

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 22 May 2016

OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

8-11 March 2016



Warsaw 30 March 2016

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REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 22 May 2016

OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report 8-11 March 2016

I. INTRODUCTION

On 3 February 2016, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the OSCE invited the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) to observe the 22 May parliamentary elections. The OSCE/ODIHR undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) to the Republic of Cyprus from 8 to 11 March. The NAM included Lusine Badalyan, OSCE/ODIHR Senior Election Adviser, and Oleksii Lychkovakh, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the parliamentary elections. Based on this assessment, the NAM was to recommend whether to deploy an OSCE/ODIHR election-related activity for the forthcoming elections, and if so, what type of activity best meets the identified needs. Meetings were held with officials from state institutions, election administration, as well as with representatives of political parties, media and civil society. A list of meetings is annexed to this report.

The OSCE/ODIHR would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its assistance and cooperation in organizing the visit. The OSCE/ODIHR would also like to thank all of its interlocutors for having taken the time to meet with the mission and sharing their views.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the 22 May parliamentary elections voters will elect 56 members of House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus (parliament) for five years under the proportional representation system from six multi-member electoral districts with a preferential element. Three representatives with non-voting rights are elected by three constitutionally recognized minority religious groups. The elections are taking place in the context of renewed negotiations to settle the Cyprus problem, ways of its possible solution and economic crisis.

The election law and the Political Party Law were substantially amended in December 2015. Most of the newly adopted provisions relate to party and campaign finance regulations and address some of the previous recommendations by OSCE/ODIHR. The amendments raised the threshold for political parties to participate in the second stage of mandate allocation from 1.8 to 3.6 per cent, about five months ahead of the planned elections. Most of the OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors opined that this change was introduced to prevent small and new parties from entering the parliament. They also mentioned the lack of inclusive and public consultations, contrary to OSCE commitments and international good practice.

The election administration at all levels predominantly comprises of civil servants. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) is the main election management body for the parliamentary elections. The District Officers of six administrative divisions of the country are appointed as District Returning Officers and are responsible for the organization of the elections at the district level. They, in turn, appoint presiding officers and up to six assistants for each polling station. About 1,200 polling stations will open on election day. Women usually comprise about 75 per cent of the polling staff.

All citizens who are at least 18 years old on the day of elections, and who are resident in Cyprus for a period of six months before becoming eligible to vote, have the right to vote. Registration and voting are compulsory in Cyprus. Failures to register or to vote are violations of law with sanctions applicable but not enforced in practice. The MoI and the District Offices are responsible for maintenance and periodic updates of the voter lists. A total number of voters is about 540,000.

The legislation allows to stand as candidates either individually or in a political party or coalition list. A political party or a coalition of parties nominates separate candidate lists for each district. The number of candidates included in the lists should be equal to seats allocated for the district. Some parties informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they introduced internal quotas for women in their candidate lists, however, most of them do not expect to fulfil them. No party has a woman as a leader.

In line with previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, the recent amendments introduced disclosure mechanisms for party and campaign finance, requiring political parties to publish information on all types of donations and expenditures. The financial statements of political parties became subject to independent audit and oversight by the Auditor General, performed on an annual basis with audit results made publicly available.

Both parliamentary and non-parliamentary political parties are entitled to receive public funding. Political parties may also receive private donations, both monetary and in-kind. Candidates are required to submit reports on the campaign expenses within three weeks after the publication of election results, and they are checked by the Auditor General. The 2015 amendments provide that these financial reports be published in newspapers.

The 2015 amendments to the election law specified that election campaign starts three months before election day and finishes 55 hours before the beginning of voting. The media landscape is diverse with a variety of commercial and public broadcasters, print and online media. By law, during the electoral period all licensed broadcasters should ensure equal and objective treatment of all candidates. The coverage must be based on the percentage of votes the party received during the previous elections, which some political parties expressed a degree of dissatisfaction with. The Cyprus Radio-Television Authority oversees the operation of private broadcasters in the country to ensure equal treatment of electoral contestants during the campaign. The print media is self-regulated and is not subject to any legal restrictions during the campaign period.

The OSCE/ODIHR NAM noted full confidence of all of its interlocutors in the integrity of the electoral process and in the professionalism and impartiality of the election administration. No significant concerns were expressed relating to the respect for fundamental freedoms, transparency of the electoral process, voter and candidate registration, as well as election day proceedings. A number of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about some recent amendments, as well as the timing and the process of adopting the amendments. Several previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations pertaining to political party and campaign finance were addressed.

In consideration of this and the fact that most of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors opined that an OSCE/ODIHR election-related activity would bring limited added value, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM does not recommend an election-related activity for the 2016 parliamentary elections. The OSCE/ODIHR, however, stands ready to engage with the authorities in a follow-up process, to assist them in addressing the outstanding recommendations and providing legal opinions on drafts or legal acts regulating electoral legal framework should the authorities so request.

III. FINDINGS

A. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

The House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus (parliament) comprises 80 members and is elected for five years.¹ Of these 80 seats, 56 are filled by the Greek Cypriot community, and the 24 seats allocated to the Turkish Cypriot community remain vacant.

Cyprus is a presidential republic, where the president is elected directly for a five-year term. The incumbent, President Nicos Anastasiades from the Democratic Rally party (DISY) is a head of state vested with substantial executive powers.

Following the 2011 parliamentary elections DISY obtained 20 seats, followed by the Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL) with 19 seats. The Democratic Party (DIKO) got nine mandates, the Movement for Social Democracy (EDEK) – five, the European Party (Evroko) – two, and Ecological and Environmental Movement (Green party) – one. Along with parliamentary parties several new parties will also contest the upcoming elections. Women remain largely underrepresented in the outgoing parliament with only six female members (10.7 per cent). In the Council of Ministers, only 1 out of 13 ministers is a woman.

The elections are taking place in the context of renewed negotiations to settle the Cyprus problem, ways of its possible solution and economic crisis. In March 2016, Cyprus exited from its three-year international bailout program, which was agreed upon in 2013 in an effort to address the financial challenges.

The OSCE/ODIHR deployed an Election Assessment Mission (EAM) for the 2011 parliamentary elections, which concluded that the elections "took place in an environment characterized by respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms and a high degree of trust in the professionalism and impartiality of the election administration." In anticipation of 2013 presidential election, the OSCE/ODIHR undertook a NAM, which did not recommend any election-related activity for that election.²

B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The legal framework for the parliamentary elections includes the Constitution, the Law on Election of Members of House of Representatives (hereinafter, election law), the Political Party Law (PPL), the Law on Civil Registry, the Law on Radio and Television, the Law on Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation, as well as other laws and regulations. The election law and the PPL were substantially amended in December 2015. Most of the newly adopted provisions of the election law and the PPL relate to party and campaign finance regulations and address some of the previous recommendations by the OSCE/ODIHR and the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe (GRECO) (see Political Finance section).

The Constitution defines that the number of members of parliament is 50, with 70 per cent (35 seats) elected by the Greek community and 30 per cent (15 seats) by the Turkish community. Since 1964, when the Turkish Cypriot community withdrew from cross-community institutions such as the presidency, government, parliament and judiciary, their seats remain vacant. In 1985, the

¹ Constitutionally established number of 50 seats was increased to 80 by the Parliament in 1985.

² <u>See all previous OSCE/ODIHR reports for the Republic of Cyprus.</u>

number of seats was increased by the parliament to 80, with 56 attributed to the Greek Cypriot community.³

The parliament is elected under the proportional representation system from six multi-member electoral districts. The electoral districts correspond to the six administrative districts, including those not under the government control. The number of seats elected from each one is based on the number of registered voters.⁴ Voters may indicate preference for candidates on a party list that they vote for. The number of preferential votes should not exceed one for every four seats of the given constituency.

The first allocation of seats is done at the district level. The electoral quotient for a district is obtained by dividing the number of valid votes by the number of seats of the district. The second step of the allocation of seats is made at the national level. In December 2015, just five months ahead of the planned elections, the parliament adopted amendments to the election law, including raising the threshold for political parties to participate in the second stage of mandate allocation from 1.8 to 3.6 per cent of valid votes obtained nationwide. Most of the OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors opined that this change was introduced to prevent small and new parties from entering the parliament. They also mentioned the lack of inclusive and public consultations, which is contrary to OSCE commitments and international good practice.⁵

Three constitutionally recognized religious groups (Armenians, Latins and Maronites) have one seat each reserved in the parliament.⁶ These representatives do not have voting rights and can present their views only on issues concerning their religious groups. Voters belonging to religious groups can vote twice: for general elections and for the religious group representatives' elections.

The election law provides for the presence of political party and candidate representatives in polling stations on election day, who have a right to obtain results protocols. The law, however, does not foresee citizen and international observation, at odds with paragraph 8 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document and despite previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendation.⁷ The electoral authorities assured the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that the arrangements to facilitate access to all levels of election commissions for any possible election-related activity would be provided.

C. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The election administration at all levels is comprised predominantly of the civil servants. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) is the main election management body for the parliamentary elections.

³ The application of constitutional provisions in the country is based on the judgements of its courts on the basis of necessity.

 ⁴ Nicosia - 20 seats, Limassol - 12 seats, Famagusta - 11 seats, Larnaca - 6 seats, Paphos - 4 seats, Kyrenia - 3 seats.

⁵ The amendments were supported by two largest parliamentary parties, DISY and AKEL. Paragraph 5.8 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document states that the legislation will be adopted at the end of a public procedure. The <u>Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters</u> of the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) states that "the fundamental elements of electoral law, in particular the electoral system, membership of electoral commissions and the drawing of constituency boundaries, should not be open to amendments less than one year before an election", see point II.2.b.

⁶ Cyprus has ratified the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in 1998; however, it recognizes only minority religious groups and not national minority groups.

⁷ Paragraph 8 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document states that participating States "consider the presence of observers, both foreign and domestic, can enhance the electoral process for States in which elections are taking place. They therefore invite observers from (O)SCE participating States and any appropriate private institutions and organizations who may wish to do so to observe the course of their national election proceedings, to the extent permitted by law".

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When election date is announced, the Minister of Interior appoints the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry as the General Returning Officer responsible for the administration of elections and supported by the Central Electoral Office of the MoI that functions on a permanent basis.

The District Officers of six administrative divisions of the country are appointed as District Returning Officers and are responsible for the organization of the elections at the district level. District Returning Officers appoint presiding officers and up to six assistants for each polling station. Polling staff vacancies are publicly advertised. Any civil servant or an unemployed person with university decree may apply. According to the election officials, women comprise about 75 per cent of the polling staff.

About 1,200 polling stations will be established in the country.⁸ The law provides for out-ofcountry voting if by 2 April a minimum of 30 voters from each of the six electoral districts apply to register in the voter lists of a respective out-of-country polling station. Out-of-country voting applications are made online and voter should be registered in the permanent voter list to be included on the out-of-country voter list. The MoI informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that it anticipates to open five polling stations abroad for about 9,000 voters.⁹

Meetings of General and District Returning Officers are not open to the general public. However, their decisions are published on the MoI website. In addition, election officials informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they regularly consult with political parties on various aspects of the electoral process.

All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed full confidence in the professionalism and impartiality of the election administration. No concerns were raised regarding any aspect of the electoral process, technical preparations or conduct of the upcoming elections.

D. VOTING RIGHTS AND VOTER REGISTRATION

The 2015 amendments to the electoral legislation harmonised provisions of the election law with the Law on Civil Registry that provide the voting rights for all citizens who are at least 18 years old on the day of election, and who are resident in Cyprus for a period of six months before becoming eligible to vote.

In line with previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendation, the 2015 amendments to the election law reflected earlier changes to the Law on Civil Registry that had allowed prisoners to vote in all elections. The decision to enfranchise these voters was made in 2006, following the European Court of Human Rights ruling that the blanket prohibition on voting by sentenced prisoners was disproportionate and incompatible with the right to participate in elections.¹⁰

Registration and voting are compulsory in Cyprus. Failure to register or to vote are violations of law with sanctions applicable but not enforced in practice.¹¹ The OSCE/ODIHR has previously recommended revising the nature of those obligations and the sanctions attached, if a policy decision is taken not to enforce these obligations.

⁸ Each polling station serves about 500-600 voters.

⁹ Three in Greece and two in the United Kingdom.

¹⁰ *Hirst v. United Kingdom*, no. 74025/01 (6 October 2005).

¹¹ Both infringements carry fines of up to 340 Euro or an imprisonment for up to six months.

Total number of voters is some 540,000. The MoI and the District Offices are responsible for maintenance and periodic updates of the voter lists.¹² The voter lists are posted for public scrutiny at the districts once updated. Every voter included in the list is provided with a voting card, which is an identification document designed for voting purposes. The 2015 amendments to the election law prescribe that an ID of a citizen of Cyprus could also be used for voting purposes.

Separate voter lists are compiled for elections of religious groups' representatives, voters in enclaves not under government control, and imprisoned voters. Enclave voters are registered according to their place of residence on the territory not under government control and vote in designated polling stations located in the controlled areas. Turkish Cypriots residing in government-controlled areas have the right to vote and to stand as candidates.¹³

E. **REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES**

The legislation allows to stand as candidates either individually or in a political party or coalition list. A political party or a coalition of parties nominates separate candidate lists for each district.¹⁴ The number of candidates included in the lists should be equal to the number seats allocated for each district. The candidates are listed on the ballot in an alphabetical order, with the leader of the party on the top of the list. Candidates nominated by political parties and running independently must pay an electoral deposit of EUR 500 each.¹⁵

Candidate lists are registered by the respective District Returning Officers. Religious minority candidates are registered by the General Returning Officer. Nominations will have to be submitted on 4 May.

Parties that the OSCE/ODIHR NAM met with stated that they intend to run in all six districts and plan to include women in their candidate lists. Some also noted that they introduced internal quotas of 30-35 per cent for women in their lists. However, most parties that the OSCE/ODIHR NAM met with do not expect to fulfil them. No party has a woman as a leader.

F. POLITICAL FINANCE

The PPL is the main legal act regulating political party activities, including financing. It was initially adopted in 2011, later evolved into a new PPL in 2012, and was most recently amended in December 2015. The PPL gives a definition of a political party and procedures for the formal registration of parties, which was not the case before 2011.

Both parliamentary and non-parliamentary political parties are entitled to receive public funding. The 2015 PPL amendments prescribe that 15 per cent of public funding for parties shall be distributed in equal shares among the parliamentary ones and the rest is split among them in proportion to the votes they received during the last parliamentary elections.¹⁶ Non-parliamentary parties are eligible to receive public funding if they obtain at least 3 per cent of the votes cast during the last parliamentary elections and nominated candidates for at least half of the parliamentary

¹² The voter lists are revised every three months. The revision of voter lists for the upcoming elections will be completed by 2 April.

¹³ Such provisions were adopted following a decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the case *Ibrahim Aziz v. Cyprus* no. 69949/01 (22 June 2004).

¹⁴ There are 11 political parties registered in the country.

¹⁵ The deposit is returned to candidates who receive the number of votes equal to at least one third of the electoral quotient.

¹⁶ In 2016, seven political parties were provided state funding totalling about EUR 2.5 million.

seats. Smaller parties expressed their dissatisfaction with these amendments, as they result in reduced public funding for them.¹⁷

Political parties may receive private donations, both monetary and in-kind. The 2015 PPL amendments provide that each political party should have a register of donations, indicating among other things information about the donor. Donations, either from physical persons or legal entities, are limited to EUR 50,000 per political party annually. In line with previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendation, the law prescribes that party should publish a list of donations over EUR 500 received during the year.¹⁸ By law, at least 90 per cent of the party financial transactions have to be made via banking institutions.

The PPL contains an obligation for political parties to keep accounting in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards. In line with previous **OSCE/ODIHR** recommendations, such accounting should include information on regular membership fees, public funding, in-kind donations, donations from physical persons, donations for election campaign and the spending of funds on administrative expenses, fixed asset purchases and electoral expenses. As previously recommended by the OSCE/ODIHR, the financial statements of political parties became subject to independent audit and oversight by the Auditor General, performed on an annual basis with audit results made publicly available. Political party financial statements have to be posted on their websites.

Candidates' campaign finance is regulated by the election law. The campaign expenditure limit is EUR 30,000 for each candidate. The law provides that every payment carried out by a candidate or his/her agent during the campaign is considered a campaign expenditure and shall be supported by an invoice or receipt. Candidates have to report on all contributions received.

Candidate's polling agent should submit a report on the campaign expenses to the District Returning Officer within three weeks after the publication of election results. The 2015 amendments provide that these financial reports are published in daily national press. The District Officer submits these reports to the Auditor General for review. The Auditor General checks expenses of candidates only in relation to advertisements made on radio, TV, press and billboards. The advertisement agencies, which provided services to candidates, have an obligation to report to the Auditor General. The Auditor General reports must be published. The law provides for fines up to EUR 20,000 for violations of finance regulations.

The Auditor General positively assessed amendments of the legal framework regulating political party and campaign finance, noting that it now provides the Auditor with sufficient authority to conduct a thorough and independent monitoring of political party funding and expenditure, and introduces necessary disclosure mechanisms, in line with previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendation. However, Auditor General opined that additional resources would be required to exercise these functions.

¹⁷ Previously, 22 per cent of state funding was provided in equal shares to parties in parliament with the rest split among eligible parties proportionally to votes obtained. Before these amendments, non-parliamentary parties were entitled to state funding if they received at least 1.5 per cent of votes cast.

¹⁸ Failure to comply with this requirement incurs a penalty of up to three times of the amount of the donation that has not being disclosed.

G. CAMPAIGN AND MEDIA

The 2015 amendments to the election law specified that election campaign starts three months before election day and finishes 55 hours before the beginning of voting when all campaign materials must be removed. Opinion polls cannot be published during seven days before election day.

The media landscape is diverse with a variety of commercial and public broadcasters, print and online media. The country has 22 private and 1 public broadcasters, as well as 17 private and 1 public radio stations. Main television channels are the public Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC) and national private broadcasters *Mega TV*, *Antenna TV* and *Sigma TV*.

The Law on the CyBC regulates activities of the public broadcaster, including the campaign coverage during the elections. CyBC informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they developed a "code of election coverage" and shared it with political parties. Some political parties expressed a degree of dissatisfaction with the code, stating that less coverage is envisaged for them in proportion to their smaller competitors.

According to the Law on Radio and Television, all licensed broadcasters should ensure equal and objective treatment of all candidates during the electoral period. The coverage of parties must be based on the percentage of votes the party received during the previous parliamentary elections. The law stipulates that smaller and new parties should not be neglected in the coverage. Based on the established practice, the broadcasters discuss with political parties a schedule of planned coverage of candidates during the campaign. The print media is self-regulated and is not subject to any legal restrictions during the campaign period.

Both CyBC and private media can start broadcasting paid political advertisement any time, but the period of 40 days before the election day is regulated and monitored. During that period each party is allocated a maximum of 100 minutes in total on all TV stations and 60 minutes on all radio stations. Each independent candidate is allocated a maximum of 30 minutes in total on all TV stations and 12 minutes on all radio stations. By law, the broadcasters should clearly mark any paid advertisement and all candidates should be provided the same financial terms. Negative campaigning is prohibited by law.

The Cyprus Radio-Television Authority (CRTA), which was last appointed in 2010 by the Council of Ministers for a six-year term, oversees the operation of private television and radio in the country to ensure equal treatment of electoral contestants during the election campaign.

The CRTA acts upon complaints as well as on its own initiative and has the authority to impose sanctions, including warnings, fines and the suspension or withdrawal of licences. Private broadcasters should submit to the CRTA a code of ethics and a schedule of political programmes and coverage of candidates. The CRTA is responsible for monitoring paid political advertising both in private TV and radio and in the CyBC. The CRTA informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that it installed a new monitoring and archiving system that allows 24/7 monitoring of 32 television and 32 radio stations and maintains a three-month online audio and video archive.

H. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Complaints related to the administration of elections, including candidate and voter registration, are filed with District Returning Officers. On election day, complaints can be filed with and considered

by the presiding officers at polling stations. Their decisions can be appealed to the General Returning Officer and then to the Supreme Court.

Complaints on election results can be filed by the Attorney General, a voter, a candidate, as well as any person claiming violation of his/her voting rights, with the Supreme Court, which serves as an Electoral Court during the electoral period. Electoral Court is the first and final instance for the complaints on election results. The 2015 amendments to the election law increased the period when complaints could be filed from one to two months from the date of the publication of the election results.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The OSCE/ODIHR NAM noted full confidence of all of its interlocutors in the integrity of the electoral process and in the professionalism and impartiality of the election administration. No significant concerns were expressed relating to the respect for fundamental freedoms, transparency of the electoral process, voter and candidate registration, as well as election day proceedings. A number of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about some recent amendments, as well as the timing and the process of adopting the amendments. Several previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations pertaining to political party and campaign finance were addressed.

In consideration of this and the fact that most of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors opined that an OSCE/ODIHR election-related activity would bring limited added value, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM does not recommend an election-related activity for the 2016 parliamentary elections. The OSCE/ODIHR, however, stands ready to engage with the authorities in a follow-up process, to assist them in addressing the outstanding recommendations and providing legal opinions on drafts or legal acts regulating electoral legal framework should the authorities so request.

ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS

State and Electoral Authorities

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Charis Christodoulidou, Head of Department of Multilateral Affairs and International Organizations Gabriella Michaelidou, First Secretary of the Department

Ministry of Interior

Constantinos Nicolaides, Permanent Secretary, General Returning Officer Demetris Demetriou, Chief Electoral Officer

Audit Office

Odysseas Michaelidis, Auditor General Maria Drakou, Senior Principal Officer Toulla Lazoura, Senior Audit Officer

Law Office of the Republic, Attorney General Office

Angeliki Karnou, Lawyer

District Office of Nicosia

Marios Panagides, District Officer Andreas Hadjipakkos, Deputy Disctrict Officer Maria Koliou, District Inspector Michael Beys, Assistant District Inspector

Political Parties (in alphabetical order)

Citizens' Alliance

Simos Angelides, Vice-President Constantines Filaretou, Member of the Secretariat

Democratic Party (DEKO) Sophoclis Fittis, Member of Parliament

Democratic Rally (DISY) Kyriacos Hadjiyannis, Member of Parliament

European Party (EVROKO) Demetris Syllouris, President of the Party

European Socialist Party (EDEK) Maria Vassiliadou, First Vice-President

Green Party

George Perdikis, Member of the Parliament Kaliope Agapiou-Josephides, Activist

Progressive Party of the Working People (AKEL) Andreas Kafkalias, Member of Parliament

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Union of Fighters for Justice

Michael Minas, President George Florides, General Coordinator Yiannis Ioannou, Alternate General Coordinator Costas Constantinou, Coordinator of Candidates

<u>Media</u>

Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC)

Gregoris Maliotis, Director of Technical Services Androulla Georgiadou, Deputy Director of News Eleni Louka, Deputy Director of Radio

Cyprus Radio-Television Authority

Michael Lambrianides, Radio-Television Officer

Union of Cyprus Journalists

Antonis Makrides, President Kostis Diogenous, Member of the Board

Civil Society

Peace Research Institute Oslo, PRIO Cyprus Centre

Harry Tzimitras, Director Olga Demetriou, Senior Research Consultant Ayla Gurel, Senior Research Consultant Mete Hatay, Senior Research Consultant

Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies

Susanna Pavliou, Director Christina Kaili, Project Coordinator

Coordinating Committee of Karpasia

Nikos Falas, President