



Contents

1.	New and Upcoming Publications	2
2.	FES Cyprus Events	3
3.	Cyprus Problem.....	5
4.	Hydrocarbons	6
5.	Greek Cypriots	7
	Economic Developments.....	7
	Domestic Developments	8
	Labour Relations and Trade Unions	9
5.	Turkish Cypriots	12
	Economic Developments.....	12
	Relations with Turkey.....	12
	Domestic Developments	14
	Labour Relations and Trade Unions	14

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1. New and Upcoming Publications

February

**The LGBTI movement in Cyprus
Activism, law, and change across the divide,
Report 2019**



**IS CYPRUS A NEW MIGRATION ROUTE TO
EUROPE? 2019 Report**



Trade Union Report 2019

May

**Socio-Economic and Political Impact of
Austerity Policies in North Cyprus:
A Brief Assessment**



**Politics and Society in north Cyprus: a survey
study, 2019 Report**



**Corruption Perceptions in North Cyprus: 2019
Report**

2. FES Cyprus Events

January



Friday, 10th January 2020, 6.30 – 9.30 pm

CAD / Australian High Commission / FES

Workshop

**Famagusta Dialogues
Proposal & Work Plan
Turkish Cypriot Famagusta Community
Consultation**

Ezic Restaurant Meeting Room, Famagusta,
Cyprus

Not open to the public



**Saturday, 11th January 2020,
10.00 am – 1.00 pm**

CAD / Australian High Commission / FES

Workshop

**Famagusta Dialogues
Proposal & Work Plan
Greek Cypriot Famagusta Community
Consultation**

Famagusta Municipality Cultural Centre,
Deryneia , Cyprus

Not open to the public

Monday, 13th January 2019, 12.30 – 15.00 pm

FES

workshop

**Expert Workshop on Corruption Perception in
the north**

Merit Hotel, Bedrettin Demirel Cad.,
Nicosia, Cyprus

Not open to the Public



**Saturday, 18th January 2020,
3.30 pm – 7.30 pm**

CAD / Australian High Commission / FES

Workshop

**Famagusta Dialogues
Proposal & Work Plan
Joint Famagusta Dialogue #1
(Turkish Cypriot hosted)**

Buğday Cami (St. Peter and Paul Church)
28 Mehmet Çelebi St., Famagusta Walled City,
Cyprus

Not open to the public



**Saturday, 25th January 2020,
3.00 pm – 7.00 pm**

CAD / Australian High Commission / FES

Workshop

**Famagusta Dialogues
Proposal & Work Plan
Joint Famagusta Dialogue #2
(Greek Cypriot hosted)**

THALASSA Municipal Museum of the Sea
Kriou Nerou 14, Agia Napa, Cyprus

Not open to the public



February

Wednesday, 19th February, 6.30 – 20.30 p.m.

Deutsche Botschaft / University of Nicosia / FES

Launch

**The LGBTI Movement in Cyprus
Activism, Law and Change Across the Divide
2019 Report**

University of Nicosia, -2 Millenium Building
Makedonitissis 46, Nicosia 2417, Cyprus

Open to the Public



Thursday, 20th February, 6.30 – 20.30 p.m.

FES

Launch

**IS CYPRUS A NEW MIGRATION ROUTE TO
EUROPE? 2019 Report**

Fulbright Center (in the UN Buffer-Zone)
Nicosia, Cyprus

Open to the Public



Friday, 21st February, 6.30 – 20.30 p.m.

Deutsche Botschaft / University of Nicosia / FES

Launch

Presentation – in English and Turkish

**The LGBTI Movement in Cyprus
Activism, Law and Change Across the Divide
2019 Report**

Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce,
No:90, Bedrettin Demirel Caddesi, 99010,
Nicosia, Cyprus

Open to the Public



3. Cyprus Problem

On December 16, the first Turkish military drone landed in the TRNC¹ to 'defend national interests,' said Turkish Vice President, Fuat Oktay. Oktay's remarks came after the Bayraktar TB2 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), stationed at the Naval Air Base Command in Turkey's Aegean district of Dalaman, landed in the TRNC, following a green light from the TRNC government (more on this in Relations with Turkey sub-section in Turkish Cypriots section).

Following their informal meeting with UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, on November 25 in Berlin, the respective Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders, Nicos Anastasiades and Mustafa Akinci, briefed on December 4 their respective political parties on the outcome of the Berlin meeting.

In an interview with Greek daily "To Vima" on December 22 Turkish Foreign Minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu stated that the Greek Cypriot side

had paused the progress on the Cyprus problem because of their refusal to accept political equality with the Turkish Cypriots. Cavusoglu once again affirmed that Turkish Cypriots should be represented in all government bodies.

On December 16 50 Greek Cypriot and 50 Turkish Cypriot school principals participated in an event organised by the Bicomunal Technical Education Committee entitled "Transformational Leadership for Peace". The two respective leaders, Akinci and Anastasiades both attended the event as well as UN Special Representative, Elizabeth Spehar.

The United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) announced that a total of 18 areas that are considered dangerous on both parts of the island have been cleared of landmines as part of the demining efforts. The confidence building measure was agreed on the 26th of February 2019 by the two leaders as part of their commitment towards a mine-free Cyprus. The demining efforts took place under the supervision of the United Nations Mine Action Services (UNMAS) in line with international mine standards. "The achievement of this confidence-building measure underlines the importance of dialogue, trust and co-operation for an enduring peace across Cyprus," said Elizabeth Spehar.

The TRNC Parliament approved a draft bill which extended the Immovable Property Commission's (IPC) period of operation for another

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

two years. Greek Cypriots who had left behind their properties in the north and fled to the south in 1974 will now have another 24 months to apply to the IPC for remedies. The remedies on offer include restitution of the property, exchange of property with Turkish Cypriot-owned property in the south and compensation. Speaking in parliament, the President of the Committee for Legal and Foreign Affairs Oguzhan Hasipoglu (UBP, Famagusta MP) pointed out that there were currently 6,629 applications at the IPC, 1,203 of which had been finalized. He said that the remaining 5,232 cases were still pending at the commission. Meanwhile, the IPC owes 750 million TL in compensation to Greek Cypriot applicants, the head of the body has said as he called on the government to introduce a “capital gains tax” to help fund the payments. Speaking to the Turkish Cypriot weekly paper Cyprus Today, Ayfer Erkmen, said there were 203 individual applicants who have been waiting to receive compensation since 2014 due to a ‘resource shortage’.

4. Hydrocarbons

Following lengthy negotiations between the Natural Gas Infrastructure Company (ETYFA), the Natural Gas Public Company (DEFA) and the joint venture JV China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Co Ltd and Metron SA, an agreement on developing the necessary infrastructure and the supply of liquified natural gas (LNG) in Cyprus was finalised on 13 December. The joint

venture will also include Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding Co. Ltd and Wilhelmsen Ship Management Limited. LNG tanker carrier Galea, which will operate from 2021 to 2046, will be used as the Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU). The total cost for the installation and the deployment of the floating unit is estimated at around €290m, of which €101m will be covered by European Union funds. The goal is to be able to use LNG in the market for electricity purposes by the end of 2021.

Meanwhile, President Anastasiades is expected to hold separate meetings with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu in Athens, where they will sign an intergovernmental agreement for the EastMed pipeline project on January 2. The EastMed is a proposed 1,900-kilometre natural gas pipeline project that will reportedly carry the region’s reserves to mainland Europe.

According to Energy Minister, Giorgos Lakkotrypis, the outcome of talks between Cyprus and Israel over a dispute regarding the offshore border with Israel’s Yishai gas field will not affect development of the island’s Aphrodite gas field. Lakkotrypis stated that the development of the Aphrodite reserve is going on as planned and there is a set procedure that is being followed for some time and will continue to be followed. His comments followed a report by Israeli business news portal Globes, reporting that Israel’s Energy Ministry director general, Udi Adiri, told a consortium of Shell, Noble Energy and Delek Drilling that they cannot de-

velop the Cypriot reservoir until the border dispute with Israel's Yishai licence is settled. The Cypriot government had granted the three companies a hydrocarbon exploitation licence in November with a view to piping gas to Egypt and exporting it in the form of LNG. With regards to the border dispute Lakkotrypis stated that Cyprus would have preferred to have the agreement in place but stressed that it was not a condition for Aphrodite's development to go ahead. "With or without an agreement, if it is proven that natural gas from Israel's side is pumped by our side, the Republic of Cyprus will of course compensate the Israeli side accordingly," the energy Minister noted.

Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said in remarks published in weekly newspaper "To Vima" on December 29 that if Athens and Ankara cannot solve their dispute about maritime zones in the Mediterranean they should turn to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague to settle the disagreement. In November, Turkey signed an accord with Libya's internationally recognised government seeking to create an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) from Turkey's southern Mediterranean shore to Libya's northeast coast. Greece and Cyprus, which have long had maritime and territorial disputes with Turkey, say the accord is void and violates the international law of the sea. Greek Cypriot Foreign Affairs Minister, Nikos Christodoulides, had also called on Turkey to settle their differences through the ICJ earlier in the month.

Speaking during the budget discussions at the Turkish Grand National Assembly, Turkish Vice-President, Fuat Oktay said 'Turkey will not make any concession on its rights in Cyprus, Aegean or in the Eastern Mediterranean.' Evaluating the natural gas exploration activities in the Eastern Mediterranean, he said that Turkey would open five new drill wells in the Eastern Mediterranean and continue to pursue an active strategy in its oil and natural gas activities.

5. Greek Cypriots

Economic Developments

According to Eurostat Cyprus recorded a 7% annual increase in winter tourism one of the highest in the EU. The biggest changes occurred in January and February. In January 2018 264,917 tourists visited hotels in Cyprus, compared to 336,603 in January 2019. In February there was an increase of roughly 50,000, up from 360,325 in 2018 to 411,319 the following year.

On December 20, anti-money laundering unit Mokas stated that it did not find any involvement in illegal activities by the former law firm of current President Anastasiades with regards to the claims by the Organised Crime and Corruption Project (OCCRP) which found links between him and his law firm with the Troika Laundromat.

On December 11, the House plenum passed the state budget for 2020 with 29 votes in favour and 23 against. Ruling DISY, DIKO and the Solidarity Movement's MPs voted in favour of the budget while main opposition AKEL voted against. The budget provides for total revenue of €9.9bn and general government expenditure of €9.4bn. Revenues represent a 10% increase over this year's due to the further boost of economic activity and the increase in Gesy contributions as of March 1, 2020. The budget balance in 2020, according to the macroeconomic framework, is projected to be in surplus of 2.7% as a percentage of GDP.

In a report issued on December 10, following its Article IV consultation on the island, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) directors pointed out that productivity growth has been weak, "reflecting institutional bottlenecks and the slow pace of technology adoption," and that private sector indebtedness remained high amid ongoing challenges in debt workouts. The IMF moreover said Cyprus' economic growth momentum was gradually slowing down to 3.2% (year-over-year) in the first semester of 2019, from 4% in 2018, amid a slowing global economy and Brexit-related uncertainty, which has taken a toll on tourism receipts and service exports.

Domestic Developments

Two candidates submitted their applications to run as mayor for Ayia Napa on December 30, following the appointment of the previous incumbent Yiannis Karousos as transport minister on December 3. The two candidates are Christos Zanettou and Emilia Evangelos Xydia. The elections will be held on January 12.

According to the Cyprus News Agency US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is expected to visit Cyprus towards the end of the first week in January.

On December 20, US President Donald Trump, signed the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act which included provisions for lifting the long-standing arms embargo on Cyprus which had been in place since 1983. The act allows for the conditional lifting of the embargo on Cyprus by requesting that the US President certifies at least once a year that the island meets certain conditions.

On December 6, the House plenum amended the constitution restricting the terms in office of the president to two five-year terms and reducing the age limit for deputies' candidacies to 21. The change will not affect President Anastasiades, who had already stated he would not stand for a third term.

On December 5, three new ruling DISY MPs were sworn in, replacing those who gave up their seats. The new DISY MPs; Savvia

Orphanidou, Xenia Constatinou, and Michalis Sophocleous were all runner ups during the 2016 election. They replaced Stella Kyriakides, who was appointed to the European Commission, Solon Kassinis, who resigned for health reasons, and Nicos Nouris, who was appointed Interior Minister.

Women's Rights

"They asked me to say that it wasn't a rape."

These words were spoken in court by a 19-year-old British woman about the police detectives who interrogated her after she reported being gang-raped by 12-young men from Israeli who were also on holiday in the tourist area of Ayia Napa in July. Two weeks after the incident, the young British woman was taken back to the police station and questioned for eight hours without a lawyer or translator present; the session was not recorded. She then signed a statement retracting her sexual assault claims and was immediately charged with "mischief" by the police for giving a false statement. Justice Abroad reported that in addition to also being refused a lawyer as was her right under the Cypriot Constitution and European Convention on Human Rights, the woman was also not told that she could leave the police station nor given the option of leaving at any point, the group adds. Justice Abroad also claimed the 19-year-old was forced to sign a confession dictated by the police officers who threatened that she would be arrested if she did not sign the confession but that she would be allowed to return to her hotel if the confession was signed.

She was jailed for a month in Nicosia and only released after she handed over her passport to the local authorities. Despite testimony given by a pathologist saying the British teenager had 35 bruises over her body, which proved force was exerted on her, and a statement by a psychologist that the victim was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Various legal experts have said that there are major irregularities in the investigation and court proceedings. Yet the local authorities and police have defended their actions. The British teen awaits trial set for January 7. Meanwhile, her mother has called on holidaymakers to boycott Cyprus, arguing it is not a safe destination and has accused the British High Commission in Nicosia of not being of assistance on this matter. The case has attracted widespread media coverage in Britain, which accounts for a third of approximately 4m tourists who visited Cyprus in 2018.

Labour Relations and Trade Unions

The Board of Directors and Executive Directors of the Cyprus Asset Management Company (KEDIPES), decided to grant the price index annual salary increase (ATA) retroactively from 1/1/2019 to its employees. In a related announcement, ETYK, the bank employees' trade union states that: *"We have to congratulate KEDIPES Management for this decision, which creates the conditions for a good faith dialogue*

between us, in order to resolve the remaining issues, including the renewal of the collective agreement." The above development is an attempt to achieve a positive climate of cooperation while the conclusion of consultations with all trade unions to conclude a single collective agreement is pending.

The Board of Directors of **Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC)**, is in dialogue with the trade unions to submit a consensual proposal to the Ministry of the Interior for deciding on a new organizational structure for the corporation. The Chairman of **CyBC** BoD Andreas Frangos said that the BoD has already submitted its own proposal to the Ministry of Interior to address the long-standing problem that plagues public sector broadcasting services, which is the lack of a proper organizational structure and a multiplicity of workers.

The full reinstatement of the price index annual salary increases (ATA), as well as the introduction and protection of the minimum wage are proposed by the trade unions as key demands for 2020. This is part of the continuing effort by the trade unions to restore wages and similar benefits to pre-crisis (2013) levels. The end of the year finds the two major trade unions satisfied with the renewal of collective agreements in key areas, the partial wage recovery and the implementation of the general healthcare plan. It is noted that the agreement concluded on 28 July 2017 between the Minister of Labour and the trade unions provides that ATA should be paid for 2018, 2019 and 2020 if in the second

and third quarters of the previous year there is a positive sign of economic growth. It also stipulates that it will be paid once a year and will amount to 50% of the annual increase in the consumer price index as calculated by the Statistical Service. However, the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEB) plans to request the complete abolition of ATA.

The Cyprus Workers Confederation (SEK), the Pancyprian Federation of Labour (PEO), and the Democratic Labour Federation of Cyprus (DEOK) trade unions expressed their deep disappointment with the decision of the Parliament to cut off the funds related to the establishment and operation of the Single Inspectorate Service. Although the bill has not yet been passed and the Single Labour Inspectorate has not been set up, funds for its operation have been included in the state budget for 2020. On 12 December, these funds were withdrawn following the amendment with the votes of the Democratic Rally (DISY), the Democratic Party (DIKO), the Movement for Social Democracy (EDEK), 'Solidarity' and the National Popular Front (ELAM). It is worth mentioning that a draft law on the establishment of a Single Inspection Service had been submitted by the Parliament in 2017. This law would have created a team with private sector inspectors, but with contracts and working hours beyond those of public servants, in order to control working conditions. However, almost three years after the deposition, the adoption of the bill was constantly postponed. Subsequently, in November, the

Parliamentary Committee on Labour gave an ultimatum to the Ministry of Labour to carry out the necessary and final consultations on the matter and to move on to vote the bill in the Parliament.

On 13 December, public sector doctors held a three-hour strike in public hospitals throughout the RoC. It is noteworthy that the Board of Governors of the State Health Service Organization (SHSO) approved an Incentive Plan for Specialists, which was rejected by Pancyprisan Association

of Government Practitioners (PASYKI) in its entirety. This plan includes a package of measures with both financial and other incentives, such as training, secretarial support for physicians, the provision of state-of-the-art technology and more, which did not satisfy PASYKI and therefore the SHSO proposal was rejected. According to PASYKI President Sotiris Kouma, the dialogue on the incentives, began in July. He also said that *"PASYKI had made a comprehensive proposal from the beginning. That the issue is not just a matter of incentives. It is to create a normal working environment for public sector doctors so that with the introduction of the General Healthcare System (GHS) and the new developments that come with it, they do not constantly consider leaving the public hospitals"*. Mr. Koumas said that there are no prospects in the plan given by SHSO. The strike was decided as a protest, concerning the incentives to be given to doctors, the mass resignations of doctors from state hospitals, the shortage of staff, the depreciation of public hospitals, the lack of vo-

cational training and other things. *"We are not asking for golden fees ... The key parameter that has been set is that the Public Healthcare System is viable [...]we are afraid that it will not be viable [...]"* Mr. Koumas said that there is no coordination between Ministry of Health, Health Insurance Organization (HIO), SHSO and added that the key condition of GHS 's success is robust public hospitals.

The Cyprus Union of Bank Employees (ETYK) and the Bank of Cyprus have signed an agreement to renew the collective agreement for the years 2018-2020, which provides:

- 1) A €230 salary increase for all employees. The trade union agreed to accept this for the period 2019 - 2020, instead of granting a horizontal increase based on each employee's salary scale, the bank to grant an equal pay raise for all staff €115 per month for 2019 and another €115 for 2020;
- 2) Within the first half of 2020, the Bank will fill in the vacancies that will be available at the given time;
- 3) Provision of the Provident Fund for 2020 will be 8% and from 01/01/2021 9% of the salary. This will reduce the cost of wage increases for the Bank of Cyprus and;
- 4) ATA surcharge will be still provided and by 2021 it will be granted with the projected increases.

Relations with Hellenic Bank and ETYK remain strained, as the bank unilaterally granted the surcharge based on the capacity and productivity of its employees and gave a percentage on a

horizontal basis to all staff, triggering strikes. As announced by ETYK, the collective agreement was renewed at AstroBank and CDB Bank. The contract for both banking institutions provides for the addition of an annual surcharge and ATA. The renewal of the collective agreement is also pending for Alpha Bank.

5. Turkish Cypriots

Economic Developments

According to the Statistics Institution the increase in the cost of living for the month of November was minus 0.47. In other words, the general price level has slightly declined.

According to statistics provided by the trade department of the Ministry of Economy, in the first ten months of 2019, total imports have dropped by almost 16 percent. Imports have declined together with the purchasing power. In the same period in 2018, imports were at US\$ 1,37 billion, whereas this year they stood at 1,16 billion. The five main import items were fuel, motor vehicles, clothing, construction iron and mobile phones, and they accounted for 27.6 percent of all imported goods in the period concerned. A similar decline could be observed in exports as well; exports fell from US\$ 86,7 million to 72,7 million.

According to the unemployment statistics prepared by the department of labour, the number of registered unemployed, which was 912 in June, have climbed to 1,013 by the end of Au-

gust 2019. It is worth noting that there has been a 34.93 percent increase in the number of registered unemployed compared to the third quarter statistics of previous year. 70 percent of the registered unemployed are women.

Road safety campaigners and opposition MPs have slammed the proposed budget for the Public Works and Transport Ministry, saying that it will only be enough to 'patch up' the country's 'crumbling roads'.

Relations with Turkey

Prime Minister, Ersin Tatar has described the stationing of UAVs in TRNC as an important development. Speaking to CNN Turk, Tatar said that the UAVs were for defence and precautionary purposes. Speaking to CNN Turk, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kudret Ozersay said that both Turkey and the TRNC were taking steps in the Eastern Mediterranean, not just on paper but in practice as well, with the aim of levelling the playing field. He said that UAVs and similar aircraft were necessary for providing support and protection for Turkey's drilling operations in the Eastern Mediterranean. "The Greek Cypriot side purchased eight UAVs from Israel. The other actors protect their vessels with warships but at the same time the need to collect information, observe and carry out reconnaissance emerges. We have done what other actors have been doing," he said. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

said that the number of the drones that have been stationed in the TRNC may increase if needed.

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency's (TIKA) 62nd foreign office has been opened in Nicosia. The Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mehmet Nuri Ersoy and Prime Minister, Tatar attended the ceremony.

Prime Minister, Ersin Tatar and the Deputy Prime Minister Foreign Minister, Kudret Ozersay visited Ankara as guests of the Turkish Vice-President Fuat Oktay.

The Speaker of the Parliament Teberruken Ulucay attended the 9th General Assembly gathering of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA) in Baku, Azerbaijan. Ulucay also met with his Turkish counterpart Mustafa Sentop as part of the 12th Asian Parliamentary Assembly Plenary hosted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in Antalya. Sentop stated that it was of vital importance for them to strengthen the visibility of the TRNC's parliament which represents the free will of the Turkish Cypriot people in the international arena. He added that in this respect they wanted to see TRNC parliamentarians at all events organized in Turkey.

On December 5, the Minister of Interior, Aysegul Baybars came together with the Turkish Vice-President, Fuat Oktay and the Turkish Interior Minister, Suleyman Soylu in Ankara. Noting that they evaluated some issues related with judicial cooperation between the two ministries

and the irregular migration issue with Soylu, Baybars said the agreements regarding the further development of cooperation between the two countries were also renewed during the meeting.

The Minister of Labour and Social Security, Faiz Sucuoglu who attended the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's first Ministerial Conference on Social Development in Istanbul, came together with Turkish Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services, Zehra Zumrut Selcuk. Speaking during the visit, Sucuoglu said that the bilateral Labour Force Agreement signed between the TRNC and Turkey would be presented to the Turkish Grand National Assembly soon and the Turkey-TRNC Social Security Agreement which was approved by the Turkish parliament would be implemented soon. Furthermore, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the two ministers which aims to strengthen social and economic development and further develop and strengthen the general health insurance provided to individuals.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dursun Oguz came together with the Azerbaijani Minister of Agriculture, İnam Kerimov and Turkish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Bekir Pakdemirli. During the meeting held at the Turkish Embassy in Baku, the three ministers exchanged views on the agriculture policies of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member countries ahead of the 6th Agriculture Ministers meeting of the ECO.

Domestic Developments

Tufan Erhurman has been announced as the main opposition Republican Turkish Party's (CTP) candidate for the upcoming presidential election following an extended party assembly meeting where he received unanimous backing of his party members. Erhurman had assumed the leadership of the CTP in November 2016 and served as Prime Minister in the previous four-party coalition government. Erhurman holds a PhD in law and was part of the extended negotiation team during the Annan plan process and Mehmet Ali Talat's presidency.

A poll commissioned by the Kibris Media Group, showed that the senior partner of the current coalition government, UBP, would receive 47.25 percent of the vote if a general election was called. That would mean a serious increase of support in comparison to their performance at the last general election, held in January 2018, when the UBP received 35.61 percent, enough to emerge as the biggest party in Parliament but not to secure the 26 seats needed to form a majority. CTP would see its vote share rise slightly from 20.95 percent in 2018 to 22.51 percent keeping it in second place. The Rebirth Party (YDP), sixth in the last general election, would jump to third spot with 8.71 percent. The biggest losers would be the People's Party (HP), the junior coalition partner, which would see the proportion of its votes slump from 17.07 percent in 2018 to just 6.57 percent. The Dem-

ocrat Party (DP) and the Social Democratic Party (TDP) would both barely clear the 5 percent threshold required to enter Parliament with 5.69 and 5.05 percent respectively, both below the number of votes they received at the last election.

Labour Relations and Trade Unions

The leaders of three leading trade unions staged a protest in front of the Ministry of Finance in the first week of December, calling on the Minister to come to the protocol table to discuss their members' concerns. Sener Elcil, Selma Eylem and Guven Bengihan – leaders of the Cyprus Turkish Primary Teachers' Union (KTOS), Cyprus Turkish Secondary School Teachers' Union (KTOEOS) and Cyprus Turkish Civil Servants' Union (KTAMS) respectively – accused Minister of Finance of ignoring the concerns of public sector employees and failing to meet legal requirements i.e. holding consultations with the unions on an annual basis. Speaking at the demonstration, Sener Elcil, said the rights and responsibilities of government employees, the police, pensioners and teachers were regulated by law and that “chaos” would prevail if the laws were not followed – but this was “not what they wanted”. Under the Public Servants' Act “protocol talks had to be resumed before the budget deliberations started in Parliament”, he said, and invited the Minister “to the table for talks”.

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