



EDITOR'S NOTE

An EU member state in the Eastern Mediterranean, at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa; this is Cyprus in a nutshell.

The monthly FES Cyprus Newsletter gives you a current overview of the domestic political situation and the external affairs of an island, which is far more than a divided country. Have a pleasant read!

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145
JUNE 24

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HEADLINES

Reported three-month extension of the United Nations Secretary-General' („UNSG“) personal envoy, Maria Ángela Holguín Cuéllar's mandate denied by Turkish Cypriot leader.

A north-based foreign developer has been arrested as part of what appears to be a clamp down by the Republic of Cyprus authorities on property buying in the north.

YouTuber Fidias Panayiotou is elected to European Parliament garnering 19.4%, while far right ELAM also secures a seat for the first time.

€3.1bn estimated to be invested by 2030 in Cyprus's green transition via state funds, European Union funds, and private investment.

Hezbollah leader warns Cyprus about the use of its airports and bases for military exercises or use in the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Unemployment in the Republic of Cyprus is at the lowest levels of the last 15 years.

The Turkish Cypriot authorities signed a new €457 million Economic and Financial Cooperation Agreement with the Turkish government.





FES CYPRUS NEWSLETTER

CONTENT

EVENTS, PODCASTS, PUBLICATIONS 4

CYPRUS PROBLEM &
INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS 5

HYDROCARBONS 7

GREEK CYPRIOTS 7

- Gender Developments
- Economic Developments in Times of Green Transition
- Domestic Developments
- Foreign Relations
- Future of Work, Labour Relations & Trade Unions

TURKISH CYPRIOTS 11

- Gender Developments
- Economic Developments in Times of Green Transition
- Relations with Turkey
- Domestic Developments
- Future of Work, Labour Relations & Trade Unions

Newsletter No.145 JUNE 24

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3





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PODCASTS in JULY:
No podcasts in July



PODCASTS in AUGUST:
No podcasts in August

PUBLICATIONS in JULY:
Vasiliki Triga
[Fact Sheet: European Elections
of 2024 in Cyprus](#)
(In English)



PUBLICATIONS in AUGUST:
No publications in August

EVENTS in JULY:
No events planned so far



EVENTS in AUGUST:
No events planned so far

Newsletter No.145 JUNE 24

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CYPRUS PROBLEM & INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

The month of June started with the United Nations Secretary-General's (UNSG) personal envoy, María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, meeting Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New York on June 5. According to UN Chief spokesman Stephane Dujarric, Holguín discussed with the UNSG the way forward.

Following their meeting the Athens News Agency reported on June 6, that Holguín's mandate as envoy in Cyprus was extended by three months. On June 7, Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar denied the reports arguing that he had given his consent to Holguín's appointment for six months only. Meanwhile, Dujarric stated that Holguín continues her engagement with the parties and other relevant stakeholders in her efforts to find common ground.

On June 7, Simon Mistriel Aykut, a property developer (who was born in Izmir, and is a citizen of Israel and Portugal, as well as of TRNC) was arrested by Greek Cypriot authorities while crossing from the north to the south.¹ Aykut is the founder of the Afik Group, a company based in the north that has undertaken numerous construction projects particularly in Iskele/Trikomo. Many of these projects are believed to have been built on land originally belonging to Greek Cypriots. Aykut appeared in court on the following day and was remanded in custody for five days. On June 13, the Greek Cypriot police requested the Nicosia District Court issue a new detention order for the 73-year-old for a period of six days, which was approved. Two other individuals are also wanted in the case: Aykut's sons, 51-year-old

Afik Yaacov and 49-year-old Michael Mistriel Aykut, both directors of the group.

On June 19, the Nicosia District Court decided that Aykut will remain in custody until his case is heard in criminal court on September 9. The court, examining the points raised by the prosecution and defence, decided that there are grounds for the 73-year-old's remand in custody, since there is a clear risk of him fleeing as his ties with the Republic of Cyprus "are non-existent". The court, after evaluating the evidence before it, stated that the existing testimony is sufficient for a possible conviction of the accused. An unidentified number of Greek Cypriots testified against Aykut, claiming they did not give consent for the development of their properties. Additionally, two individuals from a European country, who bought a house in Kalecik (Gastria) for €235,000, testified to the police that they were not given a title deed. Aykut faces 124 charges for developing property (worth €43 million) on Greek Cypriot land. Aykut's arrest follows what appears to be a clamp down by the Republic of Cyprus authorities on property buying in the north.

In response to the ongoing case, the Turkish Cypriot president, Ersin Tatar, was quoted as saying "unacceptable trials of those who act in accordance with the property regime [in the north], in accordance with international law and the European Convention on Human Rights in the TRNC, further exacerbate the issue of mistrust between the two peoples in Cyprus". Tatar called on the Greek Cypriot authorities to use "common sense" regarding the Immovable Property Commission (IPC) established in the

¹The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) is only recognised by the Republic of Turkey. While for Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots, Ersin Tatar 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).





FES CYPRUS NEWSLETTER

north to deal with Greek Cypriot properties, accusing them of intimidating Greek Cypriots to not claim compensation through IPC. He pointed out that the IPC was recognised as an effective domestic legal mechanism by the European Court of Human Rights to evaluate claims made by Greek Cypriots to property in the north, and that it has been “working effectively” since 2005. “Despite this, the Greek Cypriot leadership is trying to prevent its citizens from applying to this mechanism, and also does not give the necessary legal documents to those whom they cannot convince to not apply, to allow their cases to proceed”, Tatar said.

According to the latest figures from the IPC, a total of 7,598 applications have been lodged with the commission, of which 1,781 have been concluded. The IPC has awarded more than £446.2m (€523.7m) in compensation since its creation in 2005. It examines claims for compensation, as well as for restitution – the handing back of Greek Cypriot-owned property in the north – and exchange of land. Earlier in the year, the Turkish Cypriot government announced that they secured £68m (€79m) to forward onto Greek Cypriots as compensation. In January, former IPC chairman Ayfer Said Erkmen said the cost of compensating every single Greek Cypriot for every single piece of land lost in 1974 may top £22.4 billion (€26.3bn).

None of the three Turkish Cypriots, including the incumbent Niyazi Kizilyurek (who ran on the AKEL ticket), who stood for European Parliament elections, got elected. Turkish Cypriots who also hold Republic of Cyprus citizenship were eligible to vote in the election but had to cross to the south to cast their ballot at polling stations located near the crossing points. Despite having 103,281 eligible voters, only 5,676 Turkish Cypriots cast their votes; the turnout fell from 6.8% in 2019 to 5.5% in 2024. AKEL received 4,485 votes from Turkish Cypriots, Volt 621, and the Ecologists 367. Of the Turk-

ish Cypriot candidates, Niyazi Kizilyurek received 16,454 votes, Hulusi Kilim (Volt) 1,979, and Oz Karahan (Ecologists) 1,009.

On June 12, the European Commission launched the “eunite: SME” project designed to support private sector development in the Turkish Cypriot community and boost Green Line trade. In an announcement, the commission said that the project is being run in partnership with GIZ International Services with a budget of €4m over the next two years. The project will strengthen the competitiveness of Turkish Cypriot businesses by supporting their digitalisation, sustainability and compliance with EU standards.

On June 21, UNSG spokesman Farhan Haq stated that Holguín has no plans to visit Cyprus at the moment. He stated however that she will meet with the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders outside of Cyprus in the coming weeks.

On the sidelines of the EU Council, Holguín met with Greek Cypriot leader Nicos Christodoulides on June 27 in Brussels where they discussed the resumption of negotiations. Christodoulides described the meeting as very specific and productive. According to the head of the Christodoulides press office Victoras Papadopoulos, Holguín had a very clear view and picture of how to proceed and she hinted that a deal over energy matters was the point of leverage. Following the meeting, Christodoulides announced that he would recall a National Council to brief political leaders on the latest developments.

Holguín will meet Tatar in London on July 1, where they are expected to discuss, among other things, the opening of a new checkpoint in Mia Milia/Haspolat. Holguín is expected to deliver her report to the UNSG on July 10. The Cyprus problem is expected to be put on the agenda of the Security Council in July when Russia will hold the presidency.

Newsletter No.145 JUNE 24

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On June 28, the plenary of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) approved the resolution of its Rapporteur Piero Fassino for the people of Varosha to return to their legal residences. The resolution was approved by a significant majority, with only Turkish MPs voting against it. The adopted resolution made clear reference to invasion and occupation in Cyprus and called for a revocation of Turkey's illegal actions, which it judged as an impediment to the resumption of talks based on UN frameworks. Moreover, the resolution called on Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership to implement the Famagusta-related UN resolutions, including 550 and 789, and to return to negotiations for the reunification of Cyprus.

On June 29, the 2023 US Department report on Religious Freedoms was published according to which Cyprus needs to encourage greater access to religious sites on both sides of the divide and reduce discrimination against religious minority communities.

HYDROCARBONS

On June 11, Energy Minister George Papanastasiou stated that the Chinese-led consortium tasked with building the liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal at Vasiliko is open to exploring alternative agreements beyond the scope of the current contract. According to the Minister, the two contracting parties, Etyfa (Natural Gas Infrastructure Company) and the Chinese company CPP have shown a willingness to reach a separate agreement regarding the completion timeline of the terminal. Papanastasiou explained that a separate deal would see the completion horizon of the terminal, not necessarily in the context of the specific relationship that comes from the current contract, but possibly outside of the contract. The remark pointed to a possible termination of the contract, and the continuation of construction with a different contractor. Cyprus signed the con-

tract for the LNG project back in December 2019. The whole project should have taken 22 months to complete, however, the contractor had halted all work at the land-based LNG facilities at Vasiliko, citing the non-payment of invoices by Cyprus.

The consortium is also seeking €200m in additional compensation through arbitration proceedings in London. This claim comes despite the original contract being awarded for €500m, with current expenses already exceeding €542m. There are also delays with regards to the release from the Chinese side of the floating, storage and regasification unit (FSRU), which still requires certification as an LNG carrier and a regasification unit. Switching to natural gas for power generation is crucial for Cyprus, as it would cut carbon dioxide emissions by 30%, potentially saving the island tens of millions of euros in greenhouse gas penalties.

GREEK CYPRIOTS

Gender Developments

On June 21, an event was held on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, entitled "Rape as a weapon of war: The case of Cyprus and the International Legal Aspect". Speaking at the event, Commissioner for Gender Equality Josie Christodoulou condemned acts of sexual violence as not only criminal and traumatic but also a disgrace to modern global society. Christodoulou announced upcoming training for frontline officers to better handle incidents of violence. She also affirmed the country's support and implementation of the relevant UN resolutions, including Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security".

Economic Developments in Times of Green Transition

In its revised June macroeconomic scenario, global credit rating agency Morningstar DBRS has up-





FES CYPRUS NEWSLETTER

graded its growth forecast of the Cypriot economy by 0.3% in 2024 and by 0.1% in 2025 compared to its previous forecast in March 2024. The Canadian agency expects the Cypriot economy to grow at a rate of 2.7% in 2024 and 2.5% in 2025. DBRS also revised the unemployment rate in Cyprus. Compared to its previous forecast, the agency now expects the unemployment rate to fall by a further 0.2% to 5.9% in 2024 and by 0.4% in 2025 to 5.7%.

On June 16, the Finance Ministry stated that the amount invested in Cyprus' green transition is estimated to reach €3.1bn by 2030. The investment would be sourced from state funds, European Union funds and private investment, and will go towards helping the country achieve the targets set by the EU regarding climate change. In particular, the Thaleia Plan for structural funds, the Just Transition Fund and the Agricultural Fund will be allocated a combined total of €1.1bn. The remaining €2bn of the planned investment will be supplied through private investors in grant schemes for issues such as building renovations and the purchase of vehicles, as well as projects put forward by the government.

On June 25, Energy Minister George Papanastasiou presented the government's strategy for reducing electricity prices. Papanastasiou underscored the three pillars for Cyprus' ambition to establish it as an energy centre. The first is to create an LNG import terminal "as soon as possible" for power generation purposes, which, he said, would directly reduce pollution by 35 to 40%, and consequently the cost of electricity. He pointed out that three million tonnes of carbon dioxide are produced every year, which he said is equivalent to €300m in emissions allowances, a cost that is passed on to the electricity consumer. Papanastasiou added that the second pillar concerns better use of renewable energy sources, primarily photovoltaics. While 750 megawatts are being produced by photovoltaics, only 19% enter the market, with most of the production being rejected.

The ministry is currently preparing a battery-based storage system involving the private sector and €40m in grants. Global companies such as Tesla and Samsung have shown interest in participating in Cyprus' battery-based electricity storage system. The third pillar concerns the electricity interconnection between Cyprus and Greece.

During a discussion in Parliament on June 25, Papanastasiou sounded favourably disposed towards the state investing directly in the mooted subsea electricity cable linking Cyprus to Greece, however MPs pushed back citing the political and technical uncertainties still looming over the project. According to Papanastasiou, Greece's Admie, or Independent Power Transmission Operator, the project promoter, has yet to formally deliver their cost-benefit analysis for the Great Sea Interconnector. The promoter is expected to hand over the analysis in early July. Once this happens, the government will assess the document and then take a decision on whether or not to invest €100m.

Domestic Developments

The results of the European Parliament elections held on June 9 sent shockwaves across the island as YouTuber Fidias Panayiotou garnered 19.4% and won a seat to the European Parliament. In addition, far right ELAM obtained 11.2% and elected an MEP for the first time in its history, with Geadis Geadis securing a seat. DISY emerged as the leading party as it garnered 24.7% and kept its two seats, while leftist AKEL garnered 21.7% and lost one seat from the two it had secured in 2019. Centre party DIKO received 9.6% and kept its seat. Socialist EDEK received 5.1% and lost its seat. The new bicomunal party Volt Cyprus received 2.9%, DIPA 2.2%, the Environmental Movement 1.3%, while the remaining parties and candidates received less than 0.5%. Voters elected the following six representatives to the European Parliament

Newsletter No.145 JUNE 24

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- Loukas Fourlas and Michalis Hadjipantela (DISY)
- Giorgos Georgiou (AKEL)
- Fidias Panayiotou (Independent)
- Geadis Geadis (ELAM)
- Costas Mavrides (DIKO)

The results mean that Cyprus no longer has a Turkish Cypriot MEP, as Niyazi Kizilyurek, the first to hold the post on the AKEL ticket, was not re-elected. Panayiotou's victory as an MEP at the age of 24 without political background was largely seen as a message of protest and frustration to the established political parties. The rise of ELAM is also another significant outcome.

On June 14, university lecturer Nicholas Ioannides was appointed Deputy Minister of Migration and International Protection. The government announced its plan for the creation of a new Deputy Ministry for Migration last year, as it grappled with an influx of arrivals. The handover was conducted on June 19 by Interior Minister Constantinos Ioannou, whose ministry had previously managed all migration and asylum matters. Ioannou said that the consolidation of all services in a deputy ministry will have substantial and practical benefits in terms of planning, supervision, coordination and generally better operation. Ioannides holds a PhD in Public International Law from the University of Bristol. He was also a legal adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for issues of public international and European law. Ioannides has also represented Cyprus at the International Court of Justice in The Hague and in working groups of the Council of the European Union.

On June 25, Cyprus broke the Guinness World Record with the longest alternating chain of 4,073 people from all over the island clasping wrists. The event was organised by the Yiannis Christodoulou Foundation. The previous record was held by the city of Kyoto, Japan.

Foreign Relations

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah stated that it could consider Cyprus part of the war with Israel if it continued to allow the latter to use its airports and bases for military exercises or military purposes directed against Hezbollah. "Opening Cypriot airports and bases to the Israeli enemy to target Lebanon would mean that the Cypriot government is part of the war, and the resistance will deal with it as part of the war," Nasrallah stated. In response President Christodoulides stated that Cyprus is in no way involved in any military operations in the region or elsewhere and that Cyprus is part of the solution not a part of the problem. Christodoulides emphasised the humanitarian role Cyprus had played in the Middle East, facilitating the opening of a sea corridor to transport desperately needed aid to Gaza. Cyprus is not known to offer any land or base facilities to the Israeli military. Commentators argued that Nasrallah's statements should not be read as a threat to Cyprus per se, but they were rather directed at the use of the British bases on the island, which Nicosia has no control over, in the event they are used in a full-blown Israel-Hezbollah conflict. The Declassified UK website reported that Britain has used RAF Akrotiri to send over 80 military transport planes to Beirut since the bombing of Gaza began in October 2023.

Future of Work, Labour Relations & Trade Unions

On June 3, the Minister of Finance met with the Pan-Cyprian Trade Union of Public Servants (PASYDY) to discuss the main issues affecting public servants. The agenda covered topics such as the restriction on appointments or promotion 18 months before retirement, the discontinuation of supplementary free medical care, the new evaluation system, the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) and the agreement for low-paid workers. Although, the outcome of the meeting was not the desired one, they stated that there is room for further discussion.

Newsletter No.145 JUNE 24

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On June 4, Cyprus and Egypt signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the employment of Egyptians in Cyprus. During a two-day working visit to Egypt, Cyprus' Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Konstantinos Kombos and his Egyptian counterpart Mr. Sameh Shoukry signed the MoU on behalf of their respective governments. According to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the aim of the MoU "is to facilitate and regulate the entry and residence of Egyptian workers in Cyprus allowing them to work in various sectors based on labour market needs and government policy. Employers' organizations, PASYXE, KEBE and OEB welcomed the MoU, stating in their respective announcements that the labour shortage in Cyprus continues to challenge businesses, and this move is a step in the right direction. In contrast, trade unions reacted negatively to the agreement, expressing surprise and dissatisfaction due to the lack of social dialogue, which contradicts the government's previous announcements.

According to Statistical Service, unemployment is at the lowest levels of the last 15 years. On June 4, the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance stated that the number of long-term unemployed has reached its lowest in 14 years. More specifically, based on the Statistical Service data, the average number of registered unemployed during the first quarter of the current year was 13,760 people, marking a decrease of 13.2%, or 2091 compared to the same period in 2023.

On June 5, in response to high temperatures, the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, announced that the decree issued last year for the protection of workers exposed to heat conditions remains in force. The decree, which was activated several days in June, mandates that between 12:00 and 16:00, all heavy outdoor work, as well as delivering products using two-wheeled vehicles, must cease. An orange warning for extremely high temperatures will be in effect, according to the Department of Labour In-

spection (TEE) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance.

On June 7, the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Tripartite Committee (TCTE) was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance. During the meeting, the social partners received the first file for the evaluation, approval and rejection of applications for the employment of workers from third countries. According to the data and based on the Employment Strategy criteria approved by the previous Cabinet in February 2023, a total of 7,000 applications were reviewed. Out of these, 3,000 were accepted and 4,000 were rejected. Rejected applications may be re-evaluated if their employers file objections. Currently, it is estimated that there are 150,000 foreign workers in Cyprus out of a total working population of 555,830.

According to the Statistical Service, 16.7% of the population, or 153,000, people in Cyprus were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2023. Based on the results of the Household Income and Living Conditions Survey 2023, with an income reference year of 2022, 16.7% of the population lived in households with income below the poverty line or lived in households with severe material and social deprivation. The index for 2023 remained at the same levels compared to the previous year which was also at 16.7%, indicating that the rate has remained unchanged in 2023, after a continuous downward trend in recent years.

On June 11, the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance, Yiannis Panayiotou, spoke at the International Labour Conference of the ILO, where he underlined the need to implement policies that improve citizens' daily lives focusing on strengthening wage adequacy and ensuring decent pension benefits. During the visit, the minister met with the General Director of ILO, Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo. They discussed Cyprus' active involvement in the Global Alliance for

Newsletter No.145 JUNE 24

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Social Justice particularly through contributing to the development of policy tools for social rights. The Minister agreed with the ILO on providing technical support to Cyprus for wages and pensions within the framework of human-centred government policy and European guidelines. In addition, they discussed good practices for strengthening social dialogue, extending collective agreements, setting minimum wages and the future of COLA. Particular emphasis was placed on promoting pension reform in line with international experience and examples of other countries.

The percentage of young people aged 15 to 29 who were not participating in education or the labour market in 2023 in Cyprus increased to 13.8% exceeding the European average. According to Eurostat, this percentage decreased from 14.7% in 2022. In the EU, the average in 2023 was 11.2%, showing a decrease from 11.7% a year earlier and from 12.6% in 2019.

On June 18, a team of International Monetary Fund (IMF) technocrats arrived in Cyprus to gather information for a study on rationalizing the state payroll. The IMF team will stay in Cyprus until July 1 and, according to the set schedule, they will meet with the Ministries of Finance, Transport, Health, Education and Justice, as well as the Statistical Service.

On June 21, the Union of Cypriot Pensioners (EKYSY) announced that it would proceed with dynamic measures against the government if their problems were not addressed. The announcement emphasised the need for significant compensatory benefits, increased pensions and poverty threshold, higher benefits through the Minimum Guaranteed Income and, finally, the abolition of the 12% penalty imposed on the pensions of those who retire at the age of 63.

On June 27, DEOK held a protest outside the Ministry of Finance, demanding the upgrading of all low-

wage workers who have been stuck at low pay levels for years, without opportunities for salary improvement and professional advancement. The trade union stated that, in 2022, it had raised the issue of low-wage scales in the public and the wider public sector with the Ministry of Finance.

TURKISH CYPRIOTS

Gender Developments

There was nothing to report.

Economic Developments in Times of Green Transition

According to the Statistical Institute, the consumer price index was 83.2% higher in June 2024 compared to June 2023. Consumer prices had risen by 4.5% in June alone; the inflation rate in the first six months of 2024 has already reached 33%. The monthly food inflation was 5.5%. The highest monthly inflation was in the "housing and utilities" segment where an increase of 10% was recorded; the second highest was "restaurants and hotels" segment with 9.4%.

The TRNC Central Bank has released its first quarterly bulletin of 2024, which showed that as of the end of March 2024, 84.6% of bank deposits were held in foreign currency. The bulletin also showed that the government budget ran a surplus of 1.6 billion TL (€45.9 million) in the first quarter of the fiscal year of 2024, contrasting with a deficit of 80.2 million TL in the first quarter of 2023. Total local revenues (which excludes Turkish aid and credits) covered 103.7% of budget expenses.

According to Cyprus Today (which is owned by Aksa Energy), Aksa Energy, the private Turkish company, which is one of the two electricity providers (along with the public company, the Turkish Cypriot Electricity Authority (Kib-Tek)) in north Cyprus, has significantly increased its generation capacity. As part





FES CYPRUS NEWSLETTER

of a 15-year contract with Kib-Tek, the company added 35 megawatts (MW) in May 2024. This boost brings the Kalecik (Gastria) power plant's capacity from 153 MW to 188 MW, representing an increase of nearly 23%.

Relations with Turkey

On June 5, the Turkish and TRNC governments signed a new Economic and Financial Cooperation Agreement, which includes financial support for new and ongoing projects in the form of credit and grant assistance worth 16 billion TL (€ 457million). Addressing reporters, the Turkish Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz highlighted the success of the 2023 agreement, which allocated 9.5bn TL and included completion of the new Ercan (Tymbou) Airport, water infrastructure projects, a citrus cold storage facility, and significant support for the livestock sector. Yılmaz gave details about ongoing projects, such as the completion of the new Kyrenia military hospital and revisions to the Güzelyurt (Morphou) hospital project. He also pointed out substantial progress in the construction of the Presidential and Parliament service buildings. The Turkish VP also mentioned that the process of compensating property claims filed by Greek Cypriots up to 2021 through the Immoveable Property Commission (IPC) was nearing completion.

Domestic Developments

A poll carried out by Statica, a local pollster, (and commissioned by the main opposition Republican Turkish Party (CTP)), which questioned 1,400 voters, showed the CTP to have 35.7% support, with the senior governing coalition party, the National Unity Party (UBP), in second place with 28.3%. At the last parliamentary election in January 2022, the UBP was the largest party, winning 39.5% of the vote and 24 seats, and the CTP was second with 32% of the vote. Unless a snap election is called, the next parliamentary election will be in January 2027; the presidential election, on the other hand, will take place in

October 2025. When Statica asked the respondents "Who would you like to see as President of the TRNC and the leader who will represent Turkish Cypriots in the world?", CTP leader Tufan Erhurman was the most popular answer with 42.6%, while 30.2% favoured the incumbent Ersin Tatar.

Future of Work, Labour Relations & Trade Unions

On June 14, the members of El-Sen, the Electricity Authority (Kib-Tek) employees' trade union tried to enter the substation in the village of Mora to turn off the power to Ercan (Tymbou) Airport on the grounds that T&T, the Turkish company operating the airport, owed 92million TL (€2.6m) to Kib-Tek. The police blocked the attempt. In response, the leader of the union, Ahmet Tuğcu, said, "Those who govern this country are using the police to protect [T&T owner] Emrullah Turanlı." Tuğcu then spoke to the media, saying, "Ercan belongs to Emrullah Turanlı, Kib-Tek belongs to the people. What you need to protect is Kib-Tek!" He pointed out that Kib-Tek policy dictates that private individuals who accrue a debt of 675TL (€19) to Kib-Tek automatically have their electricity cut off, but that T&T remains connected to its supply despite being 92million TL in debt. "We need to put an end to this injustice", he said, adding that his union disagrees with the reported agreement struck between Kib-Tek's management and T&T regarding the debt's management. A scuffle between workers and police then broke out at the substation as workers tried to enter and police pushed them back, with police ultimately successful and the airport's power supply remaining intact.

The Public Servants Trade Union (KTAMS) announced the hunger line for a family of four as 24,268 TL (€695) as of May 31. On the last day of May the new minimum wage had been set as 29,520 TL (€845).

Newsletter No.145 JUNE 24

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SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF AUTHORS

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Yiannis Charalambous has been a Research Assistant for FES Cyprus contributing to the writing of the monthly FES Cyprus Newsletter since July 2012. Yiannis obtained a Bachelor's degree in Turkish Studies from the National Kapodistrian University of Athens and an MA in International Relations and European Studies from the University of Nicosia. The subject of his dissertation focused on evaluating the catalyst effect in resolving the Cyprus problem, by comparing the factors of EU membership and the discovery of hydrocarbons. Yiannis speaks Greek, English and Turkish.

Hubert Faustmann

Hubert Faustmann is a Professor of History and International Relations at the University of Nicosia. Additionally, he is the director of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Cyprus. He is an expert on British colonial Cyprus and post-independence Cypriot history and politics. His research also focuses on Hydrocarbon politics in the Eastern Mediterranean as well as the relationship between state and society with a focus on Political Culture, Clientelism and Political Patronage.

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