

Small States Security and Defence

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS (CYPRUS)

MARINOS PAPAIOAKEIM P.hD (c)

Small States

Security and Defence - Country Overview

Brief Historical background

- o 16th Century : Cyprus was under the Ottoman Rule (from 1570-71)
- o 19th Century: During the Congress of Berlin, Cyprus was leased to the British Empire in 1878
- o 1914: The British Empire formally annexed Cyprus
- o 1925: Cyprus was declared a British crown colony
- o 1955 - 1959: The EOKA organization was founded (acronym for Ethniki Organosis Kyprion Agoniston), a Greek Cypriot guerrilla organization that fought a campaign for the end of British rule in Cyprus, for the island's self-determination and for eventual union (*Enosis*) with Greece. At the same time, the Turkish Cypriots were established the Turkish Resistance Organisation (TMT), calling for partition (*Taksim*) as a counterweight
- o 1960: Cyprus gains its independence after the Zürich and London Agreement between the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey (the three mother-states had also **guarantor rights** / right to intervene)

Small States

Security and Defence – Country Overview

- 1963 -1964 / 1967: A period of an intensive inter-communal violence / clashes among Greek - Cypriots and Turkish - Cypriots (due to problems in power sharing)
- 1964: The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was established to prevent fighting among the two communities
- On 15 July 1974, the Greek military junta carried out a coup d'état in Cyprus, against the elected president archbishop Makarios
- Five days later, on 20 July 1974, the Turkish army invaded the island, citing a right to intervene to restore the constitutional order from the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee / This justification has been rejected by the United Nations and the international community
- After the restoration of constitutional order, Turkish troops remained and still occupying the northeastern portion of the island / 36% of the island remains until today under the control of the Turkish army
- In 1983, the Turkish Cypriot leader proclaimed the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), which is recognized only by Turkey
- On May 1, 2004, Cyprus became a full EU Member State / The EU acquis (Community acquis) does not apply to the area which is occupied by the Turkish army

Small States

Security and Defence – Country Overview

Geographical Location

- Cyprus is the **third largest island** in the Mediterranean Sea
- It is situated at the **eastern corner** of the Mediterranean
- 300 km north of Egypt
- 105 km west of Syria
- 75 km south of Turkey
- 380 km of Greece



Small States

Security and Defence – Country Overview

Military / 'Hard Core' Security Challenges

Turkish Threat

- The main threat for the RoC (which is controlled by the Greek Cypriots) is the Turkish policy against Cyprus
- 40 000 Turkish troops are controlling the north side of the island
- Turkish violations on the status quo of the buffer zone area (a demilitarized zone, patrolled by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP))
- Turkish aggressive activities in the Cyprus Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
 - block intentional companies for drilling to the licenced fields
 - sent drill ships to Cyprus EEZ

Terrorism

Cyprus can potentially face terrorist attacks (especially from anti-western) actors since:

- Cyprus contributed to the international coalition formed by the US, European and Arab states against ISIS
- The British bases were being used for the bombardment of ISIS positions in Iraq
- Strategic relationship with Israel, Egypt and Jordan

Small States

Security and Defence – Country Overview

Non 'traditional' Military Challenges

Economic Challenges

- Dependency to foreign capitals / Investments (eg. Russian capitals)
- Under - developed industrial infrastructures
- Lack of natural resources
- Vulnerable Bank system ('red' loans)
- Implications from Brexit (tourism / trade)
- Fluctuations in tourism stream

Energy Challenges

- Dependency on electricity
- No alternative energy resources (until now)

Cyber Challenges

- Cyber security threats/attacks /
- Inadequate defence capabilities to Cyber attacks

Environmental Challenges

- Climate change effects

Political / diplomatic Challenges

- Cyprus Issue/ Problem / unresolved
- Renewal of the mandate of UNFICYP
- European Union: Rise of extremism
- Migration flows / increasing number of asylum seekers /The de-facto division of the island has created difficulties in dealing with this issue
- New Realities in the Middle East (new governments, actors etc)
- U.S.A vs Russia confrontation in the Middle East
- Trilateral Partnerships/ Cooperation: Balance the interests of the different actors

Small States

Security and Defence – Country Overview

Which administrative bodies are involved in security / defence Issues?

- Ministry of Defence
- National Guard
- Ministry of Justice
- Police / Fire fighting Unit
- Civil Defence
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Small States

Security and Defence – Country Overview

Emergency Plans

- The basic emergency plan of the Republic of Cyprus is called 'Zenon' (2013)
- Examines all the cases of possible emergency incidents (eg. search and rescue / natural disasters/ marine pollution etc)
- It does not include cases of a political-military crisis or a war situation / not published

Small States National Defence

Cyprus Army/ National Guard

- According to the constitution of 1960, the Cyprus Army was made up of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots on a 60 (Greek Cypriots) :40 (Turkish Cypriots) split arrangement
- During the intercommunal clashes of 1963–1964 , the Cyprus Army was dissolved / In its place, the **National Guard** was created consisting only of Greek Cypriots in 1964
- Military service in the Republic of Cyprus is mandatory for males
- The National Guard consists of three Branches; the Army, the Navy and the Air Force
- The current supreme commander is a Greek military commander, as have been all of his predecessors
- The active personnel of the National Guard is approximately 12,000
- The Cyprus National Guard has since 2016 aimed to move towards semi-professionalization / In the scope of this change, the military serviced time was reduced from 24 months to 14 months, whilst about 3, 000 professional soldiers were hired

Small States National Defence

Agreements with other countries/international organisations

Bilateral Defence / Military Agreements on Defence Related

1996 (updated and modified in 1999, 2002, and 2015)
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the **Russian Federation** for Military and Technical Cooperation

2002 (activated in 2006)
Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Armenia for Military and Technical Co-operation

2007 (updated and modified in 2017)
Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the **French Republic** on issues concerning Defence Cooperation

2010
Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Serbia on issues concerning Defence Cooperation

2011
Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Montenegro on issues concerning Defence Cooperation

2011
Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Ukraine on issues concerning Defence Cooperation

2012
Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Czech Republic on issues concerning Defence Cooperation

2013
Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Poland on issues concerning Defence Cooperation

2013
Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Italy on issues concerning Defence Cooperation

Small States National Defence

Bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Related Issues	Date	Country
	1999	South Africa
	2000 (updated in 2014)	United Kingdom
	2008	Greece
	2009	Greece
	2012	Israel
	2013	Lebanon Greece
	2014	Greece
	2015	Russia Egypt
	2017	Jordan Austria

Small States National Defence

Bilateral Military Cooperation Programs

Armenia (2015,2016,2017)
Austria (2017)
Egypt (2016, 2017)
France (2013)
Israel (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)
Italy (2016, 2017)
Jordan (2017)
Lebanon (2016, 2017)
Serbia (2015)
Unite Kingdom (2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017)

Small States National Defence

Where Cyprus seeks shelter in security and defence matters?

- Greece (In the south part of the island, there is a permanent Greek military force and its role is to help and support the Cypriot National Guard)
- European Union (mainly political support)
- United Nations (Security Council - UNFICYP)
- Partnerships / Cooperation (eg. Israel)

Small States National Defence

Costs and Benefits for Cyprus from EU cooperation in security and defence

Benefits

Participation of the country to the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) / Missions / EU Battle Groups / EU agencies / Committees

- EU as a Security Shelter / Questionable
- Political support
- Interoperability / Working with more experienced forces
- 'Branding' of country's image via participation in missions
- Networking / Building defence partnerships with other EU states

Costs

- In terms of material, the cost is 'zero' since the county's contribution both in human and financial resources is very limited (compared with other states)
- Political cost / 'damage' the relations with other states (eg. Russia)

Small States Role in Peacekeeping

Provide examples of your country's work in peacekeeping

EU missions

- Cyprus is currently participating to the Operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA Somalia and in EUNAVFOR MED Operation SOPHIA in the Southern Central Mediterranean
- Beyond the operations, the RoC participates with military officers in the military training missions of the European Union, like EUTM Somalia

United Nations Peacekeeping Missions

- Participation (with two members of the National guard) to the peacekeeping operation UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)
- The RoC has made available to the peacekeeping forces the ports of Larnaca and Limassol, as well as the airbase in Paphos

Small States Role in Peacekeeping

Other International Engagements

- RoC is a member of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- RoC has signed Ottawa convention in 1997 (Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Contact Details:

Marinos Papaioakeim
mpapaioakeim@gmail.com