



DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Working Session 5

Written contribution by the Delegation of Cyprus on Education provisions for the Turkish Cypriot children residing in the areas under the effective control of the Government

- The families of Turkish Cypriots residing in Limassol were asked to express their will as to whether they want their children to attend a separate Turkish Cypriot school or to be instructed in their mother tongue in an existing public primary school. This preference was made explicit by their responses to a written questionnaire conducted by the Ministry of Education and Culture in September 2005 in the framework of evaluating the existing policies in the government controlled areas as regards the education of Turkish Cypriot students. Elaborating on their choice the families explained that they wouldn't like to segregate their children in a separate school and that they preferred having them in a joint school as a means of integrating them and the families into the local society.
- Since then, Turkish speaking students residing in Limassol have been attending successfully the 18th Primary School (Agios Antonios) since September 2005. The Ministry of Education and Culture has taken all necessary measures so that the curriculum and teaching staff of the said school, address the needs of these students. More specifically two Turkish Cypriots teachers are employed at the school, while Turkish language text books and other teaching material (maps, computers etc) are available for their teaching.
- Additionally, a Greek Cypriot, Turkish speaking welfare officer is employed at the school with the explicit task to look after the Turkish speaking students and their particular needs including the facilitation of communication between their families and the school administration. Moreover, the families of the Turkish Cypriot students are represented in the parents association and both the students and their families are fully integrated into all functions related to school life and the local society.
- Measures are also taken for meeting the religious needs of the Turkish speaking students, through regular visits to a local Mosque and observance of religious feasts.
- It is noted that during the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting (Cape Town, December 2006) the abovementioned school won the second prize in the "Commonwealth Education Good Practice Awards 2006" competition.

- In January 2007, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus decided that existing arrangements for the education of Turkish speaking pupils attending the 18th Primary School of Limassol will be extended to secondary level schooling.