



Contents

1.	Cyprus Problem.....	2
2.	Hydrocarbons.....	5
3.	Greek Cypriots	6
	Economic Developments.....	6
	Domestic Developments	7
	Labour Relations and Trade Unions	8
4.	Turkish Cypriots	10
	Economic Developments.....	10
	Domestic Developments	10
	Labour Relations and Trade Unions	11
	Foreign Affairs	12
5.	FES Cyprus Events	13

FES NEWS

- please follow and visit us on -

[@FESCyprus](https://www.facebook.com/FESCyprus)

www.FEScyprus.org - www.facebook.com/FESCyprus

1. Cyprus Problem

The Turkish and Greek Cypriot negotiators, Ozdil Nami and Andreas Mavroyiannis, visited the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker in Brussels on February 4. They jointly discussed the required preparations to be undertaken for the implementation of the Acquis Communautaire. As a result of the meeting, the European Commission decided to place the 'Task Force for the Turkish Cypriot Community' under the direct management of Commission, President Jean-Claude Juncker and Vice-President, Dombrovskis. The Task Force for the Turkish Cypriot Community represents the Commission's team in charge of implementing the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot Community and assisting the Turkish Cypriots to prepare for the reunification of Cyprus. It was set up in 2004 and has so far been part of the Directorate-General for Regional Policy.

The first meeting between Mustafa Akinci and Nicos Anastasiades in February took place on the 13th as the pre-scheduled meeting of February 8 was cancelled because Akinci had fallen ill. The main topic on the agenda was property and the two leaders discussed the remaining gaps. As a result of the meeting, the two negotiators were instructed to work on reducing the disparities between the two sides. The two leaders also explored avenues to accelerate the process. A second leaders' meeting took place on February 26. After this meeting, no details were provided to the public regarding the subjects discussed.

In an interview with Turkey's NTV, UN Special Adviser, Espen Barth Eide was quoted as saying that the issue of property was 90% solved, but he warned that the greatest difficulties could be faced in trying to settle the remaining 10%.

On February 10, Anastasiades and Akinci issued a joint appeal regarding the Missing Persons and their potential burial sites, urging anyone that may have information to come forth anonymously. The call, which was recorded in December, was shown as an island wide TV spot in both Greek and Turkish. At the end of the month, a tip to *Politis* newspaper referred to the remains of 100 missing Greek Cypriots allegedly buried in Assia.

On another front, Turkish daily *Milliyet* reported on February 10, that Turkish President, Recep Tayip Erdogan had urged the Turkish Cypriot leadership to stand firm in the ongoing peace talks and to take no steps back. According to *Milliyet*, Erdogan's advice was that the Turkish Cypriot side should not deviate from the provisions of the Annan plan. With regards to Morphou, a village which according to the Annan plan would have been ceded to the Greek Cypriot constituent state after territorial reconfiguration, the Turkish President was quoted as saying that "because the Annan plan was not accepted, a return of Morphou is not on the table," citing the fact that it was one of the most fertile areas of the island. Erdogan also weighed in on the issue of the request by 10,000 Turks to be granted nationality of the

TRNC¹. The report drew criticism from the Greek Cypriot side, including DISY and opposition AKEL, the only parties backing a solution. Both reject the idea that Morphou might remain under Turkish Cypriot administration.

On February 11, Anastasiades briefed the Greek Cypriot Parliament on the status of the Cyprus peace talks. In his speech, Anastasiades stated, progress was being made in the talks, but stressed that an agreement should not be expected any time soon. Moreover, the President went through the major convergences and differences between the two communities in the negotiations so far, warning that failure to reach a settlement would not be without consequences. According to Anastasiades, the Republic of Cyprus would evolve into a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and referred to the joint communiqué of February 11, 2014. The joint communiqué safeguards the three fundamental rights that distinguish a state, namely a single international personality, a single sovereignty and a single nationality.

¹ The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) is only recognised by the Republic of Turkey. While for Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots, Mustafa Akinci serves as President of the TRNC, the international community considers him the communal leader of the Turkish Cypriots. As the government of the Republic of Cyprus remains internationally recognised as the government of the whole of the island, the entire island is now considered to be a member of the European Union. However, the *acquis communautaire* is suspended in northern Cyprus pending a political settlement to the Cyprus problem (see Protocol no. 10 of the Accession Treaty).

On governance and power-sharing, Anastasiades said there was a common understanding with the Turkish Cypriots that the new structure of the state would consist of the government of the federal republic and the local governments of the two constituent states. The Greek Cypriot side, said Anastasiades, rejected the proposal for a rotating presidency which the Turkish Cypriots have insisted upon. This has resulted in disagreements on the composition of the cabinet in a reunited state. Moreover, Anastasiades referred to a list of 27 categories of federal jurisdictions. On 19 of those powers, there is common ground whereas on five exist minor differences, and on three there are major disagreements as these have to do with other aspects of the talks. With regards to legislative powers, according to Anastasiades these will be vested into two bodies: the Upper House or Senate, and the House of Representatives. The former will comprise of 40 members with an equal number from each community. Elections will be local to ensure political equality. The House of Representatives will comprise of 48 members, 75% of which are Greek Cypriot and 25% from the Turkish Cypriot constituent state.

Consensus was also reached on the judiciary whereby two levels of courts will exist: courts of first instance and appellate courts. The Supreme Constitutional Court will for as long as necessary, act as an appellate court for property cases. The benches of the courts will consist of an equal number of judges from each community.

According to Anastasiades, the two sides discussed the issue of the Turkish settlers, and reached common ground that, on the first day of which the agreement comes into force, the make-up of the population will reflect the demographic composition of the Republic as it was in 1960. The population ratio was agreed at 4:1, and this ratio will apply in the future, taking into account the future acquisition of Cypriot citizenship by Turkish and Greek nationals.

On the issue of properties, Anastasiades said the two communities agreed on a number of points. This includes the individual right to property. During the first year, the owner will have a priority right to take recourse to a Property Commission. Five ways of redress are offered to property owners: resettlement, partial restitution, alternative restitution, exchange of properties, and compensation. The composition of the Property Commission was also agreed upon. The two sides also see eye-to-eye on the establishment of a court handling property cases and hearing appeals made against decisions by the Property Commission. Appellants will also have the right to take recourse to the European Court of Human Rights once they have exhausted all domestic legal avenues. In total, 22 categories of properties were devised according to their ownership status and use.

The federal government will have a single central bank, the national currency from day one will be the euro, and an 'Internal Stability Pact' is to be drawn up and implemented ensuring

that rules governing the fiscal deficit, public debt, expenditures and revenues are applied at all levels of government, both federal and local. The federal government would levy all indirect taxes with direct taxes levied by the constituent states.

The two constituent states will have separate social insurance, pension and healthcare schemes, but their structure and operation would converge over time.

According to Anastasiades, although the Turkish Cypriots want to push back discussion of territory to the end-stage of the talks, "to ensure against leaks," the two sides have agreed to initiate discussions on the criteria governing the territorial adjustments. On the issue of security and guarantees, the President reiterated that it was unacceptable that an EU member state should be under the guarantee of any other state.

The Greek Cypriot parties EDEK and DIKO continue to insist that they are still being kept in the dark over the talks. DIKO Leader, Nicholas Papadopoulos accused the President for failing to provide specific answers to important issues like the property criteria while EDEK chairman, Marinos Sizopoulos accused Anastasiades of hiding important issues and suggested that the talks were leading to a confederate model.

The Cyprus problem was discussed between President Anastasiades and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the side-lines during the

European Council Summit held in Brussels on February 18.

The United Nations Mine Action Service has completed the demining process in Lefka and Dherynia villages where crossings are expected to open. The clearance gives the green light for technical work to begin for the opening of the border crossing points.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth Spehar will replace Lisa Bittenheim as the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Spehar, Director of the Policy and Mediation Division at the UN Headquarters in New York, is expected to undertake her new duties in mid-March as Bittenheim will be named Deputy Head of Department of Field Support at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

In an interview with *Philelefttheros* on February 28, Turkish Foreign Minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu expressed the view that to secure a lasting Cyprus settlement, the security concerns of both sides would have to be taken into account but stressed that for Turkish Cypriots, Ankara's role would be critical. "I do not want to suggest that Turkey will be very flexible on the issue of guarantees", Cavusoglu stated. According to Cavusoglu, the issues of security and guarantees would be discussed at the end of the Cyprus negotiations in a five-party conference. Cavusoglu went on to say that "Ankara would

support any agreement that would end the Cyprus problem as a matter of principle".

2. Hydrocarbons

On February 8, the Natural Gas Public Company (DEFA) unsuccessfully concluded the tender process for the short term natural gas supply of the Vasilikos power plant as no agreement was reached with any bidder. The decision came after Vitol's final offer was deemed economically unviable and was therefore rejected. DEFA's tender was issued in January 2014. The current tender validity period, which was extended for the ninth time, expired on February 12.

Following the rejection of the request from hydrocarbon companies for the temporary extension of their stay at the town's port by the Larnaca municipal council, Energy Minister George Lakkotrypis announced on February 13, that this development could lead to the delay in Total's exploratory drilling by three to four months. On February 8, the Larnaca municipal council voted against the continued operation of MedServ, whose support services were going to be used by energy giants Total and ENI. MedServ's operation was opposed by residents who feared the port would be turned into an industrial hub with health and environmental risks. Meanwhile, the possibility to relocate hydrocarbon companies to Limassol appeared to have come to a stall, while the resignation of

Haris Constantinides, a DISY Larnaca municipal councillor who abstained from the crucial February 8 vote, which effectively evicted hydrocarbons companies from Larnaca, may lead to a new vote and a possible revision of the decision.

A new oil and gas exploration round, the third in the island's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), was announced by the government on February 16. Media reports suggested the move could be related to the interest conveyed by energy companies to President Anastasiades during the World Economic Forum in Davos in January. Currently, the offshore blocks under concession are: 2, 3, 9 (ENI-KOGAS), 11 (Total) and 12 (Noble Energy). Block 10, which lies near the border of Egypt's EEZ and was relinquished by Total in early 2015, could be considered in the new licensing round as well as Blocks 8, 9 and 11. Turkey declared to respond to any exploration undertaken in Blocks 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 which it contests based on the argument that they fall within its continental shelf. In relation to the third licensing round Cavusoglu stated that this was likely to have a negative impact on the talks between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot sides. He argued that the focus should remain on the settlement of the Cyprus problem first.

As part of an official visit to Bulgaria on February 22, President Anastasiades and his Bulgarian counterpart Rosen Plevneliev, signed a memorandum of understanding designed to establish a common framework for the development and

deepening of the bilateral cooperation in the sector of energy as well as to promote the exchange of best practices and training of scientific and technical personnel in the field of energy. The two leaders discussed how their countries could cooperate in ensuring Europe's energy security by helping to bring natural gas from the Mediterranean to countries in northern Europe. Cypriot Energy Minister Giorgos Lakkotrypis, who was commenting after the meetings with Bulgarian officials, including energy minister Temenuшка Petkova, said that Bulgaria could serve as a transit hub and become part of Cyprus' plans which includes gas producers Egypt and Israel as well as Greece.

3. Greek Cypriots

Economic Developments

A European Commission report headlined 'Country Report Cyprus 2015' issued on February 26, indicated that despite the signs of stabilisation shown in Cyprus' macroeconomic outlook the country still needs to address immediate challenges including the non-performing loans, public sector and healthcare reform and privatizations if substantial progress is to be achieved by the end of the programme in March.

Discussions of a government-sponsored bill to create a private-law company in order to take over the telecommunications operations and

assets of public Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA) as part of the organisation's denationalisation process, took place in the House finance committee on February 22. Approval of the bill constitutes the final prior action required by international creditors before the final tranche of bailout money – €275 million – is released to Cyprus. The bill, Finance Minister Harris Georgiades said, needed to be approved by March 7, at the latest, the date of the last Eurogroup session before Cyprus' adjustment programme expires.

The bank deposit guarantee funds designed to protect insured depositors – up to €100,000 – through contributions by banks on their insured deposits met its 0.8% target by raising €120 million. Total deposits under €100,000 in Cypriot banks are currently €24 billion.

According to Eurostat, the unemployment rate in Cyprus fell to 15.3% (64,000 people) in January 2016, compared to 15.7% (66,000 people) in December 2015. Cyprus has the fourth highest unemployment rate in the EU behind Greece, Spain and Croatia.

The statistical service identified that revenue from the Cyprus tourist industry rose in 2015 by 4.4% to almost €2.2bn compared to 2014's €2.1bn, which is roughly €60.6m below the 2001 all-time revenue record.

Domestic Developments

The cabinet on February 25, decided to reduce mandatory army service for every adult Cypriot

male to 14 months from the current 24. This historic move, according to Defence Minister Christoforos Fokaides, was a decision based upon a comprehensive plan to reorganise and modernise the National Guard in the next 15 years. The announcement was welcomed by opposition parties, but the timing was unanimously condemned as a tactical move ahead of May's parliamentary elections.

The Green Party announced on February 19, that it will cooperate with civil society organisations and include on its ticket for the May parliamentary elections candidates who are unemployed and beneficiaries of the Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI). The party also presented its new emblem and name which is identified as the Green Party-Citizen's Cooperation.

Former MEP Antigoni Papadopoulou announced on Feb 15, she would not be among DIKO's candidates in May's parliamentary elections, citing her disagreement with the way the party was being run. Earlier in the month, sitting DIKO MP Athina Kyriakidou, announced that she too had decided not to run in the upcoming parliamentary elections, citing disagreement with the leadership's stance on the Cyprus problem. In contrast, independent MP Zacharias Koulias announced on Feb 13, that he would be running in the upcoming parliamentary elections as a DIKO candidate. Koulias was kicked out of the party in 2011 when he refused to endorse Marios Garoyian's candidacy for House Speaker, and cast the deciding vote that elected then-EDEK leader Yiannakis Omirou as chairman of the House.

Labour Relations and Trade Unions

The bus drivers of coach firm “Zenon” in Larnaca began their programmed strike in early February which soon escalated becoming of “indefinite duration” and threatening to extend to the Limassol buses as well. The striking workers demanded the implementation of the collective agreement they had signed with the employer firm as the period of the temporary cuts that had been agreed had expired. The Ministry of Transport however intervened and claimed that because the government was subsidizing the particular firm, the workers were not entitled to a pay raise which was previously agreed. The employer tried unsuccessfully to counter the strikers with the use of part-timers as strike breakers. Eventually, the Ministry of Labour intervened and brokered a compromise deal stipulating the enforcement of the collective agreement for the employees but also including some wage cuts from senior employees and shareholders of the firm so that the public subsidy would not increase.

The nurses, organized in two unions – one being part of PASIDY and the other being an independent one, PASINO - called for a strike in early February over a series of demands. The government called PASIDY for negotiations and it decided to immediately turn 185 nurses employed on the basis of renewable fixed term contracts into employees of indefinite duration and continued the discussion for the rest of the nurses’ demands. PASIDI in exchange cancelled the planned strike. PASINO however called for a

new strike, after it became clear that the rest of the nurses’ demands such as the recognition of their formal qualification for the purposes of pay scales, the discontinuation of the arbitrary treatment of consecutively re-employed persons as newly hired ones and thus paid at a 10% lower rate, new recruitment and promotions issues etc. were simply postponed. This took the form of two 12-hour strikes on 22nd and 23rd February. The conflict remains yet unresolved.

The government has initially agreed with the broader public sector trade unions about wage raises of 1% for 2017 and 2018, a percentage which is expected to coincide with the GDP increase. This will be universal, including that an hourly paid, fixed term and temporary employees while the discussion for the founding of a Provident Fund, for those employed after 2011 and thus not entitled to the state pension schemes, will begin in 2016. The government has also committed itself to terminate the special contribution tax (one of the various cuts imposed in the austerity context), before its expiring at the end of 2016.

After long negotiations between the hoteliers and the trade unions PEO and SEK under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour a consensus was reached concerning the renewal of the sectoral agreement in the hotel industry. After a long impasse and after the unions had threatened with strikes in individual hotels just before the beginning of the new tourist season, the Labour Ministry held consecutive meetings with

the two parties and managed to broker a deal which allows a three year renewal of the collective agreement. The agreement reinstates part of what had been lost by the workers in the context of the interim agreement of 2012 concerning indirect pay, remuneration of holidays and time off.

The parliamentary discussion for the privatization of Cyprus Telecommunications Authority has begun, but at present a parliamentary majority does not exist

The Bank of Cyprus is planning a further 300 redundancies from various ranks and employees have reported being pressurized to accept voluntary exit options. The island's largest lender declared that it offered its workers a voluntary retirement scheme which provides compensation of up to €200,000 per retiring worker. The bank, which currently employs 4,610 workers, wants to decrease its staff by 250 in order to increase its efficiency, reduce payroll and reorganise its structure. It aims mainly at older, highly-paid members of its staff. It is the third retirement scheme offered by Bank of Cyprus since the end of 2012. In 2013, a total of 1,577 workers opted in favour of two separate retirement schemes, with the bulk of them doing so after the banking crisis. The banking sector union has not yet reacted to this.

Complaints were again voiced against the Labour Ministry by PEO for delays in the dispatch of the unemployment benefit to hotel

employees during the winter seasons and by EKYSY, the pensioners' association, for delays in the examination of Minimum Guaranteed Income applications. EKYSY also complains about "mistaken cuts" in the supplementary pension benefit of low income pensioners.

The parliamentary Labour Committee is examining an AKEL-EDEK proposal to amend the law concerning the termination of employment because of a significant increase in cases where employees are fired because of absences as a result of illness. The proposal aims to forbid the employers to give warnings for termination of employment to employees while on sick leave and additionally for the first three months after they return to work.

PEO issued a statement against the Ministry of Education's practice of treating the teachers employed in its afternoon schools in the last three years as "self-employed" professionals who "sell services". The fact that they are now asked to pay VAT tax as well, extends the injustice, according to PEO, which needs to be terminated immediately so that the employees can gain significant rights such as unemployment benefit and paid leave.

The doctors' union programmed work stoppages against the plans by DISY and DIKO to extend the retiring age of doctors to 68 led to the postponement of the discussion in parliament.

4. Turkish Cypriots

Economic Developments

A delegation from the Cyprus Turkish Chamber of Commerce led by its president, Fikri Toros visited Ankara to meet with the officials of Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). Toros said, they discussed how trade with Turkey would be conducted following the Turkish Cypriot side's integration with the EU after settlement of the Cyprus problem. 'We want to work together with TOBB in order to create new opportunities,' Toros said, adding that they requested TOBB to call on Turkish businesses to invest in the northern part of Cyprus to take advantage of opportunities in the country.

In the meantime, the Chamber launched a new report entitled "Negotiation Process and Turkish Cypriot Economy in a Federal Cyprus," which was prepared by a team of experts led by Professor Omer Gokcekus of Seton Hall University, New Jersey. The report analyses the current state of eight major economic sectors, namely agriculture, manufacturing, construction, trade, tourism, higher education, transportation and communication. Based on a gap analysis, the report makes sector-specific and general recommendations to increase the level of institutionalisation and competitiveness of the Turkish Cypriot economy following a comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem and EU membership.

According to statistics provided by the Turkish Ministry of Economy, the volume of trade between Turkey and the northern part of Cyprus declined in 2015 to USD 1.1 billion from USD 1,3 in 2014. Total amount of imports from Turkey in 2015 was USD 1 billion, while exports to Turkey were USD 69 million. The trade figures were USD 1,2 billion and USD 80 million respectively in 2014.

According to Ismet Akim, chairman of the board of the Turkish Cypriot electricity authority (KIB-TEK), from an economic point of view, it would make more sense to buy electricity from the southern part of Cyprus rather than importing it from Turkey via a cable as the minister of finance Birikim Ozgur has been advocating. Akim said, importing electricity from Turkey would be more costly in accordance with a feasibility report they had conducted.

Domestic Developments

A deal was finally struck between Ankara and Nicosia over the operation of the water utilities. According to the agreement, the water will be under the authority of the water board, all underground water resources will be controlled by the TRNC and municipalities wishing not to purchase or water use from Turkey will be allowed to stay out of the system. The agreement was reached after Prime Minister Omer Kalyoncu spoke with the Turkish Deputy Minister in Charge of Cyprus Affairs Tugrul Turkes over the phone. Speaking before the Council of

Ministers meeting on February 25, Prime Minister Omer Kalyoncu said, both parties were satisfied with the outcome.

The agreement also put an end to a dispute between the coalition partners, the Republican Turkish Party (CTP) and the National Unity Party (UBP). Earlier in the month, the UBP had given its coalition partner an ultimatum to solve the water issue, threatening to walk out of the government if a deal was not signed. On February 29, it was announced that Prime Minister, Kalyoncu and an accompanying delegation would be visiting Ankara upon an invitation by Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu to sign the intergovernmental agreement on the management and operation of water utilities.

The minister of economy, industry and commerce, Sunat Atun (UBP-Famagusta) praised the deal as the biggest privatization project carried out until today by the "TRNC", while "water platform" which was established recently by several trade unions, NGO's and political parties, held a protest in front of the prime minister's office criticizing the privatization of water and describing the water transferred from Turkey as the "water of death" instead of the "water of life".

According to a survey conducted by the Center for Migration Identity and Rights Studies (CMIRS), nearly 80% of the respondents were in favour of a solution to the Cyprus problem, but only 41% were optimistic that a solution could be reached. With regards to a possible referen-

dum, the majority said that they would study the agreement before deciding whether they would approve it or not. When asked for which party they would vote in case of elections next Sunday, the participants in the survey replied as follows: National Unity Party (UBP) 12.63%, Republican Turkish Party (CTP) 10.49%, Democratic Party (DP) 0.86%, Social Democratic Party (TDP) 2.78%, New Cyprus Party (YKP) 0.43%, United Cyprus Party (BKP) 0.21%, People's Party (HP) 22.7%, mixed votes 7.92% and undecided 13.28% while 28.69% of the participants said that they would not vote. The survey was conducted by phone in January 2016 with the participation of 500 persons.

Labour Relations and Trade Unions

Hasan Felek, the acting president of Dev-Is trade union likened the procedure followed in the determination of the minimum wage to horse-trading and called for change. According to the labour law, there were criteria that needed to be followed as part of the process such as "the needs of the worker and her family to live in dignity," Felek said that if this was heeded the current minimum wage would not be at this funny level (gross €540). Furthermore, he added that the minimum wage earners, who are mostly employed in the private sector, are not represented in the minimum wage committee because they are not unionized.

The health sector unions protested the government's failure to make overtime payments

in hospitals for the past three months by holding a protest at the Nicosia state hospital. With a joint statement, by five unions active in the sector, criticized the government's policies towards health workers, accusing it of usurping the rights of the public. The statement said that the government tried to make up for staff shortages by forcing doctors and medical staff to work overtime without paying them for their labour. The trade unions also warned that if the government does not provide overtime payments, doctors and medical staff will not be responsible for the chaos that will follow due to the disruption of health services.

Similarly, customs officers at airport, seaports and border crossings, went on strike to protest the government's failure to make overdue overtime payments. Speaking to BRT, the president of KTAMS, civil servants union, said that overtime payments from October last year were paid after one day of striking but he described this as nothing more than a 'bribe' aimed at luring customs officials back to work and expressed their determination to continue until all overdue payments were made.

Officials from the [Greek] Cypriot Workers Confederation (SEK) visited the Cyprus Turkish Trade Unions Federation (Turk-Sen) and exchanged views on workers' rights and labour relations after a possible solution. During a joint press conference held before the meeting, the president of Turk-Sen Arslan Bicakli pointed out that the rotating presidency of the All Cyprus

Trade Unions Forum (ACTUF) was taken over by SEK and Turk-Sen in 2016, and reiterated their support to the ongoing negotiation process. "Cyprus is a small island but it is big enough for Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. We will continue to support this process," Bicakli said. The General Secretary of the SEK Nicos Moyses for his part said "We understand from the leaders' statements that important progress has been achieved in the negotiations. ... We are aware of the fact that all workers should support a solution. During our meeting we will discuss what we can do and what activities we can organize as ACTUF to help for a solution in Cyprus" Moyses added. ACTUF, which brings together the great majority of workers' unions, constitutes an advanced form of bi-communal cooperation between Greek and Turkish Cypriot workers and their organisations. It was formed in 1995 with the convening of its first conference, which was followed by three other conferences in 1997, 1999 and 2004 respectively.

A private bank laid off 25 employees citing its new restructuring strategy. According to the Turkish Cypriot labor law employers can terminate the contract of an employee after giving a six-week notice.

Foreign Affairs

The Leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mustafa Akinci, received the French Minister of State for European Affairs Harlem Desir. The course of the negotiation process as well as the

latest developments within the EU and in the region, were taken up during the meeting.

Turkish Cypriot minister of foreign affairs, Emine Colak, visited Berlin where she met with the German EU Minister Michael Roth. According to a statement issued by her office, Colak briefed Roth on the latest developments in the Cyprus talks, noting that “they have come to the difficult issues in the negotiating process, but in spite of this they hope that the sides will achieve a comprehensive progress by May on the issues of governance, the EU, economy and property”. Colak also met with the SPD deputies Achim Barchmann and Dietmar Nietan during her stay in Berlin.

5. FES Cyprus Events

March

Wednesday 09.03.2016, 7 p.m.

University of Nicosia / FES
Book Launch

European Products. Making and Unmaking heritage in Cyprus, by Prof. Gisela Welz

Unesco Amphitheatre, University of Nicosia
Nicosia, Cyprus

Open to the public

April

Friday 15.04.2016, 5 p.m.

PRIO / FES
Launch of Publication

Post-Annan Youth Study

Home for Cooperation, UN Buffer Zone
Nicosia, Cyprus

Open to the public



Thursday 21.04.2016

PRIO / FES
Conference

Cypriot-Greek Relations

t.b.a.
Nicosia, Cyprus

Open to the public



Imprint:

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

Office Cyprus

20, Stasandrou, Apt. 401

CY 1060 Nicosia

Tel. +357 22 377 336

Email: office@fescyprus.org

Web-Seite: www.fescyprus.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FESCyprus

Twitter : @FESCyprus

Text:

Hubert Faustmann, Yiannis Charalambous,
Sertac Sonan, Grigoris Ioannou, Ute Ackermann-
Boeros and Sophia Papastavrou

Layout:

Christiane Paparoditi

**If you want to subscribe or unsubscribe to this (free)
newsletter, please send an email to:**

Christiana Paparoditi fespaparoditi@gmail.com