a rich and representative collection of Cypriot antiquities. There are also district archaeological museums in all towns as well as local museums at Episkopi (Limassol) housing the antiquities of Kourion, at Kouklia (Paphos) housing the antiquities of Paleapaphos and Marion-Arsinoe, at Polis tis Khrysochou as well as medieval, ethnological and folk art museums.

Ancient theatres which have been restored host theatrical, dance, musical and other performances.

The importance of Cypriot archaeology is reflected in the relatively large number of monuments included in the World Heritage List. Monuments inscribed in the World Heritage List are as follows: 1980 – Paleapaphos (Kouklia) and Nea Paphos (Kato Paphos); 1986 and 2001-the ten Byzantine Churches of the Troodos range – Panagia Phorbiotissa (Asinou), Agios Nicolaos tis Stegis (Kakopetria), Agios Ioannis Lambadistis (Kalopanagiotis), Panagia tou Moutoulla, Archangelos (Pedoulas), Timios Stavros (Pelendri), Panagia tou Araka (Legoudera), Panagia tou Podithou (Galata), Stavros tou Agiasmati (Platanistasa) and the Transfiguration of the Saviour (Palaichori) 1998 - the Neolithic site of Choirokoitia.

Recent excavations in Cyprus aided by modern advances in method and theory, necessitated the re-assessment of the early prehistory of Cyprus, which is now not only richer but also older by approximately 3 millennia.

Excavations on the site of Akrotiri-Aetokremnos (on the south coast of Cyprus) provided evidence for the earliest human presence on the island around the 10th M.B.C.

State Archives

The State Archives is a service under the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. The primary function of the State Archives, as a place of deposit for public records, is to receive those records which must be permanently kept and held for official use by government departments and other bodies. It also holds and makes available these records for research by members of the public.

The quantity of records now stored in the State Archives amounts to 2,93 linear kilometres of shelving. Some of the principal archival holdings are the Governors' Archives and the Secretariat Archives dating from 1878 to 1960. Other groups of records dating from before as well as after 1960 are now permanently preserved in the State Archives.

Human Resources, Training and Development

In this day and age of globalisation, in a much more significant way than ever before, human resources will be the prime engine of change in the development process all throughout the world. In Cyprus, which to all intents and purposes is devoid of any natural or other resources, its human resources become by far the most valuable asset and the most critical factor for economic and social progress. Thus and particularly in view of the pending accession of Cyprus to the European Union, human resource development commands a significant position in national priorities.

Human Resource Development Authority

The Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus (HRDA) is a semi-government organisation entrusted by Law with the responsibility for human resource training and development. As the national agency in the field, HRDA's mission is to create the necessary prerequisites for the systematic training and development of the island's human resources, at all levels and in all sectors, in order to meet the economy's needs, within the overall socio-economic development policies of the country.

To date, 23 years after the HRDA first started its operation, an integrated training system has been developed, the major constituents of which are the assessment of training needs, the planning, implementation and evaluation of training activities and the development of the training infrastructure. Since 1995, through the Training Infrastructure Support Scheme, the HRDA has been at the forefront of setting up and further developing a booming training market, which includes public and private training institutions, specialised trainers and consultancy firms. Today, there are more than 150 training institutions/providers, employing more than 750 people, while there were only a few public training institutes before the Authority's establishment.

Since its establishment, the HRDA has expended over £53 mln for the training and development of the labour force and there have been over 380.000 participations in nearly 37.000 training programmes. While in the first year of the Authority's operation there were only two types of programmes, today there is a plethora of schemes, services and activities available, whereby over 6.000 enterprises from all economic sectors can benefit. Amongst others, there are schemes focusing on the amelioration of unemployment amongst young people, the introduction of new management and production methods, and the development of the capacity of enterprises to identify and meet their own training needs, thereby increasing their productivity by better utilising their human resources.

The future: The continuous enhancement and further development of the country's training system, within the framework of lifelong learning, constitutes an ambitious and long-term goal for the HRDA. The most significant part of this goal is the national strategic aim for the all-round harmonisation of the training scene in Cyprus with that of the European Union. In order to achieve this objective, the HRDA is focusing the bulk of its efforts on the systematic follow up and assessment of developments in the field of training in Europe in order to further develop it and keep pace with European systems and practices.

For the HRDA, the task ahead is vast and challenging. Based, however, on its experience and successful contribution in the course of its 23 years of operation, the HRDA faces the future with measured confidence and considered optimism.

Human Resource Development Institutions

Higher Technical Institute

The Higher Technical Institute was established in 1968, initially as a 5-year project between UNDP, UNESCO, ILO and the government of Cyprus. In 1973 it came under the sole responsibility of the Cyprus government, under the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance.

Its main purpose is to educate high calibre Technician Engineers, in order to meet the needs of industry in suitably trained personnel for middle management technical positions.

The Institute offers a 3-year, full time course for the Diploma of Technician Engineer in the fields of Civil, Electrical, Mechanical and Marine Engineering and Computer Studies.

Graduates of Electrical Engineering can register as Incorporated Engineers with the Engineering Council of UK, while Marine Engineering graduates qualify for the award of the Certificate of Competency as Cadet Officers in Engineering, issued by the Cyprus Merchant Shipping Department, in compliance with IMO/STCW 78.

An increasing number of foreign students choose every year HTI for their studies. Most of them originate from the Commonwealth and neighbouring countries.

In collaboration with the Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus, HTI has developed an extensive network of training with a variety of industries, contributing highly to the technological development and upgrading of the economy.

Responding to the rapid changes in technology, HTI has been also hosting short updating courses and seminars on new technology. Nearly 200 professionals attend these courses every year.

Since 1994, HTI has been offering evening preparatory courses for the Engineering Council, ECE part II, examinations. Successful candidates satisfy the academic requirements for registration with the Engineering Council of UK and Cyprus Technical Chamber. They can also proceed for postgraduate studies.

The Institute provides services for testing and consultancy, which can be offered, to both the public and private sectors.

Special concern is placed in the area of research. Various projects are running in the fields of solar energy, computer assisted applications, solutions to engineering problems, desalination of water, e-manufacturing, rapid prototyping, 3D-reconstruction and reproduction, robotics and seismic repairs due to earthquakes, to name a few.

Since 1992 HTI participates in various European programmes, which include activities like student and staff exchanges in Tertiary Education and intensive courses between Institutions. About 4% of students and 5% of the staff of HTI participate every year in such programmes in an exchange scheme between 10

Universities. The Institute was the contractor of the projects CEMENTC AND HERMES within the European programme LEONARDO and since 1998 is being involved in the programme Socrates/Erasmus.

In 1978 a joint project between the World Health Organisation and the government of Cyprus was signed, for the purpose of training in the repair and maintenance of medical equipment.

The procedures for the Quality Assurance System ISO 9001/2000 were successfully completed in June 2002 and HTI has recently been awarded as the honorary distinction ECO-Q Cyprus 2002, as the public organization with the greatest contribution to quality.

In the coming years the interest in HTI and all its activities is expected to rise rapidly due to the introduction of the Credit Point System and the accession of Cyprus to the European Union. An important development is the operation of the Institute under the umbrella of the proposed University of Applied Sciences and Arts. This is expected to contribute to making the HTI a leading Institution in the fields offered and an important research centre.

Cyprus Productivity Centre

The objective of the Cyprus Productivity Centre (CPC) is to assist private and public organisations to utilise their human and capital resources in the best possible manner, with a view to increasing their productivity. The CPC offers training, consultancy and research in all areas of management as well as vocational training and technical advice in the main industrial trades.

The CPC comprises the Management Development Component, the Public Administration Component, the Vocational Training Component and the Mediterranean Institute of Management (MIM).

The Management Development Component organises ab-initio and upgrading training courses, workshops and seminars to develop the managerial and supervisory capability in the private sector.

The training activity is supplemented by consultancy and advisory services offered in response to specific requests. Research projects aimed at contributing towards improving productivity are also undertaken.

Also, the CPC has recently been promoting various methods and techniques for productivity improvement that have been successfully implemented by overseas organisations, such as Productivity Measurement, Technology Audits, and others.

The main objective of the Public Administration Component is to upgrade the managerial and administrative capability of the public service. To achieve this objective, training courses, workshops and seminars are organised in various management and public administration fields. These are designed to satisfy specific needs at different levels and in different areas of the public service.

The Vocational Training Component provides training in twelve different trades for industry based technical staff.

Qualified instructors give this training in specially equipped workshops in Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca. Technical advice and information are also offered to industry on specific problems.

Mediterranean Institute of Management

The Mediterranean Institute of Management (MIM) was established in 1976, and constitutes the international component of the CPC.

A post-graduate management diploma programme has been the most significant activity of the MIM since its establishment. Through this programme, which is organised annually between September and July, quality management education is provided to university graduates from Cyprus and foreign countries. During the period 1977 – 2001, 397 university graduates from Cyprus and 207 from 30 foreign countries attended the MIM post-graduate management diploma programme.

Since March 1977 the MIM has been organising an evening post-graduate management diploma programme of 18 months' duration for working executives of the private and public sector, who desire to upgrade their managerial knowledge in order to assist their organisations to improve their productivity and increase their competitiveness.

Following requests from overseas bodies, the MIM can offer: management training across all areas and at all levels, management consultancy and advice, research and surveys.

Within the framework of a long-term plan of technical cooperation between the Cyprus government and the International Labour Office (ILO), the MIM has, since 1985, been organising jointly with the ILO interregional seminars on selected topics for the benefit of other ILO constituents.

The MIM has also since 1994 undertaken the management and implementation of the "Government Scheme for Technical Assistance for Foreign Countries", with special emphasis to countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

Since February 2000, the CPC is the national agent for the European Union programme "Leonardo da Vinci".

Higher Hotel Institute

The Higher Hotel Institute, Cyprus (HHIC) is a government institution of tertiary education functioning under the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance.

Its main purpose is the supply of the hotel and catering industry of Cyprus with specialised and well trained personnel, and the development of the industry in general as well.

The board of directors of the Institute, which is tripartite, advises the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance in the formulation of the educational policy of the Institute.

The origin of HHIC traces back to 1965 with the establishment of the Central Hotel and Catering Institute and its opening in 1966. This was followed by the establishment of Hotel and Catering Institute (HCI) in 1969 under a common scheme

among the Cyprus government, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organisation.

Since 1993, the Institute has upgraded its educational programmes and was renamed to Higher Hotel Institute, Cyprus (HHIC).

The HHIC offers the following full time educational courses: Hotel and Catering Management (3 years), Culinary Arts (3 years), Front Office (1 year) and Housekeeping (1 year).

The HHIC offers its students full education, which combines theoretical education and technical skills. The methods of study consist of lectures, demonstrations, practical training and research.

On the basis of the needs of the hotel and catering industry, the Institute organises from time to time special ab-initio accelerated training programmes as well as upgrading programmes for hotel and catering employees. At the same time, HHIC carries out research on various subjects concerning the hotel and catering industry.

On the basis of international developments in the field of hotel and tourist education in general, and having in mind the response to the needs of the economy and social necessities, the Institute adapts its educational programmes so that these comply with European standards. Modern views, such as sustainability of tourism and protection of the environment, are incorporated into the curricula, thus enriching the programmes of the Institute.

To this purpose, the Institute cooperates closely with corresponding European educational institutes, and participates in the activities of international bodies such as the World Tourism Organisation, the International Hotel and Restaurant Association, the Hotel and Catering International Management Association, the European Foundation for the Accreditation of Hotel School Programmes, the Leonardo and Socrates programmes of the European Union, the American Hotel & Motel Association, etc.

The above approach coincides fully and serves the vision of HHIC, which is the upgrading of the Institute to a centre offering quality hotel studies, corresponding to the interests of the students and satisfying the needs of the industry for high standard personnel, in the neighbouring countries as well as worldwide.

Today, the HHIC faces a new challenge, probably the biggest in its history, its future operation under the umbrella of the proposed University of Applied Sciences and Arts.

This will involve the upgrading of the educational programmes and the general role of the Institute as a leading educational organisation in the field of hotel and tourism studies in Cyprus as well as the establishment of the Institute as an international educational organisation.

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Photo: State Gallery of Contemporary Art

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E-mail: sg@spidernet.com.cy

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AIRPORTS AND PORTS

Visitors arriving in Cyprus may enter the Republic only through the international airports of Larnaca and Paphos or the ports of Limassol and Larnaca.

All airports and ports in the part of the Republic illegally occupied by the Turkish invasion forces have been declared by the government of Cyprus as prohibited ports of entry and exit and no visitor should enter or leave the Republic through these ports.

All airports and ports offer numerous facilities including tourist information, foreign exchange, card and coin-operated telephones, duty free shops, cafeterias and transportation services (mainly taxis). Larnaca and Paphos airports also provide special facilities for handicapped travellers such as truck-lifts, wheelchairs and special wash rooms.

THE CHURCH OF CYPRUS

The Orthodox Church of Cyprus is the predominant Church on the island. The overwhelming majority of the Cypriots belong to the Orthodox Church of Cyprus. Its foundation is attributed directly to the Saints/Apostles Barnabas, Paul and Mark (45 A.D.). The presence and the contribution of the Orthodox Church is significant to the historical, cultural and social life of Cyprus.

Today, the Church of Cyprus is divided into 6 bishoprics as follows:

1. Holy Archbishopric, Nicosia

8 Zinonos Kitieos, 1016 Nicosia,
P.O.Box 21130,
1502 Nicosia,
Tel. (22) 430696

– Agios Ioannis Cathedral, Archbishop Kyprianos square, 1016 Nicosia.

2. Holy Bishopric of Paphos

Agiou Theodorou St.,
P.O.Box 60054, 8047 Paphos
Tel. (26) 232092

- Metropolitan Church of Agios Theodoros, Agiou Theodorou Str.,
P.O.Box 60054, 8047 Paphos.

3. Holy Bishopric of Kition, Larnaca

Metropoleos Square,
P.O.Box 40036, 6050 Larnaca,
Tel. (24) 652269

– Metropolitan Church of Sotiros, Metropoleos Square, P.O.Box 40036, 6050 Larnaca.

4. Holy Bishopric of Keryneia

Temporarily based in Nicosia (due to the Turkish occupation of Keryneia, the permanent base of the Bishopric)

3 Achilleos, 2112 Aglangia,
P.O.Box 20258, 2150 Nicosia
Tel: (22) 338308

5. Holy Bishopric of Limassol

306 Agiou Andrea,
P.O.Box 56091, 3303 Limassol
Tel. (25) 362603

– Metropolitan Church of Panagias Catholikis, Enoseos Str., Limassol.
– Agia Napa Cathedral, Agiou Andreou St., 3041 Limassol.

6. Holy Bishopric of Morphou

Temporarily based in Evrychou village (due to the Turkish occupation of Morphou, the permanent base of the Bishopric)

Tel: (22) 932401

1. Metropolitan Church of Agios Georgios, Agiou Georgiou Str., Evrychou.

RELIGION-VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS

Aglican Church (St. Paul)

Vyronos Avenue, Nicosia

Tel: (22) 677897

Armenian Church

Armenias, Akropolis, Nicosia

Tel: (22) 493560

Greek Evangelical Church

20 Gladstonos

Tel: (22) 475982

Maronite Church

Pyli Paphou, Nicosia

Tel: (22) 453434

Coptic Church Centre

7 Damonos, Kaimakli, Nicosia

Tel: (22) 349437

Omeriye Mosque

Trikoupi Street, Nicosia

St. Catherine's Catholic Church

28 Oktovriou 259, Limassol

Tel: (25) 362946

International Evangelical Church

(Presbyterian and Reformed)

57 Stylianou Lena, Larnaca

Tel: (24) 657057

Ecumenical Centre

Agia Napa Monastery

Tel: (24) 642858

CIVIL MARRIAGE

For contracting civil marriage in Cyprus one must apply personally to the Marriage Officer at the Municipality of their choice for the necessary prior formalities.

A marriage can be celebrated either:

- (a) by giving notice of marriage or,
- (b) by applying for a special licence.

In case of notice, the parties to be married have to stay in Cyprus about 20 days. In case of emergency however, a special licence can be obtained from the Marriage Officer.

Parties to be married should be in possession of:

- Legal identification documents and certificates
- Evidence that they are free to marry.

Detailed information may be obtained directly from any Municipality or from the Union of Cyprus Municipalities,

P.O.Box 22033, CY 1516 Nicosia

Tel: (22) 669150

Fax: (22) 677230

Web-site: <http://www.ucm.org.cy>

E-mail: endekey@cytanet.com.cy

YOUTH HOSTELS

Youth Hostels in Cyprus are open to members of the International Youth Hostels Association. Non-members are also accepted but on arrival at the hostel they will be provided with a guest card. Persons wishing to become members of the association may apply to the Nicosia Youth Hostel.

The hostels are open all year round. All youth hostels offer kitchen facilities.

Nicosia: 5 Hadjidaki St., Tel: (22) 674808

Larnaca: 27 Nikolaou Rossou, Tel: (24) 621188

Paphos: 37 Eleftheriou Venizelou Ave., Tel: (26) 932588

Troodos Mountains: At about 400 metres from the centre of Troodos Hill Resort on the Troodos–Kakopetria road. Tel: (25) 420200

The Cyprus Youth Hostel Association

P.O.Box 21328, CY 1506 Nicosia–Cyprus

Tel: (22) 670027

E-mail: montis@logos.cy.net.

CAMPING

The camping sites in Cyprus are licensed by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

Facilities available in camping sites include: showers, toilets, washing facilities, mini-market, and usually a snack bar or restaurant.

1. Forest Beach Camping

Tel: (24) 644514

P.O.Box 40576, CY 6305 Larnaca

Situated on the beach, 8km east of Larnaca town centre, with a capacity of 78 tents/caravans.

2. Governor's (Kalymnos) Beach Camping Site

Limassol, Tel: (25) 632878

Situated on the beach, 20km east of Limassol with a capacity of 111 caravans and 247 tents.

3. Geroskipou Zenon Gardens Camping

P.O.Box 60099, CY 8100 Paphos

Tel: (26) 942277

Situated on the beach, east of Geroskipou Tourist Beach, approximately 3km, from Paphos Harbour with a capacity of 95 tents/caravans.

4. Feggari Camping Site

Coral Bay, Peyia, Paphos, CY 8575

Tel: (26) 621534

Situated 11 km north of Paphos Town, near the Coral Bay beach with a capacity of 47 tents/caravans.

5. Polis Camping Site

Polis, 37 km from the town of Paphos

Tel: (26) 321526

The camping site is situated on the beach in a pleasant eucalyptus grove, (800 metres from Polis town centre). It has a capacity of 200 tents/caravans.

6. Camping facilities at Troodos

Troodos Hill Resort, Tel: (25) 420124

Situated amidst a pine forest, 2 km north of the Troodos Hill Resort, off the main Troodos–Kakopetria road.

Open from May till end of October (weather permitting).

CAR DRIVING IN CYPRUS

Driving in Cyprus is most advisable, as regular transport service is not available to all remote areas where many places of interest are to be found.

Fairly good surfaced roads complying with international traffic requirements link the towns and the various villages.

Four-lane motorways connect the capital, Nicosia, with the coastal towns of Limassol, Larnaca and one part of Paphos.

Minor roads and forest roads are still largely unsurfaced but in good to fair condition. Appropriate care should be taken when using these roads, especially during wet weather.

Visitors wishing to bring their car to Cyprus can do so, for a period up to 3 months provided the car has a valid registration licence of its country of origin. The period may be extended accordingly, provided the person is considered a visitor by the Department of Customs & Excise.

Hands free during driving is mandatory

During driving, the driver should take all necessary measures so that their hands are free at all times in order to have full control of the vehicle. Therefore the use of a mobile phone is strictly prohibited.

Driving Licence

Visitors in Cyprus can drive using a valid international driving licence, or their national driving licence, provided it is valid for the class of vehicle they wish to drive.

Car Insurance

Cyprus has become a member of the Green Card System and has signed the Uniform Agreement with all countries of the European Economic Area and Switzerland, with effect from the 7th August 1997. The agreement is also in force with all other members of the Green Card System, with the exception of Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia and Iraq (suspended).

«Mini» guide to drivers

– Traffic moves on the LEFT-hand side of the road, NOT on the right.

CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Cyprus is an ideal location for any business meeting. In addition to the Cyprus International Conference Centre (CICC) in Nicosia, a number of other venues including more than 64 hotels offer conference facilities all over Cyprus.

The high standard of hotels and services in Cyprus as well as the excellent conference facilities (A.V., recording system etc), its unique geographical location and accessibility make Cyprus an ideal place to meet, talk and exchange ideas.

ELECTRIC CURRENT -VOLTAGE

The supply in Cyprus is 240 volts, a.c. 50Hz. Sockets are usually 13 amp, square – pin in most buildings.

More than one low current rating appliance may be operated from the same supply point, by using an adaptor (i.e. radios, electric clocks etc.).

The use of adaptors for operating high current rating appliances is not recommended (i.e. electric heaters, toasters, irons etc.).

Many hotels provide adaptors upon request from the reception.

Adaptors can be purchased from electricians, supermarkets, grocery shops, etc., at approximately C£1,50.

FOOD SAFETY AND DRINKING

Water Quality

In Cyprus the safety of food and drinking water quality is monitored by the Health Inspectors of the Medical and Public Services of the Ministry of Health and the Local Authorities. Food and drinking water are of high quality, absolutely safe and no food or water-borne diseases occur.

Cyprus is also free from dangerous infectious diseases.

No vaccination requirements for any international traveller.

INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

Lions International (District 117 - Greece and Cyprus), Rotary, Round Table, Skol Club, Innerwheel, Toastmaster's International Crusaders Club.

MEDICAL SERVICES AND HOSPITALS

Medical care needs in Cyprus are met through:

1. Government General Hospitals
2. Private Clinics/Hospitals

Government General Hospitals and private clinics/hospitals are mostly concentrated in urban areas, while health centres, subcentres, and dispensaries function in the rural areas, providing a network to meet the medical needs of the whole population.

All Government General Hospitals as well as some private clinics have Accident and Emergency Departments for emergency cases.

Medical treatment and assistance is offered free of charge to international tourists in case of health emergencies at the Accident and Emergency Department of Government Hospitals/Institutions. Out-patient and in-patient treatment is provided

against payment at the prescribed fees. Holidaymakers can also make use of their health insurance, which covers medical expenses, provided that this insurance covers the length of their stay on the island.

Almost all brands of manufactured medicines are available in Cyprus. Local newspapers list pharmacies which are open during the night and on weekends/holidays, as well as the names of doctors who are on call on weekends/holidays.

Information on private doctors on call on weekends/holidays is given through the following telephone numbers:

Nicosia – 1432, Paphos – 1436, Limassol – 1435, Famagusta – 1433, Larnaca – 1434.

The majority of doctors are English speaking.

Private doctors' visiting hours (on weekdays) : 09:00–13:00 hrs and 16:00 – 19:00 hrs.

PARKS

National Parks

Troodos National Forest Park, with an area of 9,307 ha, was declared as such in 1992, while four areas within the park (with a total area of 220 ha) were declared as Nature Reserves. Troodos National Forest Park hosts not only the largest number of plants compared to any other area of Cyprus, but also the largest number of endemic plants. Moreover, it has been designated as one of the 13 "Plant Diversity Hot Spots" in the Mediterranean.

Cavo Greko, in the southeast part of the island, is a National Forest Park and occupies an area of 390 ha.

Athalassa National Forest Park, with an area of 840 ha, with man-made vegetation, is situated near Nicosia and offers many recreational facilities.

Paedagogical Academy National Forest Park with an area of 45 ha, with man-made vegetation, is situated near Nicosia and offers many recreational facilities.

Tripilos - Mavroi Gremmoi Nature Reserve, covers an area of 3381 ha and is situated in the middle of Paphos Forest. The last natural stands of the endemic Cyprus Cedar (*Cedrus brevifolia*), which are restricted to this area, together with the ancient stands of the endemic golden Oak make the area unique from the ecological point of view. The presence of the Cyprus moufflon and the rare birds of prey add a lot to the ecological value of the area.

Akamas, Pegeia and Meleti Forests, have a total area of 7.140 ha. The Akamas Peninsula is the last remaining region on Cyprus with large extent and complete pattern of low land vegetation, most of it in good natural state. The Lara - Toxeftra area is protected as a Marine Reserve and is of international importance. The beaches of the area are some of the few known nesting areas of the remaining populations of the Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*).

Waterparks

«Water World» Waterpark, Agia Napa

P.O.Box 30605, CY 5345 Agia Napa

Tel: (23) 724444

Fax: (23) 724160

E-mail: waterpark@cytanet.com.cy

«Wet'n Wild» Waterpark, Limassol

P.O.Box 54288, CY 3722 Limassol

Tel: (25) 318000

Fax: (25) 318500

E-mail: wetnwild@spidernet.com.cy
 Web-site: www.wetnwild.com.cy

Fasouri «Water mania» Waterpark, Limassol

P.O.Box 56958, CY 3311 Limassol
 Tel: (25) 714235
 Fax: (25) 714237

«Aphrodite» Waterpark, Geroskipou, Paphos

Off Poseidonos Ave.,
 Geroskipou, Paphos
 Tel: (99) 527211

Protaras Fun Park, Waterpark, Paralimni

Tel: (99) 669022

Thematic Parks

Ostrich Wonderland Theme Park

One of the biggest ostrich farms/parks in Europe is situated in Agios Ioannis Malountas, 25 minutes from Nicosia.

There, one can enjoy the day and learn all about ostriches and ostrich eggs.

Tel: (22) 674321

Daktari Camel Park

Mazotos village, Larnaca district

Tel: (24) 416968

One can enjoy a day at the Camel Park, learn about the camel's life and experience a ride.

Cyprus Donkey Sanctuary

4772 Vouni village, Limassol district

Tel: (25) 945488

Fax: (25) 942582

E-mail: Cyprus.Donkey@cheerful.com

Paphos Aquarium

1 Artemidos, Paphos

Tel: (26) 253920

Ocean Aquarium, Protaras

Protaras, P.O.Box 33845 CY 5318

Paralimni

Tel: (23) 741111

Dinosaurs Park, Agia Napa

Tel: (22) 461966

Fax: (22) 843225

Park full of impressions from the tremendous creatures that existed millions and millions of years ago. Original sounds and movements.

Island cove, adventure mini golf, Paphos

P.O.Box 22037, 8060 Paphos

Tel: (26) 996177

NAUTICAL CLUBS/SAILING CLUBS

a) The various nautical clubs in Cyprus with the exception of the Nicosia nautical club are responsible for all sports and competitions concerning sea sports, such as swimming, sailing etc.

b) After the military occupation, by the Turkish invasion forces in 1974, of Famagusta and Keryneia towns, the nautical clubs of these towns were transferred to Limassol.

c) All the nautical and sailing clubs are members of the Cyprus Sports Organisation:

Tel: (22) 358888

Fax: (22) 358891

E-mail: papacostas.koa@cytanet.com.cy

E-mail: cya@dial.cylink.com.cy.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

January 1: New Year's Day

January 6: Epiphany Day

Variable: Green Monday (50 Days before Orthodox Easter)

March 25: Greek National Day

April 1: Greek Cypriot National Day

Variable: Good Friday (Orthodox)

Variable: Easter Monday (Orthodox)

May 1: Labour Day

Variable: Pentecost-(Kataklysmos) (Orthodox)

August 15: Assumption

October 1: Cyprus Independence Day

October 28: Greek National Day (Ochi Day)

December 24: Christmas Eve

December 25: Christmas Day

December 26: Boxing Day

Notes:

1. All public services, private enterprises, banks and shops are closed on public holidays. In resort and coastal areas, however, shops and certain services remain open.

2. Banks are closed on Easter Tuesday but not on Dec. 24.

WORKING HOURS

Public Service Hours

Winter Period (Sept. 1 – June 30)

Monday – Friday: 07:30–14:30

Thursday: 07:30–14:30, 15:00–18:00

Summer Period (July 1 – Aug. 31)

Monday – Friday: 07:30–14:30

Shopping Hours

In most of the tourist areas, both souvenir shops and supermarkets remain open until late in the evenings and all day on Sundays.

In towns, shops may remain open up to 19:00hrs during the winter period (November – March) and up to 20:30hrs during the summer period (April – October). As from 15th of June till 31st of August, shops in towns close between 14:00 and 17:00hrs for the summer afternoon break.

On Sundays, shops in towns are closed. On Wednesdays shops close at 14:00hrs.

Just before Christmas and Easter, shops usually remain open until late in the evening.

Banking Hours for the Public

Monday - Friday :08:30-12:30

Monday: 15:15-16:45

(May-June-July-August):

Monday-Friday:08:15-12:30

SPORTS

Nature Trails - Hiking

With the financial support of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, the Forestry Department has created fifty-eight (58) paths or trails which cover a total distance of 240kms in various parts of the island, from Cavo Greko at the southeastern end, to Akamas in the west. So many unspoilt areas in Cyprus offer unforgettable hiking experiences to nature walkers. Special hiking excursions can be organised by the Sightseeing Tour Operators.

- National Forest Park of Athalassa (Nicosia) – 9 trails
- Machairas Forest, Lefkara, Kato Drys, Vavatsinia, Choirokoitia, Gourri, Lythrodontas (Nicosia – Larnaca Districts) – 8 trails
- Cavo Greko (Famagusta District) – 6 trails
- Protaras area (Famagusta District) – 3 trails
- Stavros tis Psokas – (Paphos District) – 5 trails
- Akamas (Paphos District) – 5 trails
- Kyparissia – Germasogeia (Limassol District) – 3 trails
- Troodos area (Nicosia – Limassol District) – 12 trails

Golf

Two golf courses operate on the island.

1. Tsada Golf Club

The club is situated near Tsada village 20 minutes drive, north the Paphos town. It is an 18 hole course, Par 72, all greens and the total length is 6.060m..

2. The Secret Valley Golf Club

It is located 18 km east of Paphos and 49km from Limassol, near «Petra tou Romiou». It is an 18 hole course, plays to a Par 71 and measures 6.158 m..

For more information on the above golf-course please apply to:

«CYPRUS GOLF RESORTS LTD»

P.O.Box 62085, CY 8062 Paphos

Tel: (26) 642774

Fax: (26) 642776

Angling in Reservoirs

According to the relevant law, special licences must be obtained for those interested in angling in dams from: the Head Office of Fisheries Department and Marine Research in Nicosia or from the District Offices of Fisheries Department.

Licences are personal and are issued to persons over 12 years old.

Licences are valid only when the reservoir is declared open by the Director of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research:

Aiolou 13, CY 1101 Nicosia

Tel: (22) 807830/807815

Fax: (22) 775955

Aviation Sports

The excellent weather conditions prevailing in Cyprus for more than 330 days per annum, offer ideal conditions for airsport activities.

Cyprus Airsports Federation offers the opportunity for sightseeing, pleasure flying and flight training.

The Cyprus Airsports Federation is member of the FAI and its annual events include National Aeroballies and trips to the Greek islands.

Cyprus Airsports Federation:

22 Erethiou, Aglandzia, 2121

P.O.Box 28940, 2084 Nicosia

Tel: (22) 339771

Fax: (22) 339772

E-mail: secret@caf.org.cy

Cycling

Cyprus is a natural mountain-biking place. Its terrain offers many opportunities for exciting mountain biking in different tracks, making the island a paradise for the sports fans.

Due to the excellent weather conditions prevailing on the island, cycling sports can be enjoyed almost throughout the year.

Facilities for renting bicycles are available in all towns and seaside resorts (approx. rent C£3 - C£10 per day).

General traffic regulations correspond to those in Europe, but traffic in Cyprus moves on the left-hand side, not on the right.

International road traffic signs are placed along roads and highways.

Cyclists are advised to avoid cycling along the main roads at weekends, especially in the summer when traffic is very heavy.

If possible, cyclists should also avoid riding due west in the late afternoon, as the glare of the setting sun can be unpleasant and potentially dangerous.

Sunglasses and sunhats, at all hours of the day, during the summer months, are most advisable.

The Cycle Club (Podilatokinisis), the Cycling Federation's own club, organises various non-racing cycling activities and events where everyone is welcome to participate. Similar activities are organised also by the Limassol Cycling Club.

The Cyprus Cycling Federation organises contests in Spring, like the famous Afxentia mountain bike two-stage International Race and in Autumn various other cycling events, in which everyone is welcome to participate.

In late November, there is also an international mountain bike race at Agia Napa.

The Cyprus Cycling Federation (CCF) organises local and international races for road racing and mountain biking.

The Cyprus Cycling Federation:

P.O.Box 24572, CY 1301 Nicosia

Tel: (22) 663344

Fax: (22) 661150

The Limassol Cycling Club:

P.O.Box 56142, CY 3304, Limassol

Tel: (22) 585980

Horse Racing

Racing takes place in the only racecourse to be found in Cyprus in Nicosia, where 85 race meetings are held throughout the year. Betting operates every week at the town betting offices and at the racecourse during the meeting, under the control of the Nicosia Race Club.

Nicosia Race Club:

P.O.Box 21783, CY 1513 Nicosia

Tel: (22) 782727
 Fax: (22) 775690

Horse Riding

This popular sport can be enjoyed at horse riding centres, which are set up in beautiful surroundings. All centres have professional training facilities, instructors who provide lessons for beginners and advanced riders, and have well designed Working Student Programmes.

a) The Cyprus Equestrian Federation:

P.O.Box 24860, CY 1304 Nicosia
 Tel: (22) 349858

b) Elias Horse Riding Centre:

P.O.Box 54300, CY 3722 Limassol
 Tel: (25) 636000

c) Amathus, School of Riding:

Parekklesia, Limassol,
 Tel: (99) 604109

d) George Range:

Towards Agios Georgios, Peyia, Paphos
 Tel: (26) 621064

e) Lapatsa Sports Centre:

P.O.Box 22200, CY 1518 Nicosia
 Tel: (22) 621201

Amateur Fishing

Spear-fishing (without aqualung) angling, fishing with vertical lines or trolling are the permitted methods for which no licence is required.

Special (sport) fishing licences are required by law for those fishermen who use:

1. Boats and fishing-nets, long lines and traps
2. Spearguns with an aqualung
3. Spearguns with lights at night - without aqualung
4. Nets without a boat

The licences have several conditions attached to them that regulate the gear used, (spearguns with aqualung and fishing at night with light), the days the licensees are allowed to fish and in certain cases, the allowable catches for each fishing trip. Species of fish which can be caught: seabreams, groupers, amber jacks, sea-perch etc.

Further information from the Cyprus Association of Free Spearfishing tel: (02) 591202.

Shooting

Cyprus Shooting Sport Federation

P.O.Box 12681, CY 2251 Latsia, Nicosia
 Tel: (22) 486673
 Fax: (22) 486009

Cyprus Olympic Shooting Range (Nicosia Shooting Club)

P.O.Box 22198, CY 1518 Nicosia
 Tel: (22) 482660
 Fax: (22) 623008

Limassol Shooting Club

P.O.Box 51049, CY 3500 Limassol
 Tel: (25) 565757
 Fax: (25) 565454

Larnaca Shooting Club

P.O.Box 40217, CY 6302 Larnaca

Tel: (24) 530309

Fax: (24) 530503

Famagusta (Free area) District Shooting Club

P.O.Box 30177, CY 5311 Paralimni

Tel: (23) 827000

Fax: (23) 730194

Paphos Shooting Club

Alois 100, Geroskipou 8200

Tel: (26) 262109

Fax: (26) 946356

Snow Skiing

In Cyprus, snow skiing can be enjoyed on the slopes of Mount Olympos (1951 metres a.s.l.), from the beginning of January to the end of March. Mount Olympos is only 3 km from Troodos hill resort, 12 km from Platres hill resort, and about an hour's drive from the seaside town of Limassol and the capital Nicosia.

The Cyprus Ski Club possesses four ski lifts.

a) Two of the lifts are installed on the North Face of Mount Olympos. One is 350 metres long and the other is 500 metres long.

b) The other two ski lifts - each 150 metres long - are installed at "Sun Valley" south of Olympos.

Cyprus Ski Club:

P.O.Box 22185, CY 1518 Nicosia

Tel: (22) 675340 (office hours)

Fax: (22) 669681

Tennis

Tennis courts are found in all towns as well as in most hotels and hotel apartment complexes. Most of these tennis courts are all weather and flood lighted.

Cyprus Tennis Federation:

P.O.Box 23931, CY 1687, Nicosia

Tel: (22) 666822 (in the mornings)

Fax: (22) 668016

MUSEUMS, HISTORICAL SITES AND OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST**NICOSIA**

Nicosia lies roughly at the centre of the island and has a rich history that can be traced back to the Bronze Age. It only became the capital of the island in the 11th century AD. The Lusignans made it a magnificent city with a Royal Palace and over fifty churches. Today it brilliantly blends its historic past with the bustle of a modern-day city.

The heart of the city, enclosed by 16th century Venetian walls, contains museums, ancient churches and mediaeval buildings, preserving the nostalgic atmosphere of years past. However, this old heart is split in two, making Nicosia the only capital city to remain divided.

The modern city has grown around the old walled city and here luxury hotels and restaurants, conference centres, modern shops, wide streets and tree-lined avenues, give the capital a cosmopolitan air.

Just a few miles away are unique Byzantine churches and monasteries, archaeological sites and charming villages.

Cyprus Museum: 1 Mouseiou Street, tel: (22) 865864

Priceless and fascinating collection of Cypriot antiquities and art treasures from the Neolithic Age to the early Byzantine Period.

Kasteliotissa (Mediaeval hall): Opposite Paphos Gate, Old Nicosia

This hall with its strong gothic elements was once part of a Lusignan Palace which dates back to the 13th-14th centuries.

It has been restored by the Department of Antiquities and today is used as a Cultural Centre open to the public only during cultural events.

Byzantine Museum and Art Galleries: Arch. Makarios III Foundation, Cultural Centre within the Archbishopric, Arch. Kyprianou Square, tel: (22)430008.

Largest collection of icons on the island, covering the period from 9th to 18th century.

The art galleries contain oil paintings, maps and lithographs.

The Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus: (Former Cyprus Folk Art Museum) Founded by the Society of Cypriot Studies. Arch. Kyprianou Square, tel.: (22) 432578.

Wide collection of Cypriot folk art of the 19th and early 20th century, including wood-carved objects, tapestry, embroidery, pottery, national costumes and hand-woven materials.

National Struggle Museum: Near the Archbishopric area, Arch. Kyprianou Square, tel:(22) 304550

Documents, photos and other memorabilia of the 1955-1959 National Liberation Struggle.

Ayios Ioannis Cathedral: Within the Archbishopric, Arch. Kyprianou Square.

Built by Archbishop Nikiforos in 1662, the recently restored 18th century wall paintings depict biblical scenes and the discovery of the tomb of Saint Barnabas at Salamis. Dedicated to Ayios Ioannis (Saint John).

Archbishopric: Arch. Kyprianou Square.

Centre of the Cyprus Orthodox Church, the new Archbishopric, built in a neo-byzantine style in 1960, contains the private suite of the late Archbishop Makarios. Open to the public only on special occasions. The Old Archbishopric houses the Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus.

The House of Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios: 20 Patriarch Gregoriou Street, tel: 02-305316

It is the most important 18th century building in Nicosia which, after being restored, won the 1988 European Nostra Award. Once the residence of the Dragoman Hatzigeorgakis Kornesios, it now houses the Cyprus Ethnological Museum.

Famagusta Gate: Athenon Ave. tel: (22)430877

The Venetian walls, which completely encircle the old city, have a circumference of 4,5km and possess eleven heart-shaped bastions. There were only three entries to the city through gates in the north, south and east. One of these gates, the Porta Giuliana, called the Famagusta Gate, has been restored and is now the Nicosia Municipal Culture Centre. The vaulted passage and side rooms are used for exhibitions, conferences, lectures and various performances, with the passage leading to the moat. One of the most typical quarters of the town close to Famagusta Gate is also being rehabilitated.

Chrysaliniotissa Church: Within walking distance from the Archbishopric.

Considered the oldest Byzantine church in Nicosia, it is dedicated to «Our Lady of the Golden Flax» and is believed to have been built in 1450 by Queen Helena Palaeologina.

Omeriye Mosque: Trikoupi str., Tillirias Square. Near the Old Municipal Market within the walled city.

Converted into a mosque in 1571 by Mustapha Pasha, who believed that the original 14th century Augustinian Church of St. Mary's was built on the spot where prophet Omer rested when visiting Nicosia. Most of the original building was destroyed by Ottoman artillery.

Phaneromeni Church: Onasagorou Street, within the old city.

Built in 1872, this used to be the largest church in Nicosia. The marble mausoleum to the east of the church contains the relics of the bishops and priests executed by the Turks in 1821.

Tripiotis Church: 47-49 Solonos Street, near Laiki Yitonia.

Built by Archbishop Germanos II in 1695, it is an interesting example of the Franco-Byzantine style.

Lidra Street Lookout Point: Lidra street, Shakolas building, tel: (22) 679369.

Situated on the 11th floor of the Shakolas building, it offers a panoramic 360 degree view of the town of Nicosia.

Laiki Yitonia: Restored pedestrian area within the walled city, east of Eleftheria Square. Charming winding alleys with traditional houses and shops, restaurants, galleries, all lovingly restored as typical examples of Cypriot urban architecture of a bygone, more graceful age.

St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral: Lordou Vyronos Ave., tel: (22) 442241

Though officially called a Cathedral, this is the parish church for Anglican residents, and was built in 1893 in a style reminiscent of many English village churches.

Municipal Theatre: Museum Street, tel: (22) 492900.

This spacious theatre in neo-classical style was completed in 1967. It has a seating capacity of 1.200 and is used for performances by the Cyprus Theatrical Organisation, musical concerts and recitals, dance performances and for various ceremonies.

Cyprus Handicraft Service: 186 Athalassa Ave., tel: (22)305024

The government-run centre is to promote and improve traditional folk art and craft skills by helping artisans to improve their techniques and maintain the quality of their products. The Centre includes a showroom-shop with a wide selection of Cyprus handicrafts, and has branches in all other towns.

The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia: 17 Ippocratous Street, Laiki Yitonia, tel: (22) 661475

The historical museum of Nicosia revives life in the capital from ancient times up to our days.

Chryssaliniotissa Crafts Centre: Ipponaktos and Dimonaktos.

An interesting complex of eight workshops nestling around a central courtyard, designed on the basis of a traditional inn. It accommodates units engaged in contemporary applications of traditional crafts.

The Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre: 19 Apostolou Varnava, tel: (22) 432577.

The centre is housed in the building of the old power station which is one of the finest examples of industrial architecture in Cyprus. Its aim is to promote contemporary creativity at its highest level by organising important and prestigious exhibitions.

Cyprus Jewellers' Museum: 7-9 Praxippou St, tel: (22) 667278.

A display of traditional jewellery from the end of the 19th century including ornaments, religious items, silver utensils and old tools.

Cyprus Postal Museum: 3B Agiou Savva Street, tel: (22) 304711.

Collection of Cyprus stamps from 1800 onwards. These stamps, classified internationally amongst the best, are of significant value in world philately.

Museum of the History of Cypriot Coinage: 51 Stasinou St., Ayia Paraskevi, Bank of Cyprus Headquarters, c/o tel: (22) 677135.

Permanent exhibition presenting the development of coinage of Cyprus from the 6th century BC to the present day.

Panayia Chrysoseptiotissa: Deftera village, 11km southwest of Nicosia.

Dedicated to Our Lady of the Golden Cave, the catacomb structure of the church indicates that it dates back to the early Christian period. A religious fair is held near the church on 15 August, name day of the Virgin Mary.

Tamassos: Politiko village, 20 km southwest of Nicosia.

Tamassos, with its rich copper works, was a city kingdom of ancient Cyprus and of great importance throughout early history. Excavations have produced the Royal Tombs and copper workshops associated with the temple of Aphrodite-Astarte.

Ayios Herakleidios Convent: Politiko village, 0,5km from the Royal Tombs.

When Saints Paul and Barnabas came to Cyprus, they were guided to Tamassos by Herakleidios, whom they later ordained as Bishop of Tamassos. He was martyred at the age of 60 and buried in the cave where he had lived and preached. The monastery was founded in 400 AD, destroyed and rebuilt several times until Archbishop Chrysanthos renovated the church and cells in 1773. The skull and a bone from the hand of the saint are kept in a silver gilt case in the church, which is decorated with fine frescoes and icons.

Machairas Monastery: 41km south of Nicosia through Deftera and Pera villages.

Founded by two monks in 1148, when an icon of the Virgin Mary was found in a nearby cave. The monastery is set in a picturesque dip in the Machairas mountains. Following a grant by the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation the vestry of Machairas monastery, which is housed in the monastery basement, has been renovated and consists of the original cells of the monks as well as stables and storage areas which were restored specifically for this purpose. The vestry has a room where the Monastery's old books and manuscripts are kept, galleries and rooms containing icons and other religious artefacts. The brotherhood is extremely devout, keeping vows as strict as those of Mount Athos in Greece.

Phikardou: 1,5 east of Gourri village, tel: (22) 634731.

The whole village has been declared an ancient «monument» in order to preserve architecture of the 18th century houses. The Houses of Katsinioros and Achilleas Demetri have been restored as vivid examples of rural architecture. They received the Europa Nostra award in 1987.

Ayios Panteleimon Convent: 15 km northwest of Agrokippia village.

An 18th century monastery with a gabled roof, restored in the early 1960s and now serving as a retreat for nuns.

Archangelos Michael Monastery: Off the Nicosia – Anthoupolis road.

The church dates back to the Byzantine period, with rebuilding carried out in 1636 and in 1713 when it was purchased by Kykko Monastery. Founded by Archbishop Nikiforos whose tomb can be seen in the narthex of the church. The iconostasis dates to 1650 and there is a 1785 fresco of the Archangel Michael to whom the monastery is dedicated. It now houses the Kykko Monastery Research Centre.

Peristerona: 27 km from Nicosia on the Nicosia-Troodos road.

The church, dedicated to Saints Barnabas and Hilarion, was probably erected in the early 10th century, and is an outstanding example of Byzantine architecture with five domes.

Next to the church stands the Turkish mosque of Peristerona, a witness to the long and peaceful co-existence between the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots of the village, and the whole of Cyprus, at a time when Turkey had not yet adopted its partitionist and expansionist policy.

LIMASSOL

Successor to two city-kingdoms and host to a Royal Wedding in the Middle Ages, contemporary Limassol stretches along the south coast. Proud of the spontaneous hospitality of its people, its archaeological sites, its mediaeval castles and its merry

Carnival and Wine festivals, Limassol is the island's most important tourist and wine industry centre. Hotels, restaurants and night spots abound along the beach, whilst close by lie the pine-clad southern slopes of Troodos with the picturesque wine producing villages, the idyllic mountain resorts and the picturesque Pitsilia area.

Limassol Mediaeval Fort

Cyprus Mediaeval Museum: Near the Old Port, tel: (25)330419.

Originally built in the 14th century on the site of an earlier Byzantine castle. Rebuilding carried out during the Ottoman period. According to tradition Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre and crowned her Queen of England here in 1191. The castle houses the Cyprus Mediaeval Museum.

Archaeological Museum: 5 Vyronos Str., tel: (25)330157.

Interesting collection of antiquities found in the Limassol area from the Neolithic Age to the Roman period.

Municipal Folk Art Museum: 253 Ayios Andreas St., tel: (25)362303.

A beautiful collection of Cypriot Folk Art of the 19th and early 20th century is housed in a restored old house. The collection includes national costumes, tapestry, embroidery, displayed in a very interesting way.

Municipal Art Gallery: 28 Oktovriou 103, tel: (25)343212.

The art gallery houses a representative collection of paintings of well-known contemporary Cypriot artists.

Kolossi Castle: 14 km west of Limassol.

A fine example of military architecture originally constructed in the 13th century, and subsequently rebuilt in its present form in the middle of the 15th century. After the fall of Acre in 1291 it served as the Grand Commandery of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. In the 14th century it came for a few years under the domain of the Knights Templar.

Nearby are the ruins of a sugar mill dating to the 14th century.

Kourion Museum: Episkopi village, tel: (25) 232453.

Collection of finds from nearby archaeological sites, housed in a beautiful old house.

Kourion: 19 km west of Limassol.

An important ancient city kingdom, and one of the most interesting and spectacular archaeological sites on the island with excavations still bringing new treasures to light. The magnificent Greco-Roman theatre was originally built in the 2nd century BC and enlarged in the 2nd century AD. It is now fully restored and used for musical and theatrical performances. The House of Eustolios was originally a private villa and in the early Christian period became a public recreation centre. It consists of a complex of Baths and a number of rooms with beautiful 5th century AD mosaic floors.

The Early Christian basilica dated to the 5th century was probably the Cathedral of Kourion with a baptistery attached to the north side. The House of Achilles and the House of the Gladiators have beautiful mosaic floors. The Nymphaeum, dedicated to water nymphs, is still under excavation by the Cyprus Department of Antiquities.

The Stadium lies 1km to the west on the right side of the road to Paphos, and is dated to the 2nd century AD.

Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates: 3km west of Kourion.

Apollo Hylates, God of the Woodland, was the protector of the city of Kourion.

Archaeological evidence shows that the cult of Apollo was celebrated here from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. Part of the temple has been restored.

Amathus Ancient Site: 11 km west of Limassol.

One of the ancient city kingdoms of Cyprus, where, according to legend, Theseus left the pregnant Ariadne to be taken care of, after his battle with the Minotaur. A very important cult of Aphrodite-Astarte flourished here. Excavations are still continuing at the Acropolis and Agora areas as well as part of the upper and lower city. The remains date from the Archaic, Roman and Christian periods.

Ayia Anastasia Church: Pano Polemidia.

This is a complex of two churches. The older one, possibly dating to the 12th century, is on the east side and is a cross-in-square domed church. The second church on the west side was added in the 14th century and built in the same architectural style. The surviving mural painting dates back to the 14th-15th centuries.

Ayia Christina Church: Germasogeia.

Germasogeia is an important municipality in the Limassol area. The church of Ayia Christina, which lies in the centre of the village, also houses the Germasogeia Ecclesiastical Museum. It is a small church with a flat roof, the outcome of several recent interventions. Recently restoration work has revealed 16th century wall paintings.

Ayios Georgios Alamanos Convent: Off the Nicosia-Limassol road, 19 km from Limassol.

Originally founded in the 12th century. The nuns, besides performing their religious rites, spend their time in icon painting and cultivating flowers and herbs, and in the production of honey.

Kourris Valley: A series of important Byzantine monuments, e.g. Panayia Amasgou, Timios Stavros-Kouka, Archangelos Monagri, can be found along the Kourris valley, about 20 minutes from Limassol.

The vaulted church of the Monastery of Panayia tis Amasgou belongs to the 12th century and is covered by a second roof made of wood and tiles. The church retains 12th, 14th, and 16th century wall paintings. The monastery is now run as a nunnery.

The Archangelos at Monagri was built in 1740 on the foundations of an older monastery. Of interest is the painted wood-carved iconostasis and the nearby olive oil mill of the Roman period. The northern buildings of the monastery have been renovated and turned into a Centre for Contemporary Art.

Timios Stavros at Kouka has an excellent example of the Palaeologian style on a wall painting of the 14th century. Not far away is the picturesque village of Laneia, a favourite with artists.

LARNACA

Larnaca, a town with an easy-going pace, has strong links with the past. In the heart of modern Larnaca one finds remains of the ancient city-kingdom of Kition, reminiscent of its glorious days. The Mycenaean Greeks fortified the town with cyclopean walls in the 12th century BC while the Phoenicians founded a powerful kingdom here in the 9th century BC. Kition is the birthplace of the philosopher Zeno, founder of the Stoic School, and it is here that Saint Lazarus came to live after his resurrection. In the 18th century it became a commercial centre and the seat of the European consulates.

The delightful Palm Trees Promenade, its fort and its old quarters give Larnaca its unique character. The nearby salt lake is a favourite stop over for thousands of migrant birds in winter, whilst on its banks in a tranquil setting stands a popular Muslim pilgrimage place.

The whole district of Larnaca has something special to offer the visitor, including Khirokitia, the oldest Neolithic settlement on the island, Stavrovouni Monastery and the famous Church of Angeloktisti.

The Bust of Kimon: At the seafront promenade.

The Athenian General Kimon led 200 triremes in 450 BC to free Cyprus from the Persians. He died while he was besieging Kition.

District Archaeological Museum: Kalogreon Square, tel: (24)630169.

Interesting collection of finds from the Larnaca area, dating from the Neolithic Age to the Roman period.

The Pierides Foundation Museum: 4 Zenon Kition Street, tel.: (24)652495.

Remarkable private collection of Cypriot antiquities, originally gathered together by Demetrios Pierides (1811-1895), and further enriched by members of the family.

Larnaca Fort - Mediaeval Museum: Larnaca seafront.

Originally built in 1625, it was used as a prison in the first years of British rule. It now houses the District Mediaeval Museum. The Fort is also used as the Larnaca Municipal Cultural Centre.

Municipal Cultural Centre: Europis Square, tel: (24) 658848.

Five old Larnaca Customs warehouses, built in the colonial style (1881), have recently been renovated and turned into the Larnaca Municipal Cultural Centre. It houses the Municipal Gallery and the only Palaeontology Museum in Cyprus, where the ancient fossilised remains of pygmy elephants and hippopotami, that once lived on the island, can be seen. The Centre also has facilities for occasional exhibitions.

Ayios Lazaros Church: Ayios Lazaros Square.

Saint Lazarus is the patron saint of Larnaca. Kition became his second home after his resurrection by Christ, and he lived here for another 30 years. He was ordained Bishop of Kition by Saints Barnabas and Mark.

In the 9th century a magnificent church was erected over his tomb by Emperor Leo VI. The church, one of the finest examples of Byzantine architecture in Cyprus, was faithfully restored in the 17th century, and the iconostasis is an excellent example of baroque woodcarving. Visitors can see the tomb of Saint Lazarus under the sanctuary and an ecclesiastical museum behind the church.

Eight days before the Greek Orthodox Easter the icon of Saint Lazarus is taken in procession through the streets of Larnaca.

Kition: Approximately 500m northeast of the Archaeological Museum.

One of the most important ancient city-kingdoms, with architectural remains dating back to the 13th century BC. In about 1200 BC, it was rebuilt by the Mycenaean Greeks, and excavations have revealed cyclopean walls made of giant blocks of stone and a complex of five temples.

Kamares Aqueduct: Kamares area on the Larnaca-Limassol road.

A beautiful 18th century aqueduct which was in use until 1930.

Municipal Museum of Natural History: Grigori Afxentiou Ave., tel: (24) 652569.

Within the Larnaca Municipal Gardens. The Museum has displays of rare insects, birds and animals of Cyprus.

Hala Sultan Tekke: Larnaca Salt Lake.

Built in 1816 over the tomb of Umm Haram, allegedly a relative of the Prophet Mohammed, who died on this spot in 649 during the first Arab raids. The mosque is an important place of Moslem pilgrimage ranking immediately after the shrines of Mecca, Medina and Al Aqsha in Jerusalem.

Angeloktisti Church: Kiti village.

Angeloktisti means 'built by the angels'.

This 11th century Byzantine church was built on a destroyed early Christian basilica, the apse of which survives together with one of the finest pieces of Byzantine art, a 6th century mosaic of the Virgin Mary and Child between two archangels, which rivals the Ravenna Mosaics.

Royal Chapel: Pyrga village.

Built by Lusignan King Janus in 1421, it contains a wall painting of the king and his wife, Charlotte de Bourbon. It is considered to be one of the most interesting structures surviving from the Frankish period.

Stavrovouni Monastery: 9 km off the Nicosia-Limassol road.

Perched on a rocky peak, 750 meters above sea level, Stavrovouni means the Mountain of the Cross. According to tradition it was founded by Saint Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, who left a fragment of the Holy Cross to the monastery. The brotherhood is extremely devout, keeping vows as strict as those of the Mount Athos brotherhood in Greece. Women are not allowed in the monastery, though men may visit the monastery daily from sunrise to sunset, except between 12.00-13.00

(15.00 hrs in summer), on Green Monday and the following day. There is an impressive ceremony and celebrations on 14 September, the day of Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Monastery of Ayia Varvara (Saint Barbara) at the foot of Stavrovouni hill, is easily accessible. The monks here, as in Stavrovouni, have a high reputation for icon painting.

Ayios Effimianos Church: Near Stavrovouni Monastery in Kornos area.

The Byzantine church of Ayios Effimianos is in Lysi village, presently under Turkish military occupation. After the invasion in 1974, its 14th century frescoes were dismantled, fragmented in 38 pieces and smuggled abroad. They were finally found in Munich where the Government of Cyprus together with the Menil Foundation in USA bought the frescoes with the agreement that these will be exhibited in Houston (USA) for a period of 15 years before their return home.

The people of Lysi have built a new church on the model of the original, where replicas of the frescoes are displayed in the basement.

Choirokoitia: 32 km from Larnaca and 48 km from Nicosia.

Neolithic settlement dated to 7000 BC. Excavations have brought to light one of the most developed Neolithic cultures in the world, with a defence wall, circular houses, tombs and many stone utensils. Finds from Khirokitia are displayed at the Cyprus Museum in Nicosia and the District Museum in Larnaca. There is a replica of the settlement at the visitors' centre at the entrance of the site.

Kalavastos – Tenta: 40 km from Larnaca, 2,5 km off the Nicosia-Limassol road.

Tenta, one of the most important Neolithic settlements in Cyprus, lies near the village of Kalavastos.

Lefkara: 8 km from Skarinou.

A picturesque village, famous for its local lace known as «Lefkaritika» and for its silverware. According to tradition, Leonardo da Vinci visited the village and bought an altar cloth, which he donated to the Milan cathedral. The House of Patsalos houses the Lace and Silverware Museum of Lefkara. The church of Archangelos Michael in Kato Lefkara is of the single-aisled domed type and has wall paintings of the late 12th century. At Pano Lefkara, there is the church of the Holy Cross with a beautiful 18th century iconostasis and a unique 13th century silver cross. A religious fair takes place on 13-14 September, day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Ayios Minas Convent: 15th century convent near Lefkara with a church at the centre of the cloisters.

The nuns, besides performing their religious rites, are famous for their icon painting.

PAPHOS

The whole town of Paphos is included in the official UNESCO list of cultural and natural treasures of the world's heritage.

Wherever one treads in Paphos, he comes across its glorious history which dates back thousands of years, when the cult of the goddess Aphrodite who emerged from its seas, flourished in this beautiful part of the world attracting many visitors from inland and abroad.

Today it is a small harbour town, but in Hellenistic and Roman times it was the capital of Cyprus. Still under the spell of her beauty-goddess, the area retaining her magic, has remained intact from the ravages of time. It seduces its visitor with its majestic landscape, lovely coastline, historical treasures and delightful villages where tradition is still a way of life. Kept in harmony with nature are divine mediaeval monasteries which lie peacefully in the Paphos heartland.

District Archaeological Museum: 43 Griva Dighenis Street, tel: (26)240215.

Attractive collection of Cypriot antiquities from the Paphos area, dating from the Neolithic Age to 1700 AD.

Byzantine Museum: 3 Andreas Ioannou Str., tel: (26)231393.

An interesting collection of objects from the Byzantine period, including Byzantine icons from the 7th to 18th century, and the oldest icon found yet in Cyprus of the 7th or 8th century.

Ethnographical Museum: 1 Exo Vrisy. tel: (26)232010.

Interesting private collection of objects from the Neolithic Age to the present day.

Tombs of the Kings: Kato Paphos, tel: (26) 240295.

Spread over a vast area, these impressive underground tombs date back to the 4th century BC. They are carved out of solid rock with some being decorated with Doric pillars. High officials rather than Kings were buried here, but the magnificence of the tombs gave the locality its name.

Ayia Solomoni Church: Kato Paphos, St. Paul Street.

Originally a Christian catacomb retaining some of the 12th century frescoes. A sacred tree at the entrance is believed to cure the ailments of those who hang a personal offering on its branches.

The Mosaics of Paphos: Kato Paphos, tel: (26)240217.

House of Dionysos, House of Theseus, House of Aion and House of Orpheus.

The mosaic floors of these 3rd and 5th century AD noblemen's villas, are considered among the finest in the Eastern Mediterranean. They mostly depict scenes from Greek mythology.

Paphos Odeon: Kato Paphos.

A small 2nd century odeon built entirely of well-hewn limestone blocks, it is now used in the summer for musical and theatrical performances. Nearby are the remains of the ancient city walls, the Roman Agora and a building dedicated to Asklepeios, god of medicine.

Saranta Kolones: Kato Paphos, near the harbour.

This castle was built by the Lusignans at the beginning of 13th century on the site of a previous Byzantine Castle. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 1222.

Paphos Mediaeval Fort: Kato Paphos harbour.

Originally a Byzantine fort built to protect the harbour, it was rebuilt by the Lusignans in the 13th century, dismantled by the Venetians in 1570, and rebuilt by the Ottomans after they captured the island in the 16th century.

Panayia Chrysopolitissa and Early Christian Basilica: Kato Paphos.

Built in the 13th century, over the ruins of the largest early Byzantine basilica on the island. Within the compound, one can see St. Paul's Pillar, where according to tradition Saint Paul was flogged before the Roman Governor Sergius Paulus was converted to Christianity.

Theoskepasti Church: Kato Paphos.

Theoskepasti means 'veiled by God'. According to tradition, a fog was sent by God to protect the original church during the Arab raids. The modern church was built in 1923.

Yeroskipou Folk Art Museum: Yeroskipou village, tel: (26)240216.

The name of the village comes from the Greek phrase, «hieros kepos», the sacred garden of Aphrodite. Fascinating collection of folk art and crafts gathered together in the house known as Hadjismith.

Ayia Paraskevi Church: Yeroskipou village, tel: (26) 261859.

One of the most interesting and attractive Byzantine churches on the island, dating to the 10th century. It has a vaulted basilica surmounted by five domes forming a cross and has wall paintings dating to the 15th century.

Sanctuary of Aphrodite: Kouklia village, tel: (26) 432180.

Palaepaphos, Old Paphos, was one of the most celebrated of pilgrimage centres of the ancient Greek world, and once an ancient city-kingdom of Cyprus. Here stood the famous sanctuary of Aphrodite, the most ancient remains of which date back to the 12th century B.C. The glorious days of the sanctuary lasted till the 3rd-4th century A.D.. The Museum, housed in the Lusignan Manor, contains many interesting finds

from the area. Excavations continue on the site of the sanctuary, the city and the necropolis.

Petra Tou Romiou: (Birthplace of Aphrodite), 25 km east of Paphos.

According to legend, Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty, rose from the waves in this strikingly beautiful spot. The Greek name, Petra tou Romiou (The Rock of the Greek), is associated with the legendary frontier guard of Byzantine times, Dighenis Akritas, who kept the marauding Saracens at bay with amazing strength. It is said in one such fight he heaved this large rock (petra) into the sea destroying the enemy's ship.

Panayia Chryseleousa Church: Emba village.

A 12th century church standing in the centre of the village. A series of icons and two panels with the 12 Apostles date to the middle of the 16th century.

Lemba: 5 km from Paphos.

At Lempa village excavations have brought to light an important settlement of the Chalcolithic period. Near the site replicas of two houses from this period have been constructed.

Peyia (Ayios Georghios Basilica and the fountains of Peyia): Peyia village.

Near a fishing refuge 4½km from the village of Peyia, are the ruins of two early Christian basilicas with some very interesting mosaic floors depicting animals. This site must have been an important establishment in Early Christian times. There are also rock-hewn tombs of the Roman period above the sea. Peyia is famous for its fountains in the stone paved village square.

MAA – Palaiokastros: Coral Bay – 9 km from Paphos.

This is an area which accommodated the first ancient (Mycenaean) Greeks, who emigrated to Cyprus at around 1200 BC after the fall of the Mycenaean Kingdoms in mainland Greece. This is a very important site for Cyprus because this is where Hellenism on the island originated.

The little museum with its unusual architecture is the work of Andrea Bruno, Professor at the University of Turin and one of Europe's greatest architects. The Museum depicts the colonisation of Cyprus by the Mycenaean Greeks.

Ayios Neophytos Monastery: 9 km north of Paphos.

Founded at the end of the 12th century by the Cypriot hermit and writer, Neophytos. The «Engleistra», an enclosure, carved out of the mountain by the hermit, contains some of the finest Byzantine frescoes dating from the 12th to the 15th century. In the monastery's church there is an interesting collection of icons and remains of 16th century frescoes.

Chrysoroyiatissa Monastery: Set in beautiful surroundings, this monastery, dedicated to Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate, was originally founded in the 12th century but the present building dates to 1770. The monastery has a collection of important icons and treasures. An impressive religious ceremony and celebrations are held on 15 August. The old winery of the monastery produces some of the best vintage wine in Cyprus.

Pano Panayia: The birthplace of Archbishop Makarios III, first President of Cyprus. The house where he was born has been turned into a museum.

Laona Region: Near the town of Poli Chrysochous and the Akamas area at about 600 m above sea level, lie the villages of Laona, e.g. Ineia, Drouseia, Kathikas, with a panoramic view across the area. In Ineia you can visit the Museum of Basket-weaving. The Laona/Akamas Information Centre can be found in a renovated school in the centre of Kathikas.

Polis: 37 km north of Paphos.

Polis tis Chrysochou lies where once stood the ancient city-kingdom of Marion, an important commercial centre in Classical and Hellenistic times. Some beautiful houses, dating to the beginning of this century, can still be seen here. Its excellent climate and beautiful beaches and scenery, have made the area a popular resort.

Baths of Aphrodite: Akamas Peninsula.

According to legend, the goddess Aphrodite used to take her beauty baths in the pool of this natural grotto, shaded by a fig tree. Nature trails from the Baths lead to the Fontana Amorosa area and to other areas of Akamas.

FAMAGUSTA

The golden sandy beaches of the Famagusta district, lying in the government-controlled area, stretch out to the eastern corner of the island. The popular holiday centres of Ayia Napa and Paralimni have been called a veritable paradise for anyone who loves the sea and water sports.

The charming scenery includes the tiny fishing harbour of Ayia Napa, the mediaeval monastery at the heart of the village, and the windmills and small churches in the surrounding villages, which spread out to the areas of Paralimni and Protaras.

This region, which is the main potato-producing area on the island, is known as «Kokkinochoria» which means «red-soil villages».

The villages of this area are equally known for their folk poets, who are regarded as the best on the island.

Paralimni

Since the Turkish military occupation of Famagusta in 1974, this small town has become the main administrative centre of the district.

The twin aisled vaulted church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary (Panayia) which also houses a small Byzantine museum, is decorated with unusual 18th century porcelain plates. The church, parts of which belong to the 13th century, houses a small ecclesiastical museum. Other interesting churches can also be found in the area.

Ayia Napa

Originally a fishing village, this is now a major tourist resort. The charming mediaeval monastery, dedicated to Our Lady of the Forests, stands in the middle of the village surrounded by a high wall. Its 16th century church is partially underground, cut into the rock. The hostel, west of the church, belongs to the World Council of Churches. The ancient sycamore tree, in front of the south gate, is believed to be over 600 years old. The Marine Life Museums can be found within the premises of the Ayia Napa Municipality.

Dherinia

The village has three interesting churches, the small domed 17th century church of Ayios Georghios, the 15th century Ayia Marina church, and a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary with excellent 17th century icons. From this village one may gaze at the 'ghost city' of Famagusta, once the most popular holiday resort in Cyprus, but now totally deserted since the 1974 Turkish invasion, as all its inhabitants are now refugees.

Sotira

The partly ruined church of Ayios Mamas, which was built around the 12th century, has wall paintings dating to the 16th century. The church of Sotiros has 13th century wall paintings. About 1½km to the west, is the 16th century cruciform church of Panayia Chordakiotissa, whose dome has been restored, and the church of Ayios Georghios, an Early Christian basilica with three aisles.

Liopetri

There is a 16th century church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and a 15th century church of Ayios Andronikos with an octagonal dome and the remains of murals, which can still be distinguished in the apse. The basket-making tradition continues at Liopetri.

Potamos Liopetriou

A picturesque fishing refuge. The remains of a Venetian watchtower are nearby. The French poet, Arthur Rimbaud, worked in this area in the 1880s.

Frenaros

The village of Frenaros has its own small Byzantine churches. Two of them, the Ayios Andronikos and the Archangelos Michael date back to the 12th century. The church of Ayia Marina has some interesting frescoes painted by different artists.

TROODOS

Nine Byzantine churches in the Troodos mountains, are included in the official UNESCO list of the World Heritage. These are: Stavros tou Ayiasmati, Panayia tou Araka, Timiou Stavrou at Pelendri, Ayios Nicolaos tis Stegis, Panayia Podithou, Panayia tis Asinou, Ayios Ioannis Lampadistis, Panayia tou Moutoulla and Archangel Michael at Pedhoulas.

The impressive Troodos mountain range stretches across most of the western side of Cyprus, offering a cool sanctuary and idyllic hours spent in long walks in its scented pine forests in summer and winter sports and skiing in winter.

Famous mountain resorts, Byzantine monasteries and churches perched on mountain peaks, and nestling in its valleys and picturesque mountain villages clinging to terraced hill slopes, make up the splendour of Troodos.

The area has been known since ancient times for its mines, and in the Byzantine period it became a great centre of Byzantine art, as churches and monasteries were built in the mountains, away from the threatened coastline.

In the Troodos mountain range, besides Machairas to the east and the actual Troodos district around Mount Olympus (height 1951 metres), there are four other districts, each of which has its own character and separate charm. These districts are: Pitsillia to the east of Mount Olympus, Solea Valley, Marathasa Valley to the north of Mount Olympus, and Krassochoia, the wine villages, to the south (north-west of the Limassol district). These are easy to reach from either Limassol or Nicosia.

Pitsilia

The Pitsilia area lies on the eastern slopes of the Troodos mountains range. Pictureque villages cling to the mountainside amid vineyards, orchards of almond and hazelnut trees, and an astonishing array of wild flowers.

Louvaras

In the middle of the village is the small church of Ayios Mamas built in 1495 with wall paintings signed by Philip Goul.

Agros

Agros is the centre of the district. It has a good dry climate, gardens of roses, cool springs and hotels for visitors.

A 19th century church in Byzantine style now stands on the site of a 9th century monastery of Panayia Eleousa Agrou, founded by monks from Constantinople.

Palaichori

The Church of the transfiguration of the Saviour (tou Sotiros) is an early 16th century chapel on the hill overlooking the beautiful old villages. Its interior is completely painted with one of the most accomplished series of murals, of the post-Byzantine period in Cyprus. The church of Panayia Chrysopantanassa, built in the 16th century, is the main church of the upper village. It also has four cycles of wall paintings.

Platanistassa

Stavros tou Ayiasmati, a 15th century church, lying about 3km outside this very pleasant old village, retains the most complete cycles of wall paintings of the second half of the 15th century in Cyprus.

Lagoudhera: Panayia tou Araka.

This 12th century church stands just outside the village and has some of the finest frescoes of the late Comnenian style (c.1192) prevailing throughout Greece, the Balkans and Russia.

Together with Asinou church and that of Ayios Nikolaos tis Stegis, it is considered to be one of the most important Byzantine churches on the island.

Kourdali

The village's early 16th century church with frescoes of the same period, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary (Panayia).

Pelendri: Timiou Stavrou.

Once the property of Jean de Lusignan, son of the Lusignan King of Cyprus, Hugh IV. There are two interesting churches, the 14th century church of Timiou Stavrou with beautiful wall paintings and the 14th century church of Panayia Katholiki in the middle of the old village which dates to the early 16th century with paintings of the Italo-Byzantine style.

Solea Valley

The Solea valley is famous for its apples, its Byzantine churches and its picturesque villages. Galata and Kakopetria, villages preserving much of their traditional folk architecture, are popular hill resorts. Both villages are famous for their Byzantine churches. Other important villages in the area are Evrykhou, Flassou, and Korakou.

Kakopetria

The church of Ayios Nikolaos tis Stegis (St. Nicholas of the Roof) stands about 5km above the village and once belonged to a monastery. It is completely painted with murals dating from the 11th to the 17th century and is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island. It gets its name from the steep pitched wooden roof which was built to protect it from climatological conditions. The small 16th century church of Panayia Theotokos, off the main road, retains about half of its murals. The church of Ayios Georghios Perachoritis, to the east of the village, has some very original wall paintings belonging to the first quarter of the 16th century.

The old quarter of the village has been declared a protected area and old houses have been restored.

Galata: Panayia Podithou.

There are four painted churches in and around the village. The church of Ayios Sozomenos dates to the early 16th century and retains a complete series of frescoes in the post-Byzantine style. The church of the Archangel Michael or Panayia Theotokos is a timber-roofed chapel just below the village and is completely painted in the post-Byzantine style of the early 16th century. Nearby, is the larger church of Panayia Podithou which once belonged to a monastery. It was erected in 1502 and its paintings are of the Italo-Byzantine style. The small church of Ayia Paraskevi on the old Kakopetria-Galata road has paintings from 1514. The old inn, «the Hani Kallianon», which has been restored, is an interesting example of rural architecture.

Nikitari: Asinou church.

An early 12th century church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, with frescoes of the 12th century and later periods, considered to be among the finest examples of Byzantine mural painting in the island.

Marathassa Valley

This fertile valley, well known for its cherries on the north side of the Troodos range, offers an alternative route to Troodos, through the lovely mountain villages of Kalopanayiotis, Moutoullas, Pedhoulas, Prodhromos and Kykkos.

Kalopanayiotis: Ayios Ioannis Lampadistis.

The village is famous for its sulphur springs and the famous church of Ayios Ioannis Lampadistis with excellent frescoes of the 13th and 15th centuries. Originally a monastery, it is a complex of several buildings of various dates. One of the biggest religious fairs in the valley is held here on 4 October, St. John's day.

Moutoullas: Panayia tou Moutoulla.

The tiny 13th century chapel of Panayia tou Moutoulla, is one of the earliest examples of the steep-pitched wooden roof type. It has frescoes dating to 1280. The traditional craft of carved wooden basins has been preserved in Moutoullas.

Pedhoulas: Archangelos Michael.

Pedhoulas is a summer resort famous for its cherries. The painted church of Archangel Michael stands in the lower part of the village and dates to 1474.

Kykko Monastery

The most famous and richest monastery in Cyprus. Founded in 1100 and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it possesses one of the three surviving icons ascribed to St. Luke. The icon, covered in silver gilt and enclosed in a shrine of tortoiseshell and mother-of-pearl, stands at the front of the iconostasis. The first President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III, served as a novice here. At his own wish, he was buried at Throni, 3km west of the Monastery, not far from his native village of Panayia.

Religious fairs are held at Kykko on 15 August and 8 September.

Troodhitissa Monastery

This beautiful monastery standing amid pine trees, was originally founded in the 13th century. The present church, dating from 1731, contains many valuable icons including a priceless silver-plated icon of the Virgin Mary from Asia Minor. A large religious fair is held in the church grounds on 15 August.

Mesa Potamos Monastery

Deserted monastery near Platres in an idyllic setting, with a nearby waterfall.

Krassochoria

The area, known as the «Krassochoria» (the wine villages) is found on the south side of the Troodos range. Old traditions are kept alive in these villages, where the cultivation of the vineyards, and wine making are still the main occupation of most of the inhabitants. This is the area which produces the famous local dry red wine. Main villages in the area are Omodhos, Arsos, Pachna, Kilani and Vasa.

Omodhos

A wine producing village, once the property of Sir John de Brie, Prince of Galilee, with the Monastery of Stavros (Holy Cross), standing by the stone-paved square. The monastery contains old icons, excellent wood carvings and other ecclesiastical objects of interest, as well as a small National Struggle Museum.

An old house, with a wine press known as Linos, has been restored and can also be visited. A wine festival is held in the village every August, and there is a large religious fair on 14 September.

Phoini

Famous for its pottery and its loukoumi sweets. Visitors can see the Pilavakion private pottery collection.

Kilani

An attractive wine-producing village with the single-aisled church of Ayia Mavri, typical of 12th century architecture with murals of the late 15th century. The village also has its own ecclesiastical museum.

VISITING HOURS

1. All museums and archaeological sites are closed on Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Easter Sunday (Orthodox).
2. During the rest of the public holidays the major archaeological sites: Kolossi Castle, Kourion site, Sanctuary of Apollo, Tombs of the Kings, Mosaics in Paphos, Hala Sultan Tekke, Khirokitia and Archaeological site of Amathous remain open from 09:00-17:00 hrs (09:00-19:30 hrs in the summer). The Cyprus Archaeological Museum in Nicosia remains open from 10:00-13:00 hrs. The district Archaeological Museums in Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos remain closed on Sundays.

3. Opening and closing times of museums and archaeological sites as well as entrance fees are subject to alterations without notice. During the summer period, the archaeological sites stay open longer.
4. Daily free admittance for Cypriots to all state museums and archaeological sites.
5. The Department of Antiquities can issue special entry cards for a period of one day and for a period of seven days.