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## **CYPRUS**

### **1. Title of the Legal Adviser and The Law Office of the Republic**

The office of the Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is held, under the Constitution of Cyprus by the Attorney General of the Republic assisted by the Deputy Attorney General of the Republic, who shall be the legal adviser of the Republic and of the President of the Republic and of the Council of Ministers and of the Ministers (Article 113 of the Constitution).

### **2. Principal Functions**

The principal functions of the Attorney General is to provide legal advice to the Republic, the President, as well as to the Council of Ministers and the Ministers who are heads of their individual Ministries. This includes advice on matters of Public International Law, European Union Law, Human Rights Law, Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and generally Domestic Law (including for example, property and contractual matters where the state is involved).

The Attorney General acts as an agent for the Government before international tribunals (including the European Court of Human Rights) and frequently attends conferences and meetings both in Cyprus and abroad as head or member of the Cyprus delegation.

Furthermore, he represents the Government before judicial proceedings, instituting, conducting, continuing or discontinuing any proceedings for an offence against any person, taking precedence over any other persons appearing before any court. Such power may be exercised by him in person or by officers subordinate to him acting under and in accordance with his instructions.

### **3. Number of Lawyers (including those overseas)**

According to section 112(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus:

“The Attorney-General of the Republic shall be the Head and the Deputy Attorney-General of the Republic shall be the Deputy Head of the Law Office of the Republic which shall be an independent Office and shall not be under any Ministry”.

Law Officers subordinate to him act under and in accordance with his instructions.

There are currently about 80 Law Officers – Counsels of the Republic – working in the Law Office of the Republic in Cyprus. All are qualified as Barristers in Cyprus and some have post-graduate degrees as well. Many have post – qualification experience in private practice and in other governmental departments.

There are also a few Law Officers posted overseas, namely 2 lawyers are posted in the Cyprus Permanent Representation to the EU (Brussels), 1 lawyer in the Cyprus Embassy in the Hague, 1 lawyer in the European Court of Justice (Luxembourg) and 1 lawyer in the International Organisation of Civil Aviation (Canada).

#### **4. Organisation of the Law Office**

Law Officers tend to work with a high degree of autonomy whilst there are some areas, in which certain law officers may specialise, for example in EU Law. All Law Officers are expected to be able to take on a variety of legal work.

There are four grades within Law Officers:

- Counsels of the Republic
- Counsels of the Republic A
- Senior Counsels of the Republic
- Attorneys of the Republic

Support to the Law Officers is available from the secretarial. Sometimes, contractual employment of consultants is engaged.

#### **5. Main contacts within Government**

The Government's legal adviser is the Attorney-General (see reply to questions 1 and 2). Law Officers subordinate to him act under and in accordance with his instructions.

The Attorney General offers legal advice to Ministries, as well as other state departments, on legal issues, including international law issues. Furthermore, the Attorney General acts as agent on behalf of the government in internal, as well as external judicial proceedings.

#### **6. Relations with lawyers in private practice, academics and legal institutions**

The Law Office retains lawyers from private practice where the need arises.

Furthermore, members of the Law Office are often invited to participate in various conferences and seminars in Cyprus and abroad, as well as meetings of learned societies (such as the Cyprus Bar Association). In addition, on some occasions, they may organise such events at their own initiative under the auspices of the Attorney General.

Finally, Law Officers are encouraged to write articles or books for publication.