

## **Andronicos' update 22 April 2024**

In November 2022, I entered the presidential race not to win, but to share innovative ideas for the betterment of our cherished Cyprus. I am honoured that many of these proposals have not only been heard but also embraced, and I have relentlessly advocated for them at the highest levels of government. My dedication demonstrates that true commitment can indeed drive meaningful change.

Here are some of the ideas, I am aware of, that have been implemented as of April 2024:

- Installation of solar panels for all, funded through electricity bills
- Zero VAT on female sanitary products
- Use of body cameras by selected police officers
- Hefty fines for parking in spaces reserved for disabled individuals
- Reducing food waste and supporting Cyprus's poorest through partnerships with local NGOs
- Recognising illegal immigration as a matter concerning the entire EU
- Enhancing government focus on mobility issues for disabled persons
- Introducing an online platform for the public to suggest laws to parliament and the government
- Conducting virtual, non-binding government referenda to gauge public opinion
- Engaging young Cypriots in national discussions
- Appointing a deputy minister of immigration
- Expanding access to preschool kindergartens
- Implementing smart electricity meters
- Completely overhauling annual performance reviews for public employees

Following is the full manifesto from my 2023 presidential campaign. Notably, my campaign logo features the island of Cyprus reflected in a mirror, symbolising my theme: every elected official should start their day with a moment of reflection. They should remind themselves that they are servants of the people, dedicated to serving Cypriots rather than any special interest groups or political affiliations. They are here to serve, not to govern from above.

Please follow me on [www.facebook.com/AndronicosCY](https://www.facebook.com/AndronicosCY)



Dear fellow Cypriots,

This document contains my detailed initial manifesto pledges to transform our country if I get elected as Cyprus' president in February.

My vision includes a **radical** new approach to many problems that have affected our country for decades including the Cyprus problem. I will attempt to end corruption, create thousands of new jobs, make the public sector more efficient, transform public sector customer service, substantially increase wealth, and try to settle the Cyprus problem once and for all with radical solutions.

I do not belong to any political party or special interest group, nor are any supporting my campaign financially. If they do in future, I will fully disclose it. I am not soiled by Cyprus politics, nor am I a puppet for a political party I must worship.

I decided to appear out of nowhere and run in the election **out of sheer frustration and anger**. I believe many of you share my frustration. Many fellow citizens do not bother to register or vote in our elections. Whether I get elected or not, if my vision to transform Cyprus is read by those in power, and they actually have the nous to change things, then I will have succeeded.

This manifesto is unusual because it includes my **personal experiences**. Furthermore, I will lead by example. **Anything in this presidential manifesto that could potentially benefit me directly or indirectly is also highlighted in green out of honesty and full transparency.**

If I am elected and go on to fail significantly for reasons under my control, **I will resign** and call for an early election no later than our parliamentary elections in May 2026. Furthermore, my pledges form the initial policies of a future political party I plan to establish, with your support.

Over the next few weeks, I will be speaking to many individuals for feedback. My final manifesto version will be published by 22 January 2023, 2 weeks prior to the presidential election. [Register now to get a copy in January.](#)

Let's **dispose** of the political dinosaurs and put them in the recycling bin. Old style politicians backed by the main political parties have no place in a modern Cyprus. Do they know what it's like to be poor or disabled in Cyprus? Do they know what it's like to be an ordinary Cypriot not part of the elite? Can they live off a tiny pension? How can they manage a country if they've never managed a business during good times and hard times? How can they create employment for Cypriots, when they've never really had to look for a 'proper job' themselves?

Let's **remove** the table the establishment feasts from while you starve, and give it to a charity shop.

Let's **transform** Cyprus together in 24 months.

Let's **replace** these dinosaurs with a new government of the people, by the people, for the people.  
(Apply to become a government minister 2023/4 or a member of parliament 2026)

As you read through my detailed manifesto, be warned. Some of my manifesto pledges are very radical and will not go down well with many in the Cyprus establishment who have controlled and allegedly milked our country for years<sup>1</sup>.

Cyprus needs a strong independent president. A transparent president. An honest president. Vote for me in February so that my radical vision to fix our country can become a reality.

Sincerely,

Andronicos

11 November 2022

[www.andronicos.cy](http://www.andronicos.cy)

### A 'translation' of excuses 'they' will make

Several government departments and political leaders will react very negatively to many of my pledges and criticisms within this detailed manifesto. Here is a simple **translation** of common excuses they will make:

1. *'We plan to do this'... means... 'We didn't think about it until reading it in Andronicos' manifesto'*
2. *'We have already done this' ...means... 'It took us 5 years to do half the job, and it will take until 2027 to finish it, even though we haven't got a clue how to finish it'<sup>1</sup>*
3. *'We disagree with this approach'...means... 'We didn't think about it first, so let's pretend Andronicos' idea is flawed.'... or... 'It will upset one of the special interest groups that support us'...or... 'It will hurt our €€€ pockets personally.'*
4. *'It's all part of our country's digital transformation'... my opinion... No, it is not. Transformation cannot succeed unless flawed working practices and how things get done by government departments are changed first. Otherwise, we will get digitally transformed automated chaos. Or, put another way, stupid things will get done more quickly and efficiently.*

And the most common excuse government departments will use, will be...

5. ... to blame someone else.

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<sup>1</sup> **Disclaimer:** This presidential manifesto is based on research believed to be accurate. If accuracy is disputed, government agencies should provide .... (a) undeniable proof to the contrary; (b) when government working practices were changed (exact date and proof); (c) a detailed explanation, without blaming anyone else, why specific criticisms in this manifesto were not solved before. And (d), if (b) applies, how, where, and when, were they published in Greek and English. Errors will be corrected in the final manifesto on 22 January 2023. If there are minor discrepancies between the Greek and English manifestos, the English version is the most accurate.

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1. Help me form our new government: of the people, by the people, for the people I hope Cyprus' future ministers (2023/4) and MPs (2026) are reading this. As of the date this manifesto was launched in November 2022, I have no political party, nor do I have any political power. Therefore, most of my manifesto pledges state 'I will' rather than 'My government will', or 'The new political party will.'

So, would you like to apply to become a minister in our new government, or MP for the new political party? Or can you recommend someone special who can help transform Cyprus? If so, please answer the following selection criteria questions:

1. Are you at least 30 years old (future ministers) or will you be 25 years old in May 2026 (future MPs)? Having physical disabilities such as wheelchair use will not be an issue.
2. Have you registered to vote in Cyprus' elections?
3. Do you have a record of excellent management, organisational and communication skills?
4. Do you possess the charisma, wisdom, and passion to help transform Cyprus?
5. Are you honest and incorruptible, and will you be able to **look at yourself in the mirror each day** if appointed or voted in office?
6. Are you willing to be one of the first 300 to formally help register the new political party? All you have to do is sign a government form. Your name will **not** be in the public domain.
7. Are you happy to sign a strict confidentiality agreement?
8. Key question: do you agree with my political manifesto **in full** including my radical approach to the Cyprus problem? [Download the full presidential manifesto \(PDF\) Greek / English.](#)

If your answers to all the above questions are 'yes', [register your intent](#) to apply as a future minister or MP in the strictest of confidence, but please be patient and allow a few weeks for a response.

**Additional questions not related to the above:**

9. Would you or someone you know be willing to volunteer part-time, and eventually possibly be paid full- or part-time? It could be as simple as getting your friends and relatives to register to vote **now** for the 2023 presidential election.
10. Would you or someone you know be willing to fundraise to assist in my political goals to transform our country and try to solve the Cyprus problem once and for all?

I appeared suddenly out of nowhere because I am frankly sick and tired of the same old Cyprus politics and how things are done. No wonder a large chunk of the population, including 50 percent of those under 25 years of age, can't be bothered to register, let alone actually vote. The main political parties regurgitate the same old music with slightly different lyrics like an extremely annoying broken record. It recalls the famous saying, "*The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.*" Be at the birth of something totally new, to help transform Cyprus with 'different results'.

## 2. Empowerment for women



Half the Cyprus population is discriminated against. This is not because of their religious views, the colour of their skin, different culture, lack of education, or having a lower intelligence. They earn lower salaries and have trouble finding good jobs because they are **women**.

Some Cypriot men and male politicians view women as baby factories, cooks, and cleaners. I want Cyprus' women to **own or manage** factories, restaurants, and cleaning firms.

### **My key pledges to women:**

- I will introduce laws to subsidise childcare via vouchers when our country can afford it.
- I will introduce positive discrimination for government contracts. If two companies exactly tie for an award, the one owned and managed by women will win the contract, subject to conditions.
- Separately, as part of the points assessment used in selecting government suppliers, point credits will be given to suppliers that have a percentage of women in senior positions, subject to conditions. This percentage figure will be based on expert studies in 2023. Checks and balances will ensure the system cannot be misused, for example appointing an unqualified grandmother or favourite auntie as a senior executive or major shareholder.
- Furthermore, starting in 2024, up to 5,000 women will be hired on a part-time contract basis initially for 6 months, to work for the state. Training to get back in the workforce will be provided as a by-product. This will empower women who have spent many years raising children. A selection process will apply, including exams based on their prior work experience, or aptitude tests. These women will help in the public sector's transformation, by freeing permanent staff to implement urgent changes.

### 3. Judicial reforms, law and order, our police force

I will implement the following changes, subject to extensive consultation:

#### Civil reforms

I will introduce a small claims court to inexpensively fast-track disputes below €10,000 to free up the court's time, save everyone legal costs, and avoid having to wait several years for justice. No lawyers will be present during hearings, although they can advise on the paperwork to make a claim or defend it. Judges will optionally hold hearings via video link, and the decision will be final with no appeal mechanism.

In parallel, I will ensure arbitration and mediation via alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is attempted before taking a matter to the courts for commercial disputes over a certain value. This too will free up court time, so justice will be served more quickly than now.

[Personal clarification for transparency: although I am an accredited mediator in ADR, I have no interest whatsoever in earning fees from this initiative. However, this training will prove useful when negotiating a solution to the Cyprus problem with 'TRNC'.]

#### The Supreme Court

I am against limiting Supreme Court appointments to 10 years, as proposed by some politicians. If a Supreme Court judge is forced to retire after 10 years' service and is substantially below retirement age, it creates problems. The ex-judge could leave himself open to criticism for working as a consultant for a law firm or client whom s/he favoured in a previous judgement. This is very unfair to the ex-judge, who may be accused of being rewarded for past 'favours'. My approach is radical. I do not doubt the integrity of any of the esteemed judges at the Supreme Court whatsoever, nor in any way do I imply corruption of any type. However, Cyprus has a small population with everyone knowing someone, particularly among the so-called elite and major law firms.

To avoid suspicion of possible bias or favouritism, I propose, with the approval of the Greek Government and courts, two of the best Supreme Court judges from Cyprus and Greece be swapped for 5-year secondments. This should be seen as a promotion and attract higher salaries. International courts use judges from several countries who are qualified to opine and create precedent. They are not experts on every legal matter across national jurisdictions.

#### Criminal justice reforms

- I will introduce community service as an optional alternative to fines and prison sentences by the courts. Those serving community sentences would still have their identities protected, under Cyprus' strict privacy laws.
- I will commission a study with all stakeholders on introducing American-style plea bargaining for certain criminal offences. This will save time for our criminal courts.
- I will introduce **mandatory driving bans** for drink driving (perhaps 50-80mg) and for driving under the influence of drugs. All non-Cyprus driving licence holders who rent cars will have to hold a deposit on their credit cards as part of the customary rental deposit, but will include provisions for motoring offences. This will apply for 10 days after the car has been returned. If a



person is caught drink or drug driving, or parking in disabled spaces, in addition to current laws and penalties, part of this deposit will be used to pay the fine. All car rental customers will be given a leaflet or email at booking clearly stating Cyprus' punitive driving laws and alcohol limits based on the vehicle or buggy they are renting. I invite other EU countries to follow my lead.

- I will review the conditions at Nicosia prison and introduce additional incentives for those serving sentences so they can help our community from prison or out of prison under licence. It will be based on their academic background, work experience, and offence committed. It would be absurd to send someone who is in jail for repeat shop lifting offences, to work in a charity shop as a 'volunteer'.
- I will commission a study on the feasibility of building an 'open' prison in a rural area to house jail inmates who are deemed not to be dangerous or a flight risk, for sentences of 24 months or less. This new prison could also be used for the last 12 months of a sentence, prior to release. Open prisons are far less expensive to run and will reduce the numbers currently in the central prison. Anyone escaping will be guilty of a serious criminal offence and when caught will be moved back to Nicosia central prison in handcuffs.
- I will introduce stricter penalties and enforcement for trafficking women and will deport pimps.
- I will operate a 'three strikes and you're out' system. Repeat offenders for certain offences such as burglary, theft, and shoplifting will be dealt with punitively. If it's to feed a drug problem, refer to my stance on drugs below.
- I will deport foreign national repeat offenders for criminal offences. It will be up to judges to show compassion in exceptional circumstances. Three strikes within 5 years and they're out, on a plane. To protect close family, those deported for repeat minor offences may be allowed to return after a few years subject to a clean criminal record in their new country.
- Although less frequent in Cyprus than it used to be, begging with a small child who has been drugged or been given alcohol to look sickly will become enforced as a criminal offence. These children must be protected from such abuse at the hands of persons who often work in gangs to solicit money. If a young child is sick, they should not be on the street with their 'mother' or older 'sister.' I have total sympathy for homeless hungry beggars in countries with little or no welfare systems, but not professional ones working for gangs in EU countries, especially if they are receiving welfare payments from the state.
- I will introduce harsher penalties including deportation for anyone directly or indirectly involved in child marriages or the vile practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). School teachers and our border security officers will be trained to look for signs that a young girl who recently visited countries that practise child marriage or FGM appears disturbed. Furthermore, specialist teachers and social workers will be trained on how to discuss such matters privately and delicately at school, with girls from certain ethnic backgrounds.
- I will commission a study on geo-tagging juvenile offenders with ankle bracelets. This technology will enforce curfew at home in the evenings and/or weekends. Some countries sometimes send some juvenile offenders to holiday camps to show them 'love'. My approach is

to punish these 'naughty little cherubs' by grounding them and taking their mobile phones away, rather than being soft.

### **Our police force**



I will **support our police officers** with new technology, working practices, and administrative staff. A detailed study will be commissioned with all stakeholders including unions to understand their pain points. My key pledges:

- Our police officers should not spend half their working day undertaking paperwork or answering phones. Additional part-time administrative staff will be hired to lessen this burden.
- I will explore the feasibility of temporarily sending respected Greek and Cypriot police officers on 3-year secondments to carry out covert operations abroad.
- I will discuss the implementation of body cameras for frontline officers.
- I will commission a study that will explore whether complaints against police officers, or at least appeals, should be independently handled abroad, perhaps in Greece.
- I will review benefits paid to officers who are maimed or die while performing their duties. These heroes should be honoured and fairly compensated by the state.
- A doctor is a doctor 24x7. A priest is always a priest. Likewise, I firmly believe that a police officer is always a police officer whether on duty or not, so I will discuss whether after several years of service, officers who volunteer to do so can be given dual-facing cameras and portable blue flashing lights to place on their private cars to enforce the law at any time. Volunteers would be paid additional allowances for this.

### 3.1 Substance misuse

I will commission in-depth studies by international experts and the relevant ministries, after extensive public consultation, to recommend answers to these questions:

1. Should possession of tiny quantities of marijuana for personal use smoked privately be decriminalised?
2. If so, could participating licensed pharmacies be permitted to sell **tiny** quantities of marijuana per person subject to age verification and with warnings about possible psychosis and other dangers?
3. Should medical marijuana for pain relief from cancer be legally obtainable from GESY doctors?
4. Should hard drug use be treated as a mental illness rather than criminally?
5. Could specialist GESY doctors supply repeat prescriptions and selected licensed pharmacists supply the addict with 3 days' worth of certain hard drugs to use, or alternatives such as methadone? This could be conditional on the addict (i) registering as a drug addict, (ii) not having a criminal conviction in the last 12 months, (iii) being gainfully employed for at least 120 hours a month and paying social insurance, and (iv) actively seeking help.

The above will give hard drug users an incentive to stay out of trouble, petty theft and burglary to feed addiction will plummet, and the massive cost savings on police enforcement can be spent on nationwide anti-drug indoctrination education from age 7 using shock tactics. Furthermore, drug dealers will lose most of their customers and leave. I wish to make it absolutely clear that I do not seek expert opinion on whether to decriminalise hard drug use; rather I merely wish to establish whether the state should control supply for addicts subject to strict conditions.

All ministers will get a free vote and I will accept the decision before proposing it to parliament. I may even put aspects to the vote in a national referendum.

## 4. Your money and wealth

### Tax and VAT changes

**[Full disclosure for transparency: Most persons will financially benefit including my family and I]**

- The tax-free personal income threshold will be increased to €xxx,xxx per year. (Figure will be in my 22 January 2023 manifesto final version.)
- Social insurance contributions for the lowest paid will be reduced.
- Capital gains tax on primary residences of 5 years or more will be phased out. When the country can afford it, this tax will be abolished. This initiative will be funded by increasing capital gains tax and transfer tax on holiday homes owned by non-Cyprus residents. Senior executives of international companies that create substantive employment in Cyprus prior to 2026 will receive additional capital gains tax breaks on property and office buildings. Furthermore, my radical approach to the Cyprus problem proposes that capital gains tax and transfer tax will not apply to property returned after a settlement.

- To help our restaurant and hotel industries, which historically have often been owned by several generations of Cypriot families and have suffered due to Covid and all-inclusive hotels, the cost of eating at VAT-registered restaurants and staying at hotels can be deducted from personal tax, up to a maximum 2% annual income (with a ceiling), subject to paying with credit or debit cards and keeping receipts.
- The tax system will be simplified for the lowest paid, and the salary threshold for audited financial statements increased.
- To create more affordable rental housing, private individuals and developers will be given incentives. A study will be commissioned in 2023 and feedback sought from all stakeholders.
- The VAT on female **menstrual hygiene products** will be **zero**. Don't politicians have daughters and granddaughters that must buy such items? I hope all EU countries follow my lead.
- The EAC and CYTA will pay interest on customer deposits via a yearly credit to all their customers. It will be at the best commercial rate available backdated to 1/1/2017. If CYTA or the EAC do not earn bank interest because they run overdrafts, parliament will dictate the interest rate that must be paid. I invite other organisations in the private sector including telephony and utility providers to follow my lead.
- The state currently funds short-term government debt via treasury bills and other market instruments it pays interest on. A study will be commissioned in 2023/4 to review how surplus cash reserves are managed by villages and municipalities, and whether these reserves can be used in parallel by the state. As it currently stands, it is similar to having two bank accounts. One earns interest, the other pays interest at a higher rate. The only winner is the bank who welcomes customers that borrow their own money.



## 5. State pension increases and a review on how they are assessed

It disgusts me that MPs apparently have the right to enjoy a full pension after only 5 years in office. We have tens of thousands of pensioners who were never employed by the public sector, who worked for 40 years on low incomes and paid taxes and social insurance for 40 years who are now barely able to financially survive. **This is a national disgrace.** What new law will be proposed next by self-serving political parties? Perhaps they will take it a step further: all MPs will have the legal right, as a perk, to take food from pensioners' refrigerators, tables, and mouths at any time if they feel hungry.

Over the next 3 years, the minimum state pension will be increased on a sliding scale starting with the lowest pensions.

I will thoroughly investigate where all the state pension reserves have gone. It is for this reason that I do not want our politicians anywhere near the state's future natural gas sovereign wealth fund's day-to-day administration. I do not want foxes 'guarding' our family's free-range chickens. The fund must be managed in partnership with international experts.

Those qualified to benefit from a state pension in future will have the opportunity to top up their missing or low social insurance contributions 2 years prior to pension age going back 10 years. It will be done via a lump sum payment to increase their state pension in future. This is how countries such as the UK deal with this matter.

Many persons since 2020, or those soon to get a state pension, paid fewer contributions due to reduced or no earnings as a result of the pandemic. The above law will be backdated to 1/1/2020.

The government department dealing with state pensions will be overhauled, restructured, and given additional resources. Pensioners and those soon to get a pension will be able to discuss projected pensions over the phone (subject to ID verification), and Ariadni will be updated so that pension entitlements are much easier to calculate and understand. This will include EU cross-border pensions. **[Full disclosure for transparency: this is one of the few laws I propose that will potentially financially benefit members of my family with higher state pensions]**

In partnership with the private sector, a self-funded national online database will be created listing discount shops and other services offered to pensioners nationwide. It will be easy for commercial organisations to register and update. Actual values must be shown, for example: '*Every Thursday, 10% off a haircut or blow dry*', and not, '*Pensioners will be given a discount*'.

## 6. Our citizen's health; GESY

GESY, our national health service, will be optimised, improved, and transformed. The best advisors money can buy from Cyprus and abroad will provide recommendations in partnership with unions.

Once a year, all users of GESY will have the right to a full medical check-up and blood tests at wellbeing clinics. This 'MOT' will save lives and save GESY money in the long term. Prevention is better than cures or surgical procedures. Initially it will be introduced to the over-65s.

GESY will expand its mental wellbeing services.

GESY will subsidise charity hospices for end-of-life and palliative care. Those who are dying should do so with dignity while emotional and practical support is given to their loved ones. To fund this, perhaps political parties can reduce how much they **take** from the state, via laws their MPs passed.

GESY in partnership with universities and the private sector will be asked to take part in ongoing international research, including how dogs can be trained to potentially smell for certain illnesses and using audio stimulation to potentially assist certain patients in comas. **[Conflict of interest statement in full transparency: one of my companies owns technology and IP to undertake audio stimulation for coma patients. If requested, it will be licensed free of charge for this purpose]**

I will introduce schemes so that participating selected pharmacists on a rota will be open all night and even deliver medicines via motorbike courier similar to pizza. If a prescription is required, I will propose a small team of GESY doctors be available to discuss the problem with a patient via video call. At the end of the call, the doctor will either issue the prescription onto the GESY system or recommend the patient visits a hospital A&E for a consultation, or a GP the next day if less urgent.

I will commission a study with stakeholders and experts into how GESY can partner with the private sector for **cosmetic surgery and dentistry tourism to subsidise its income**. GESY will earn revenue from spare hospital bed capacity and undertaking the patient billing which will include selected **off-peak hotels** as part of the total package. This will mean the families of medical tourists will get free holidays, which will benefit our tourism industry.

### **Organ donor cards**

Organ donor cards or equivalent will be distributed via a national public awareness campaign. The accidental death of a loved one is a tragedy. Through this tragedy, many lives could be saved, and the blind can see. It will be a personal choice based on religious belief and families can discuss whether to all carry signed organ donor cards or not. All public-facing departments such as citizens' centres and the department of transport can automatically provide organ donor cards when renewing a driving licence, ID, or visiting their offices.

Subject to availability, the presidential jet generously gifted by Greece to Cyprus will be available for organ transportation and medical emergencies to/or from our neighbouring countries.

### **First aid and emergency training at state schools**

I firmly believe all state schools should implement first aid training, basic fire training, basic lifeguard skills, and earthquake preparedness training from age 7. The youngest children will learn to recognise an emergency and know how to phone 112 to state their location if there is no adult nearby. By age 13, they must learn how to use a defibrillator, how to resuscitate with or without one, how to recognise Cyprus' snakes, how to safely deal with snake bites and how to perform most other first aid procedures until paramedics or doctors arrive on the scene. It could save their life or that of a member of the public, a friend, a teacher, or relative.

If elected president I would involve several stakeholders to implement this initiative. This will include unions, the fire service, education department, parent groups, lifeguard groups, the health ministry, and GESY. I invite all EU countries to follow my lead.

## Formal award to GESY

In recognition to every member of GESY's staff, for going above and beyond the call of duty during the pandemic, I propose GESY be awarded the **Grand Collar of the Order of Makarios III** as a body, from a very grateful nation. This is the highest award Cyprus can bestow which will be for all of GESY's managers, doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers, support staff, cleaners, etc. All GESY state hospitals will show the 3D insignia with '2020' underneath on their main entrances as a reminder to future generations. And all GESY GPs can show this joint award in their surgeries.

## 7. Fairer state compensation on compulsory land purchases

If the state needs to build infrastructure such as a road or pavement, a 10-20% premium to market value will be paid. Alternatively, it must find and buy a plot of equal value nearby on the open market and transfer it at its expense. No capital gains tax will apply on such land swaps. A land value appeals mechanism will include an additional layer of oversight by experts abroad, to avoid conflicts of interest. [Full disclosure for transparency: this is one of the few laws I propose that could substantially benefit members of my family financially]

## 8. The EuroMillions lottery to fund a new 'charity commission'

### 8.1 The EuroMillions lottery, initially for online play only

- It will initially only be played online from a selected lottery operator abroad (subject to tender), without the need for ticket terminals other than at airports and near the UN crossings. I will work with stakeholders including OPAP as it currently has exclusivity for physical lottery sales.
- EuroMillions will provide incentives for those reticent to embrace technology such as some pensioners, to learn the basics of using a laptop or tablet, empowering more citizens to participate in Cyprus' digital transformation. Winnings over €100,000, which can be as high as €250,000,000, will be subject to a 5% tax and a 5% mandatory donation to any Cyprus-registered charities the lucky winners will select. It could be for hospice care, drug addiction, cancer support, helplines for emotionally distressed persons, or the church. Alternatively, winners may start their own charities within 12 months to help our community, e.g., to help train our future Olympic (including paralympic) medal winners. [Personal experience: I won the EuroMillions lottery the previous time I visited England. Unfortunately, it was only £3.]
- Non-Cyprus residents who buy physical tickets at airports or UN crossing points will be subject to a 10% withholding tax on winnings over €100,000; however, they too can choose which Cyprus charities will benefit from half the 10% withheld.
- The state will also earn 20% duty on all ticket sales to help fund a new charity commission. The full list of every Cyprus non-profit will be displayed on its website.

## 8.2 Our new Cyprus' charity commission



Many Cypriots and permanent residents are generous when it comes to good causes and philanthropy. However, current charity laws are based on the 1960s when it was assumed a charity collected spare coins in buckets by unpaid volunteers for a local cause. Or when the church coordinated charity for the poor. It has never dawned on any government since then that some non-profits e.g., for medical research, employ highly skilled staff such as doctors and professionals. Current laws and the four types of charity that can be started today are ridiculously bureaucratic. It can take years to open a charity.

- This new charity commission will be a one-stop shop to help in the formation and running of charities, grant applications, volunteer requests, and enforcement.
- The non-profit sector, known internationally as **the third sector**, will create many research and administrative jobs in Cyprus. At present, international charities and NGOs are faced with dire hurdles to open branches in Cyprus. The volunteerism commissioner will report to the head of the charity commission.
- A new species of company will also become available for incorporation similar to the UK, known as a community interest company (CIC). These limited liability companies can still pay management, staff, and directors' salaries; however, their aim will be to help the community based on their specific objectives. For example, training pensioners how to use technology.
- For hundreds of years the church was the centre for helping widows, orphans, the sick, and village poor. The charity commission via its website will be a central hub for philanthropy in Cyprus. It will help the church and all registered charities with grants, direct donations, volunteerism requests, best-practice, and recruitment if applicable. It will be funded by the EuroMillions lottery and create many jobs in the third sector.



[My personal experiences trying to open a 'company' charity since 2019: It took 3 months for the registrar of companies just to get the name approved. Our lawyers followed the registrar's guidelines and even changed the articles of association as it requested. The ministry of finance rejected the articles because of changes to charity governance it had implemented which it did not convey to the registrar. For example, a recent badly thought-out interpretation of charity (non-profit) governance states that a company charity must spend 85% of its income in the year it is earned. This is ridiculous. Do political parties have to? How can a church be funded this way? How can cancer research doctors be paid if a Cyprus-based international charity must spend most of its money and not enough donations materialise in the 4th quarter? How can its staff be paid in January?]

## 9. Businesses, entrepreneurship, job creation, and the CSE

### 9.1 Businesses

[Full disclosure for transparency: some of these measures will benefit companies I own]

- Company ink stamps for private companies are a total waste of time and ridiculous in a Western democracy. It's a colonial leftover from a time when signet rings with molten wax were used by kings and other officials. It is very annoying having to do another 2-hour round trip because a director or secretary forgot to bring one to sign a mobile phone contract. I propose that the use of these ink stamps will no longer be required, regardless of what a company's articles of association states.
- The annual €350 Registrar of Companies charge for companies will be reduced to €100. Dormant companies and charity companies will pay €50 annually.
- Pre-paying corporation tax for a small business employing fewer than 50 people on the first €10,000 profit will be exempt from a 10% penalty if paid late. Most small businesses don't know how much profit they will make if unexpected sales materialise in December. However, interest on late payment will apply. A by-product will be to reduce the administrative burden on small businesses, save bookkeeping costs, and reduce workload for the ministry of finance.
- Private companies employing less than 50 employees with a turnover of less than €250,000 and assets of less than €500,000 will qualify for audit exemption. (In the UK these figures are £10.2m/£5.1m). This will save small and micro businesses substantial paperwork and professional fees. Companies are strongly advised to continue to use qualified accountants to undertake annual management accounts and to submit financial statements to the authorities.
- Tax-deductible expenses for hospitality will be doubled from 1% to 2% of annual turnover. This will assist our restaurant and hotel industry. The VAT on such hospitality expenses within Cyprus will be claimable.
- If government departments take more than 90 days to refund VAT or overpaid corporation tax to small businesses, they will pay a penalty and interest (subject to exceptions). Furthermore, if any government department, semi-government entity, municipality, or village are late paying a supplier for a valid invoice within 40 days (without just cause), they will pay a penalty and interest. These will initially be best-practice initiatives rather than enshrined in law.

- The business professional tax recently levied by municipalities on companies will be abolished and refunded. Municipalities that wrongfully issued undiscounted invoices to charities and dormant companies will pay a penalty for the wrongful amount they attempted to invoice and the workload it caused companies. They should have checked first, or at least sent a leaflet (electronically or via post) in English and Greek upfront explaining which companies qualified for discounts. They did not, so they must pay the consequences for their **sloppiness**, which resulted in administrative time for those owning dormant companies and charities.
- The administrative burden to open and run a company will be drastically reduced.

## 9.2 Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is in the Cypriot DNA worldwide. In the last 100 years, many of our relatives (including mine) moved to other countries for a better life with very little money in their pockets to improve their families' lives. Following the disastrous 1974 Turkish invasion, our country was transformed from near bankruptcy, having lost its tourism market and 40% of its land, into a services-based economy. If everyone works together, the camaraderie of the late 70s and 80s shown by our parents and grandparents can be taken to the next level.

I want to create a nation of entrepreneurial millionaires, some of whom may become billionaires employing thousands of Cypriots. I hope a future Cypriot Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, or Stelios Haji-Ioannou is reading this. (Clarification: yes, I know Stelios is Cypriot.)

- Training will be provided by selected commercial partners on how to prepare business plans, cashflow forecasts, and the regulatory requirements to open and run new businesses.
- Advice will be provided by selected partners on patenting or commercialising viable ideas and IP. The best ideas will be introduced to external investors subject to conditions. The state will not risk taxpayers' money by investing in start-ups which it cannot do under EU laws. Its role will be to provide mechanisms, training, and **incubation** so free enterprise flourishes.
- I will propose tax incentives so wealthy individuals, or their companies, invest in start-ups, or in established growing companies that need working capital to expand internationally.
- Subject to consultation with stakeholders including our universities, I want to better exploit and commercialise R&D, as this will create substantial employment. I also want to better commercialise technology transfer and IP to the private sector internationally. Some countries' public universities consider all inventions to indirectly belong to universities. I want postgraduate students to share the rewards of their work, not just the university and organisation that may have given a research grant. ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology\\_transfer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology_transfer) )
- As president I will break protocol by **personally inviting** senior executives from the largest VC organisations in the world (and specialised ones for advanced start-ups) to **physically visit Cyprus** at the state's expense, to see our island and meet with CIPA, the trade minister, our universities, the chamber of commerce, and other stakeholders from the private sector.

[Full disclosure for transparency: my companies have invested in or provided VC seed capital for various projects over the years. I know the VC industry well; however, I seek no new business as I am semi-retired. My presidential campaign is **not** an advertisement.]

These large VC organisations that will be invited to visit Cyprus will learn, via slick government presentations, how they will benefit by investing in Cyprus in four key ways:

1. By using our highly trained and educated multilingual workforce.
  2. By enjoying our excellent tax rates, royalty rates, and other incentives.
  3. By embracing new incentives I will introduce, should they **or the companies they invested in** worldwide employ a minimum number of Cypriots. For example, deferred taxes and new entrepreneurial allowances.
  4. By partnering with our universities for technology transfer and IP.
- If elected president, **I will 'gift' IP rights to the EU for a process and system I designed** some years ago to automatically harvest late payment surcharges for commercial invoices. This will benefit many charities and the companies that were paid late, because no one bothers to collect €20 for a €1,000 invoice paid after the due date. The by-product of this system is that banks will be able to lend against real invoices with solid instant debenture security. This 'gift to the EU' will be conditional on Cyprus being the international administrative hub, to ensure the creation of hundreds of new jobs. More details will be provided in [my final manifesto by 22 January 2023](#).

### 9.3 Job creation and new employment opportunities

As president I will:

- Assist our graduates in getting jobs. After 6 months of unemployment, a graduate may apply for free assistance via one of several approved expert state suppliers to help with CV writing and interview skills. It is my plan to eventually roll this out to everyone.
- I will invite the largest licensed employment agencies to create **one** nationwide hub (website) in partnership with the government which will pay for the design and coding. It will be an easy-to-use system so that anyone can confidentially upload their CV **once**, without charge, and select which specialised employment agencies they wish to automatically send it to (for example, hospitality work, engineers, lawyers, accountants, administrative jobs).
- Diversify the economy by investing in training to create high-skilled jobs in agri-tech, telecom, industrial sectors, biotech, DNA, and genetics research.
- Help our tourism and hospitality industry attract more visitors.
- Encourage international charities and non-profit organisations to open offices in Cyprus. This **third sector** can create many R&D and administrative jobs. Refer to my plans for a new charity commission.
- Assist our tiny film industry in attracting investment. I also want more blockbuster movie parts filmed in Cyprus by offering incentives. For example, a future Mission Impossible 10.
- Help those without a degree for whatever reason get employment. No one should be left behind. They are not second-class citizens unworthy of assistance. **[Personal experiences in total transparency]**: I was a teenage father in the 1970s. Our first baby was born severely

mentally and physically challenged. Thus, I never went to university nor undertook a degree in parallel with employment, as originally intended. However, I was very fortunate to get a job working for a major bank in a relatively new industry called 'IT'. After substantial training and extensive experience, I specialised in a niche market within IT, became a consultant, and eventually opened my own software company 10 years later].

### **As president I will use an aggressive proactive approach to attract foreign companies**

There's already lots of documentation available why Cyprus is a great place to open international offices, which is all well and good. Doing trade shows and sending trade delegations is fine, but from 2023 I will take this to the next level.

- External experts in communication, sales, marketing, and advertising will create a total solution plan. External suppliers will be selected to contact decision-makers of the largest companies in the world and offer them an onsite guided tour of Cyprus to justify why they should open offices here compared to other low-tax jurisdictions. That's how casino, hotel, holiday property, and timeshare salespersons have made sales for decades.
- The selected specialist companies will have a great incentive to perform: substantial commission on success based on a formula potentially made up of jobs created and projected taxes and social insurance which the state will earn within 2-3 years.
- Cypriots are highly educated and multilingual, yet salaries are a lot lower than most EU countries. With remote working becoming more and more acceptable, why wouldn't international companies open subsidiaries here?
- Most foreign executives think of Cyprus as a holiday destination with low taxes. Or a small part of their overall international corporate tax structures, by opening 'plastic' companies in Cyprus. The outreach I want actioned will give them the whole picture, starting with the largest venture capital companies in the world.

### **Trade and investment promotion**



I will allocate a substantial additional budget toward promoting Cyprus and hiring aggressive salespersons to get the message across so multinationals relocate here and create real jobs rather than plastic international tax-saving companies of little substance with only 3 part-time employees.

Part of this new budget will be for **digital** advertising. Glossy brochures are so 90s. These advertising campaigns will be designed by specialist suppliers after consultation with stakeholders such as the ministries of tourism, health, commerce, and the private sector. Examples of my initially very roughly written impact messages:

- 'Want a new husband? Then gift your current one a facelift, nose job and cosmetic dentistry instead. Visit Cyprus for an all-inclusive medical package and free holiday.'
- 'Safe beaches, clean seas, excellent drone-assisted lifeguards: visit Cyprus.'
- 'Run an international NGO or charity? Cyprus is your new base. Talk to someone today.'
- 'Senior executive of a multinational company? Arrange a free visit as a guest of the government.'
- 'Need a multilingual workforce with brains the size of planets? Cyprus is the place. Talk to us now.'
- 'Need an R&D centre of excellence? Use Cyprus' graduates and its technology parks.'
- 'Are you an influencer, financial markets trader, or digital nomad? Move to Cyprus.'
- 'Are you wealthy? Move to Cyprus, save millions in tax, and potentially save inheritance tax.'

Each of the above digital adverts will link to more information with agents on standby via online chat 24x7 and phone support 0800-2000 to service calls worldwide.

#### 9.4 The Cyprus Stock Exchange (CSE)

As president, I will commission studies with the CSE, CySEC, and other regulators to expand the CSE's role and influence. I want to know how Cyprus can become a state-backed trading centre and custodian of wallets for digital currencies (subject to strict AML regulations).

My vision includes the CSE eventually becoming the hub of a pan-European regulated 'mini' exchange to compete with London's AIM by 2030. It must have shared platforms (not just Athens) and access to major capital markets. I want established businesses to eventually list on the CSE as it will be just as regulated but less expensive than AIM. And for new Cyprus companies, my manifesto initiatives help incubate to eventually list on the CSE and create overnight millionaire founding shareholders.

I hope a Cypriot teenager who started university for the first time a few weeks ago remembers today. The day they read my manifesto for the first time. And again in the 2030s when they become a billionaire after their engineering or technology idea becomes a global commercial success.

I also want Cyprus to become a one-stop-shop services marketplace for energy's transition to green alternatives. **[Conflict of interest statement in full transparency: I own potentially valuable IP to make this happen. It is currently going through the next round of funding. Subject to conditions, I**

will be prepared to give indirect free equity to the state, subject to this gift not being squandered by future governments]. More details will be provided in my final manifesto by 22 January 2023. [Register to get a copy\]](#)

Finally, I want the CSE to be ready if my radical approach to the Cyprus problem results in a settlement which includes a new 'Varosha Garden City' built from scratch. All Cypriots will be equity holders, and the CSE can be the platform on which they can sell their shares or buy more. Imagine owning free shares in a mini version of Dubai before it is built.

## 10. Technology and adult computer training to transform Cyprus

Technology innovation should be embraced, not feared. It can transform all our lives, and in Cyprus' case, it can even be used as a catalyst for peace.

- Industry partners will supply training at the state's expense for adults such as pensioners afraid of technology. Training will include how to make free audio and video calls internationally, search the web, recognise spam and fraudulent emails, write basic emails, and use government websites, Ariadni, and various online forms.

Cyprus telephony companies and banks will be invited to subsidise the procurement of fully loaded laptops, smartphones, and tablets to qualified and trained candidates, especially pensioners. It is in everyone's interests to do so. Telephony companies will have more customers to sell data packages to. Banks will save costs and manual labour, and the government will save costs and increase efficiency after most citizens have been digitally empowered. The fully loaded equipment will even include apps written in Greek to play backgammon, chess, and the EuroMillions lottery, use bus GPS tracking, and gain access to online newspapers and magazines. And it will show pensioners where they can get discounts locally and nationwide. (Refer to the state pensions section)

- All fax machines and flatbed scanners used in government offices will be environmentally recycled. The cost savings on having to pay for dedicated useless fax phone lines will be used to buy inexpensive smartphones which will be optical character recognition (OCR) enabled for Greek and English. These smartphones will be connected via Wi-Fi and will not be used for making calls other than for emergencies when phone systems are down, or during power outages. This technology can assist the 30% of the population who do not read Greek properly including international companies, residents, and visitors.
- Lifeguards will undertake a proof of concept using **commercial drones to be the eyes in the sky along our beaches**. Experiments will be undertaken to deliver life vests via remote control. The technology for both already exists.
- Further investment will be made for Cyprus' fire services to use additional drones, and satellite technology to search for fires. I want Cyprus to eventually outsource this service abroad. All Cypriot children will be taught basic fire prevention and control at school.
- A study will be commissioned to use environmentally friendly **cloud seeding** using aeroplanes over the ocean near Cyprus. If successful, it will artificially generate rainfall over the island, ideally over the Troodos mountains.

If my radical approach to solving the Cyprus problem is successful, one of the negotiating points with 'TRNC' will be using its freshwater pipe from southern Turkey built in 2015 (or a 2<sup>nd</sup> new one), to transfer water to the whole island which can be shared. Even now, prior to any settlement being remotely possible today, 'TRNC' has purchased our electricity, so the precedent exists.

### 10.1 Smart cities

When I hear some of the presidential candidates and political parties talk about smart cities or read it in their manifestos, it makes me cry – with **hysterical laughter**. From personal observations, I believe it would be easier to teach cats how to play chess or teach dinosaurs how to play football than it would for politicians to design smart cities. Politicians who have absolutely no clue what it means or how to do it.

How can Cyprus have smart cities when they have been managed in non-smart ways for decades? How can political dinosaurs who have no idea how to implement smart cities do so successfully? Over the last 15 years governments in power and municipalities couldn't even do the basics like responding to an email or answering their phones. Some cities can't even send an invoice automatically via email! Before designing anything 'smart', or 'automated', it must be proven to work manually. Now that would be smart!

My final version of this manifesto will be published by 22 January 2023, 2 weeks prior to the presidential election. It will explain **how cities will become smart**, rather than spouting hot air in a presidential manifesto to impress people with the latest buzzwords copied from a website, on the advice of a PR agency. [Register now to get a copy.](#)

## 11. Open and transparent government



I will give citizens full access to government.

- The president's office will appoint full- and part-time interns to receive suggestions and recommendations **confidentially** from members of the public. These communications will be tracked, filtered via a chain of command, and assigned to ministries. The best citizen ideas that get implemented will receive **financial rewards** of between €100 – €10,000. The awards will be checked abroad, possibly from Greece, to avoid corruption, nepotism, or conflicts of interest.

- As president I would hold a monthly ‘clinic’ to discuss issues directly with members of the public. I cannot promise to fix their problem, but I will at least listen.
- I will introduce a pilot scheme for online opinion polls to assist government in key decision planning. Referenda or elections must **never** be done online, however opinion polls such as protecting the Akamas can. I wish to make clear, the results will not be binding on government or parliament, however it will give indicative opinion. The system will be robust to avoid duplicate voting or hacking. And at arm’s length from government to protect privacy.

### **I will provide total government transparency**

- Citizens will have the right to know in detail how their money is being spent.
- A central hub will have a public online dashboard of the organisational structure of every government, district, municipality, town, and village department. This will include any department or agency, however obscure, that employs anyone at taxpayers’ expense. It will show headcount and annual cost; headcount and cost increases over the last 3 years; what they do; and where to find their website pages in Greek and English. For villages and municipalities, it will show costs divided by population for comparison per head, and the unit cost of water.
- This central hub will also transparently show what new initiatives the government is working on, and by which ministry or ministries. Importantly, it will also show which initiatives the government seeks public consultation for. At present it is very difficult to do this without searching across various government websites.
- As part of my promise to have a transparent government, this central hub will also show a national debt clock similar to [www.usdebtclock.org](http://www.usdebtclock.org), the Cyprus government’s sovereign credit rating, and eventually the value of Cyprus’ natural gas sovereign wealth fund, similar to Norway’s. See how much it’s worth live: <https://www.nbim.no/en/>

#### 11.1 Special interest groups: total transparency

It is good to listen to and support special interest groups. Throughout this manifesto I have included the interests of many such groups, for example, LGBTQ+, the poorest in our society, pensioners, women, and those with disabilities. What I have **not** done is ask for donations from their representatives or associations as a condition for supporting them.

If elected president, any special interest group will have the right to lobby and petition **publicly** for change directly to government and parliament, in a way similar to <https://petition.parliament.uk/>. Cypriots have the absolute right to organise and take part in peaceful demonstrations. However, a few days later, the story will be forgotten. For real impact, it can be done online because it is in the public domain longer; this is less tiring and avoids having to drive somewhere, saving time, money and fuel costs (and CO2).

I would question why a special interest group would lobby for changes to laws in secret. If car dealers, hairdressers, or property developers think there’s a better or fairer way something should be done, make it **public**, explain why, and get those of similar opinions to publicly support you.



## 12. Public sector unions: a future government partnership

I will work with the public sector unions to transform Cyprus.

For decades, some of the most successful companies in Germany and Scandinavia have union representatives on their boards of directors. My attitude to unions is not 'them and us'; my approach is to work with them so that together our nation is prepared for the positive changes we will implement together. Therefore, permanent secretaries across all departments will hold regular meetings for feedback and invite the relevant union heads to share and discuss the government's plans. Union leaders will therefore be invited to indirectly form **part of the departmental management teams**. It will create wealth, efficiency, and prosperity for all including the public sector. I invite Cyprus' largest companies to do the same.

If we as a nation implement many of the changes I propose, if this wealth results in private sector productivity increasing, and the new jobs created cannot meet demand, salaries will substantially increase. This will create an unusual knock-on effect. Public sector employees will move to the private sector resulting in the government having to pay much higher salaries without the unions demanding it. Today, Cyprus generally pays higher public sector salaries compared to the private sector. In many wealthy countries it's the other way around.

## 13. Productivity rewards for public sector employees

As president I would implement productivity rewards that could substantially benefit all our public sector employees. Without them the government could not function. Worse, if hypothetically speaking they were all replaced by highly intelligent robots, the Cyprus economy would collapse because these c80,000 public sector workers directly or indirectly contribute to supporting up to one quarter of Cyprus' families.

I will honour their rights to inflation-proof salary increases and jobs for life with some exceptions. If the public sector is run like a large commercial organisation, Cyprus and customer service will be transformed. Therefore, opportunities to earn bonuses and other perks will apply:

1. I propose the top-performing citizen-facing public sector workers (and their supervisors and managers) will receive bonuses based on anonymous marks that they will get via email and SMS from citizens following a visit, phone call, or email. Customer 'happiness' training will be given.
2. I propose a confidential portal that will allow every public sector employee of any grade to contribute ideas to improve efficiency and save costs anywhere, not just in their departments. One-time bonuses of between €100 and €25,000 will be paid for the best ideas that get implemented. The highest awards will be checked abroad, perhaps in Greece, to avoid corruption or conflicts of interest. A similar scheme will apply to members of the public; however, the one used by the public sector will get a 90-day head start, with the highest award being €25,000 instead of €10,000. **As president I will personally give two €2,000 rewards out of my own pocket** to the winners of (a) the most stupid procedure they are forced to follow, and (b) the most stupid form members of the public must use regardless whether paper or digital.

3. I propose that the top 10% performing public sector employees will receive a one-off annual bonus subject to the bottom 5% getting no pay rise at all.
4. I propose as a one-off opportunity, after the changes listed in the manifesto pledge 'Transforming the public sector in consultation with their unions' have been implemented, bonuses will be paid across departments.
5. To increase productivity, I personally have no objection to selected public sector employees working from home on a rota system if they volunteer to do so. This will be conditional on random checks and technology monitoring tools being installed on government-supplied devices for junior grades. Local management will make the decisions informally. It will not be enshrined as a permanent right.

In return, I will propose implementing the following changes with the unions, as found in many large commercial organisations internationally:

- Once a year, every public sector employee at all levels should undergo a special type of 360° appraisal with specialists. This is an established human resource tool of employee performance review in which subordinates, co-workers, and managers rate each other, mainly anonymously.
- Promotions based on years of service or precedence will end. The best of the best will become supervisors and managers in the future.
- New public sector employees can be fired and replaced within 2 years for any reason.
- An annual cull will take place where the worst performers marked as 'poor' 2 years in a row will be let go. They will be given fair severance payments or pensioned off and replaced by new public sector workers.

Summary: I propose that the public sector should be run like a commercial business yet enjoy additional rights. Top performers will get generous pay rises. The worst can eventually be fired. Public sector staff can earn bonuses at departmental and local level based on productivity. Citizen-facing staff will individually earn additional bonuses based on service quality measurement.

By doing all the above, the public sector and customer service to our citizens will be transformed.

## 14. Transforming the public sector in consultation with their unions

Many laws and how things are done today are based on pre-1960 British colonial working practices.

### **Reorganisations (subject to union consultation and studies)**

- Our citizens' centres are doing an excellent job. Their scope, opening hours, and responsibilities will be increased. I will introduce a scheme so some appointments can be done via video call.
- I firmly believe the Cyprus postal service should be turned into a semi-governmental organisation and moved out of the Department of Transport. I know some of its senior management team and highly respect them. They had no idea I was going to propose this, nor that I was planning to run a presidential campaign.

- The Land Registry. In some countries, for example England, for a small fee anyone can search for any property and land to ascertain who owns it today, the historical prices it was sold for, and whether it is mortgaged. This makes it easier to make an offer to purchase real estate and assists banks in making lending decisions. I believe a similar system should be implemented subject to public consultation. Personal data such as the owner's phone number will not be publicly available. Property owners will have the option to use a nominee service.

**Warning:** Some of the links below are **strongly worded criticisms of actual government departments**. My experiences triggered this presidential campaign out of total frustration. I need to be clear: my criticisms are aimed at some of their senior management, not the 95% of staff who do their very best by following instructions and internal procedures.

- The EAC must be rewired without causing an electric shock to its staff. [Learn more.](#)
- The registrar of companies department must make substantive changes to its working practices. [Learn more.](#)
- The pensions department must be overhauled. [Learn more.](#)
- Those responsible for reading water meters will be given additional responsibilities. [Learn more.](#)
- New procedures for permanent residents who change names due to marriage. [Learn more.](#)
- The department of transport must change. [Learn more.](#)

### **Streamlining communications between citizens and government departments**

[I have over three decades of expertise via my companies, in adapting working practices and automating them for some of the largest organisations in the world. However, I had and have no interest whatsoever in bidding for Cyprus government contracts. I do not currently trust the system at all.]

All emails and online contact forms sent to government departments by citizens will be tracked with unique reference numbers via an incident management system and replied to with the name of the author to ensure accountability and responsibility. I believe this is already planned.

All phone calls and physical visits by citizens will be logged in a central system.

Resolved cases will be reviewed internally to understand why a citizen had to call, write, or visit, in the first place. Based on patterns of enquiry, a process will ensure government websites and forms are updated quickly, or whether the ministry should run a national awareness campaign. For example, 'Why have we been asked the same question by 30 people a day?' or 'Why did 50 citizens have to visit us last week confused by the same form?'

An escalation and complaints process similar to those used by commercial organisations will also be implemented.

### **Professionalism**

The president, ministers, and all government employees are servants of Cyprus' citizens. They are not above them, nor should they ever appear to talk down to them. Training will be provided by

external suppliers on customer service techniques so citizen-facing government employees earn substantial bonuses via short questionnaires sent via SMS or email.

All citizen-facing government employees will be asked to wear name badges similar to many commercial organisations and shops internationally.

### **Government forms**

Most of them will be put in the recycling bin. All forms will be reviewed and possibly rewritten. They should not be digitally 'transformed' online until this is done. They will be rewritten by professionals. Lawyers, however good, should never design paper or online forms, nor workflows. Neither should lawmakers or IT staff. Specialists should do this. The golden rule: if you have bad, ill-thought-out processes and automate them, you will almost certainly make chaos happen more efficiently.

Example: The Financial Ombudsman's form. A ridiculous form for the sake of it? [Learn more.](#)

### **English is the language of business and negotiation (in politics and business)**

Regardless of whether a government form is paper based or online, English versions will be drafted to help international companies and individuals living here who do not read Greek, including Cypriots from abroad. Online help in English on how to use forms or how to undertake certain functions involving government departments will be mandatory.

To assist all government departments, Greek-to-English translation of websites, forms and how-to guides will be outsourced abroad using technology tools managed by expert manual human translators. These expert translators must know English as their first language and read Greek very well. It is a waste of time if it's the other way around. The ongoing cost to have a central translation service will be tiny compared to the efficiency and time savings it will generate for everyone.

Not having perfect English versions does not fit with successive governments' and CIPA's (the Cyprus Investment and Promotion Agency) mantra that Cyprus is a great place to do business in. It is not, if time and money must be spent understanding or undertaking simple actions.

No public employee will be forced to write emails or letters in English; however, at the bottom of every email will be a link to machine translate the email and another to translate documents sent via email. For formal signed letters sent via email, they must be scanned using optical character recognition (OCR) before being attached to emails. Ancient flatbed scanners do not have the capability. (Refer to the manifesto's technology section on using departmental smartphones.)

### **Government and municipality websites**

These must all contain how-to guides so that a 15-year-old can understand them. Almost anything that must be done by citizens and visitors will be clearly presented and kept up to date in Greek and English. As an absolute priority, the 20-100 most common 'how to' FAQs must be done across all government websites ASAP. Most citizens and visitors don't give a damn about recent tenders or the departmental mission statement probably written by a cheap PR agency 20 years ago. They want to know how to quickly do basic tasks, without having to visit or phone government offices.

## **I will ensure best practice is learned from other countries rather than re-inventing the wheel**

The department for innovation and digital transformation is already doing this. For example, I was at a conference in Nicosia and various initiatives were being done under the guidance of the British government for IT and digital transformation. That's great except it should have been done many years ago, and all ministries should directly learn how their equivalent ministries in other EU countries run day-to-day operations. I don't mean a photo opportunity showing the Cyprus minister of transport shaking hands with his equivalent in Greece. I want ideas to be shared by teams of experts internationally that can get things done and transform our country.

### 14.1 The EAC must be rewired without causing an electric shock to its staff



Firstly, I believe EAC engineers who ensure power is restored 24x7 during thunderstorms in potentially dangerous circumstances should be highly commended; and so should its staff who manage operations. Furthermore, its website is probably one of the best amongst government agencies. I note the EAC has a new, highly educated and experienced board. Excellent.

If elected president, I would ensure the following changes, or seek urgent answers:

- Planned outages will be communicated via SMS or email, not via leaflets left on car windscreens in rural areas. When brought to the EAC's attention, I was told the information is on its website. I already knew that. Every morning, I kiss my wife, get out of bed, use the bathroom, have a shower, and usually shave. What I don't do or plan to do for the rest of my life is visit its website daily in case my electricity is going to be cut off halfway through an important video meeting. Two years ago, its management were sent a technical specification how to use SMS and email for this exercise and without charge. **EAC: fix it.**
- Opening an account will be done online, as will gaining customer's permission to use automated payment methods. It is ridiculous it can take several actual visits to its offices to do these basics, especially having to prove one's IBAN number with an original document issued by a bank when

setting up an automated payment. When doing a money transfer for tens of thousands of euros, bank customers are not normally told to visit a branch just in case they got it wrong. The EAC gives the impression that it thinks we Cypriots are idiots. Regarding stupidity, I would question the intelligence of anyone who fraudulently uses someone else's bank account to try to automatically pay their electricity bill every 2 months. **EAC: fix it.** This is a prime example of why experienced specialists should design working practices. It should not be lawyers or lawmakers who have no experience of the real world.

- Deposits from new customers will attract the best interest rate Cyprus banks offer for 1-year deposits. The earned interest will be offset against the first EAC bill after 1 March every year and backdated to 1/1/2017. The EAC sometimes sits on this customer money for decades.
- It is ridiculous consumers are forced to pay €1.20 to have their meters manually read by a man in a van producing CO2 emissions. I would seek a report into why smart meters were not rolled out nationally 5 years ago, and why the EAC did not have the initiative for 10 years to implement meter self-reading via emailed photographic evidence provided by consumers. **EAC: fix it.**
- What legal right does the EAC have to charge you €1.20 to 'read' a meter for an estimated bill when the meter is not actually read? A restaurant cannot knowingly charge €1.20 for bread that is not delivered to the table. **EAC: stop this** and refund every customer affected, going back 6 years. Do this before February, or I will ask you less politely.
- I would seek a report from the government agencies involved, including CERA and the EAC, explaining why fuel was not purchased in advance via derivatives when energy prices were at rock bottom in 2020. Currently the EAC earns a 4.5% margin. This creates an anti-customer incentive, as the higher the price, the better it is for the EAC. I would seek a joint solution rather than blaming others.
- I would require a full justified explanation as to why the EAC apparently limits approval for new solar panels to 90% of the customer's previous 2 years' energy consumption. Why can't a customer produce 200% to help the environment and lower energy costs for everyone?
- Leaving aside the pandemic which affected everyone, why is the EAC running at a loss despite sky-high electricity bills? The EAC is a monopoly. If KEO was owned by the state and had the sole monopoly to brew and sell beer at €5 a bottle in supermarkets and €8 at restaurants, yet still made a loss, consumers would be outraged. There would be nationwide demonstrations.

I will rewire the EAC without giving an electric shock to its excellent staff. It will be stripped of its monopoly when other energy providers enter the market. I will also ensure switching to new electricity suppliers can be done online without having to physically visit offices. We are in 2022, not 1992. EAC executives: no answer will be accepted that states, *'But we've always done it that way'* or *'It's the law'*. If it's *'the law'*, explain which law and prove you tried to change it.

### 14.2 The registrar of companies must make changes to its working practices

A new manager was appointed in July 2022. Excellent. Hopefully, she will provide great leadership and fresh ideas. I also commend its new website compared to the previous dire one, which was not fit for purpose. If elected president I would ensure the following changes, or seek answers:

- Implementation of email tracking and communication forms must be done **now**. Its current system fails because emails listed for named employees are usually ignored. Nor are they generally monitored if the person is away. This frustrates everyone, including Cyprus' commercial lawyers and accountants. Just ask them what they think of its current service.
- Its phones are rarely answered by specific named employees. Nor are voicemails responded to. It is therefore pointless listing them online. Create a central call centre. Do this **now**.
- Companies that are charities do not have shares. They do not have ultimate beneficial owners (UBOs). Instead, they have persons with significant control (PSCs). That's how other countries handle the matter. If a charity company has a beneficial owner, it is not a charity. Fix this **now**.
- When a director has filled in the UBO entry for their company, ensure the system automatically emails a copy. The only way to get a copy is to visit HQ and pay €3.50 in cash. This is totally absurd, so **fix this now**.
- Every company must use a separate email address when registering or using Ariadni. This is ridiculous. Some persons and accountancy firms have 50 dormant companies. They should use one login to access them, not 50. That's how other countries do this. It is simply untrue to state that this is an EU directive. My staff wrote to the EU, and it confirmed there is no such directive. So, **fix this now**.

I wish to make clear that I have no complaint against its staff, who have dealt with me politely over the years despite my many complaints. They are just doing the job they are told to do, based on outdated or flawed working practices allegedly designed by amateurs.

### 14.3 The pensions department must be overhauled



If elected president, I would ensure the following changes to the department dealing with state pensions:

- Its phones rarely get answered, its website is dire, emails bounce (because its server is full), and online contact forms are ignored and never acknowledged. **Fix this now.**
- When visiting regional offices as a last resort because it's impossible to get through via email, online form or phone, the citizen is often told to visit Nicosia HQ instead. **Update your websites in Greek and English. Fix this now.**
- In other countries, a caller can get information on a projected pension and what they can do to top it up. The department does not provide this. Ariadni does so to some degree. Its way of dealing with the matter is to say, 'Contact us a few months before pension age.' By then, it's too late to top up contributions. Update your websites in Greek and English. **Do this now.**
- And finally, someone stole the toilet seat from its Limassol office's public bathroom. I suggest it gets replaced. I will pay for and arrange this if senior management find it too challenging.

Fix these problems **now**.

#### 14.4 Water meter reading

Water is a natural resource that must be protected.

Prior to the pandemic, one of my companies offered a proof of concept to one particular village, without charge. A prototype system was designed to automatically read water meters via a smart phone photo, upload the photos and then process the information overnight. The result? An alarm would be raised if the water usage was substantially higher than 12 months prior (for example, a mains water leak while the property owner was abroad). And automating water bill invoicing would have been an easy by-product.

The village mayor was enthused. However, the person reading the village water meters refused to take part for a day, even with use of a free smartphone that we would supply, because he was 'too busy'. Furthermore, his attitude was that it is not a village's responsibility if a water leak was on private property. Turning the mains water supply off as a big favour was all that had to be done.

If I am elected president: All persons who read private homes' water meters must inform the property owner (via their village or municipality office) if they see the meter spinning like crazy or notice a leak. It will be their office's responsibility to inform the property owner if the water bill is much higher than usual. Those reading meters who are too lazy to do so and, for example, turn the water off without telling anyone should be retrained, or fired. **[Conflict of interest statement: I will gladly license this technology IP which I own via one of my companies, free of charge within Cyprus. Again, I wish to make clear that I have no interest whatsoever in bidding for government contracts in Cyprus as I do not trust the system.]**

#### 14.5 New procedures for permanent residents who change their names due to marriage

If someone has a bank account and changes her name due to marriage, I am not aware of any bank anywhere in the world who will insist the customer is dealt with as if opening a new account. This would be ridiculous and cause everyone additional work to process AML and KYC documents.

Absurdly in Cyprus, if you are a permanent resident who gets married and changes your name (even if you get married in Cyprus to a Cypriot), the immigration department insists you reapply for



residency to get a 'yellow slip'. This happened to a member of my family in 2017. I don't know if it applies today following the very assertive complaints I made.

If I am elected president, I would change this ridiculous law. It creates paperwork for everyone for no reason. No wonder the public sector in some government departments is short-staffed. **Fix it!**

#### 14.6 The department of transport must change

In my opinion, the department of transport ties for a special award with the state pension one for the **worst** government website in Cyprus. It is dire. Two years ago, a manager phoned me based on an article I had written on transforming government websites by those on full pay sitting at home during the pandemic. He told me it would be done soon when they are ready. I'm still waiting. When I informed him English versions of the website were missing which negatively impacted international companies and non-Cypriot residents, I was told Greek is the official language, so it's not his department's problem. I rest my case.

As president I would implement the following changes:

- Ensure the annual car tax amount when planning to buy a particular vehicle can be searched online by its license plate.
- The steps involved when importing a vehicle will be transformed. When doing so today, it is ridiculous a citizen must pay for a physical €5 stamp which the transport department doesn't sell, forcing the frustrated citizen to visit a post office having spent 1 hour in the original queue.
- Vehicle transfers will be done online via Ariadni rather than physically having to deliver paperwork. Learn how other countries do this. It's not rocket science.
- In partnership with the private sector all buses including rural ones will have GPS tracking and online timetables, so that everyone knows via a nationwide app when a bus is expected to arrive. I propose village buses implement a wave and stop service en route in places it is safe to stop. This will greatly assist older persons in rural areas who have mobility issues.
- Most public-facing functions will be moved to citizen centres.

Department of transport: fix your websites, fully translate them in English, and review your working practices **now**. They are a national embarrassment. Before even thinking about building an intercity railway, get the basics done. Or put another way, before racing formula 1 cars, **learn how to drive!**

#### 14.7 The Financial Ombudsman's form. Example of a ridiculous form for the sake of it?

For one dire example of a ridiculous government form for the sake of it, go to the Financial Ombudsman's website and find its four-page complaint form.

Questions to its senior management:

1. A Cyprus presidential candidate needs to complete a simple half-page form; why is yours four pages long?
2. Did a lawyer with no expertise of the real world design it?

3. How does the Financial Ombudsman's office use the superfluous information? Does some poor admin person waste their time and taxpayers' money updating a useless database somewhere?
4. Why do you charge €20 to review a complaint? Why must the person making the complaint have to visit a bank (probably the one they are complaining about) and get proof that they have paid the €20 by getting it stamped by a bank clerk? What if the person making the complaint lives abroad? Making a complaint to the police does not cost €20! It's free.

I believe 99.777% of the current Ombudsman's form is not required and should be changed. In fact, a simple email or letter should suffice, followed by an easy-to-use online or real form. **Fix this now.**

## 15. My draconian anti-corruption measures

My approach is **radical**. Many members of parliament under instructions from their political parties will initially refuse to pass most of these anti-corruption manifesto pledges. It will be like lambs voting on what should be eaten on Easter Sunday. However, I have a cunning plan.

I will introduce draconian measures for politically exposed persons ('PEPs') to fully disclose their assets in **private** via detailed anti-money laundering (AML) audits paid for by the state. 'Private' means in secret and **confidentially**. Only a summary will be made public. I will commission an independent study to provide this PEP list. Just because someone is a diplomat, judge, or senior government employee does not mean they are a PEP. Nor would this apply to decision makers for low-value government contracts.

- No bank accounts may be opened anywhere in the EU without **private** disclosure. It will become a criminal offence to open a bank account outside of the EU (directly or indirectly) without full **private** disclosure and justification. There will be a limit on how much cash per week may be banked or withdrawn without full disclosure and an explanation in **private**. When audits are required they will be carried out abroad by respected professionals with no connections to Cyprus.

All EU and UK banks currently ask individuals a question when opening an account as part of ongoing AML best practice: 'Are you a PEP or are you related to a PEP?' This makes it very difficult to syphon corrupt money to relatives via EU and UK banks.

- I will keep current ways government contracts are awarded over certain values, with **additional checks and balances by qualified persons abroad who have no Cyprus connections, including:**
  1. How Turkish Cypriot properties are awarded or administered
  2. How land is rezoned
  3. How long-term rental space for government offices is assessed
  4. Our future sovereign wealth fund from natural gas royalties
  5. Other similar areas of potential or publicly perceived areas of corruption exposure, or political corruption in return for votes.

- New senior government appointments will be reviewed by the same external experts that will assist in the selection of my future ministers and MPs. This will put an end to ‘jobs for the boys’.
- Political party donations will be **privately** monitored by external qualified persons abroad. All bank statements and sources of funding will be disclosed monthly. Donations in cash, however small, will be banned because we are in 2022, not 1962. Most political party donors have bank accounts and debit cards.
- Political lobbying laws will be enhanced. Special interest groups that provide direct or indirect donations to political parties over a certain amount must fully disclose their name, name of party, and amount on a central government website for public scrutiny within 30 days. Political parties that propose any laws or changes to laws must transparently disclose if a special interest group lobbied or paid a donation directly or indirectly to their party within the previous 2 years.
- The auditor general will be given additional powers to expedite investigations and a larger budget for forensic audits.

The state will pay for all the above additional impartial checks and balances. PEPs and political parties will not. If current members of parliament refuse to pass such laws out of fear of transparency, **the Cyprus electorate can replace them with our new political party’s MPs in May 2026, if they so wish.** This will be the first set of laws ‘we’ will pass when elected in office. (Off topic: The second law ‘we’ will pass will be to undo MPs’ right to enjoy a full pension after only 5 years in office. This is **disgraceful**. We have tens of thousands of pensioners who were never employed by the public sector, that worked for 40 years, paid taxes and social insurance for 40 years but are now barely able to financially survive.)

I have absolutely no trust in the current system whatsoever. Despite my companies’ undertaking international projects including for the EU itself, we have never bothered to bid. Unless you know someone in power and can pull strings, opportunities are limited in our tiny country where everyone knows someone. Currently when buying goods, e.g. printer paper or road signs, it’s fine for government departments or municipalities to choose the cheapest. However, for services, cheapest isn’t best. A good example is how much the government pays for certain services. Unless some of these companies do so out of patriotic duty, or as a part-time additional job, the general rule in business is, **if you pay peanuts, you get a monkey<sup>2</sup>.**

We Cypriots do not want foreigners abroad telling us what to do as if we are a third-world nation. However, because we are a tiny nation where everyone knows someone, I want to invite professional help from abroad to assist us to follow our own path as a nation. This will drastically reduce political and actual corruption. By having this **additional layer of oversight** from external independent experts **abroad**, corruption will be minimised, and the best supplier or advisor will get senior jobs and government contracts, not the best politically connected or the cheapest.

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<sup>2</sup> I am not implying companies awarded government contracts or advisors are monkeys merely that the amount they are paid compared to other EU countries is low. This potentially limits the companies and advisors willing to apply.

## 16. Our future ministers: how the best of the best will be selected

As our new political party will not be functioning by February 2023, I would initially appoint several ministers from across the political spectrum, while [soliciting applications from qualified members of the Cyprus public](#). This search for **talented, respected Cypriots** began the day this manifesto was launched in November 2022. As a one-off exercise, these future ministers will be shortlisted using expert companies abroad that assist in the selection of senior executives for the largest organisations in the world. I would seek the views of all political parties and the Greek government before appointing our **defence minister**. Let's not forget the head of the national guard is traditionally from Greece.

I do not want anyone who seeks power with the intent of helping themselves, special interest groups, or anyone already heavily soiled by Cyprus politics. I would generally seek the best of the best 'virgin' politicians aged 30 or over to help me undertake my manifesto pledges to transform Cyprus, all of which they must fully align with **upfront**.

- New government appointments will include a deputy minister (or commissioner) to deal with migrants, non-Cypriot residents, minorities, and diaspora Cypriots worldwide; a commissioner for consumer protection will be created and moved from the ministry of trade and commerce. I will also create a deputy minister to manage a CIPA version 2.0.
- Most ministers and deputy ministers will be expected to add two additional shared and coordinated responsibilities to their portfolios as a body:
  1. To actively invite international companies to open substantive offices in Cyprus to create jobs. Training for the council of ministers will be provided.
  2. To indirectly report to a version 2.0 of the deputy minister of research, innovation and digital transformation on optimizing working practices. Digital transformation without changing working practices leads to the automation of chaos. The system currently fails because no one is in charge overall. I hold Deputy Minister Mr Kyriakos Kokkinos and Permanent Secretary Dr Stelios Himonas in the highest esteem, but their department cannot digitally transform Cyprus without support from other ministries who must change some of the current ridiculous ways they do things.

### **Other structural changes I plan to implement to fix Cyprus**

- I intend to hire 50 of the best candidates who have MBAs or PhDs, and park them in teams across ministries for 6-month secondments over a 2-year period. They will report to version 2.0 of the deputy minister of research, innovation and digital transformation on optimizing working practices. To avoid conflicts of interest, for 2 years after their assignments are over, they will not be permitted to apply for jobs in the departments they help to transform.
- Subject to consultation, some of the best permanent secretaries will be moved across ministries for a one-off 6-month secondment. This will not apply where specialist skills are needed; for example, the ministry of health needs a day-to-day leader with medical expertise. This reorganisation will mean ideas for better governance and operations will be spread across many ministries. A good executive manager is a leader, visionary, and motivator wherever s/he works.

Summary: by having a new president and eventually new ministers unsoiled by Cyprus' political mire, there will be no ministerial infighting for power. Help me transform Cyprus. Let's fix Cyprus together.

### Important legal point

The president of Cyprus and his ministers (the executive) do not have dictatorial powers. Parliament's 56 MPs (the legislative) pass laws by a majority vote as instructed by their political parties. The third branch to avoid a dictatorship is our independent Supreme Court (the judiciary).

If I am elected, it will be a mandate by the people. I will be willing to make compromises and do 'deals' with parliament and the political parties that back them, with a warning. If they object to pass laws for my key manifesto pledges, I will ensure those MPs voting against will be publicly named, so that our new political party will offer to replace them in the May 2026 election. Cyprus needs a strong truly independent president, not a lapdog that panders to special interest groups or worships any political party. Cyprus needs Andronicos, the 'rottweiler president'. You can decide in 2023 and 2026. If you belong to a political party, cancel your membership and join us!

Help me form our new government. Apply to become a minister or MP

## 17. Supporting our farmers with innovative solutions



- EU and government funds will be sought towards modernising the agricultural sector, leading to greater self-sufficiency and food security for our country.
- Free training and advice for farmers will be made available.
- Grants for equipment, and support for farm-to-table platforms to increase farmers' profitability.

- Exchange of know-how through joint projects and initiatives with neighbouring countries will be pursued.
- A study will be undertaken for the government to broker the bulk purchase of insurance to protect against certain crop failures.
- A physical wholesale fruit and vegetable market will be established in at least one key location. Farmers will be able to sell in bulk to members of the public direct, for example 100KG of potatoes or 25KG of peaches. Friends, relatives and neighbours can then share in saving costs.
- A study will be commissioned on how an eCommerce platform can be designed (in partnership with the private sector), to undertake a virtual version of the above physical market.
- I will commission a report on how surplus container ship, cargo plane, and truck capacity can be used to export fruit, vegetables, and halloumi to lucrative international markets without lots of middlemen taking a cut.

Farmers: talk to me and I will listen.

## 18. Empowering people with disabilities

I will support those with disabilities and special needs. If someone can't walk, can't see, can't hear, can't talk, or is intellectually challenged, it does not make them 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens. **I have substantial experience on these matters as a father to a mentally and physically challenged son born in 1977** who lives abroad. Individuals such as my middle-aged son seek respect and inclusion, not pity.

- I will totally review disability benefits, how they are paid, and to whom.
- I will empower those with special needs to be part of society, and support families that need to care for relatives that fit this criteria.
- I will implement positive discrimination, so that a percentage of persons with physical challenges get priority for public sector jobs should they wish to apply.
- I will provide additional funds in partnership with commercial partners for sports training and facilities to create future paralympic athletes.
- I will introduce laws and automated systems so that blue badge holders can take irrefutable photographic evidence of cars illegally parked in disabled parking spaces and earn a percentage of the fine when paid.
- I will also introduce 'silver alert' alarms if someone elderly with dementia or a young child goes missing. Technology is available that can send a message and photo via SMS to any mobile phone in the area within a few hundred metres of a last known sighting (for the elderly) and nationwide for young children. By the time photos are published, it may be too late.

## 19. Supporting our villages and rural communities

- Assistance will be given to help our villages with agritourism, infrastructure, and connectivity.
- Invoices for rubbish collection, water, property tax, and other charges should be sent via email if requested. Resources will be provided by the digital transformation ministry using selected suppliers to implement.
- Villages can apply to be permitted to conduct civil weddings to attract tourists; however, a percentage of the profit should be spent assisting the poorest long-term residents, probably pensioners or families in need. It will be up to the village councils to decide.
- Recycling points will be available at strategic locations within a few KMs of every village.
- I will continue to seek EU grants to beautify our villages.
- Refer to my radical approach to the Cyprus problem on how Turkish village and rural properties in the south can be transformed if a solution can be negotiated with 'TRNC'.

## 20. Improving consumer protection and confidence

A commissioner for consumer protection will be appointed and be given more powers. The system will be tracked with unique reference numbers, when making a complaint via a form or email.

- A substantial number of respected qualified persons will be invited to be appointed as part-time 'consumer protection officers' with official badges and limited powers. This will be done via a public awareness campaign. They will likely be retired pensioners that own vehicles and be unpaid volunteers for this public service. To avoid awkward situations, enforcement will be for businesses in districts they do not live in, many kms away from where they normally shop.
- They will have the powers to issue a formal warning for a first offence and authority to issue a fixed fine for the second. The third offence will be reviewed by the commissioner's office and if proven will result in the offending business being listed on a public database for 12 months and fined. Software tools and a confidential database will be made available to these volunteers to ensure the tracking of the above.
- It will become a fineable offence for a shop to, for example, have 3 types of the same brand of chewing gum for sale with 2 flavours marked at €2 on the shelf, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> having no price marked yet sold for €3 at checkout.
- When buying bananas from a supermarket, the prices are clearly shown. A customer is never told that they will be given the price at checkout. Therefore, all professional used vehicle dealers must show indicative costs of all used cars for sale at their premises or in adverts. This will not apply to new vehicles, or cars for sale by members of the public. It will be OK to state 'less than' or 'offers in the region of' to take into account cash buyers vs part exchanges, as long as it is near the real actual price. Exceptions for rare or vintage cars will apply. However, to assist in the import of used cars from the EU and other countries, the bureaucracy involved will be drastically reduced. Summary: to be an international base for businesses and to attract

foreigners to live in Cyprus, we must avoid scenarios where it is perceived they are being taken advantage of.

- With bank branches being closed nationwide, I will ensure Cyprus' largest retail banks do not charge for ATM use for customers of another large Cyprus bank. However, incentives will be given for more ATM machines nationwide.
- To protect tourists, 3<sup>rd</sup> party owned ATM machine owners will be forced to show warning messages on the punitive currency exchange rates offered compared to retail ATM machines.

## 21. Introducing valuable licence plate transfers between owners

Whoever thought of the current system of bidding for licence plates for newly registered vehicles did not think through the potential revenue the government could make if it was designed properly. Therefore, the department of transport via a commercial partner (subject to tender) will facilitate the advertising, auction, and transfer of number plates **between the owners of registered vehicles** that wish to do so. The state will earn a substantial fee from all transactions.

In some countries, for example the UK, some licence plates have been sold for hundreds of thousands of pounds. For example, RR 1 was exchanged for £472,000 in 2018, by a rather wealthy Rolls-Royce owner. The owners of the Cyprus plates LAW 1 and CY 1, if they exist, will probably be pleased. So will vehicle owners who currently possess a potentially valuable plate on an old vehicle. As a one-off exercise, the department of transport's commercial partner will flag all potentially valuable plates currently in circulation. The department of transport will inform the owners.

## 22. Introducing state awards in recognition of bravery

A study will be commissioned to recognise and honour acts of civil heroism and bravery. It will be administered abroad to avoid misuse. I will recommend the highest and first award be given to Cyprus' professional and volunteer firefighters (city, village, and forest) since 1960 as a body.

I also propose representatives of our fire services organize an annual island-wide parade of fire engines and crews, waving our national flag, so they can be publicly honoured. Our young children will be very pleased. This can perhaps begin in the winter of 2023/24 or early spring 2024 when the risk of fire is minimal.

## 23. Protecting our environment

I am aligned to the EU plan on green transition. I am also aligned to several policies of the Green Party and Animal Party. My manifesto pledge on the environment will be published in full after talking to stakeholders. [Register now to read the final version](#) of my presidential manifesto which will be published by 22 January, 2 weeks prior to the election. My interim thoughts:

**Green energy:** I want ways the largest cities, towns, and villages can be solar powered and/or supplied with wind and wave power, and how the land underneath can still be used and for what, including earthquake contingency if these energy generators get damaged.



**Recycling:** I believe rural residents should have access to large container-type open skips placed along highways at nearly every exit and on major roads to dispose of paper, plastic, bottles, and cans. The recycling contractors should undertake the sorting as done in other countries.

**Rubbish:** I want ways rubbish can be burnt using a state-of-the-art incinerator that will create electricity as a by-product instead of the current environmentally disastrous method of burying it.

**Taxis:** I want to commission a study into how taxi drivers can be helped to lease hybrid or electric cars. The state can help possibly leverage the bulk purchase in partnership with the commercial sector and lease them for an all-in monthly payment for 5 years to include servicing and parts. By sharing use, many can be on the road 22 hours a day to save costs. To subsidise costs further, the commercial sector could own the rights to advertising on or in every taxi.

**Solar panels:** I want the state in partnership with the EAC and financial institutions to offer solar panels for zero deposit including installation and connection. The EAC (and eventually other energy providers) can **guarantee these energy loans are repaid via customers' electricity bills**. If they don't pay their electricity bills, they will be cut off as now, yet still feed solar power to the national energy grid. If commercial banks charge silly interest rates, I will invite the capital markets to invest with a guaranteed return. This infrastructure loan will be hedged with very little risk to the state.

This scheme will initially be offered to homeowners who have a good history of generally paying their electricity bills on time. It will be a contractual matter between a landlord and tenant after this scheme is possibly extended to rental properties. Finally, to be clear, I am very much in favour of solar parks being built in parallel. However, the only current winners are the owners of these solar parks and the EAC. Solar panels on homes **means almost free electricity after the loans** (directly paid off the customers' electricity bills) **are repaid in 3-7 years**. Based on current electricity prices, the loans will likely cost less than electricity bills are now.

**New homes:** In consultation with property developers who will be given incentives, I will propose that the installation of solar panels will become **mandatory** on all new homes built from 2026. This will only apply to detached properties over, say, €250,000. I will require the EAC to give further incentives so that these new properties, until sold, will provide electricity to the national grid. Today, there are thousands of new empty homes for sale. Imagine if they all had solar panels feeding our country's electricity needs. Why has this not been done before?

**Politicians:** Let's recycle all the political dinosaurs. The first step is voting for me in February.

None of the above is rocket science. I'm not proposing Cyprus be the first country to send a manned mission to Mars. Why hasn't any Cyprus government implemented most of them? There's something strange about Cyprus which I suspect many dinosaur politicians haven't noticed. Cyprus is very sunny. Cyprus is windy. And Cyprus is an island surrounded by waves.

## 24. Protecting areas of outstanding natural beauty

Cyprus is a small island that arguably has four key areas of outstanding natural beauty: Paphos forest, our mountains, our beaches, and the Akamas. My manifesto pledge on these matters will be published in full after talking to several stakeholders. [Register now to read the final version](#) of my presidential manifesto which will be published by 22 January, 2 weeks prior to the election.

Many countries passed laws decades ago to protect areas of outstanding natural beauty despite objections from landowners and developers at the time. For example, Muir Woods is a California State monument (park) famous for some of the tallest trees in the world. In 1907, before it became protected by the government, there were plans by loggers to cut the trees down, and separately a water company planned to flood the valley. Tens of millions of visitors including me would never have seen this beautiful park had this been allowed.

We owe it to our tourism industry to maintain the beauty that attracts visitors to Cyprus. And we owe it as a duty to our future descendants. My views on this matter will likely be controversial.

## 25. Animal welfare: better laws and enforcement



I am aligned to many policies of the Animal Party. My manifesto pledge on animals will be published in full after talking to stakeholders. [Register now to read the final version](#) of my presidential manifesto, which will be published by 22 January, 2 weeks prior to the election.

With due respect to vegetarians, vegans, and religious beliefs which I do not share, I am **not** against hunting for food, nor the culling of vermin or similar animals. If I was, it would be similar to objecting to fishermen 'hunting' for fish or seafood. Trained hunters could help our families' survival during a disaster scenario. Refer to my section on 'defending Cyprus'.

## 26. Defending Cyprus from military, man-made, and natural disasters

In-depth studies with stakeholders will be commissioned to establish how conscripted soldiers and professional soldiers can spend 3 months learning advanced first aid (between EMT and basic paramedic skill levels) and advanced search and rescue skills in case of a major earthquake in Cyprus or neighbouring countries. This initiative should be open to women aged 18-25 who volunteer to do so. Universities and employers should plan for this.

For over 60 years the UN has helped keep the peace on our island. If a solution to the Cyprus problem can be negotiated and our island eventually becomes fully demilitarised, I hope a day will come when conscription is replaced with Greek Cypriots wearing UN uniforms being the first on the scene after a natural disaster or famine to coordinate relief anywhere in the world, in part to acknowledge the important role the UN has played in Cyprus, but also to proudly show our Cyprus flag prominently displayed on UN uniforms worldwide.

I sincerely hope such a day happens in my lifetime; however, until then we must deal with reality...

Longing for global peace does not make me a pacifist. As president, defence will be one of my key priorities. I would seek reports by stakeholders, especially the defence ministry with input from the Greek government, on how to optimise our defence forces with the best equipment and procedures.

Furthermore, at the time of writing this presidential manifesto, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is cause for grave international concern. If I was elected president today, the first job I would do tomorrow would be to prepare for the worst and urgently involve all government departments.

The answers I would seek would be to 'war-game' a scenario if the British bases that currently share our island were attacked, whether by conventional or, God forbid, chemical, small tactical nuclear, or similar weapons. I would want urgent advice on ordering iodine tablets and protective suits, evacuation procedures, and hospital preparedness for everyone affected. As an example, estimate the blast zone and radioactive fallout of a small nuclear bomb dropped on Akrotiri to Limassol city here: <https://nuclearsecrecy.com/nukemap/> (Warning: some may find this link distressing.)

#### **Other emergencies: plans must be drafted now**

Many aspects of the Cyprus government's pandemic management were questionable. The government should treat citizens as adults, not as a yaya dealing with a 10-year-old. If there was a future pandemic, enough hospital capacity must be available with contingency planning, so the country doesn't shut down. Other future emergencies which must be planned for:

1. What if in the 2030s Limassol regularly reaches 45°C in August due to global warming? What if there are annual extreme water shortages?
2. What if our farmers can't buy seed due to some international event such as genetically modified plants going haywire?
3. What if there was a massive earthquake in Nicosia? Or a tsunami that hit Paphos or Limassol?
4. What if our international network cables are cut? How will phones and the internet work?
5. How and where will command and control take place if the government and relevant agencies are uncontactable? Subject to public consultation, I will propose Athens, and if Greece was unavailable due to the same emergency, I would possibly propose a 3<sup>rd</sup> country with reciprocal plans.

**Summary:** A president that does not plan for disaster is not fit to be president. I urge the government to do the above planning now.

## 27. LGBTQ+ rights



Cyprus is a secular state, deeply influenced by Christian tradition and Orthodox culture which I respect. If Cyprus was a theocracy, based on religious interpretation that has changed over the years, probably half the Cyprus population would have been whipped, stoned, or spent time in jail for having sex before marriage or for committing adultery. Why is same-sex marriage in a different so-called 'moral' category when LGBTQ+ relationships are legal in Cyprus? As president I will introduce the following initiatives:

- In partnership with qualified charities, support mechanisms will be implemented for younger LGBTQ+ persons bullied for their sexual orientation or identity.
- A direct line will also be set up for LGBTQ+ individuals facing discrimination both in their personal life and in the workplace.
- So called 'conversion therapy', the degrading attempt to change a person's sexual orientation using coercive means, will be made into a **criminal offence**.

I will listen to LGBTQ+ representatives and do my very best to assist.

## 28. Education



There are seven types of education needs in Cyprus:

- Pre-school primary (3 – 6)
- Pre-teen (6 – 12)
- High school (12 – 18)
- University
- Special needs
- Adult
- Commercial/entrepreneurial

If I am elected president, I will instruct the education minister to start with a blank piece of paper and provide formal recommendations to improve all seven education areas after involving various stakeholders. These must include internationally respected experts, unions, teachers, parents, other countries' best practices, and commercial partners.

In parallel, I want students from every gymnasium and Lyceum high school to elect a committee of spokespersons to answer a fundamental question: what should be done to improve their education? In other words, what do our children want? A 15-year-old is not allowed to drive, vote, or marry. However, many in that age group probably have more nous than some Cyprus politicians I've recently watched on TV.

### **Subject to feedback from all stakeholders, my vision is shown below:**

1. To increase the school leaving age from 15 to 16.
2. To create a public national league table of how every high school performs in pan-Cyprian exams compared to other schools. Competition is good as it encourages better teaching and should not be feared. The worst-performing schools will be given the best teachers and headteachers, so their standards improve. It will be similar to American football (NFL) where the worst-performing teams this year have priority to select the best-of-the-best players from American colleges next year.
3. To implement chess training from age 6 and hold inter-school competitions.
4. To select the most gifted teenagers in sports and specialist studies to optionally attend academies part time. These children will be our future leaders, sports stars, Michelin chefs, Einsteins, chess grand masters, and business leaders, so let's not hold them back from excelling. Let's incubate this talent and make it grow.
5. To train our youth to care for our planet, our community, and each other. And to learn that bullying and violent gangs are wrong. (I wish to make clear that morality education and religious beliefs are for parents to teach, not the state)
6. To use shock tactics so our children never become drug addicts. By 'shock' I mean visits from former addicts, police presentations, photos, graphic films, or similar. If our children leave these lectures uncomfortable or nauseous, then this initiative has been a success. I want to create a generation that will view drug use as a total taboo, similar to eating human flesh. **[Personal experience: Having been a volunteer for an emotional support hotline charity for 12 years, I've listened to distraught persons, sometimes suicidal, who wished they had never tried drugs when they were at school.]**
7. To ensure every child that wants to, learns basic first aid, lifesaving at sea, fire prevention and control, earthquake preparedness and rescue skills. I want Cyprus to be the first nation in the world where 90% of its teenagers over the age of 13 can safely resuscitate a tourist, friend, family member, or stranger from death's door with or without a defibrillator.
8. In partnership with top Cypriot chefs who will provide the recipes, to teach teenage boys from age 13 how to cook four or five Cypriot gourmet dishes, learn how to clean, and how to iron. **Let's create a nation of men** whose partners will adore them, not spoilt mummies' boys holding on to apron strings. **[Personal experience:** I was an only child. My yaya and mother brought me up in London. I do not recall knowing how to wash dishes or iron a shirt until I got married. However, I did learn basic cookery at school. I persuaded my friends to take (the optional) cookery classes so our high school would put us in the same room as the girls so we could flirt with them. There were so many 'lads' (Greek 'palikaria') that applied, there was no room for any girls in our class.]

### **Special needs education**

As part of my promise to empower those with special needs, a radical review will take place with the help of stakeholders. I will also review how some adults with mental challenges can safely live

in the community in sheltered accommodation yet enjoy day centre facilities to enjoy their lives. In days gone by, children and adults with special needs were locked up in mental institutions. Other than in exceptional circumstances, this must never apply in a modern, caring Cyprus.

### **Adult education**

100 years ago, Cyprus was a nation of farmers, mostly poor. So poor, children were not forced into compulsory education until the 1960s, in case they had to care for family farms. I will change this. If an 80-year-old grandfather wants to learn about astrophysics and multiverses, astronomy, Wagner, or how to use a PC, the state will partner with commercial organisations, schools, and universities to subsidise this part-time training. Countries such as Denmark follow this model.

### **Commercial/entrepreneurial education**

Refer to my manifesto section, 'Businesses, entrepreneurship, job creation, and the CSE'.

### **Summary**

If you elect me president, I give you my word that I will do everything in my power to radically change our education system so that no one will ever dare to allege that Cypriot children or their teachers are less intelligent or able than those in Singapore, Japan, or the rest of the EU. Within a few years, I want Cyprus to be an international model for education best practice.

## **29. A new approach to asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants**

**Based on my family's experiences going back 100+ years**, I had to look in a mirror before writing about asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants. As a compassionate human being and as a president, I seek fairness under international law, without Cyprus being taken advantage of. Let's not forget many countries opened their doors to Cypriots in 1974 fleeing the Turkish invasion. And I'm sure they would do so again in the horrible disaster scenarios I wrote about previously.

There are two extreme public viewpoints: those who wish to greet migrants with open arms out of compassion, and a minority who would physically hurt them and remove them from Cyprus at gunpoint if the law allowed.

If a luxury cruise ship found a family hanging off a sinking boat, human decency and the international laws of the sea would mean they would be rescued, accommodated, and fed. However, it would be absurd for the rescued family to expect to live on the cruise ship for several years, demand a cabin upgrade with a sea view, or tell the captain where they should disembark.

Based on my family's history, I have **absolute sympathy** for those fleeing persecution or wars. However, this is an EU-wide problem which can only be resolved at an EU level. Cyprus is too small to cope with thousands of refugees. We can share the burden with the EU for humanitarian reasons and international law, but not at the detriment of our own citizens who also need medical care, welfare, and housing. In fact, most migrants would rather live in the larger EU countries and the UK.

I also have **some sympathy** for those seeking a better life as economic migrants; however, they cannot move to countries illegally, nor expect EU countries to pay for welfare benefits.

I have **no sympathy whatsoever** with ‘refugees’ who lie about their status, such as pretending they are unaccompanied minors when they are not. Or those that falsely state their country of origin. They should be repatriated at the first opportunity for illegally entering Cyprus.

My solution to asylum and migrant questions is for the EU to jointly find answers and fund them as this is an EU-wide problem. I believe an independent non-EU body should deal with eligibility and where accepted applicants should live. While the ones in Cyprus are being processed for eligibility, the **EU can feasibly pay Turkey to pay ‘TRNC’** to look after them. No refugee could seriously argue they are in danger by being housed in the occupied territories. In parallel, subject to an in-depth study and legal opinions, is to invite able-bodied asylum seekers receiving state aid while being processed (not in detention) to work part-time for our community without pay as volunteers. Why wouldn’t they? If I was rescued off a sinking boat, I’d gladly help the crew without being asked.

The above should not apply to those who are **temporarily** fleeing a natural or man-made disaster, such as the hundreds of thousands that were forced to flee Ukraine due to the Russian invasion.

If my radical solution to the Cyprus problem can be negotiated (subject to referenda), Turkey and ‘TRNC’ will not be able to ‘dump’ asylum seekers south of the UN buffer zone, or weaponize them.

### 30. Helping the poorest in society with dignity

We are very fortunate in Cyprus as it is extremely rare for a family or child to go to bed hungry. If elected president I will instruct the volunteer commissioner (who will be working for the new charity commission) to organise a long-term food initiative with villages, bakeries, restaurants, hotels, and supermarkets, in partnership with philanthropic organisations to help the poor. Cyprus hospitality is legendary. A good example is our amazing fish and meat mezzes served at restaurants. However, there is so much food waste, it is shameful. I don’t mean what’s left on the table after a meal, but what’s left in the restaurant kitchen, bakery, or supermarket that is thrown away daily.

I want an **army of volunteers** to distribute surplus food every evening using a state-of-the-art national online system. Perhaps for just one evening every 2 weeks. And to do so with **dignity**. We Cypriots are proud. Even a lonely pensioner with no family, or a family that needs help may be reticent to accept charity, so this must be done with **dignity**. Liability is not a major issue. I cannot recall ever being poisoned by a meal my mother or grandmother cooked that was eaten the next day. All participating food outlets should be honoured with a digital and physical badge for their assistance, similar to TripAdvisor ones.

[Personal experiences: I’ve known substantial wealth; having a Lamborghini, Rolls-Royce, Bentley, and Aston Martin in the 90s. I’ve also experienced financial hardship as a teenage husband and father, only just beginning an IT career at a bank and having to cope with a severely disabled baby. My wife at the time had the more challenging responsibility. It was her love and devotion to our son that kept him alive despite numerous operations and medical procedures, including having to feed him at home for over a year with a rubber tube directly into his stomach.]

If I am elected president, I will never forget those days. I will do my very best to use my influence to help the poorest and least fortunate in our society with the human **dignity** they deserve.



## 31. Foreign policy

If I am elected president, despite its size and relatively small population, Cyprus will...

- Continue to work with a range of international organisations to promote Cyprus' interests and views abroad.
- Continue to protect human rights at home and abroad.
- Continue to respect and support international law.
- Help protect our planet and the environment from man-made climate change, starting with our own beautiful island.
- Play a positive role in maintaining international peace and security.
- Continue as a constructive partner with the European Union while defending Cyprus' interests.
- Act as a hub for stability in the Middle East, North Africa, and the south eastern Mediterranean.
- Propose that an UN initiative be implemented, so that every nation in the world teaches every person on the planet 20-30 emergency phrases using a variation of sign language used by the deaf. This common standard can be used as a signal by a child or vulnerable person that feels threatened at home or abroad. And when Cyprus sends emergency help following an earthquake in Iran, Cypriot search and rescue workers will be able to urgently communicate basic phrases using sign language with their equivalents from Pakistan, and the local population. (Cyprus' universities: I suggest you devise an implementation plan and proof of concept.)
- Never seek to become a full member of NATO, unless global events necessitate a reappraisal.
- Review whether to potentially join NATO's Partnership for Peace Programme, subject to extensive public consultation.

### **If a solution to the Cyprus problem can be negotiated**

Based on the results of a referendum, I would recommend...

- Totally demilitarising the island of Cyprus, while maintaining a small, well-equipped professional defence force.
- Potentially leasing part of Akrotiri to the UN and EU as a hub for peacekeeping and philanthropic use. Such an arrangement will clearly be subject to the UK agreeing. As part of Cyprus' independence in 1960, the UK has the legal right to its military bases. But what if as part of a solution to the Cyprus problem, Britain moved its bases to Greece, or to an expanded Incirlik Air Base 330KM away in southern Turkey? I would argue there are military advantages to sharing facilities with a NATO partner compared to Cyprus which is more exposed. Furthermore, a by-product of such an arrangement between Turkey and the UK is that Britain's refugee problem could potentially be reduced.
- Formally enshrining Cyprus' neutrality within our constitution, however, due to our shared culture and Hellenism, permit Cypriots as private individuals to be trained by or take part in Greece's military.

## 32. My radical approach to the Cyprus problem

### Historical background

What is my radical approach to the Cyprus problem? To answer this question, we must first look back at over 400 years of history relating to Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus. It explains the **highly emotional background behind the Cyprus problem.**

What follows is probably the **longest and most angrily written sentence ever** stated in a political manifesto:

*'If by the Cyprus problem you mean do I want to negotiate with the leaders of a people that invaded and conquered my island in 1570, murdered our ancestors, raped and impregnated our women, killed our priests; a people that leased my island to the British in 1878 without our permission as if it was a potato field, a people that forced my 17-year-old grandmother to flee Constantinople during the 1920s genocide against ethnic Greeks, caused misery in Greece and Cyprus for hundreds of years, invaded my beautiful island again in 1974, broke the Geneva Convention and other international laws by transferring its own population to Cyprus, desecrated our churches and the graves of my ancestors, stole our land, stole our olive trees and fruit trees, ate our lambs and chickens, destroyed our economy, ignored UN resolutions, disregarded judgements from the European Court of Human Rights, and then had the audacity to declare independence of its so-called 'TRNC' puppet state in northern Cyprus, would I have wanted to negotiate with the government and pseudo government of such a people? **No.**'*

However...

*'If, on the other hand, by Cyprus problem you mean will I be willing to negotiate for a settlement with the **descendants** of the Ottomans and those that masterminded the 1974 invasion, human beings that share similar DNA and blood as me; a people who are my neighbours, so that after 50 years of failed negotiations all Cypriots can be compensated especially our 1974 refugees, including the return of Varosha, with the possible by-product being to help resolve the Greece/Turkey Aegean dispute, so that Cypriots, Greeks, and Turks can all live in peace together as equals, **the answer is yes, I will, if you elect me.**'*

Any non-Cypriots who are reading this English version of my presidential manifesto and would like to learn the history of the Cyprus problem in 15 minutes, please watch 'The Unsinkable Aircraft Carrier: the Cyprus Dispute Explained.' It really saddened me watching this short film here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHIHnCwFp5c>

### 32.1 Where we are today

Several UN Security Council resolutions have been in force since the 1974 Turkish invasion. The one regularly cited is a call for a negotiated bizonal bicomunal federated solution. If elected president, I would of course continue to follow these UN resolutions. It will be my turn to hold the negotiating baton with 'TRNC' assuming they want to talk.

Firstly, for the record, I have no problem with Turkish Cypriots, Turks, or anyone of any colour, faith, or nationality being my neighbour, employee, or work colleague. And I have no issue at all with Turkish Cypriots from the south, who recognise Cyprus' sovereignty, being elected by one 'man', one vote, such as Mr Niyazi Kızılyürek MEP. Secondly, I will summarise feedback from Greek Cypriots and Greeks over the many years I have researched a solution to the Cyprus problem. Some opinions below are recent. I agree with several.

- *'I do not believe a bizonal bicomunal Cyprus is now possible. It may have been feasible 20 years ago with a variation of the Annan Plan combined with various other proposals, but not now almost 50 years after the Turkish invasion.'*
- *'A bizonal bicomunal will never pass a referendum.'*
- *'What will happen if, after a reunification, the public sector in the north demands equal pay, because **'separate but equal'** amounts to discrimination or **apartheid**? What if it is taken to the European Court of Human Rights and the judges agree? Who will pay for this?'*
- *'I do not believe substantial power sharing with less than 20% of the population having control over the other 80% is fair. If the demographic population split was 60-40, maybe. But not 80-20. Perhaps Turkey can lead by example and give additional voting and veto power to its 18% Kurdish population.'*
- *'I do not believe rotating presidents between the two communities is workable, as all this will do is make everyone dizzy. Would Turkey consider a rotating Kurdish president every few elections?'*
- *'I do not want the risk that a bad settlement will trigger violence in future. It happened in 1919 after the First World War. The Treaty of Versailles triggered hyperinflation in Germany and indirectly spawned fascism; Hitler then came to power as a populist 'saviour' which led to the Second World War. Similarly, the basis for Cyprus' independence in 1960 clearly had constitutional and practical flaws otherwise the Turkish Cypriots wouldn't have resigned from government, nor would the intercommunal violence of the 1960s occurred.'*
- *'I do not believe substantial power sharing and governance with 'TRNC' will work. We Greek Cypriots can't agree among ourselves when it comes to politics, let alone adding another layer to an onion that will make us 'cry' even more.'*
- *'I want the right of return to my childhood home, or fair compensation if I cannot or do not choose to live there.'*
- *'I do not want anything that could result in future bloodshed. A bizonal bicomunal settlement with no 'border' is a disaster waiting to happen and fraught with danger. One incident involving*

*a TC or GC<sup>3</sup> reclaiming their property in north or south Nicosia as part of a settlement could trigger insults, stone throwing, intercommunal violence, death, and even war.'*

- *'If the UN peacekeeping force leaves, and there is no 'border' or buffer zone, who will protect us from Turkish aggression? Or from a false flag operation as an excuse to invade again?'*

Few details have ever been released since 2004. The public does not know the detailed status of 'TRNC' negotiations. I am not blaming Cyprus' governments for failure, merely questioning what has been discussed during the last 18 years for a bizonal bicomunal solution to the Cyprus problem. Even parrots can be trained to repeat, 'We have talked', 'We will talk', or 'We will talk about talking with 'TRNC''.

What have they talked about when negotiating a settlement? A variation of the Anan plan? (Read it here: [http://www.hri.org/docs/annan/Annan\\_Plan\\_April2004.pdf](http://www.hri.org/docs/annan/Annan_Plan_April2004.pdf)). Or something new? Cyprus' taxpayers pay their salaries, their huge future pensions, and their flights and hotel expenses flying to God knows where. What exactly has been discussed during 18 years of meetings? Or did they collect air miles for free holidays and play Tavli?

If elected, I would be the 8<sup>th</sup> president since the 1974 Turkish invasion. It will be my turn to hold the negotiating baton. But I will attempt something radical in parallel to following the UN Security Council's resolutions for a bizonal bicomunal federated solution to the Cyprus problem. If these talks fail, I suspect the next four presidents after me will be holding the same baton in 25 years' time. However, if my negotiations succeed, this exhausting marathon that started in 1974 will end.

### 32.2 My proposed framework of talks for a solution to the Cyprus problem

**This is controversial. Please read with an open mind until the end**

It is worth being reminded of the famous children's story, 'The emperor's new clothes' by Hans Christian Anderson. I am the child that dared to point and say, "The emperor is not wearing anything at all."

My proposed framework to a solution is to initially have **no** framework for talks. I believe that, as a one-time attempt to resolve the matter once and for all, everything should be on the table for discussion with 'TRNC' for 2 years.

By 'everything' I mean anything should be up for discussion, including:

1. Bicomunal, bizonal (as stated in security council resolutions. A variation of the Swiss one?)

And...

2. Federated (the system of states used in the USA)
3. Provincial (similar to USA states but with different levels of devolved powers e.g. Canada)
4. Confederal, devolved, or unitary (England and Wales, England and Scotland)

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<sup>3</sup> The expression 'Greek Cypriot' or 'GC' throughout this manifesto generally includes minorities such as Latin rights, Pontin, Armenian and Maronite Cypriots living in the south. 'TRNC' refers to the illegal regime in the occupied north generally populated by Turkish Cypriots and Turkish settlers from the mainland, unlawfully given GC land and property.

5. Apartheid by consensus (South Africa until 1994 was without consensus)
6. Separate but equal based on ethnicity or language (works ok in Belgium. Didn't work in USA)

All the political systems mentioned above have one thing in common: a central government officially acting as one nation, one voice, and one sovereign legal entity. For example, California despite substantial autonomy is not a member of the UN; the USA is. Dubai or Quebec are not. Wales does not dictate defence policy; the UK does. This leaves two additional options during these 2 years of my proposed 'TRNC' everything and anything talks:

7. Discuss something else.
8. Discuss a two-state solution subject to massive compensation to GCs and future referenda.
9. If points 2-8 fail, remove them for future discussion and continue to only discuss point 1.

If I am elected president, it would be a mandate by our citizens, to give me permission to **discuss** every possible solution to the Cyprus problem with 'TRNC'. '**Discuss**' does not mean to agree to a two-state solution or anything else. That will be based on a future referendum after details have been made public. However, to even discuss the possibility of partition creates **four general reactions** from Greek Cypriots even if rarely publicly stated so bluntly:

1. *'I will never, ever agree to a two-state solution for the principle. Even if 'TRNC' transferred €500 billion, and I was compensated €100 million tax free in cash for my family's property losses after the 1974 invasion, I would always vote NO'. Or,*
2. *As above, '...and Andronicos should be thrown in jail for even publicly talking about it'. Or,*
3. *'My direct family lost no property after the 1974 invasion; however, my extended family did, via several marriages. Although I have sympathy for fellow Greek Cypriots that lost property, in my opinion successive governments have been too generous with them. Very cheap Turkish property and land rentals, grants, affirmative discrimination for public sector jobs, and all sorts of other allowances. I will vote NO in memory of my grandfather who died in the invasion. Anyway, there's nothing in it for my direct family, and why should 'TRNC' as the aggressor potentially benefit if my immediate family does not financially benefit?' Or,*
4. *'I will very likely vote NO on the principle but am willing to hear all viewpoints.'*

I believe by the end of the 2 years, unless 'TRNC' offers something spectacular, we will likely end up exactly as we are now. However, it will prove to the international community that GCs attempted to negotiate in good faith despite no precedent existing, nor any legal or moral obligation to do so.

### 32.3 My initial blueprint to a solution

***“The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”***

What follows is not an attempt to ‘sell’ a two-state solution. Instead, my proposed framework is to initially have no framework for ‘TRNC’ talks with everything on the table. Everything means anything. Let’s see what ‘TRNC’ offers. I will be fully prepared to withdraw the two-state solution option if a future ‘TRNC’ offer has no chance of a positive referendum result, or ‘TRNC’ continues to state, ‘*But we’re already an independent nation. The pseudo ‘Republic of Cyprus’ does not exist, nor do we recognise its so-called ‘president’ Andronicos’.*

It is very likely ‘TRNC’ and Turkey will state the above until at least the summer of 2023, so that President Erdogan can show a hard-line stance to the Cyprus problem (and its Aegean dispute with Greece) due to the Turkish presidential election in June 2023.

My blueprint is aimed at those that personally relate to the reactions in points (3) and (4) above. I will not attempt to change the minds of those in point (1) and (2) above. Below is my initial blueprint V1.0 to a possible two-state solution, with my seven current red lines stated upfront:

1. **Red line.** Substantial compensation in the **tens of billions of euros to Greek Cypriots (GCs)**. Several independent studies abroad can give a benchmark of the estimated 31/12/2021 value of GC property in the occupied territories compared to TC property in the south.  
  
It is not the GCs’ problem where ‘TRNC’ gets the money from. Turkey had no legal right to give away land to settlers. Perhaps Turkey, the EU, and the international community can assist. A post-dated cheque or instalments will not be accepted unless guaranteed by the EU or similar.
2. **Red line.** Varosha and the area around it including the military barracks to be transferred to GCs.
3. **Red line.** Additional land will be handed over to GCs and the current ‘border’ redrawn.
4. **Red line.** Most of the land in the UN buffer zone will belong to GCs.
5. **Red line:** All Turkish Cypriot (TC) property in the south will belong to GCs with no claims in future.
6. **Red line:** All Turkish troops to leave the island in a phased withdrawal. As an interim measure, they can use Incirlik Air Base 20 minutes away in southern Turkey instead, if they so wish, but that is their decision, not ours. The UN and EU can initially guarantee security for Turkish Cypriots.
7. **Red line:** The island must eventually become demilitarised. Conscription will be reduced and possibly phased out. Small defence forces with pre-agreed numbers will be permissible.
8. The search for the 1974 missing **must** continue. To assist in this noble cause, a truth and reconciliation commission similar to 1990s South Africa could be set up to deal with crimes and atrocities. Those GCs and TCs offering to participate will generally be exempt from prosecution. Nevertheless, most persons that took part in atrocities are probably dead or very old.
9. Half the British bases were offered in 2004. I will seek to have all military bases removed as part of a settlement so that the island of Cyprus truly becomes demilitarised. I have no issue if parts of Akrotiri are leased as a permanent UN/EU base for global peacekeeping and humanitarian relief.

10. The TC population prior to the 1974 invasion was **18.6%** of the total. To offset some of the cash compensation above payable to GCs, TCs can have 18.6% of the island's hydrocarbons net wealth deducted from the cash 'TRNC' will owe. This may help TCs leverage a GC compensation loan.
11. Dependent on the volume of gas found in Cyprus' waters, a pipeline could be built to transfer surplus natural gas from Cyprus **and Israel**, via Cyprus' northern coast to southern Turkey. This will help guarantee the EU's energy needs. Indirect control of this pipeline under international treaties and commercial partners will belong to the EU, so Turkey will not be able to unilaterally switch it off. Reciprocally, the south could benefit from the north's water supply via the undersea pipeline built in 2015 from Turkey to 'TRNC', or via a new water pipeline that could be built.
12. I do not want a repeat of the bloodshed caused by forced repatriation at around the time Pakistan and India were partitioned in 1947. To make history we must learn from history. No TC will be served with compulsory purchase orders, other than homes in or around the Varosha area. It will be 'TRNC's' responsibility to do this prior to a settlement. Any TC family that finds itself living in the new south, based on negotiated redrawn 'borders', will benefit financially as their property will likely be worth more. No TC will ever be intimidated out of their homes in the 'new' south. The mixed village of Pyla can act as a role model, and its leaders can provide practical advice.
13. TC and GC enclaved areas, if applicable after settlement, will be protected. So will religious buildings and graveyards. GCs have generally respected this since 1974. 'TRNC' generally has not.
14. 'TRNC' and Turkey must stop dumping refugees and migrants, or weaponizing the issue.
15. Most GC property in the north will belong to TCs with no claims in future, subject to all the compensation paid to GCs listed herein which will include tens of billions of euros.
16. **This is a compensation matter.** Those who lost property as adults because of the invasion are now pensioners, dead, or inherited by their heirs. Those still alive may yearn to return (assuming their property is still there and in good condition) but are unlikely to wish to be surrounded by TCs away from their families 50 years later or risk having limited access to Cyprus' healthcare system (GESY). Hence, there is no automatic right of return in version 1 of this blueprint.
17. A team of selected respected GCs and TCs and neutrals will jointly deal with matters affecting the physical island such as environmental, fishing, wildfires, and water, and intercommunal issues. An island 'president' for these matters can be elected.
18. An interim trading deal can be negotiated between GCs and TCs, subject to EU and WTO guidelines. In future, the Cyprus Republic could feasibly become a doorway to the EU for Günsel electric cars and create wealth for both communities, and vice versa for GC goods and services to 'TRNC' and Turkey.
19. GCs will always vote with the EU majority if 'TRNC' or Turkey wish to join the EU. Cyprus will never veto membership if it can affect the vote result. (It is almost a foregone conclusion that Greece will always veto Turkey or 'TRNC' joining the EU if the Aegean dispute is not resolved. Therefore, my blueprint can potentially act as a catalyst to solve that problem too.)
20. How GCs will be compensated is a GC matter (refer below). How compensation will be dealt with in the TC community is a TC matter.

Key point: the above is my version 1 blueprint. **It is not a recommendation for partition, merely that from July 2023 for 2 years after the 2023 Cyprus and Turkish presidential elections, anything possible to a settlement should be on the negotiation table.** And in parallel to UN Security Council resolutions for a bicomunal bizonal solution, my version 1 blueprint above can always be changed or fully withdrawn.

#### 32.4 A new 'Varosha Garden City'

If a solution to the Cyprus problem can be negotiated, as part of a settlement, the fenced-off city abandoned since 1974 known as Varosha and the areas around it including the Turkish military barracks will belong to GCs. This is central to my settlement and GC compensation blueprint.

It can be levelled to the ground and transformed into an eco-friendly, energy-efficient garden city within a few years. A Mediterranean jewel with offices, a technology park, hotels, and residential properties. A connected artificial island could form part of this beautiful new metropolis.

Some office space could be rented to technology start-ups and multinationals, subsidised for an initial amount of time. This could be open to any EU and some non-EU companies that guarantee to create jobs. Israeli technology and established companies could use Cyprus as their EU base.

Some government ministries could move there with existing Nicosia office space sold. The EU is welcome to rent offices and create a regional hub for the Middle East and Africa. Why are most EU agencies headquartered in Brussels? Why are so many international agencies based in Switzerland and New York, when Cyprus has such an amazing and less expensive highly skilled workforce?

International and local construction companies will be awarded contracts to build the new city using local labour to ensure it is constructed on time and within budget. It will create **thousands of local jobs**. Funding will come from a percentage of the settlement given to GCs, EU grants, and commercial equity holders. Consideration will be given to tap the capital markets and create a publicly listed company which will trade on a major European stock exchange and the Cyprus stock exchange.

#### 32.5 Substantial compensation to GC refugees, their heirs, and all other GCs

In the proposed first version of the compensation blueprint below, the term 'GC refugee' includes his or her heirs if the refugee is no longer living. All political parties will be expected to provide constructive opinions, followed by public consultation, which will lead to several independent opinion polls.

1. All compensation and assets received from or via 'TRNC' will be pooled into a new government entity called the 'Compensation Fund', which will act as trustee.
2. **60% will be shared with GC refugees while 40% is held on behalf of every other GC.** If the apportioning was 100% for GC refugees, it would not pass a GC referendum. Those GCs that lost nothing would vote against. They would think, what's the point? The opposite holds true. If the GCs that lost property in 1974 did not receive most of the compensation, they too would vote against.
3. Of the 60% to be shared with GC refugees, Varosha refugees will receive a higher compensation ratio. This is only fair as the new city will mainly be built on their land. This affects 6,000 title deed holders as of 1974.



4. To avoid new persons acquiring Cyprus citizenship, with the main intent to financially benefit from a settlement, a to-be-determined qualification cut-off date prior to 2022 will apply.
5. To avoid artificially increasing the value of property between today and settlement, every GC refugee's 1974 land and property losses will be independently assessed at the 31/12/2021 value.
6. Every GC refugee currently using a TC property or land will have its market value independently assessed as at 31/12/2021 for the same reason.
7. Every GC refugee will be offered ownership of TC property or land they currently lawfully rent or use. If it exceeds the value of their 1974 loss, they will be given an interest-free loan for many years. If the opposite applies, they will be owed money from the Compensation Fund.
8. A lottery system could be used to apportion unused TC properties and land in the south, including the UN buffer zone, and the British bases territory. To avoid the risk of corruption, this will be managed anonymously and transparently in liaison with the Big 4 audit firms (PwC, Deloitte, EY, and KPMG). Separate lotteries will be run to match various bands of property value. For example, the loss of a hotel will not be in the same lottery as loss of a small piece of agricultural land. Lotteries will be shown live on television. The order drawn will be the order land can be chosen in **age order**. It is fairer that a living 80-year-old GC refugee gets priority to choose over an 18-year-old who recently inherited land from his or her refugee grandmother.
9. No capital gains tax or transfer tax will apply to properties described above owned by GC refugees or their heirs. They will be free to sell, buy, merge, or swap them. Therefore, I propose the Land Registry should be made public, subject to conditions on personal privacy.
10. The new 'Varosha Garden City' will be 60% owned by all GC refugees (subject to point '3' above). They will all individually own shares in the company that owns the city. Imagine having shares in a company that owned a smaller version of Dubai before it was built. This will be a long-term investment that could eventually repay every cent GC refugees are owed. However, it will be a personal decision whether to sell equity, borrow against it, or keep it for the long term.
11. Families could consider eventually leveraging their Varosha equity to help the younger generation get on the property ladder. I want every adult Cypriot to own their own home, and symbolically have their own beehive, milk goat, grapevine, and fig tree.

A by-product of all the above is that villages will be transformed, potentially with the additional help of EU grants. Currently there is no incentive to rebuild TC properties. GC refugees who rent TC properties in the south via the GC government have been reluctant to spend money in case TCs ever have the right to return. Other positive potential by-products: the 'special contribution for defence' tax could eventually be abolished and mandatory military conscription eventually phased out.

### 32.6. Comparison with the Russian invasion of Ukraine

I personally believe the Russian invasion should not be compared to events that happened 50 years ago in Cyprus. However, not everyone will agree.

My blueprint does not reward the aggressors 'TRNC' and Turkey for the 1974 invasion, as substantial compensation must be paid by a new generation of Turks. As an analogy, imagine 50 years ago your wicked neighbour stole 40% of your land, killed some of your relatives, avoided accountability with local courts, and escaped justice. But what if 50 years later, today, your grandchildren and those of the wicked neighbour agreed to discuss compensation? And would it make a difference if the wicked neighbour was no longer alive? The fact is the Turkish politicians and senior army officers that orchestrated the 1974 invasion are probably dead. The younger 'TRNC' generation, whom I will be negotiating with, may have taken part as conscripts, but they did not mastermind the invasion.

#### 32.6.1 My off-topic assessment of Russia's stance on Cyprus

It will not surprise me if Russia recognises 'TRNC' as a state in the not-too-distant future. They may do so for two reasons. Firstly, as a punishment to Cyprus for taking the EU position on the Russian invasion and implementing sanctions. Secondly, to try to legitimise its annexation of Crimea and eastern Ukraine by using 'TRNC' as a 'justification' to intervene with force out of necessity to 'protect' the minority. My reasoning is based on Russia recently getting closer to Turkey economically despite its NATO membership, and Russia recently appointing Mr Murat Zyazikov as ambassador to Cyprus. He is Muslim, ex-KGB/FSB, and was a hard-line governor of the Russian Republic of Ingushetia.

If I am president, Cyprus will generally continue to follow the majority EU position on Russia, remain militarily neutral, welcome Russians not subject to sanctions, and do more to support the Ukrainian people philanthropically.

### 32.7 Summary of proposed action points

**Step 1:** Vote for me at the presidential election in February 2023. If I win the election, it will be a public mandate to give my new government and I permission to **discuss** all the above with 'TRNC'. Or put another way, permission for a framework to talks that initially has no framework yet includes discussions under the auspices of UN Security Council resolutions for a bicomunal bizonal solution. It will be a one-time attempt to resolve the Cyprus problem once and for all within 2 years with everything on the table including the possibility of partition in return for substantial compensation, in the tens of billions of euros and the return of Varosha.

**Step 2:** If elected, my government and I will have the mandate to negotiate with 'TRNC' behind closed doors. Greek and Turkish Cypriots should control their own destiny.

**Step 3:** Negotiate a settlement subject to referenda and publicly disclose the details in full. I will not recommend a GC referendum if the 'TRNC' offer is a bad one. I will withdraw the two-state solution option if it has no chance of success, hence my seven red lines. For example, if 'TRNC' only offers Varosha back how can they offer something 'back' that already belongs to GCs?

**Step 4:** In consultation with all political parties, will the council of ministers agree it should be put to the vote in a referendum?

**Step 5:** Hold separate referendums in both communities. [Personal experiences: over the last 10 years I have discussed the feasibility of partition in return for substantial GC compensation with focus groups, my friends, and relatives. I observed that wealthy Greek Cypriots were generally totally against the idea (even those that lost property), and so were nearly all Greeks or Cypriots living in Greece with few connections to Cyprus. However, the **Greece-based ones were more open to the possibility if a Cyprus settlement helped solve the Greek/Turkish Aegean dispute.**]

**Step 6:** If both these referendums pass the 'yes' vote, a two-state solution will happen after. Should such a day ever materialise, I will have a major **crisis of conscience**. I will be grieving being the trigger to have possibly given away nearly one third of our island to the descendants of an aggressor, yet proud to have helped broker peace 50 years later with compensation in the tens of billions of euros, and a new Varosha Garden City built. Those influential in making peace deals or speaking up for justice, have been assassinated. For example, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr, Prime Minister Rabin, and President Sadat. If it helps resolve the Cyprus problem so that our 1974 refugees can finally get compensation subject to referenda, I'm willing to take this risk.

**Step 7:** If steps 3 – 5 fail, we as a nation can still take the moral high ground for at least trying to innovatively resolve a 50-year-old problem. However, if no solution can be found, it is unlikely GC refugees or their heirs will ever get compensation, and everyone can probably say **'goodbye' to a settlement, financial compensation, and Varosha forever.**



## 32.8 An open letter to Mr Ersin Tatar ('TRNC' 'president')

11 November 2022

'Presidential' Palace  
Selahattin Sonat Sokak Street,  
Lefkoşa 99010  
Kuzey Kıbrıs

Dear Mr Tatar,

I am writing this open letter to you as a private citizen and presidential candidate, even though I currently have no governmental authority to seek or expect the outcomes outlined below.

As you are the elected leader of the Turkish community in the occupied areas which includes Turkish Cypriots and settlers from mainland Türkiye, I ask for four things.

I ask that you:

1. **Immediately stop developing Varosha (Maraş) or using it for 'government' buildings.**
2. **Immediately stop refugees and illegal migrants crossing the UN buffer zone.**
3. **Tell Türkiye not to send more of its military personnel to our island.**
4. **Ask Türkiye to stop harassing exploration ships and other vessels in Cyprus' waters.**

Should both you and Türkiye publicly agree to the above via the Cypriot and Turkish media, you will send a positive goodwill signal to whichever presidential candidate is elected in 3 months' time.

Show good faith by doing the above **now** for future negotiations, irrespective of who gets elected on 5 February 2023, by publicly agreeing to the above in the media.

If I get elected, it will be a mandate by Cyprus' citizens to give me the authority to deal with the decades-old Cyprus problem, as described in this draft manifesto.

There is no point contacting me now as I clearly do not yet have the public mandate nor authority. Also, my phones and emails will likely be monitored by an establishment wishing to stay in control, afraid of radical change.

In conclusion, I'm sure both you and President Erdoğan agree that since the dawn of civilisation, the weapon that triggered wars, violence, bloodshed, and spawned hate is the tongue. It can also be used to find peaceful solutions amongst earth's many tribes, including our own.

Sincerely,

Andronicos (Mr)

Cc President Erdoğan, Türkiye Cumhuriyeti

## A decision you must make for the presidential election

It is your personal choice whether to **vote for me** as president, so I can at least try. Between now and February 2023 I will accept the view of the majority, and certainly not the opinions of those that shout the loudest. Some may even maliciously accuse me of being a Turkophile, traitor, or Turkish spy, which I am not. Such unfounded allegations are as absurd as someone alleging our highly respected Niyazi Kızılyürek MEP is a secret Turkish spy.

Others may criticise me for [giving a blood donation to the 'TRNC' hospital as a 'gift'](#) on Christmas day 20 years ago as a symbolic repayment based on honour, for a 100-year-old family 'blood debt'.

If you are absolutely against me even discussing the matter with 'TRNC', because you fear these negotiations may succeed and possibly pass a referendum, then **do not vote for me as president**. All I ask is that no one, including the media, twists or misrepresents my radical approach to the Cyprus problem. Cyprus' media is very much influenced by the three main political parties and the government. It will be an absolute **lie** to state I am proposing a two-state solution. My proposed framework to a solution is to initially have no framework for talks with everything on the table. Everything therefore must include discussing a two-state solution with 'TRNC'. I will **not** offer it.

If you are against discussing the matter with 'TRNC', yet firmly believe these negotiations will fail, let alone pass a referendum, but agree with most of my other manifesto initiatives to transform Cyprus, **then vote for me**. Replace the **political dinosaurs** with someone new, with fresh ideas to transform Cyprus together. I have transparently spelt out exactly what my plans are to fix Cyprus together.

After 50 years, I see it as my patriotic duty despite the risk of personal physical danger to myself from self-appointed 'patriots', to help find a viable solution including substantial compensation for all GCs, with possibly 60% distributed to the 1974 GC refugees or their heirs. It will never compensate for the loss of our loved ones or the missing, but it may help ease some of their pain.

## A message to all presidential candidates, MPs, political parties, and unions

This draft manifesto contains substantial criticisms against the system and not against particular individuals. I respect all the other candidates including the so called 'independent' ones. However, I ask they all speak to the parties that are backing them and **step down from this presidential campaign and let me run unopposed**. Wait until 2026 or 2028 until the next presidential election.

As it stands today, it is an almost mathematical certainty that Mr Nikos Christodoulides will be the next president. I hold him in the highest esteem and would gladly have him as a key advisor if I am elected. However, I will not vote for him nor the other two main contenders because I do not want another 5 years of the same old system, controlled by the same three main political parties, and the same elites and special interest groups that back them.

Be assured, if I am elected president I will work with all the political parties, and I hope they will work with me as advisors. I even include the right-wing ELAM party, as I relate to some of its policies. My manifesto pledges are what is needed to transform Cyprus together.

Some of my policies are left wing, others are right. If Cyprus politics was a football team I would play left, right, and centre, take all the penalties, and be the goalkeeper for penalty shootouts. The problem with Cyprus politics, and some of our senior public sector managers today, is that it can be

comparable to spending €1 billion to buy the 11 best players in the world for a football club. If they cannot play together as a team, nor have a good coach, they cannot win any trophies. Let's transform our club team together. As head coach I would be a mixture of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, with the entrepreneurial nous and assertive style of, dare I say, Donald Trump.

Many of you presidential candidates have a wealth of experience to help us fix our country. To make this happen, let's unify to do so. And I ask parliament, all political parties, the public sector, and its unions to look in a mirror daily and support me as president. Let's transform Cyprus **together by playing as a team**. If elected, only a truly independent president such as I can make this unity happen, so that our Republic of Cyprus club football team will win the Champions League in 3 years' time.

## Cyprus needs a strong independent president. A transparent president. An honest president

A president who is prepared to make compromises, but not one mired by political dirt nor one controlled by political parties or special interest groups.

In February 2023, the decision who to elect will be yours. [Register now to get a copy of my manifesto final version](#) which will be published by 22 January 2023, 2 weeks prior to our presidential election. I urge you to register to vote. Let's transform Cyprus in 24 months together. Let's get rid of the political dinosaurs together, because: *'Amateurs practise until they get it right, but professionals practise until they can't get it wrong.'*

And remember my promise: If I failed significantly for reasons under my control, **I would resign** and call for an early election no later than our parliamentary elections in May 2026. Frankly, I'd rather enjoy the rest of my life starting today with my family as a pensioner, than have the stress of being Cyprus' president. But someone needs to take the lead, and I'm offering to do so now if you want me to, because I'm sick and tired of how things are done in Cyprus today.



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### **<sup>i</sup> Disclaimers and credits**

I do not allege illegal corruption of any type is taking place by the persons currently overseeing anti-corruption measures. I am sure they are honest and decent persons; however, my new proposed laws and changes to working practices will give an additional layer of oversight, more confidence to our citizens, and protect those currently overseeing the above from unfounded or difficult to disprove allegations. I do not allege MPs, government ministers, managers, or employees are or were ever corrupt. Ever!

Nothing in this document or manifesto should be taken personally. It is the system I am trying to fix, not criticising named individuals. For the record, I hold four current and recent ex-ministers in the highest esteem: Mr Georgiades, Mr Lakkotrypis, Mr Kokkinos, and Mr C Petrides. Similarly, my criticisms of political parties is the actual political system, not those that are party members, or those that vote for them. If there are minor discrepancies between the Greek and English manifestos, the English version is the most accurate.

### **Credits**

The 'definition of insanity' quote is a variation of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century one, source unknown. The 'amateurs' quote is my variation of one attributed to George W. Loomis, an American school governor in 1902.

I wish to publicly thank the Cyprus Mail, Philenews, and Kathimerini news sites for current affairs stories and opinions. I undertook substantial research over many years using their articles. I also wish to thank the various confidential focus groups and researchers I used since 2017. All were Cypriot. Most had advanced degrees, PhDs, or were academics.

And I am very grateful to my wife Triona for supporting my decision to get involved in politics, despite the impact it may have to our six adult children and the possible physical danger to my wife and I, **starting today**, from so-called 'Cypriot patriots'.



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DV 22 April 2024