



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!

Newsletter No.
135
AUGUST 23





FES CYPRUS NEWSLETTER

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PODCASTS in SEPTEMBER:

No podcasts in September



PODCASTS in OCTOBER:

No podcasts in October

PUBLICATIONS in SEPTEMBER:

Gianna Chatzigeorgiou and Sertac Sonan

Cyprus: Trade Union Monitor - 2023 Briefing

(In English)



PUBLICATIONS in OCTOBER:

No publications in October

Gianna Chatzigeorgiou and Sertac Sonan

Zypern: Gewerkschaftsmonitor - 2023 Briefing

(In German)

EVENTS in SEPTEMBER:

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Cyprus

“FES Trade Union Monitor 2023” –

Introduction of the Annual Trade Union Monitor for Cyprus followed by a discussion with the authors and union representatives

Date: Monday, 11th of September 2023

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (EEST / Cyprus time) (tbc)

Location: Home for Cooperation, Nicosia



EVENTS in OCTOBER:

No events planned so far

Hubert Faustmann, Flora Cresswell (Transparency International), Sertac Sonan & Christophoros Christophorou
„Knowledge partner of ‚Cyprus Forum 2023““

Panel on “The Role of Transparency in Combating Political Corruption on Both Sides of The Divide”

Date: Friday, 29th of September 2023

Time: 2:00 pm to 2:45 pm (EEST / Cyprus time)

Location: Home for Cooperation, Nicosia

Save your seat

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CYPRUS PROBLEM

The month of August was marked by a serious escalation of tensions in the buffer zone between UNFICYP members and Turkish Cypriot personnel following a unilateral announcement on August 17 by Turkish Cypriot authorities of their intention to construct a road to connect the village of Arsos/Yigitler in the north with the mixed Greek Cypriot-Turkish Cypriot village of Pyla/Pile. The Turkish Cypriot side had reportedly been campaigning for years at a diplomatic level for the road to be constructed, citing humanitarian reasons.

On August 18, UN peacekeepers were assaulted by Turkish Cypriot personnel when they obstructed work crews building the unauthorized road, that would encroach on the UN-controlled buffer zone. Around 12 UN peacekeepers were violently pushed back from their positions in the buffer zone reportedly by Turkish Cypriot military and police dressed in plain clothes. A UN peacekeeper was punched in the face and multiple UN vehicles were dragged out of the way by tractors. Three peacekeepers were treated for minor injuries. Around 15 Turkish Cypriots were reportedly injured during the incident.

The Turkish Cypriot side was roundly condemned by the international community, including UN Secretary General (UNSG) Antonio Guterres, multiple high-level figures within the European Union, and a joint condemnation from the British High Commission and the embassies of France and the United States in Nicosia. In a separate statement, China also condemned the incident. Russia held out issuing a condemnation and was the last member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) to do so on August 21. At

a scheduled closed session late on August 21, the UNSC condemned both the construction works in the buffer zone by the Turkish Cypriot side, as well as the attack on members of the peacekeeping force. The press statement further called for a complete halt to the unauthorised roadworks which it said constitute a violation of the status quo in the UN buffer zone and are against the resolutions of the Security Council.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stated, "The physical intervention of UN peacekeepers on the sovereign territory of the TRNC¹ is unacceptable." The TRNC foreign ministry was also irked by the UNSC's statement, describing it as "unfortunate" and argued that UNFICYP had "by means of its soldiers and vehicles displayed a provocative attitude". "It should also be noted that UNFICYP has remained silent in the face of the various violations committed by the Greek Cypriot side in the buffer zone, including the construction of roads [a university campus and an open-air cinema]," the statement added.

Miroslav Jenca, the Assistant UNSG for Europe, Central Asia and Americas, visited the island between August 27 to 29 where he held separate meetings with the respective Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, Nikos Christodoulides and Ersin Tatar. Earlier in the month, Tatar had rejected a proposal by Christodoulides to have a joint meeting with the UN official. According to Christodoulides, Jenca visited the island on behalf of the UNSG in light of the upcoming UN General Assembly, which will be held in New York in September, so as to specifically explore the prospects for restarting the negotiations. The UNSC, according to Christodoulides,

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).





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is also considering candidates to appoint as a special envoy for Cyprus. Following his meetings, Jenca posted on X (formerly Twitter), that he was pleased with the detailed discussions he had with both leaders where he reaffirmed "the UN's unwavering commitment to peace on the island". Jenca also met with the Committee on Missing Persons and visited the buffer zone. On August 30, Jenca also held meetings with Turkish contacts in Ankara.

Greek Cypriot daily Politis reported in its Sunday edition on August 27 that over a 14-point package of confidence building measures ("CBMs") being prepared by President Nikos Christodoulides. The reported package includes the bestowment of Republic of Cyprus citizenship upon Turkish Cypriots born to mixed marriages involving citizens of the Republic of Turkey, an expansion of products covered by the Green Line regulation, and Gesy coverage for Turkish Cypriots living and working in the north, among other things. The authenticity of the reported package is yet to be confirmed or denied by the government. The package was described by Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar as being "full of traps".

On September 1, Politis reported that an agreement was found between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot sides, following an initiative by the special representative of the UNSG, Colin Steward. According to the daily, the road will be built, while a plan will be devised for the development of the village of Pyla. This plan will include upgrading housing and agriculture in the area surrounding the village as far north as Pergamos/Beyarmudu. The sole responsibility for the buffer zone area will belong to the UN peace-keeping force (UNFICYP): a precondition set by the Greek Cypriot side. The newspaper stated that the agreement is "one step from ratification".

August 14, marked the 49th anniversary of the second phase of the Turkish invasion of the island, in which Turkish troops advanced from the island's north to seize 37% of the island. Turkey first inter-

vened on July 20, 1974, in response to a military coup orchestrated by the military junta then ruling Greece aimed at toppling the Greek Cypriot president Archbishop Makarios III.

BICOMMUNAL RELATIONS

The Larnaca municipality announced on August 11, that a bicommunal group of sailors named "Winds of Change" will be sailing around the entirety of the island. The team will be comprised of six Greek Cypriot and six Turkish Cypriot sailors. The sailing trip around divided Cyprus will be filmed and made into a documentary. It will premier at the World Peace Forum in Paris, ahead of the 2024 Olympic Games.

Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot trade unions are to hold a joint event on September 1 at the Home for Cooperation in the buffer zone in Nicosia to mark World Peace Day. The unions made a joint statement at the Home for Cooperation on August 29, read in Turkish by DEV-IS chairman Koral Asam and in Greek by PEO General Secretary Sotiroula Charalambous.

On August 26, arsonists targeted the Koprulu Hacı Ibrahim Agha Mosque in Limassol hours after Muslims had gathered there to pray. The arsonists threw bottles containing firecrackers and flammable liquid, damaging the entrance and walls. The arson was condemned by the Muslim foundation Evkaf, the Turkish Foreign Ministry, President Christodoulides and Greek Cypriot parties including opposition DISY.

The TRNC paid the Republic of Cyprus around €14m for electricity during the last month, according to the electricity authority (KIB-TEK) employees' union (EL-SEN)'s general secretary, Ahmet Tuğcu. Speaking to local media, he explained that following malfunctions to electricity generators in the north, the Republic supplied around 25 million kilowatt hours of electricity, at an average cost of around TL

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16 (56 cents) per kilowatt hour. This led to an overall cost to KIB-TEK of around TL 400m (€14m).

HYDROCARBONS

On August 12, Cyprus issued an anti-Navtex in response to the Navtex issued by Turkey for the activities of the drilling ship Abdulhamid Khan and its supporting vessels in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Developments are underway into the liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal at Vasilikos, spearheaded by a Chinese-led consortium. The ship Etyfa Prometheus, the floating, storage and regasification unit (FSRU) for Cyprus' LNG terminal project and managed by CNPC CPP, completed its debut three-day sea trial mission. The vessel is to be ready by September, as Energy Minister George Papanastasiou is to travel to China to officially receive it. The vessel will convert imported LNG into gaseous form so that it can be fed into the Vasilikos power station to generate electricity. The entire project cost around €300m. It has secured a €101m grant from the EU under the Connecting Europe Facility financial instrument. The rest of the financing comes from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The government has rejected the latest proposal by US's CHEVRON on developing the Aphrodite gas field on the grounds that the consortium's revised plan would transfer economic benefits to the companies while raising risks for the Republic of Cyprus. The plan, submitted by a CHEVRON-led consortium consisting of SHELL and Israel's NEWMED ENERGY, aimed to connect the gas field to an existing processing and production facility in Idku, Egypt via a subsea pipeline. Papanastasiou told Bloomberg on August 25 that the concerned parties would now initiate talks with the aim of reaching an agreement within a 30-day timeframe.

Officials of the EIB will be in Cyprus next month for talks with the government, concerning the EuroAsia Interconnector project following reports that the project has run into financial problems. The issue was discussed extensively on August 29 at the House energy committee, attended by Finance Minister Makis Keravnos, Energy Minister George Papanastasiou and the CEO of EUROASIA, Nasos Ktorides. The government has hinted that it might either underwrite loans for or directly participate in the project as an equity shareholder. EUROASIA, a company registered in Cyprus, and the project's manager applied to the EIB for a €580m loan. But recently it emerged that an external consultant hired by the EIB voiced reservations about funding the project. The European Commission has designated the EuroAsia Interconnector as a Project of Common Interest, allocating to it €657m via the Connecting Europe Facility. Another €100m has been pledged via the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Given the new price tag of €1.9bn for the Cyprus-to-Crete stretch of the cable, the financing shortfall currently stands at just under €1.2bn. A €580m loan from the EIB would plug part of that gap.

GREEK CYPRIOTS

Economic Developments

On August 27, Hellenic Bank announced that it posted a profit of €160.2m during the first half of 2023. The bank noted that its profitability was primarily driven by increased income from Central Bank placements and debt securities.

On August 29, Finance Minister Makis Keravnos stressed the need for banks to absorb a portion of the cost resulting from the consecutive interest rate increases in order to close the gap between lending and deposit interest rates. Keravnos had previously stated that the rise in bank rates is unjustified. Keravnos asked in letters sent to banks to assume their

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responsibilities towards the Cypriot economy and society given that they should have particular sensibilities regarding their corporate social responsibility.

Domestic Developments

On August 27 and 28 violent clashes between Greek Cypriot far right assailants and Syrian migrants erupted in the village of Chlorakas, Paphos. On August 28, Syrian residents in Chlorakas held a protest to demonstrate against a racially motivated attack against them the previous night, following an anti-immigrant protest by local residents and supporters, which turned violent. The local residents were calling for the restoration of a sense of security in their community, deportation of migrants and the state to stop accepting other asylum applications. A new wave of protests against migrants began after the Syrian demonstration wrapped up, following assurances by Justice Minister Anna Procopiou that the government would take care of the problem and repair damages. Migrants who own businesses saw their shop-fronts smashed and vehicles overturned, while foreign nationals reported falling victim to violent attacks. The attacks are believed to have been instigated by far-right party ELAM. The incidents were widely condemned by all parties except ELAM. Earlier in the month the government had decided that migrants residing in a specific apartment complex in Chlorakas would be moved to Kofinou. The decision came after the building's residents protested over the lack of electricity and water supply. Local authorities said the power was cut because tenants had been stealing it from the Electricity Authority.

Labour Relations and Trade Unions

On August 3 it was announced that the Cyprus Mail newspaper employers had reinstated the cost-of-living allowance (CoLA) in July, which they had unilaterally terminated at the beginning of the year. In its circular, the Board of Directors of the Editors' Union stated that the company had begun paying CoLA at

its new revised level to all the staff it employs including employees who have been hired in 2023. On July 10, the staff had carried out a 24-hour notice with the only request being the payment of CoLA. After a meeting between employees and employers, the latter promised that from the end of July it would start paying CoLA again to all staff, including the newly hired employees who never had this benefit before.

On August 8, a group of employees at the port of Larnaca organised a work stoppage against their employer, management company Kition Ocean Port Ltd, as the latter had not yet signed the mediation proposal of the Ministry of Labour, which the port workers had. It should be noted that after several months of negotiations, the Department of Labour Relations sent a mediation proposal on March 27, 2023, which, although the workers did not deem it sufficiently satisfactory, especially in terms of the amount of pay, they accepted it at the General Assembly of dock workers on May 11 2023, considering that under the circumstances it would help promote industrial peace in the port industry. However, the same was not done by the employer who refused to sign the text that the employees had already approved, and they demanded that terms be inserted which had not been included in the mediation proposal and had not been subject to negotiations. The reaction of the Federation of Employers and Industrialists (OEB) to the work stoppage of the workers at Larnaca Port was strong. They characterised the action as "unacceptable", condemning it "in the strongest possible way". The trade unions reported that the stoppages of the port workers indicate the feeling of despair amongst the workers because of the unjustified and unethical behaviour of the employer, who refuses to sign the agreement, which concerns their employment future at the port and which had been agreed before the Mediation Service.

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The Council of Ministers is expected to decide within August on the proposed forms of flexible and remote work for the public service sector. It is recalled that the Ministry of Labour had already submitted to the Parliamentary Labour Committee a bill on teleworking in the private sector. The timeframe for the implementation of such forms of work in the public sector, as foreseen by the Recovery and Resilience Plan, is the end of 2024. According to the Plan, a study will be carried out on what other countries allow as flexible forms of employment and their applicability in the public service will be examined to ensure the smooth running of the services. This study will be the first milestone set by the Recovery and Resilience Plan. The second milestone is the implementation of flexible work by the end of 2024. The forms of flexible work under consideration for the public sector, in addition to teleworking, include flexible working hours. Also included is the issue of reduced employment with reduced pay for specific categories of employees.

The year has seen continuous increases in the prices of basic goods, energy and fuel, as well as successive increases in interest rates, creating a climate of uncertainty in the economy and in workers' standard of living. Based on this data, within the framework of the Labour Consultative Body (ESS), in September, trade unions will focus on three labour issues, managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will determine the future of labour relations. The priorities of the trade union movement in the next quarter include the burning issues concerning:

- the revision of the National Minimum Wage (NMW),
- the extension of collective bargaining agreements,
- pension reform.

With regard to revising the NMW, the trade unions have imperatively set their positions and sent

a message to the Ministry of Finance that all the parameters that make up workers' needs should be evaluated in relation to inflationary trends and the cost of living and that the recommendations from the EU institutions should be followed in order to create conditions for a substantial improvement in the minimum wage. As far as the extension of collective agreements in the private sector is concerned, this issue is perhaps the biggest challenge for the trade union movement in Cyprus and in the EU more broadly. The official figures of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) state that Cyprus presently covers 43% of workers through collective bargaining and it is in 16th place among the 27 EU member states. For the controversial subject of pension reform, trade unions constantly request that in the context of comprehensive reform, the government should correct and improve the actuarial readjustment of 12% in pensions for those who choose to retire at the age of 63. As a whole, the trade union movement favours management of 12% in a balanced pension reform package that takes into account and adequately ensures the long-term sustainability of the Social Insurance Treasury, but it emphasises that no pensions should be below the poverty line.

TURKISH CYPRIOTS

Economic Developments

According to the Statistical Institute, the consumer price index was 80.9% higher in August 2023 compared to August 2022. Consumer prices had risen by 8.1% in August alone. The highest monthly inflation was in healthcare, where an increase of 12.5% was recorded. Prices in housing and utilities, transportation, and restaurants and hotels categories went up by 11.5%, 9.8% and 9.3% respectively. The monthly food inflation was recorded as 10.1%.

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According to an article by Esra Aygin, which was published on August 27 in Cyprus Mail, some 7,000 permissions were granted to foreigners to buy property in the TRNC since January 2021. Based on the Turkish Cypriot official gazette data, Aygin wrote that a total of 1,179 permissions were given in 2021, and 2,810 permissions were given in 2022. In the first eight months of 2023, the figure has already reached almost 3,000. The buyers are mostly Turkish nationals investing in the Kyrenia area. They are followed by an ever-increasing number of Russians investing in Iskele (Trikomo); this is facilitated by the fact that Turkey is not taking part in international sanctions slapped on Russia. Russian news agency Itar Tass reported earlier in August that some 50,000 Russians live in the northern part of Cyprus, where the Kremlin recently said it would open an office to provide consular services. Following Russians, other buyers are from Israel, Ukraine and Iran. The actual figure is likely to be much higher than 7,000 as it is common practice for foreigners to buy property through lawyers to get around legal formalities. According to Mertkan Hamit, an economist quoted in the article, “the property sales generate an annual 1 billion dollars,” which is almost one third of the GDP. Also cited in the article is a judge Fadil Aksun, who in a speech to mark the closing of the 2022-2023 judicial year in June, made a stark warning about the large amounts of money coming into the TRNC for real estate purchases without any “control over whether a real estate purchase indeed takes place”. Aksun added that the court determined 12 flats purchased as part of a money laundering scheme in the 2022-2023 judicial year.

The UBP-DP-YDP government granted a tax amnesty of €59 million to T&T, which operates the Ercan (Tymbou) airport, citing the losses incurred by the company due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The decision attracted criticism from the opposition. Responding to questions in the Parliament, the Minister of Public Works and Transportation Erhan

Arikli said, “We needed to reach a settlement with the company and open the airport without having to resort to litigation. We couldn’t go to court because we couldn’t fulfil the conditions of the contract. We also didn’t have the authority to cancel the contract. During the time when we couldn’t hand over the site, we had to compensate the losses incurred by the company.” He added that since the privatisation of the airport €271 million in revenue had been transferred to the public coffers.

Towards the end of the month, the Minister of Education, Nazım Çavuşoğlu, announced that 83% of the available spots offered by Turkish Cypriot universities in Turkey’s 2023 higher education placement exam have been filled. In other words, a total of 14,973 Turkish students have been placed in Turkish Cypriot universities. Çavuşoğlu expressed confidence that these will translate into actual enrolments and emphasised the need for continued efforts and collaboration among stakeholders to achieve this goal.

Relations with Turkey

According to the report of Turkish Cypriot weekly Cyprus Today, which came out on August 5, speaking during an interview with BRT, the Turkish ambassador, Metin Feyzioğlu, highlighted the unique role of the Turkish Embassy in Nicosia, which combines foreign policy with development and economic cooperation for the TRNC. The embassy aims to bolster the TRNC’s economy and infrastructure to ensure self-sufficiency, Feyzioğlu said. Feyzioğlu pointed out that Turkey has provided the equivalent of €711 million of support between 2015 and 2022, while the EU has only offered €217 million, with conditions, in the same period. Since 1974, Turkey has extended a total of US\$9 billion in support to the Turkish Cypriot people, he added. “This is not work done expecting something in return,” he said. “Whatever has been done so far, we have done it together ... including the roads we drive on, the dam and the water

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project.” Feyzioğlu also talked about the importance of the ongoing irrigation project, stating that once completed, the Mesaoria plain will be transformed, leading to a higher level of prosperity for the TRNC. Regarding Famagusta Port, the ambassador proposed its privatisation under a “build-operate-transfer” model aimed at improving passenger and freight transportation conditions without using public resources. A new port is also being planned for Famagusta, he added. Feyzioğlu urged Turkish Cypriots to “not just think big, but think much bigger”.

Domestic Developments

On August 11, Prime Minister Ünal Üstel announced a cabinet reshuffle, which was limited to the senior coalition partner National Unity Party (UBP) ministers of the three-party coalition between the UBP, Democratic Party (DP) and Rebirth Party (YDP). Özdemir Berova (UBP, Kyrenia) has been appointed as the Minister of Finance replacing Alişan Şan (UBP, Nicosia); Hakan Dinçyürek (UBP, Famagusta) has been appointed as the Minister of Health, replacing İzlem Gürçağ Altuğra (UBP, Kyrenia); Hüseyin Çavuş (UBP, Famagusta) has become the Minister of Agriculture replacing Dursun Oğuz (UBP, Famagusta), and Sadık Gardiyanoglu (UBP, Nicosia) replaced Hasan Tacoy (UBP, Nicosia) as the Minister of Labour and Social Security. Finally, Dursun Oğuz replaced Ziya Öztürkler (UBP, Morphou) as the Minister of Interior.

The attorney general filed a case against the journalist and trade unionist Ali Kışmır for “insulting and defaming the morality of the TRNC security forces command”. The crime of which he is accused carries a maximum jail sentence of 10 years, and the trial is set to begin on October 6. The accusation relates to a Facebook post written by Kışmır in August 2020, in the run up to the presidential election, where he criticised Ankara for interfering in the elections. Kışmır will be represented in court by the head of the Cyprus Turkish bar association Hasan Esendağlı.

Two primary school textbooks that were revised (without the approval of their authors) before the upcoming academic year have been criticised by teachers and parents for containing “non-secular” content. Reportedly, in the second-grade Turkish textbook, a teacher is depicted as a woman wearing a hijab. Parents who were organized on social media under the name of “the Movement for the Struggle for Secular Democratic Education” protested the Ministry of Education, and called on the government not to send the new books to schools.

On August 11, a group of 25 irregular migrants who entered the TRNC illegally along with two human traffickers were arrested after being caught on the northern coast at Kaplica (Davlos). The judge in charge ordered that the migrants be remanded in custody at the central prison for no more than a month. The two human trafficking suspects were ordered to be held in police custody for three days pending further investigations.

Labour Relations and Trade Unions

The public servants’ trade union (KTAMS)’s latest cost of living report showed that the poverty line for a family of four has reached TL14,867 (€517) as of July 31; the net minimum wage is TL15,750 (€547). The KTAMS chairperson, Güven Bengihan, pointed out that due to soaring inflation, purchasing power is steadily eroding, leaving workers struggling to get by. As a solution, he called for the cost-of-living allowance to be applied to the salaries of both public and private sector employees every two months. At the moment, only the public and semi-public sector workers enjoy the cost-of-living allowance, and it is applied every six months.

In a press statement, the primary school teachers’ trade union (KTOS) criticised the Ministry of Education, for failing to secure the physical safety of school buildings and to address the needs of the ever-increasing number of foreign pupils in schools who do

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not speak Turkish and students with special needs. "The most basic physical needs such as general maintenance and repair of school buildings ... and school yards, have not been met," the statement said. "No solution has been suggested for overcrowded classrooms which..." the ministry has allotted no money "to meet basic expenses such as cleaning", and that janitors have not been hired to clean the schools, the statement added.

On August 22, the leader of the Electricity Authority (Kib-Tek) employees trade union (El-Sen), Ahmet Tugcu announced that the electricity supply of public institutions would be cut off if their debts to the Kib-Tek were not settled the following week. "If the accumulated debts and delays to instalment payments are not paid up, El-Sen will share the list of indebted public institutions and will have their electricity cut off next week," he said. Later in the month, on August 28, the trade union cut off the electricity supply of the public broadcaster BRT and the Hala Sultan Mosque complex in Haspolat (Mia Milia) over unpaid bills. Kib-Tek's general manager Dalman Aydin confirmed that the BRT's electricity had been cut off but disagreed with the method used. He added that he had received no information regarding the situation at the Hala Sultan Mosque. Aydin also said the Ministry of Finance was indebted to Kib-Tek, adding "from time to time, there are disruptions and delays between two state institutions".



**SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF AUTHORS****Yiannis Charalambous**

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.

Gianna Chatzigeorgiou

Gianna Chatzigeorgiou holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Crete and a Master's in Social and Political Theory from the University of Cyprus. Her research interests include issues of collective action and social movements, political violence, social class, and social inequality.

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.

Enis Porat

Enis Porat is a PhD candidate in International Relations at Cyprus International University, where he works as research fellow at the Center for Cyprus and Mediterranean Studies.

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