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FES NEWS

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1. Cyprus Problem

In May, negotiations for a solution of the Cyprus problem reached a deadlock as the two sides failed to agree on how to move ahead with the new Geneva Conference on Cyprus.

The month began with the second of the four scheduled leader's meetings, being held on May 2, between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders, Mustafa Akinci and Nicos Anastasiades respectively. Following the resumption of negotiations in April, this new phase is working towards achieving enough convergences on the internal aspects allowing the procedure to proceed to the discussion of the issues of Security and Guarantees via a new conference in Switzerland. Upon completion of a four-hour meeting Anastasiades stated that the definition of legal abode and the four freedoms that will apply to the citizens of a future reunified Cyprus (free movement of people, goods, services and capital) had been agreed, despite differences on certain relevant details. Issues relating to the effective participation of the Turkish Cypriots in the federal government were also discussed where according to Anastasiades differences remain. Akinci confirmed that convergences on the issue of legal abode had been reaffirmed, but stressed that no real progress was made on the issue of effective participation in federal bodies and agencies where there is no equal number of members from each community. The two leaders agreed to attend a meeting of the various international organisations, held in Cyprus from May 9 to 11 at the European Bank

for Reconstruction and Development's annual meeting and business forum, with post-solution finances on the agenda. Moreover, Anastasiades announced a joint meeting in Cyprus with director general of the European Commission's Structural Reform Support Service, Maarten Verwey, to review the progress of the ad hoc committee for the harmonisation of EU law in the Turkish Cypriot community.

In an interview on May 5 with the Cyprus News Agency in New York ahead of his meeting with UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, UNSG Special Adviser on Cyprus, Espen Barth Eide stated that other options might have to be put on the table if Cyprus' leaders failed to reach a deal in the near future. He did not elaborate on what these options might be. According to Eide, the UN Secretary General was concerned about the state of the peace talks and had put forward some ideas in order to avoid a collapse of the negotiations. Eide appeared to agree with the position of Mustafa Akinci that the UN could submit bridging proposals if requested by both sides, a view that was not shared by the Greek Cypriot side thus triggering Anastasiades' response who strongly criticized Eide for adopting the "positions of one at the expense of the other".

On May 10, the Republic of Cyprus Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Kornelios Korneliou delivered a letter prepared by Anastasiades to the UNSG. The letter, more than three pages long, included a document prepared last September by Eide containing the

103 open issues of the first day of the implementation of a solution to the Cyprus issue. According to reports, the letter contained a short assessment of what has taken place in the negotiations, in addition to a reference to the reopening by the Turkish Cypriot side of issues on which convergences had been achieved since the Geneva conference on Cyprus. It also referred to Turkish demands that, according to the Greek Cypriots, alter the aim for a viable and functional bizonal, bicomunal federal solution. Special reference was made in the letter to Turkey's behaviour and provocations with the issuing of several Navtex, the Turkish seismic vessel Barbaros set to conduct 3D research in Cyprus Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and other actions that aim to prevent the Republic of Cyprus from exercising its sovereign rights in its EEZ. Despite fiery rhetoric of previous days Anastasiades decided not to mention in his letter Eide's perceived adoption of Turkish positions.

On May 11, the leaders held their third meeting where they discussed the issues of governance and territory leaving the fourth and last meeting of May 17 to explore whether a new Geneva Conference on Cyprus could reconvene. The fourth meeting however produced no clear outcome as the two sides failed to agree a way forward. Even worse, no dates were set for further meetings between the leaders while Eide was instead mandated to engage in shuttle diplomacy. During the meeting, Akinci suggested a new conference in Geneva to take place in June without preconditions, a

postponement of the drillings in Cyprus' EEZ slated for July and for all issues to be examined holistically with a give and take approach. On the other hand, Anastasiades submitted a counter-proposal for an open-ended International Meeting to start off with the issues of security and guarantees followed by territorial adjustments and after reviewing progress - under agreed criteria for what constituted progress - to lastly move on to outstanding differences in the other four chapters on the internal aspects of the Cyprus problem (notably EU, economy, power sharing and property). Anastasiades argued that his proposal was in agreement with the Declaration of the Conference of Cyprus on January 12 and February 1, 2017 which stipulated for a new Conference on Cyprus to reconvene on a political level with the participation of the Guarantors (United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey) after discussions were completed on a technical level. Akinci rejected Anastasiades' proposal citing the 2014 February Eroglu-Anastasiades Joint declaration, which called for negotiation of all issues interdependently, and not in isolation. In brief, what was described as a creative and daring proposal leading to a solution before the February elections by the Greek Cypriot side was perceived as an unacceptable list of preconditions by the Turkish Cypriot and Turkish side.

Following the May 17 meetings, Eide engaged in an active nine-day shuttle diplomacy in an attempt to find common ground between the two sides. On May 25, following separate meetings with Anastasiades and Akinci, Eide admit-

ted that disagreements on the methodology were proving difficult to reconcile.

On May 26, Eide called a halt to shuttle diplomacy following separate meetings again with the two leaders and a joint meeting with the ambassadors of the five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council. In a short announcement, Eide stated that: “Unfortunately despite serious efforts to overcome their differences regarding the modalities for meeting in Geneva the leaders were unable to find common ground... Without a prospect for common ground, there is no basis for continuing this shuttle diplomacy”. Anastasiades argued on May 26, that since his original proposal was rejected by Akinci he had submitted a new compromise proposal according to which the purpose of the conference would be to reach a comprehensive settlement on the chapter of security and/or “to achieve sufficient progress” within a range of agreement before moving on to territory. The compromise proposal was rejected by Akinci who also turned down a joint meeting invitation for May 29.

In an attempt to revive the Geneva Conference, Eide flew to Athens and Ankara where he respectively met with Greek Foreign Minister Nicos Kotzias on May 29 and Spokesman of the Turkish Presidency, Ibrahim Kalin, on May 31. Following his meeting with Kalin, Eide confirmed that Turkey is ready to go to Geneva for a Conference on Cyprus without any preconditions and was also ready to discuss security issues. The month ended with the UN Secretary

Antonio Guterres inviting Anastasiades and Akinci to New York for a working dinner scheduled for June. 4.

May Day was celebrated with a bi-communal rally followed by a concert, which took place in the buffer zone in Nicosia. In a press conference held before the event, the trade union representatives from both sides read out a joint statement criticizing neo-liberal economic policies adopted by administrations on both sides of the divide. The statement called on workers across the island to unite in solidarity as well as to struggle against austerity measures, privatisation and reduction of social welfare spending. The trade unions also expressed their commitment towards achieving a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation on the basis of political equality with single citizenship and single sovereignty. A call was also made to the two leaders to refrain from entering a blame game and to work towards reaching a comprehensive settlement on the island.

The Bicomunal Peace Movement, supported by 71 organisations from both the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot Community, sent on May 25 to the two leaders, President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci, a message to move forward with the talks to deal with the major issues. Following the deadlock, the bicomunal group Unite Cyprus NOW had been organising nightly or near-nightly demonstrations at the Ledra Street checkpoint in Nicosia. A small but dedicated number of demonstrators attended regu-

larly, and were also joined by Eide. On May 27, the organisation formed a human chain across the buffer zone near Ledra Street crossing point in a symbolic act to show solidarity of the people in demanding reunification.

Three members of the Committee for Missing Persons (CMP) were in New York from April 24th to May 5th to search confidential and publicly accessible UN archives from the 1963-4 and 1974 periods for information that could aid the discovery of possible burial sites of missing persons. This is part of a wider effort undertaken by the CMP involving relevant archives of 12 countries as well as those of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The CMP members also visited UN headquarters in New York meeting Jeffrey Feltman, Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations who assured them of the United Nations' continued support for the CMP. The CMP members, for their part, presented their 2017 to 2020 strategy which aims to speed up the project by investing in new technologies and tapping into new sources of information.

A bi-communal opinion poll published in Cyprus Mail towards the end of May reflected the recent uncertainty over the negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders, with a majority of Greek Cypriot respondents unsure which way they would vote in a referendum on a solution. Greek Cypriots were mostly undecided what they would vote for, with 26%

saying they would vote yes, 29% no and 41% saying it would depend on the details of the plan. There were only slight differences according to age, although those aged 55 and above were more positive, with 32% saying they would vote for a solution. Turkish Cypriots were more decided and positive. According to the poll, 48.8% would opt for a yes, 39.5% for no and 10.1% were undecided. The poll also investigated people's opinion about confidence building measures. For Greek Cypriots, the most important confidence building measure would be if the lights of the Turkish flag on the Pentadaktylos mountain were switched off. 63% of DISY, AKEL and DIKO supporters agreed this was the most significant. For Turkish Cypriots, a major confidence building measure would be for schools in the Republic to abolish the celebration of 'Enosis day' on April 1, the removal of racist and nationalist references from school books on both sides, firefighting coordination, the establishment of car insurance which is valid for the whole island and a common telephone system.

2. Hydrocarbons

On May 18, the cabinet approved a proposal by state-owned Natural Gas Public Company (DEFA) to proceed as soon as possible with two tenders for the import of natural gas. According to Energy Minister, Yiorgos Lakkotrypīs the first tender will provide for the creation of the necessary infrastructure and the second for the

procurement of the natural gas. The minister said previous efforts had been made to finalise a single plan, but problems with the implementation of the process had been divided into two tenders. This, he added, will allow the country to have a long-term contract while importing small quantities to complement its needs.

In a press conference, Turkish Cypriot Minister of Economy and Energy Sunat Atun said that Turkey had started exploration activities on land and within the territorial waters of the “TRNC”¹ within the framework of the permission granted by the “TRNC” government. Reminding that the proposals put forward by the Turkish Cypriot side on the natural gas issue were left unanswered at the negotiation table, Atun said that this was a counter-step that had been taken after the Greek Cypriot administration had bypassed the Turkish Cypriot side. Atun stated that the main intention of the Greek Cypriots was to leave Turkey out of the game and to usurp the rights of the Turkish Cypriot people.

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).

3. Greek Cypriots

Economic Developments

According to a statement issued on the Cyprus Statistical Service website on May 15, the government generated a fiscal surplus of €200.9 million in the first quarter of 2017, compared to a surplus of €146.3million a year before, mainly on increased revenue. Total revenue rose an annual 4.9% to €1.7billion while spending rose 1.7% to €1.5billion in January to March 2017.

On May 18, the cabinet approved the fiscal management framework for 2018-2020. According to the framework the government expects to collect over €7.4 billion in 2018, or 3.6% more than 2017, and spend just below €7.4bn, up 2.9%.

Addressing reporters after the cabinet approved the fiscal management framework for 2018 to 2020, Finance minister Harris Georgiades stated that the government will increase primary spending by €150m next year. The government, which generated a fiscal surplus of 0.4% of economic output in 2016, aims at generating a 0.2% surplus this year. Public debt rose to 107.8 % of the economy in 2016, from 107.4 % in 2015. The finance ministry adjusted upwards its growth forecast in April to 2.9 % for 2017.

In its 2016 annual report, the Central Bank of Cyprus stated that it expects the Cypriot economy to expand 2.8% in 2017 before growth speeds up to 3% over the next two-year period.

By comparison, the finance ministry in April projected a 2.9% growth rate for 2017 and 2018, before growth slows down to 2.7% in 2019. The economy expanded 2.8% in 2016 after emerging from a prolonged recession in 2015. On May 22, Moody's Investors Service announced that the 3.3% annual growth rate of the first quarter is a credit positive for Cypriot banks, as it strengthens borrowers' capacity to repay restructured distressed debt.

According to a statement issued on Eurostat's website on May 31, the unemployment rate in Cyprus fell to 11.6% in April compared to 12.3% the previous month and 12.9% in April 2016. The number of unemployed dropped in April to 50,000, from 53,000 in March and 54,000 in April 2016.

According to the Economic Research Centre of Cyprus, the economic sentiment indicator rose by 2.3 units in May to 118.4, the highest since June 2001, on improved confidence in services and to a lesser extent in retail trade and consumer confidence. The improved business confidence in services in May resulted from more positive evaluation of the financial situation and company demand over the previous three months, as well as more favourable assessment of demand over the three months to come.

On May 19, the Finance Minister Harris Georgiades announced that the board of directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved Cyprus's admission as a full member. Cyprus's admission by the Beijing-based lender

is of "political and financial significance," Georgiades said in a statement emailed by the ministry. "Cyprus is interested in strengthening its ties with Asian economies. Our participation in AIIB expands the scope of economic diplomacy and the prospect of accessing investment capital". The AIIB, which finances projects in Asia and other continents to help realise the "one belt, one road" initiative of China's president Xi Jinping, said that its board decided to admit Cyprus together with Bahrain, Samoa, Bolivia, Chile, Greece, and Romania on May 13.

Domestic Developments

Following the new deadlock of the negotiations, AKEL Leader Andros Kyprianou accused president Anastasiades and his party DISY of sacrificing Cyprus at the altar of political expediency, alluding to the 2018 presidential elections. Returning the comment, Anastasiades said that he was saddened by the fact that AKEL, who up until recently had been a steady supporter of reunification talks, was now joining the ranks of those blaming Anastasiades for the impasse.

Former Paphos mayor Fidias Sarikas was jailed for four years on May 19 and three former and one sitting municipal councillors received between four and five and a half years for corruption in connection with the Paphos' sewerage system, Sapa case. Along with Sarikas, who was mayor between 1997 and 2002, were former Paphos municipal councillors, Giorgos Michaelides, sentenced to five and a half years, Efstathios Efstathiou, sentenced to five and a

half, and Vasos Vasiliou, sentenced to four years, and sitting councillor Giorgos Shailis who was sentenced to four and a half years.

Sarikas went on to be elected MP with EDEK in 2006. Before his indictment in 2015, he held the chairmanship of the House ethics committee. The five received 61 charges relating to bribes, money laundering, abuse of power, and conspiracy, but after some charges were dropped, Michaelides was found guilty on 19 charges, Sarikas on six charges, Efstathiou on 14 charges, Vasiliou on seven charges and Shailis on six charges. The case relates to the dealings of the Paphos Sewerage Board (Sapa), which is administered by the Paphos local authorities. According to investigators, kickbacks were paid out by private contractors to Sapa members in a bid to secure construction and operation waste-management contracts. According to the prosecution, between 1999 and 2003, while serving as Paphos mayor, Sarikas received the sum of €55.000. to arrange for Awatech, a German company bidding for Sapa contracts, to secure the job of constructing and operating the Paphos sewage treatment station. He was charged for receiving around €40.000. in kickbacks. Shailis was charged for receiving €27.500. in bribes. According to the prosecution, he had conspired with Vergas sometime between December 2012 and January 2013 to authorise payment of a contractor's invoices promptly, in exchange for €27.500. from the contractor. Michaelides was charged for receiving around €300.000. in kickbacks from private contractors associated with the Paphos sewer-

age system, while Efstathiou was charged for having been bribed with €110.000. and Vasiliou with €60.000.

On May 3, Interior Minister Socratis Hasikos announced his resignation citing personal reasons relating to serious illness of his wife Elli Koulermou. Hasikos was appointed Interior Minister by Anastasiades in March 2013. A lawyer by trade, Hasikos had also served as Defence Minister and was a former DISY MP. Hasikos was replaced by Undersecretary to the President, Constantinos Petrides.

Labour Relations and trade unions

According to the last aggregate statistics of the Republic of Cyprus, there were 17.894. jobs lost in total in the years 2012-2016. Moreover 29.155. full time jobs disappeared with some of them becoming converted to part time jobs. The proportion of the unemployed for more than 12 months increased from 30.1% in 2012 to 44.1% in 2016.

According to the European Central Bank's "Household Finance and Consumption Survey", in Cyprus only 19.3% save money regularly while the EU average is 45.1%. Household debt is also one of the highest in the EU, while 39.3% of households borrow money from friends and family in hard times when their income is not enough.

AKEL European MP Neoklis Sylikiotis presented a Report entitled "Working Conditions and Precarious Employment" to journalists stating

that Cyprus has the highest rate of involuntary fixed term employment in the EU, that in Cyprus and Germany young persons may spend two years on internships and become trapped in a cycle of unemployment-internship-unemployment, while employers benefit from public subsidy on trainees. The island is first in the EU in under-employment, which stands at 9.1%. This Report, although not of legal form, is scheduled to be discussed in the European Parliament in the coming months.

The trade unions PEO, SEK and DEOK expressed their concern about the non-compliance of many employers to their obligations to contribute to the Central Holiday Fund as well as the increasing exemption of many employers (currently 35% of all the employers) resulting in problems with respect to the Fund's long-term viability. They suggested a series of measures including the re-examination of the policy of exemption of a segment of employers from contributions to the Fund and the improvement of the collecting capacity of the Fund.

The continuous increase in tourist arrivals has resulted in shortages of necessary skilled personnel in the hotel industry, especially cooks, and there are cases reported where hoteliers offered increased wages to retain their key personnel or recruit from their competitors, practices that were last observed two decades ago.

An agreement was reached between the state and all the social partners except the Employers

and Industrialists Federation (OEB), concerning the contributions to the General Health Scheme. The agreement stipulates 2.65% from employees, 2.9% from employers, 4.7% from the state, 4% from the self-employed and 2.65% from pensioners and rentiers. The trade unions and Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) on behalf of the employers compromised on a higher than the originally decided employee contribution in order to avoid further delay, while OEB alone insisted on its position for an equal employee-employer contribution and deserted the dialogue.

There was a decrease of 4,132 civil servants in the period 2012-2016 while 1,327 permanent posts and 680 hourly paid posts in the public sector have been abolished.

Despite the generous incentive of 70% subsidy and the extension given, only 117 and 204 applications were received for the two subsidized employment schemes for youth instead of 250 and 800 respectively that were set as a target by the Ministry of Labour. The third scheme subsidizing the employment of persons above 50 was more successful attracting 133 applications surpassing the target set at 100.

The COLA in the public sector will defreeze as of 2018 and will be given at 50% of the price index increase of the year preceding the reference year. This will not hold in cases of negative growth at the second and third term of the year preceding the reference year.

4. Turkish Cypriots

Economic Developments

According to a report by Turkish Cypriot weekly *Cyprus Today*, the business community is “facing ruin because the state is failing to pay for purchases it makes on time”. The report cites chairman of the Cyprus Turkish Chamber of Industry, talking about delays of “months and even years”. According to the Cyprus Turkish Chamber of Artisans and Shopkeepers chairman Mahmut Kanber, the private sector is in a state of “meltdown” which is creating a knock-on effect on the rest of the society. Mustafa Erk, a member of the board of the Cyprus Turkish Chamber of Commerce, said as a customer, public sector constituted a “considerable share” of the market but its failure to pay on time meant businesses faced a “double whammy” of “expensive” finance to cover cash flow problems and inflation.

Cyprus Today reported that “tourism bosses have warned of ‘catastrophic’ consequences for the “TRNC” after a surge in the cost of air fares to and from Ercan [/Tymbou airport] on the eve of the peak holiday season”. Transportation minister referred what are claimed to be “record level” ticket prices to the Competition Board for review while Tourism Minister said a reduced number of flights since two Turkish operators have stopped flying from/to Ercan was partly to blame as well as high local taxes.

Electricity Authority (Kib-Tek) cut off electricity of 150 public and semi-public institutions including six ministries, state schools, courts and hospitals, which owed almost 10 million TL in unpaid bills and interest, disrupting services. Things went back to normal after the Ministry of Finance made a payment to Kib-Tek the next day.

Relations with Turkey

The Minister of Education Ozdemir Berova visited his Turkish counterpart Akif Cagatay Kilic in Ankara and exchanged views on steps that could be taken for “TRNC” schools attending sports events in Turkey. Expressing the desire to hold Turkey’s interscholastic championship finals in athleticism, basketball and handball in the TRNC, Berova conveyed Turkish minister that the TRNC has all necessary infrastructure for this.

Turkish Cypriot officials collectively inaugurated five projects including the village square, a culture house, a kindergarten and a public park in Gecitkale (Lefkoniko), which were all sponsored by the Republic of Turkey Economic Development and Cooperation Office in Cyprus.

Domestic Developments

On April 4, Deputy Prime Minister, Serdar Denktas announced that the UBP-DP coalition government had granted 7,200 TRNC citizenships since it has come to power in April 2016. “Even if this number rises to 27,000 it will, because we are granting these people their

rights which haven't been granted for many years," he added. The statement attracted the criticism of the opposition, which argued that government was acting in an arbitrary manner. The main opposition Republican Turkish Party (CTP) leader Tufan Erhurman said the CTP demanded the names of those who received citizenship but they were refused on the basis of personal data protection laws. "They are hiding the names because it might be understood that they granted citizenship to people who just completed five years instead of those who had been working with proper permits for 10-11 years," Erhurman said.

An encounter between the Greek Cypriot coast guard and the Turkish seismic research vessel Barbaros created tension between Akinci and the main coalition partner National Unity Party (UBP). Earlier in May, in response to a warning from the Greek Cypriot coast guard, the Turkish seismic research vessel Barbaros had played the Ottoman Janissary March. Akinci responded that he was opposed to the playing of war drums in the Eastern Mediterranean. In a written statement, the UBP General Secretary said that Akinci's remarks, which gave the impression that he was holding Turkey responsible for the tension regarding hydrocarbon exploration, had deeply wounded them. In a similar vein, the Foreign Minister Tahsin Ertugruloglu issued a statement saying among other things "I was shocked with President Akinci's remarks as he referred to the Barbaros' response ... as the beating of war drums" adding "No one has the right to portray Turkey or the Turkish Cypriot

people who have always desired and worked for a settlement on the island as warmongers".

According to a report prepared by the Ombuds-person Emine Dizdarli freedom of religion is being violated in "TRNC" state schools, where pupils have compulsory lessons based solely on the teachings of Hanefi-Sunni Islam. Dizdarli started her investigation following a complaint by the Kibris Pir Sultan Abdal Association. In a statement in response to the report, the Association announced that they had the backing of 1,800 petitionists, adding that they would pursue the campaign to secure pupils' legal rights under the Constitution. Teachers' unions, which had also backed the complaint welcomed the Ombudsperson's report.

Labour Relations and Trade Unions

Members of the Public Transport Operators Union stopped the operation of school buses for three days to protest government's failure to make the agreed increase in payments of subsidies for school bus transportation. Drivers and operators also staged a protest outside the parliament, sparking tension with the police by attempting to stop traffic and stage a sit-in. The dispute centres on union demands that the government pays subsidies as agreed in February – with a raise of 26.5%- and claims that operators are facing "intolerable expenses". The union said the government was fully aware that over the three years since the latest raise, the cost of road tax, operating licenses, insurance and fuel had all increased. Cyprus Turkish

Primary School Teachers' Trade Union (KTOS) general secretary Sener Elcil issued a statement supporting the union and criticising the government for "dragging [school] transportation into chaos". "The government is paying [the subsidies] very late, and this doesn't take into consideration fuel price hikes and the cost of living increases," Elcil added.

Doctors' Union (Tip-Is) suspended their latest wave of strike action over pay and working conditions after signing what they called a "ceasefire" deal with the government. Union leader Sila Usar-Incirli warned that their action – which began in April with refusal to carry out non-urgent operations at Nicosia State hospital – was "suspended, not ended" and they would resort to "even harsher" measures if the government did not abide by their agreement. Dispute between the public-sector physicians and the government had come to a head after a Supreme Court judgement in February gave the government six months to enforce a ban on state doctors moonlighting in the private sector. Doctors insist they had no choice due to the fact that wages in the public sector are too low. The government is working on a plan that would increase salaries. Meanwhile, Usar-Incirli also lambasted the chairman of the Private Doctors' Union for saying that private hospitals would provide services in the event of a strike. "This is not a democratic thing, this is strike-busting," she said.

On May 15, the Municipality Workers' Union (BES) started a strike action in Yeni Erenkoy

(Yialousa) municipality because staff have not been paid for the last three months. The union leader Mustafa Yalinkaya said his members had resorted to this because "no solution" had been put forward to solve the problems affecting 117 employees. Yalinkaya said that all of the TRNC's 28 local administrations were "experiencing problems", but that the situation at Yeni Erenkoy Municipality was "the worst", adding that locally generated revenues and state funding were not enough to pay salaries. Acting mayor Mehmet Kadi said that the municipality receives government contribution of 130,000TL [a month] while the wage bill was around 380,000TL. "How can I cope?" he asked. He added that the number of people employed was "too high" and should be capped at 70, with the rest transferred to government departments. The elected mayor had resigned in last August citing financial problems and blaming his predecessor for bankrupting the municipality.

5. FES Cyprus Events



June

Tuesday, 13th June 2017, 3 - 9 pm

Carnegie Europe / FES
Seminar

Non-recognition and Conflict Dynamics

Home for Cooperation - UN Buffer Zone
Nicosia, Cyprus

Not open to the Public



Monday, 26th June 2017, 6 – 9 pm

Forum of Federations (Ottawa) / Centre for
Federal Studies (University of Kent) / Simfiliosis/
Diadrasis Radio Program / FES
Conference

**Building Federalism:
International Lessons and Perspectives**

Home for Cooperation - UN Buffer Zone
Nicosia, Cyprus

Open to the Public

Friday, 30th June – Sunday, 02nd June 2017

IKME / BILBAN / FES
Workshop

Cyprus in Perspective

Forest Park Hotel
Platres, Cyprus

Not open to the Public



July

Sunday, 9th July – Friday, 21st July 2017

ECPR/UCY/FES
Workshop

**4th International Summer School in Peace &
Conflict Studies: Co-opted Peace and the
Pursuit of Justice: Hidden Conflicts, Concealed
Violence and New Rights**

University of Cyprus,
Nicosia, Cyprus

Not open to the Public



Saturday, 22nd July – Saturday, 29th July 2017

WINPEACE / FES
Workshop

**SUMMER YOUTH PEACE CAMP:
PEACE EDUCATION AND A CULTURE OF PEACE
AND NON-VIOLENCE**

Heraclion, Crete

Not open to the Public



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