



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
TO THE OSCE
VIENNA

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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions and Delegations of all participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Center (CPC) and has the honor to provide the reply of Cyprus on the Code of Conduct on Politico – Military Aspects of Security, in accordance to the Forum for Security and Cooperation Decision 4/03.

The Permanent Mission of Cyprus, regrets to any inconvenience caused, by the delay of the submission of the reply to the said questionnaire.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Missions and Delegations of the participating States and to the Conflict Prevention Center, the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, October 07, 2008.

To: -Permanent Missions and Delegations of all participating States to the OSCE
-Conflict Prevention Centre

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INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON
POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY

1. *Appropriate measures to prevent and combat terrorism, in particular participation in international agreements to that end (Paragraph 6):*

(a) *List of international agreements, including all United Nations conventions and protocols related to terrorism, to which the participating State is a party;*

Cyprus has, to date, ratified or acceded to all twelve international conventions pertaining to international terrorism, as well the relevant convention of the Council of Europe.

Conventions

A series of International Conventions, which the Republic of Cyprus has ratified by law and embodied in the domestic legal order. These Conventions include offences which constitute *per se* a terrorist act or activity. The following Laws have ratified such Conventions:-

(1) Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft – Tokyo 14/09/1963 - **Ratification Law 31/1972**

(2) Convention for the Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft – The Hague 16/12/1970 - **Ratification Law 30/1972**

(3) Convention for the Suppression of the Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Aircraft – Montreal 23/09/1971 - **Ratification Law 37/1973**

(4) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Personnel – New York 14/12/1973 - **Ratification Law 63/1975**

(5) European Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism – Strasbourg 27/01/1977 - **Ratification Law 5/1979**

(6) Convention Against the Taking of Hostages – New York 17/12/1979 - **Ratification Law 244/90**

(7) Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials – Vienna 03/03/1980 - **Ratification Law 3(III)/98**

(8) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation – Rome 10/03/1988 - **Ratification Law 17(III)/99**

(9) International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings 15/12/1997 - **Ratification Law 19(III)/2000**

(10) International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism – New York 10/01/2000 - **Ratification Law 29(III)/01**

(11) International Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection - Montreal 01/03/1991. - **Ratification Law 19(III)/2002**

(12) Offences against the Safety of Civil Aviation. - **Ratification Law 79/1973**

Protocols

(13) Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms on the Continental Shelf – Rome 10/03/1988 - **Ratification Law 17(III)/99**

(14) Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Aviation, complementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Aircraft – Montreal 24/02/1988. - **Ratification Law 33(III)/01**

(15) The Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, Strasbourg 15.05.2003 (Ratification Law 18(III)/2004).

International Cooperation

- European Convention on Extradition-Paris,13.12.1957
- Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition-Strasbourg 15.10.1975
- Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition 17.3.1978
- European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Strasbourg 20.4.1959
- Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters-Strasbourg 17.031978
- The extradition of Fugitives Law 97/1970
- The International Cooperation in Criminal Matters (Approval Law No.23(I)/2001)
- The European Arrest Warrant Law No.133(I)/2004
- Joint Investigation Teams Law No.244(I)/2004

CBRN terrorism

Concerning the area of CBRN terrorism, Cyprus has ratified a series of relevant Conventions:

1. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (OPCW) –Geneva, 3 September 1992 (Approval Law No. 8(III)/1998),
2. The Comprehensive Nuclear – Test – Ban–Treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations - New York, 24 September 1996 (Approval Law No 32(III)/2003),
3. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal – Basel, 22 March 1989,
4. Amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal- Geneva 22 September 1995
5. Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Underwater- Moscow, 5 August 1963(Approval Law No. 13/1965),
6. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons-London, Moscow and Washington,1 July 1968 (Approval Law No. 8/1970),
7. Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof-London, Moscow and Washington, 29 March 1972 (Approval Law No.63/1974),
8. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction - London, Moscow and Washington, 10 April 1972 (Approval Law No. 56/1973),
9. Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident-Vienna, 26 September 1986
10. Convention on Nuclear Safety- Vienna, 20 September 1994 (Approval Law No. 20(III)/98).

Protocols regarding CBRN Terrorism

- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime- New York 31 May 2001(Approval Law No 11(III)/2003),
- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare Paris 17 June 1925

Other commitments

Other commitments undertaken by the Republic of Cyprus in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation since 1960 are the following:

- On 1 August 1975, Cyprus signed the concluding Document of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe known as the Helsinki Final Act.
- On 25 July 2005 the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and Government of the United States of America and signed a bilateral agreement concerning Cooperation to suppress the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, their delivery systems and related materials by sea (Law No. 38(III)/2005).
- It became in 1965 a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (Approval Law No. 21/1965)
- An Agreement was signed between the Republic of Cyprus and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in connection with the NPT Treaty on 26 June 1972 (Approval Law No. 3/1973).
- Cyprus signed in 1999 the Additional Protocol to the Agreement with the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards in connection with the NPT Treaty.
- Cyprus co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 46/36L, as well as the subsequent ones regarding the establishment and functioning of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.
- The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism issued the Defense (Arms Export Control) Order of 26 July 2002 for the compliance of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Export and to the Council Declaration of 13 June 2000.

- Cyprus is a member of the International Initiative for Combating Nuclear Terrorism, which numbers 31 member-states.
- Cyprus is a member of the Australia Group (AG) as of October 2000 and also participates to Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and Dual-Use Regime

(b) Accession to and participation in other multilateral and bilateral agreements or measures undertaken to prevent and combat terrorist activities;

The antiterrorism policy of Cyprus, lays on its commitment to join forces with all governments on a bilateral level as well as in international fora in the struggle to eliminate terrorism. Cyprus concluded bilateral agreements, which inter alia provide for the exchange of information on terrorism or other related matters, with the following countries.

(1) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and **Syria** in the fields of Crime and Illicit Trafficking and Smuggling of Drugs (14/05/1991),

(2) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and the **Russian Federation** in the Struggle Against Crime (25/04/1990) and Protocols of the three Meetings of the Bilateral Co-operation Committee established in pursuance of the above-mentioned Agreement, which took place on 12/09/1990, 22/11/1993 and 03/04/1995,

(3) Agreement between Cyprus and **Italy** on Co-operation in the fight against organized crime and other forms of Crime (28/06/2002), Ratification Law 22 (III)/2003,

(4) Agreement between Cyprus and **Hungary** on Combating Terrorism, Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime (16/09/1991) and its additional Protocol signed on 28th September 1992,

(5) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and **Poland** in Safeguarding Security and Public Order, Preventing and Investigating Crime (26/10/1992),

(6) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and **Greece** on Security Matters (11/12/1993),

(7) Agreement of Co-operation between Cyprus and **Egypt** on Security Matters (07/06/1994),

(8) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and The Peoples Republic of **China** on Public Security Matters (18/10/1994),

(9) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and **Israel** in Combating Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Terrorism and other Serious Crimes (09/01/1995),

(10) Agreement between Cyprus and **Romania** on Co-operation in the Fight Against International Crime (07/06/1995)

(11) Agreement for Co-operation between the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus and the Federal Ministry of Interior of the **Czech and Slovak Federal Republic** and Protocol, signed in Prague at 7/12/1992, which remains in force between Cyprus and the Czech Republic in accordance with the Exchange of Letters of 19 January 1999

(12) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and **Malta** in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime (17/09/1999).

(13) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of **Ireland** on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering, Organised Crime, Trafficking in Persons, Terrorism and other Serious Crime (8/3/2002), Ratification Law 34(III)/2002

(14) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and the **European Police Office** (Europol) (04/07/2003), Ratification Law 36(III)/2003,

(15) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and **Slovenia** in the Fight Against Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime (04/12/2002), Ratification Law 28 (III)/2003,

(16) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and **Estonia** in Combating Organized Crime and other forms of Crime (08/01/2004),

(17) Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of **Lebanon** on cooperating in combating the illicit use of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and Organized Crime (23/09/2003), Ratification Law 5(III)/2004.

(18) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of **Bulgaria** on Cooperation in the Fight Against Transborder and Organized Crime, Terrorism, Illegal Migration, Trade in Human Beings and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Substances (2/12/2003, Nicosia), Ratification Law 48 (III)/2004

(19) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of **Slovak Republic** on Co-operation in Combating Organised Crime, Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as well as other Types of Crime (26/2/2004), Ratification Law 5(III)/2005

(20) Agreement on Co-operation between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of **France** on security matters, signed on 4/3/2005, Ratification Law 49(III)/2005

(21) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of **Latvia** on Co-operation in Combating

Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organized Crime, signed in Riga on 11/4/2005, Ratification Law 48(III)/2005

(22) Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of **Armenia** on Co-operation in Combating Organised Crime and other Forms of Crime, Nicosia, 30 April 2007, Ratification Law 42(III)/2007

(23) Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of **India** on Combating Organized Crime, International Terrorism and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Ratification Law 43(III)/2007

(24) Agreement between the Government Republic of Cyprus and the Kingdom of **Spain** on Cooperation in Combating Organised Crime, Nicosia, 30 April 2007, Ratification Law 41(III)/2007

(25) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Cabinet of Ministers of **Ukraine** on Cooperation in Combating Crime, Ratification Law 20(III)/2006, in force 4/1/2008.

(c) National measures, to include pertinent legislation, taken to implement the international agreements, conventions and protocols cited above;

As stated in answer (a) above.

(d) Information on national efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, including appropriate information on legislation beyond United Nations conventions and protocols (e.g., pertaining to financing of terrorist groups);

On 22.10.2001 The House of Representatives approved, by Law 29(III) 2001, the Bill ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism that Cyprus signed on 01/03/2001. In addition this Bill includes:

(1) Settings of penalties for relevant criminal acts in the fulfillment of the obligations arising from provisions of the convention.

(2) Inclusion in the National legislation, of provisions necessary for the enactment of provisions in the Convention, which are not self- implemented

(3) Determining, with the view to facilitating conformity with the provisions of the Convention, those criminal acts defined as such by the provisions of National legislation on concealment, investigation, and confiscation of assets from certain crimes.

Also the Law 29(III)/2001 included a special provision that calls for the enlargement in size and expansion of mandate of the already existing Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS), accommodate a special department devoted to investigating and acting upon criminal acts, as derived from the Convention.

On 12/12/2001 the Council of Ministers approved the establishment of a coordinating Unit to combat international terrorism (MOKAT). This Unit concentrates on areas of illegal arms sales and brokerage, illegal trafficking of arms, explosives, weapons of mass destruction and harmful chemical substances.

This Unit has the jurisdiction to conduct questioning and investigations, collecting data and exchanging relevant information with coordinating units of other countries for suppressing activities related to terrorism.

This coordinating Unit functions under the auspices of the Deputy Attorney General of the Republic. In order to ensure an overall confrontation to any information relating to terrorist activities, this unit is comprised of two advocates, members of the Law Office of the Republic, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a representative of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, three representatives from the Police, a representative from MOKAS, a representative from the Central Information Service, a representative from the Customs & Excise Department and a specialist on analyzing electronic data.

The Republic of Cyprus has adopted and fully implemented all United Nations Security Council Resolutions regarding Terrorism, i.e. UNSCR 1373 of 28/09/2001 concerning the call for joint action and measures to be taken by each member – state of the International Community in the Common endeavor against International terrorism and also UNSCR 1267, 1333 and 1390 regarding the freezing of potential assets / accounts of any person or entity associated with Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda, e.t.c.

Furthermore the Republic of Cyprus aligned itself with all Common Positions of the Council of the European Union on Combating Terrorism and on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism.

In addition the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus on May 2002 granted authority to the Attorney General to take measures (after informing the President) for the freezing of assets of terrorist organizations whose names appear on lists issued, specifically, by the European Union. The Central Bank of Cyprus has in place a strict regulatory framework aimed at preventing abuse within the financial sector.

On 14/02/2002 the Criminal Code was amended by Law 12(1)/2002 to include a definition of a criminal organization according to the Common Act adopted by the Council of the European Union.

(e) Roles and missions of armed and security forces in preventing and combating terrorism;

Cyprus Police is continuously fighting terrorism by all means. The Office for Combating Terrorism of Cyprus Police was established after the events of September 11th, 2001 due to the demands that followed both on the National and International level. The Office for Combating Terrorism is a part of the European Union and International Police Cooperation Directorate. Before the establishment of this office other departments dealing with operational duties dealt with matters concerning terrorism.

The Office for Combating Terrorism is dealing with the analyzing, evaluation and utilization of intelligence, the enforcement of measures on Combating Terrorism deriving from International Conventions, the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and Common Positions of the Council of the European Union.

Furthermore, if it is necessary, on terrorism issues the Assistant Chief of Police (Operations) has the powers to involve additional Police Units/Departments, such as The Criminal Investigation Department, The Crime Prevention Department, The Aliens & Immigration Department, The Cyprus Police Air Wing e.t.c.

Following the attacks on September 11, 2001, Cyprus Police have taken the following additional preventive measures:

- Increased security measures at the entry and exit points of the Republic of Cyprus.
- Upgraded the already existing mechanisms and continues and reinforces the co-operation with other countries, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels. Increased security measures at the entry and exit points of the Republic of Cyprus.
- Increased the guarding / patrolling and continuous surveillance of possible targets.
- Additional checks of passengers and hand luggage at departure gates.
- Patrolling and surveillance of the coast areas of Cyprus, by air and sea, so as to prevent the unlawful entry of terrorists into the Country.
- Checking / Surveillance of suspected illegal immigrants.
- Close cooperation with other relevant organizations and services.

The Cyprus Police also gives great emphasis in the area of international cooperation. Indeed the Office for Combating Terrorism as well as the offices of Interpol and Europol of the Cyprus Police are closely cooperating with counterpart units of other countries in the framework of the Universal effort to combat terrorism.

Also, in Cyprus Police the Special Antiterrorist Squad (S.A.S.) of the Mobile Immediate Action Unit (M.I.A.U.), is specially trained in order to meet emergency situations such as terrorist acts. The S.A.S. Unit is trained alongside with other International and European antiterrorist Units.

2. Description of the national planning- and decision-making process - including the role of the Parliament and Ministries - for the determination/approval of

(a) Military Posture;

The Ministry of Defence is responsible for the formation and implementation of Defence Policy. It participates in the wider Policy implemented by the Government and supports the Minister of Defence in fulfilling his responsibilities to the House of Representatives.

Additionally, the Chief of the National Guard is responsible to the Minister of Defence for the Command in general and the supervision of the National Guard, as well as the organization, training, readiness, discipline and order, in the framework of the orders of the Minister of Defence or of the Council of Ministers.

The House of Representatives, after examination and discussion, passes laws concerning the operation and the responsibilities of the members of the Armed Forces.

(b) Defence Expenditures;

The Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the National Guard compiles the annual defence budget and submits it to the House of Representatives for approval. The approval thereof takes place after detailed study of each item concerning the Defence Planning. Thus the House of Representatives exercises immediate control over the financial issues of the National Guard.

3. Description of

(a) constitutionally established procedures ensuring effective democratic control of the military, paramilitary, and internal security forces, as well as intelligence services, and the police;

(1) Armed Forces

According to the provisions of the Constitution, defence and the defence budget fall under the competence of the President of the Republic, the House of Representatives, the Council of Ministers and the Minister of Defence.

The Armed Forces are under civilian control both, in peacetime and during time of war.

The National Guard Laws (1964-2007), regulate the functioning of the Cyprus National Guard, for conscripts and reservists.

Funds collected by virtue of the Special Contribution (Defence of the Republic) Law (Law No. 5/85) are applied for the purchase of defence equipment. As a result of a recent amendment to the Law (Law No. 9(1)/2000) both the Fund for the Defence of the Republic and the Management Committee for the Fund were abolished and all Special Contribution for the Defence of the Republic levied is now deposited in the Consolidated Fund of the Republic.

The procurement process of defence equipment follows the procedure established by the Public Tenders Law (No. 102(1)/1997) by virtue of which a Special Tender Board was set up to deal specifically with this issue.

The Minister of Defence informs the House of Representatives on all defence issues, and may appear, if requested, before any relevant Parliamentary Committee.

(2) Paramilitary forces

Cyprus has no paramilitary forces.

(3) Internal security forces

Cyprus has no internal security forces

(4) Intelligence Services

The Central Information Service (C.I.S.) is the sole Intelligence Service of the Republic of Cyprus. Operationally, the CIS operates under the command of the President of the Republic, while administratively it is under the command of the Chief of Police. The Service is entrusted with the task of collecting, evaluating and disseminating intelligence that affects the state's security. Within the CIS, exists an Analysis Department specialized on counter-terrorism issues. The CIS's legal authority is based upon the Police Law, Law 73(I)/2004, and the Police Standing Order 1/65.

(5) Police

The Cyprus Police is a government body and since 1993 it forms part of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. Previously (1960- 1993), the Police was under the auspices of Ministry of Interior.

The Cyprus Police functions on the basis of the following legislation:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus
- The Police Law (73(I)/2004)
- The Police Regulations, including Promotion and Disciplinary Regulations
- The Police Standing Orders, which are issued by the Chief of Police
- The Criminal Law
- The Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 155), concerning prosecution and relevant court procedures

Also, the Police carries out its duties in conformity with the national legal framework, international treaties and conventions to which the Republic of Cyprus is a party, as well as the European Union acquis related to police matters.

According to the Police Law (article 6, L.73(I)/2004), the Cyprus Police has the authority to carry out its mission throughout the territory of the Republic of Cyprus for:

- The Maintenance of Law and Public Order
- The Preservation of peace
- The Prevention and detection of crime
- The Apprehension and prosecution of offenders

The main powers mentioned in the Police Law include:

- Search
- Arrest
- Detention
- Interrogation
- Other powers specifically vested within the Police by virtue of any law in force.

It should be noted that the Cyprus Police is the main Law enforcement Body in the Republic. The Customs and Excise Dept as well as the Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS) also have law enforcement authorities.

(b) constitutionally established authorities/institutions responsible for the democratic control of military, paramilitary and security forces;

- (1) Armed Forces

The Armed Forces are under political control, both during peace and wartime.

The following institutions, foreseen by the Constitution, exercise their democratic control:

- a. The President of the Republic
- b. The House of Representatives
- c. The Council of Ministers
- d. The Minister of Defence

(2) Paramilitary Forces

The Republic of Cyprus has no paramilitary forces.

(3) Internal Security Forces

The Republic of Cyprus has no internal security forces.

(c) Roles and missions of the military, paramilitary and security forces as well as controls to ensure that they act solely within the constitutional framework;

(1) military

The Cyprus Constitution Article 129, provides for the establishment of a military force the strength of which should not exceed two thousand men, sixty per cent of which to be Greek Cypriot and forty per cent Turkish Cypriot.

Tasks and powers of the Cyprus Army are defined in the Basic Law (No. 8/1961) providing for the establishment of the Cyprus Army, as well as in the subsequent Laws amending the Basic Law (Nos. 16/1962, 51/1963, 77/1966, 46/1973, 46/1975, 80/1981, 34/1983). The above Laws were amended and unified by Law No. 33/1990.

Due to the situation created in Cyprus, after the outbreak of intercommunal violence in 1963, which continued in 1964, the need to establish a separate military force to support the Cyprus Army and the Security Forces, led to the establishment of the National Guard, by Law No. 20/1964. According to this Law, the Council of Ministers, has the power when it deems necessary, in cases of a threat for invasion or any act directed against the independence, the sovereignty of the Republic, or against the security of life or property to proceed with the establishment of a force called "National Guard", with the aim to support the Cyprus Army, the security forces or both of them, in every measure taken to safeguard the defence of the Republic.

The National Guard Law (1964-2007) governs the operation of the Cyprus National Guard for conscripts and reservists.

(2) Paramilitary Forces

The Republic of Cyprus has no paramilitary forces.

(3) Internal Security Forces

The Republic of Cyprus has no internal security forces.

(d) Public access to information related to the Armed Forces;

The Government is committed by the Constitution to provide public access to information. In this connection, the Ministry of Defence provides information to the public on the role and activities of the National Guard, unless it is restricted from doing so for national security reasons. All significant decisions and events are issued in press releases.

The Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the National Guard has created an internet site which is continuously updated, with the aim of facilitating further the dissemination of information.

4. Stationing of armed forces on the territory of another participating State in accordance with their freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law;

No Cyprus armed forces are stationing in the territory of another participating State.

5. Description of

(a) procedures for the recruitment or call-up of personnel for service in the military, paramilitary, or security forces, if applicable;

(1) Military

Compulsory military service was first introduced in 1964, by the National Guard Law (No. 20/1964). According to this Law all the citizens of the Republic between the age of 18 and 50 are obliged to join the National Guard of the Republic.

Recruitment procedures or calling up to service in the National Guard of the Republic of Cyprus, are defined in the National Guard Law and the relevant Regulations stipulating the extent of compulsory military service, types of military service and procedures of calling up the civilians for performance of compulsory military service.

There are two types of compulsory military service, which refers to male citizens who reach the age of 18, and the citizens who complete the 25-month compulsory military service. They have to serve in the armed forces as reservists until they reach the age of 50.

(2) Paramilitary forces

Cyprus has no paramilitary forces

(3) Internal security forces

Cyprus has no internal security forces

(b) exemptions or alternatives to compulsory military service, if applicable;

The exemption from the compulsory military service is governed by the relevant provisions of the National Guard Law. According to this Law, persons who object to compulsory military service, as being contrary to their conscientious or religious belief, are entitled to apply to the Minister of Defence and request to be recognised as conscientious objectors (law N.88(I)/2007).

Conscientious objectors are entitled to a 30-month alternative service.

(c) legal and administrative procedures protecting the rights of all forces personnel;

The international treaties and agreements to which the Republic of Cyprus is a party, the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, the National Guard Law and other legislation, ensure that all military personnel are treated fairly and equally in legal and administrative matters. Although military personnel enjoy their constitutional and legal rights during military service, certain rights are limited. **Military personnel, however, has the right to establish associations (one for officers and one for non commissioned officers) but has no right to strikes.**

The rights of all military personnel are protected by military justice system consisting mainly of the Military Court, which forms part of the judicial system of the Republic.

6. Instruction on international humanitarian law and other international rules, conventions and commitments governing armed conflict included in military training programmes and regulations;

Instructions on international humanitarian law and other international rules, conventions and commitments governing armed conflict form part of the training programmes for all military personnel. The National Guard has effective training and dissemination programs on international humanitarian law. Military personnel are trained in the application of the provision of the Geneva and Hague Conventions, international law of armed conflict, Peaceful Settlement of international Conflicts, Sanctions against war crimes and crimes against humanity, protection of property and others. International humanitarian law is part of the basic education received in military schools, courses and universities.

7. Any other information.

The MOD disseminated the text of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security to the military personnel who are regularly familiarised with the content of the Code.