

Small States International Relations and Diplomacy

Name of Country

Cyprus

Name of Presenter/s

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Historical Background/ Overview

- Cyprus was part of the British Empire from 1878–1925, and a Crown colony from 1925–1960
- Cyprus became an independent state in 1960
- After 1960, the Republic of Cyprus was participated in various international organizations such as: United Nations (1960), Commonwealth of Nations(1961), Non Aligned Movement (1961)
- In the first years, the president of the Republic, Archbishop Makarios followed a non aligned foreign policy – Balance among the two Superpowers in the peak period of the Cold War
- After the war of 1974, the Cyprus foreign policy was monopolized by the Cyprus issue
- The main ‘success’ story of Cyprus Foreign Policy was the country's accession to the European Union in 2004

Priorities / Focus Areas of Foreign Policy – Diplomacy

“Cyprus maintains very good relations with a considerable number of countries and the objective of its foreign policy is to have an active involvement in processes that aim to promote international co-operation, peace, stability, and sustainable development.

*Cyprus has always been a dedicated supporter of human rights, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, and a strong advocate of international peace and security. Its geographic position enables it to play a role both in the **Eastern Mediterranean region and within the European family**. Its accession to the European Union initiated new era in its relations with third countries, thus becoming a **bridge of communication between the European Union and these countries**”*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Cyprus

Priorities / Focus Areas of Foreign Policy – Diplomacy

- **Cyprus issue** – This is the main and biggest issue of the Cyprus foreign Policy / The aim is to find a solution based on the UN resolutions
- Active and effective participation in **European Union** affairs
- Development of bilateral and multilateral relations with the **neighboring Middle East states**
- Enhancement of relations with the **five Permanent Members** of the UN Security Council
- **Energy** (due to the recent discoveries in the Cyprus Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ))

Priorities / Focus Areas of Foreign Policy – Diplomacy



The screenshot displays the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus. The header features the national emblem and the text 'ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ / MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' in Greek and English. A navigation menu includes 'Home Page', 'The Ministry', 'Schengen Consular Affairs', and 'Protocol Information'. A sidebar on the left lists various topics such as 'The Cyprus Question', 'European Union', and 'Foreign Policy'. The main content area features a press statement titled 'STATEMENT TO THE PRESS by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus Mr. Nikos Christodoulides following deliberations with the EU Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources Mr. Günther Hermann Oettinger Nicosia, 9 September 2019'. Below the text is a photograph of Mr. Christodoulides speaking at a podium with the EU flag and the Cypriot flag. A blue arrow points to the 'Foreign Policy' link in the sidebar.

EL - Ελληνικά

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

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- The Cyprus Diplomatic Ladies and Spouses Association

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus Mr. Nikos Christodoulides following deliberations with the EU Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources Mr. Günther Hermann Oettinger Nicosia, 9 September 2019

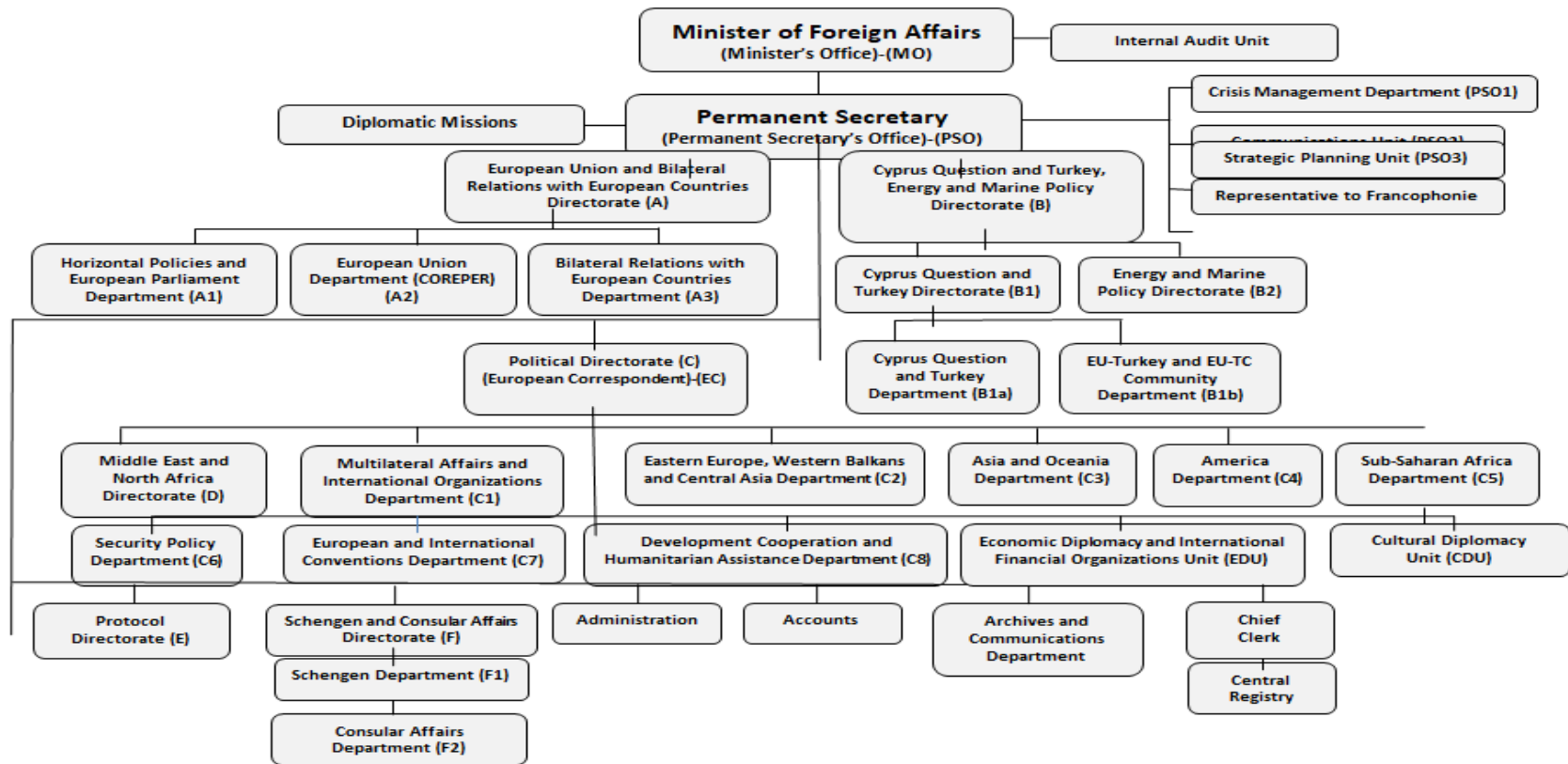
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Institutions/Agencies

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Departments of International Relations in other Ministries / Governmental Agencies (e.g. Department of International Relations and Defence Diplomacy, Ministry of Defence)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Cyprus - Structure



Bilateral Relations / Focus in specific Geographic Areas

- The Republic of Cyprus maintains diplomatic relations with **179 states**
- It **does not maintain diplomatic relations** with the following:
Azerbaijan, Kosovo,, Benin, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Djibouti, South Sudan. Bhutan, Kiribati, Palau, Tuvalu, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Cook Islands, Niue, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Somaliland, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Artsakh, Taiwan, Transnistria
- The Republic of Cyprus is not recognised by Turkey

Multilateral Relations

International Organizations

- United Nations
- European Union
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- Commonwealth
- Non – Aligned Movement (observer 2004)
- Council of Europe
- United Nations World Tourism Organisation
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- International Civil Aviation Organisation
- International Maritime Organisation
- International Telecommunications Union
- International Organization of La Francophonie (IOF)
- Multilateral Schemes
- Union for the Mediterranean

Multilateral Relations

Multilateral Schemes (were established Trilateral schemes mainly after 2014)

- Cyprus, Greece and Israel
- Cyprus, Greece and Egypt
- Cyprus, Greece and Jordan
- Cyprus, Greece and Armenia

Criteria are used for choosing allies and alliances

- Common interests in regards to energy, politics, diplomacy, defence, economy, commerce, tourism, culture
- Geographical proximity
- Common Problems / Challenges
- Common “Threats”

Diplomatic Types

- **Public Diplomacy** (department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), eg. extensive use of social media by the Ministry the last years, campaign abroad
- **Economic Diplomacy** (department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and other related agencies eg. Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency / cooperation with the private sector, Deputy Ministry of Tourism) eg. conferences abroad, Commerce exhibitions that promote Cyprus as an investment / tourist destination
- **Cultural Diplomacy** (cooperation among the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Culture) eg. cultural exhibitions abroad for the promotion of Cyprus History
- **Defence / Military Diplomacy** (department in the Ministry of Defence) eg. establishment of bilateral defence agreements / trilateral defence schemes, participation in EU/UN peacekeeping missions

Societal Beliefs (of the Cyprus public) about Foreign Policy / Diplomacy

- There are different perceptions among the Cypriot public in regards to the foreign policy orientations of the Republic
- In many cases these perceptions are based on the ideological orientation of the individuals

Societal Beliefs / Perceptions

- Overall disappointment due to the unresolved Cyprus issue
- Blame politicians / governments for recession from the 'red lines' in regards to the Cyprus issue
- Some others, understand the restrictions due to the smallness
- Request for more active policy in European Union / United Nations
- Participation in other organizations eg NATO
- Applaud cooperation with more powerful states / participation in multinational schemes / organizations

Societal Beliefs about Foreign Policy

Does public opinion / Media influence the foreign policy? Any examples?

- Media in Cyprus, hugely, influence the public opinion in regards to the foreign policy, especially for the Cyprus issue
- The role of media in the Annan Plan in 2004 (Annan Plan, was a United Nations proposal to resolve the Cyprus dispute) is indicative, since some researchers believe that the public was manipulated by the propaganda of the media in order to vote against the plan
- There are specific newspapers with specific stance (either positive either negative) in regards to the Cyprus issue

Main Challenges in Foreign Policy and Diplomacy

- Unresolved the Cyprus Problem / Turkey offensive
- Unstable Neighborhood –Middle East
- Limited Financial Resources
- Limited Diplomatic Missions aboard
- Limited Human Resources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Limited external contributions (e.g. Humanitarian aid)
- Lack of a grant strategy – ‘white paper’