



## 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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AUGUST 24

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## HEADLINES

A tripartite meeting on the sidelines of the upcoming UN General Assembly in New York in September between United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, Nicos Christodoulides and Ersin Tatar, remains uncertain.

Nicosia green lights Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan's attendance at informal EU Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels in an attempt to link Euro-Turkish relations to the Cyprus problem and unlock stalemated negotiations.

The Aphrodite natural gas field consortium submits an updated development plan with an estimated cost of \$4bn.

The Turkish Cypriot Hoteliers' Association has warned of a potential economic recession, citing negative developments in the three main drivers of the economy: tourism, higher education, and real estate.





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PODCASTS in SEPTEMBER:  
No podcasts in September



PODCASTS in OCTOBER:  
*No podcasts in October*

PUBLICATIONS in SEPTEMBER:  
*No publications in September*



PUBLICATIONS in OCTOBER:  
*No publications in October*

EVENTS in SEPTEMBER:  
*No events planned so far*



EVENTS in OCTOBER:  
*Hubert Faustmann, Camille Lons, Yahia Zoubir, Erato Kozakou - Markoulis and Naser al-Tamimi*  
**Cyprus Forum - Venue C - Panel Discussion:**  
**„Saviour, Ally, Competitor? Which Role for China in the Middle East and North Africa?“**  
Date: Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024  
Time: 11:30 - 13:00 (EEST / Cyprus time)  
Location: Nicosia Old Town Hall - Cornaro  
[Save your Seat.](#)

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## CYPRUS PROBLEM & INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

The month of August began with confusion over an alleged invitation for a potential tripartite meeting between United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, Nicos Christodoulides and Ersin Tatar, respectively.<sup>1</sup>

On August 3, Christodoulides announced that he had accepted an invitation from Guterres to attend a tripartite meeting on August 13 with Tatar. However, Tatar responded on August 4 that he had not been invited to such a meeting and that, even if he had been invited, he would not attend. On August 5, government spokesman Konstantinos Letymbiotis clarified that Christodoulides was not invited to a tripartite meeting, but he had been consulted over such a meeting. Meanwhile, reports in the Turkish Cypriot press stated that the UN denied either leader had been invited to attend a tripartite meeting. UN spokesman Farhan Haq told the Cyprus Mail that no invitations had been sent. As of month's end efforts were ongoing to arrange a tripartite meeting that could be held on the sidelines of the upcoming UN General Assembly New York in September 2024. August 14 marked the 50th 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 intervened on July 20, 1974, in response to a military coup, orchestrated by the military junta then ruling Greece, that aimed at toppling the Greek Cypriot president Archbishop Makarios III.

<sup>1</sup>The 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

On August 24, a meeting of the Cyprus Problem Political Group took place. The meeting reportedly discussed issues regarding the group's operation, recent developments regarding the Cyprus problem, and relations between Turkey and the European Union. The group was first created by Christodoulides in April 2024, and it consists of 12 members, including past and present MPs from across the political spectrum and lawyers. The meeting came after the government had announced that the National Council will convene on September 13 to inform party leaders of the latest developments regarding the Cyprus problem, ahead of Christodoulides' trip to New York for the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024.

On August 26, Deputy Government Spokesperson Yiannis Antoniou reiterated that Christodoulides had responded positively to plans to hold a tripartite meeting. Meanwhile, Tatar reiterated to Turkish news channel NTV that he would not return to talks if the Turkish Cypriot side's sovereignty and equality are not recognised. "Without direct flights, direct trade and direct contacts [3Ds], it is not possible for me to go ahead with trilateral official talks," Tatar stressed.

On August 29, Greek Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis met with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan during the informal EU Foreign Affairs Council, also known as "Gymnich", held in Brussels. Fidan's meeting with Gerapetritis reportedly provided an opportunity for further work to be done towards making some progress on the Cyprus problem. Commenting on the meeting, Gerapetritis noted that the discussion took place in a positive

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).





atmosphere, with the Cyprus problem being a key topic of discussion. Gerapetritis stated that he had also discussed Greco-Turkish relations with Fidan, as well as preparations for an upcoming meeting between Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Turkish President Recep Tayip Erdoğan during the UN General Assembly in September 2024. From his end, Fidan characterised the meeting as a positive and important development in rejuvenating Turkey's relations with the EU. On the Cyprus problem, Fidan stated: "We believe that the revitalisation of Turkey-EU relations is in the interest of all. However, we stressed that linking the Cyprus problem with Turkey-EU relations is not a healthy method and will not yield results."

Nicosia was satisfied with some of Fidan's references, which were distant from the hardline rhetoric used by Tatar. According to government spokesman Konstantinos Letymbiotis, although Fidan proposed decoupling Euro-Turkish relations from the Cyprus problem, he did so in a mild manner. Letymbiotis also mentioned that Fidan had not discussed two states when talking about the Cyprus problem nor Tatar's three demands for resuming negotiations. The Greek Cypriot side had accepted the presence of the Turkish foreign minister at Gymnich as part of the implementation of a strategic plan to link Euro-Turkish relations to the Cyprus problem. The move was criticised domestically by co-governing parties, including socialists EDEK, who accused Christodoulides of making concessions by allowing Fidan to attend.

The number of people crossing from the Republic to the north via crossing points has decreased in the first seven months of 2024 compared to the same period last year. Crossings by Greek Cypriots saw a slight decline, falling by nearly 3% compared to last year. A total of 1.68 million crossings were recorded this year, down from 1.73 million between January and July of the previous year. (For more on this, please see the Turkish Cypriots section.)

## HYDROCARBONS

On August 8, Energy Minister George Papanastasiou stated that Cyprus will respond in writing to the European Commission regarding the latter's request to be refunded for the €69m in EU grants already disbursed for the troubled LNG project. The government had received a letter from the European Commission in late July 2024 asking Cyprus to return the amount amid serious questions, including potential corruption surrounding the LNG contract awarded back in December 2019.

On August 29, Papanastasiou discussed ways to speed up the exploitation of natural gas discoveries in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with Egypt's Petroleum Minister, Karim Badawi. The ministers discussed the possibility of using Egypt's existing infrastructure to aid the process of extracting and exploiting Cyprus' natural gas, with the possibility of transporting gas from Cyprus' EEZ to Egypt to be liquefied and then exported to the rest of the world.

On September 1, the partners of the Aphrodite gas field submitted an updated development plan with an estimated cost of \$4bn. The plan provides for a floating production unit, four production wells and a nominal maximum production capacity of approximately 800m cubic feet per day. The natural gas will be exported via a pipeline to the Egyptian transmission system. On August 26, the partners had received a notice of breach from the Cyprus energy ministry in connection with the non-achievement of a milestone, namely the performance of the Front-End Engineering Design. The energy ministry will consider the updated plan and the way forward, and it was expected to reply in two weeks. The Aphrodite partners are Israel's NewMed, with a 30% holding; the US's Chevron and BG Cyprus (Shell), each holding a 35% stake. Discovered in 2011, the Aphrodite reservoir lies in Block 12 of Cyprus' EEZ and is estimated to hold up to 3.6 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas.





## GREEK CYPRIOTS

### Gender Developments

No notable developments occurred.

### Economic Developments in Times of Green Transition

On August 2, the Environment Department announced an extension of the application deadline for a grant scheme aiming to encourage businesses in Cyprus to reduce their gas emissions. According to the announcement, the new deadline has been set for September 30, 2024, or until the scheme's budget of €5m is fully allocated. The department explained that this extension is part of its ongoing efforts to support businesses in adopting sustainable practices.

On August 7, the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) announced the launch of the Shorewinner project. This initiative is aligned with the European Green Deal and seeks to enhance skills and promote growth in the wind energy sector. The project supports the EU's ambitious targets of achieving, by 2030, 60 GW of wind power and 1 GW of marine power (which is the energy carried by ocean waves, tides, salinity, and ocean temperature differences), increasing to 300 GW and 40 GW, respectively, by 2050.

### Domestic Developments

The government will propose Professor Costas Kadis as Cyprus' EU commissioner. Kadis' experience from serving the Republic of Cyprus in various posts and his academic qualifications were the main reasons for his nomination. Kadis has served as Minister of Health, Education and Agriculture at various times. He is a professor of biodiversity conservation. He has also worked for the Enalio Environmental Management Centre of the Cyprus Development

Bank, the Research Promotion Foundation of Cyprus and Frederick University. In March 2008, he was appointed leader of the Greek Cypriot Technical Committee on the Environment.

According to the results of an online survey dated August 19, 60% of Cypriots are dissatisfied with President Christodoulides' tenure and his handling of domestic matters, as well as the Cyprus problem. The survey, conducted by RetailZoom on behalf of daily Politis, questioned the public on the state of governance in Cyprus, including an evaluation of cabinet members, party leaders and potential presidential candidates for 2028. According to the daily, Christodoulides emerged from the findings as a president who does not keep his promises, appoints relatives and friends, and is focused on re-election for a second term, to the detriment of effecting necessary changes. In terms of the Cyprus problem, there was a lack of confidence, with 39% of respondents opting for "Not at all satisfactory" and 25% for "Not satisfactory". Overall, 72% of respondents did not believe Christodoulides should seek a second term.

### Foreign Relations

There was nothing to report.

### Future of Work, Labour Relations & Trade Unions

On August 3, the Union of Cypriot Pensioners (EKYSY) issued a statement calling for the improvement of the rights arising from the social card for pensioners. The social card is granted to all persons who have their habitual residence in Cyprus, over the age of 63, regardless of whether they receive a pension, as well as to pensioners who receive disability pensions. The General Secretary of EKYSY, emphasized that the social card provides low-income pensioners with free bus transportation, while the rest of the pensioners are entitled to a 50% discount on the fare. Additional benefits include discounts on theater performances, exhibitions organised the State





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Exhibitions Authority, and various services offered by the Cyprus Sports Organization (KOA) and the Cyprus Football Association (KOP).

On August 6, the Secretary General of the Confederation of Cyprus Workers (SEK) and the Deputy Minister of Social Welfare discussed the findings of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and Eurostat, which revealed that one in four Cypriot workers is unable to take vacation due to financial difficulties. During the discussion, participants exchanged views on the issue and stressed the need for enhanced social interventions to strengthen the financial support of workers and improve their living conditions. Possible measures to alleviate the challenges faced by the most vulnerable groups in society were also explored. It is also reported that possible ways to relieve the most vulnerable groups of the population were also discussed.

On August 9, the Pancyprian Federation of Labour (PEO) and the Confederation of Cyprus Workers met with the Director General of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare to discuss the establishment of a sectoral collective agreement within Councils of Community Volunteering. The goal is to continue the social dialogue with the aim of reaching an agreement by autumn.

On the same day, members of Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEB) issued a statement of their positions regarding the widely debated issue of the Great Sea Interconnector, which pertains to Cyprus's connection with the broader European network. The statement acknowledges the potential benefits of the project but also raises concerns regarding the geopolitical and technical risks involved, its sustainability, the extent of government participation, the allocation of construction costs among participating states and the terms of operation to safeguard national energy security.

On August 16, delivery drivers held a protest to

demand protection during their work due to the frequent violent attacks they receive. Protestors reported that they are often assaulted by unknown individuals, mainly in the evenings, who steal their earnings while they are on duty.

On August 29, the Director of the Department of Labour Relations submitted a mediation proposal concerning the renewal of the collective agreement in the hotel industry after eight months of intense negotiations. The mediating proposal put forward by the Department of Labour Relations includes wage increases totalling 8.5%, which equates to 1.7% per year. In addition to wage increases, the proposal includes legislative provision mandating the payment of the 13th salary to hotel employees, regardless of whether their workplace has a collective agreement in place, and an increase in holiday pay. Throughout the negotiations, trade unions advocated for annual increases exceeding 2%, while hotel owners proposed an increase of approximately 1.25%. It has been reported that the upcoming collective agreement for hotels will last five years, a significant milestone in labour relations. The main point of contention centred on the unions' efforts to transpose key elements of the collective agreement into legislation. It is important to note that, in Cyprus, collective agreements are not legally binding. When asked to comment on the proposal, the unions SEK and PEO and the professional associations of hoteliers, STEK and PASYXE, stated it is too early to take a position on the proposal, noting that it requires further analysis. PEO expressed concerns stating that "there are several issues that leave us unable to agree on the overall package of the mediation proposal" presented by the Ministry of Labour.

On August 30, the Cabinet approved the ratification and implementation of the International Labor Organization's Convention on the Elimination of Violence and Harassment at Work through the adoption of three related bills. The new institution-

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al framework establishes specific responsibilities and procedures for both the state and employers, as well as penalties for offenders. The framework places particular emphasis on the responsibility of organisations and businesses to prevent harassing behaviour in the workplace. In its statement, SEK expressed satisfaction, noting that after numerous interventions, the Cabinet's actions successfully underscored the necessity of expediting the promotion of the ILO directive on violence and harassment at work.

A recent report by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) highlighted that 2023 was a year of labour disputes. Reference is made to the general strike that took place on January 26, 2023, due to the deadlock in negotiations between social partners over demands for an increase in the cost-of-living allowance (COLA).

Additionally, research by the Gallup Platform, titled "State of the Global Workplace 2024: The Voice of the World's Employees", indicated that the majority of Cypriot workers in 2023 actively sought change in their working environment by looking for new job opportunities.<sup>2</sup> The study examined topics such as employee mental health, the impact of economic and political factors on well-being, and the influence of managers on both employee well-being and organisational performance.<sup>3</sup> Lastly the research revealed that only 18% of Cypriot workers felt a strong commitment to helping their organisation achieve its goals.

According to the results of the Labour Force Survey for the second quarter of 2024, the labour force in

<sup>2</sup>Kyriakidou M. "The Cypriots looked for a "way out" of their work", StockWatch, 21/08/2024. Available from: <https://www.stockwatch.com.cy/el/article/ergasiaka/epsaxan-diexodo-apo-tin-ergasia-toys-oi-kyprio> [Accessed 02/09/2024]

Cyprus amounted to 511,423 individuals representing 65% of the population, of which 487,663 people were employed. The number of unemployed was 23,760 people resulting in an unemployment rate of 4.6%, compared to 5.7% in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

### TURKISH CYPRIOTS

#### Gender Developments

No notable developments occurred during the month of August.

#### Economic Developments in Times of Green Transition

According to the Statistical Institute, the consumer price index was 64.75% higher in August 2024 compared to August 2023. Consumer prices had risen by 3.28% in August alone; the inflation rate in the first eight months of 2024 has reached 42.17%. The monthly food inflation was 4.02%. The highest monthly inflation was in the "restaurants and hotels" segment where an increase of 5.25% was recorded; the second highest was in the "leisure and culture" segment with 5.16%.

According to a report in Cyprus Today, Dimag Caginer, president of the Hoteliers Association, said that high inflation has made the TRNC unaffordable for European tourists. As hotels raise prices to cover costs, they become more expensive than competitors like south Cyprus and Spain, deterring package tour visitors, Caginer said. He pointed out that even large hotels have seen a 20-25% decrease in occupancy rates during peak season, while smaller hotels struggled more, with some closing or converting to

<sup>3</sup>Gallup (2024), State of the Global Workplace: The Voice of the World's Employees.

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student dormitories. “There is a serious decline in the number of British and European tourists, which is the main market of small hotels,” he added. Caginer also pointed out the decline in the number of students coming from overseas for higher education, as well as the problems in the real estate sector, and likened the problems in the economy to “a perfect storm”; “normally when we have a crisis, one or maximum two sectors are usually affected at the same time, but the locomotive sectors of higher education, real estate and tourism are experiencing problems at the same time for different reasons. Therefore, with the beginning of September-October, the country’s economy will rapidly shrink and contract,” he warned, and called for a comprehensive economic strategy to prevent further economic collapse.

According to the statistics provided by the Ministry of Tourism, the number of arrivals via air and seaports (excluding TRNC citizens) went up from 944,231, in the first seven months of 2023, to 1,166,999 in the same period in 2024: an increase of 23.6%. There was an increase of 28.5% in the number of Turkish citizens and a 3.5% rise in the number of other foreign nationals. In the “third countries” category (which excludes Turkish citizens), the highest number of arrivals was from Russia with 26,827 (a decline of 6.4% compared to the same period in 2023), followed by Iranians (21,691; a decline of 4.4%), Germans (18,172; a rise of 11.1%), and British (11,775; a decline of 13.6%). Arrivals from African countries, mainly those who come as university students, decreased significantly in 2023. The number of passengers arriving from Nigeria, which was 12,842 in 2022, decreased to 5,133 in 2023. In the first seven months of 2023, the number of arrivals from Nigeria were 3,285, while it was only 1,761 in 2024. The number of arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo also fell: from 4,185 in 2022 to 1,330 in 2023. Arrivals from the DRC decreased from 852 in the first seven months of 2023 to 442 from January to July 2024. This shows that the

trend, which started in 2023, continued in the first seven months of 2024.

On a different note, the number of Greek Cypriots using Turkish Cypriot air and seaports went up by 43.3%, reaching 3,271 during the first seven months of 2024. The number of arrivals (including Greek Cypriots) via crossing points, on the other hand, decreased by 4.1%, from 2,935,642 to 2,813,848. The figure for Greek Cypriots slightly decreased, too, from 1,728,281 to 1,680,266. The two biggest groups who used the crossing points to visit the northern part of the island were the citizens of Greece (149,327) and the UK (149,782). Although the overall number of overnight stays increased by 8.4%, the number of overnight stays by foreign nationals, excluding Turkish citizens, went down by 17%.

The boom in the construction sector has slowed following the Greek Cypriot administration’s recent arrests of property developers and estate agents, according to Estate Agents Association board member Huseyin Sadeghi. Most recently, a 25-year-old Israeli national was released on €92,000 bail after having been accused of “misusing” Greek Cypriot property in the north. Sadeghi pointed out that, in addition to the decline in new home buyers, there is a trend of third-country nationals (i.e., foreigners other than Turkish citizens) selling their existing homes. “There is also a decrease in real estate prices. Foreign nationals are hesitant to engage, and those who have purchased homes are now selling them for less than they paid”, he said. Sadeghi added that this situation creates a chain reaction, as the weakening of the real estate and construction sectors directly affects 70 to 80 other industries and indirectly impacts more than 200 sectors.

A total of 12,180 Turkish students were admitted to Turkish Cypriot universities through Turkey’s central placement exam, marking an 11% decline from the 13,700 students admitted the previous year.

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### Relations with Turkey

In August, three new officials began their posts in north Cyprus: Yasin Ekrem Serim, the new Turkish Ambassador in Nicosia; Brigadier General İlker Görgülü, the new commander of the Security Forces (GKK); and Emre Kaya, the new AKP representative in north Cyprus.

### Domestic Developments

On the last day of July, the Bar Association (KTBB) called for legislative improvements to better support victims of human trafficking and to enhance the investigation and prosecution of these crimes. The KTBB urged Parliament to prioritise the “Combating Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims Bill”, which they had submitted. In a statement marking the recent World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the KTBB highlighted the persistence of modern-day slavery in various forms. “... [I]nternational criminal networks, in collaboration with local entities, are using methods that perpetuate modern slavery”, the statement said. The KTBB noted that, from 2018 to 2021, legal aid services were provided to victims through a hotline set up under the “Justice for Victims of Human Trafficking” project, which was initially conducted with the Cyprus Turkish Human Rights Foundation and was later transferred to the Human Rights Platform after the project’s conclusion. “The majority of individuals who sought our help were seasonal workers, construction workers, university students, and nightclub employees”, they said. “During the project, we identified 220 victims in Nicosia, 23 in Kyrenia, two in Morphou, four in Famagusta, and six in Trikomo.” The statement emphasized that the lack of a legal definition of human trafficking as a crime at the time made it difficult to address the complaints received. In response, a workshop was held with other non-governmental organisations, government officials and politicians to stress the need for changes to the penal code. Human trafficking was eventually included in the penal code in 2020, but KTBB noted that its implementation has been insufficient.

On August 28, over 100 migrant workers reported to the police that they had been trafficked, according to the Human Rights Platform (IHP). The IHP said it was evaluating the case, which was initially exposed on August 26 by Özgür Gazete, a newspaper, that published graphic images of the shacks where a large number of migrant workers, brought in to pick citrus fruit, were living in Morphou. “... [T]he remaining workers, around 600, have requested our help but are hesitant to approach the police due to safety concerns”, the IHP statement said. “We urgently appeal to the authorities: Immediate steps must be taken to ensure the safety of human trafficking victims and to guarantee their access to justice. It is unacceptable that victims who have already provided their testimonies are being sent back to camps with poor living conditions, as this risks re-victimizing them.”

National Unity Party (UBP) leader and Prime Minister Ünal Üstel has officially submitted his application to run for re-election. Meanwhile, Nicosia MP Hasan Taçoy, who is also running for the UBP leadership, has raised concerns about the voter registration process. Taçoy is challenging Üstel for the party leadership, with the election scheduled for the party’s upcoming conference on September 21. The UBP began its conference period on July 22, meaning that only members who had been with the party for at least 180 days before this date are eligible to vote. However, Taçoy has expressed doubts about whether this rule is being properly enforced.

### Future of Work, Labour Relations & Trade Unions

On August 15, a scuffle broke out between Prime Minister Ünal Üstel’s entourage and the administration of the El-Sen trade union during Üstel’s visit to the Teknecik (Trapeza) power plant, which is run by Kib-Tek (the Public Electricity Authority). The visit followed days of rolling blackouts, after which Üstel raised the possibility of “sabotage” as a potential





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cause for the damaged machinery and black smoke billowing from the plant's chimney: "Never in history has so much black smoke come out of steam turbines. Never in history have five generators stopped and malfunctioned at once", Üstel said that day, adding that the police would launch an investigation into the matter. El-Sen leader Ahmet Tuğcu, who was arrested and later released after giving a statement to the police, responded to the Prime Minister's comments following the altercation: "It is impossible to keep all the generators running simultaneously due to the poor-quality fuel and the lack of spare parts. We call on the Prime Minister once again to take his role seriously and focus on his actual job. He should stop talking nonsense and lying to the public, and take the necessary steps to find a permanent solution." Tuğcu added, "We expect actions that reflect the gravity of his position. They are mismanaging and sabotaging us with bad fuel, while we tirelessly repair what's broken, working day and night."

After a visit to some schools which are undergoing renovations ahead of the next academic year, the leader of the primary school teachers' trade union (KTOS), Burak Mavis criticised the government, saying that portacabins have ceased to be a temporary solution, and that they "have even been placed in schools where the buildings are structurally sound but that are overcrowded". Portacabins were introduced at schools after a round of inspections following two deadly earthquakes in Turkey last year found a number of school buildings to be unsafe. However, Mavis said on August 20 that patience was running out with the government over the continued use of temporary structures. He said that instead of portacabins, schools should erect buildings made of steel or reinforced concrete and called on the Union of Chambers of Engineers and Architects (KTMMOB) to take such plans forward. Additionally, he said the earthquake committee had not yet received earthquake safety reports regarding a total of 66 schools, while the cases of 58 schools had been discussed.

He added that of those 58 schools, some, which required renovations, have now had their renovations completed, while others are ongoing.

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## 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.

### 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.

### Sertac Sonan

Prof. Dr. Sertac Sonan works in Political Science & International Relations Department at Cyprus International University. He is the Director of the Centre for Cyprus and Mediterranean Studies at the same university.

### Stavros Stavrou

Stavros Stavrou holds a Bachelor's degree in History from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Warwick and a Master's in Industrial and Employment Relations from International Training Centre of the ILO in collaboration with University of Turin. His research focuses on the employment relations of migrants and refugees, trade unions, and social inequalities.





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