



9.7.2012

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Report of the delegation of the Committee on International Trade to Cyprus
(Nicosia, 18-19 June 2012)

Summary

A small INTA delegation visited Nicosia on the 18-19 June 2012 in view of the upcoming Cypriot Presidency. During its short stay the delegation, led by INTA Chair Vital Moreira and composed of Peter Šťastný (EPP) and Ioannis Kasoulides (EPP), had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Neoklis Sylikiotis, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, and other high officials of the government including the President of the House of Representatives and the Cypriot TPC representative.

The Delegation also met with Members of the Cypriot Parliament with whom it had an interesting exchange of views about several current INTA dossiers. The delegation had the opportunity of listening to the different point of views that exist within the Cypriot Parliament on commercial issues.

Over the 1 day it had on the spot, the delegation also met with various stakeholders, including the Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and representatives of the main Trade Unions in Cyprus. The Delegation was also taken on a brief trip to the so called "Green Line" dividing Nicosia and the whole of Cyprus, thus getting a better understanding of the political realities that the island-state contends with.

Details:

Monday, 18 June 2012

16.00 – 17.30 Meeting with Trade Union Representatives

Venue: EU House

The delegation started its work by meeting the representatives of the main Trade Unions in Cyprus, namely PEO, SEK and DEOK. The representatives were Mr. Andreas Ph. Matsas, Deputy General Secretary SEK, Mr. Christos Karydes, Department of Economic Studies of SEK, Mr. Diomidis Diomidous, General Secretary, DEOK, and Mr. Andreas Pavlikas, PEO representative to the EESC. The three Unions represented a wide spectrum in terms of political views but also agreed on several points, namely that trade should be used as a tool to stimulate economic growth and development and that, in their view, European international competitiveness is being reached solely by shedding jobs, cutting on wages and general austerity. Other topics discussed included trade and the MFF, trade relations with Asia, Middle East and North Africa, the EU-Peru/Columbia FTA, and the common commercial policy of the EU as a vehicle for promoting fundamental human and labour rights worldwide.

17.48 - 19.00 *Visit of the "Green Line" accompanied by a briefing on the political realities of the division of the Cypriot territory.*

20.00 – 22.00 Working Dinner with representatives from Cypriot Chamber of Commerce

Venue: Palia Elektriki, Old Nicosia

This meeting was a perfect follow-up to meeting with the Trade Unions, offering the delegation the possibility of listening to the point of views of the Cypriot business community and employers. The dinner allowed for a frank discussion. Members of the delegation had the opportunity of explaining in detail the new role of trade policy in the EU and the "parliamentarisation" of the Common Commercial Policy following the Lisbon Treaty. The Chamber of Commerce delegation, which was made up of Mr Andreas Pilides, President, Mr Manthos Mavromatis, former president, Mr Panayiotis Loizides, General Secretary and Mr Marios Tsiakkis, Deputy General Secretary, raised the issues of the MASP Regulation (public procurement reciprocity), of illegal immigration and its impact on the labour market, the need of a more SME-friendly trade policy, especially in terms of FDIs, the need to balance austerity measures with growth-inducing strategies, the special role of Cyprus as a gateway to the middle east and Israel and the importance of the MFF allocating more funding for research.

Tuesday, 19 June 2012

8.15-9.15 Meeting with Mr. Neoklis Sylikiotis, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism

The second day started with the first official meeting between INTA Members and the Cypriot Minister for Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Mr, Neoklis Sylikiotis. The two parties had the possibility of exchanging views on the most important pending trade files and on the priorities of the Cypriot Presidency, which in the field of trade include the negotiation of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements with Euromed countries, bilateral FTAs, including with Singapore, India and Canada and the possibility of launching negotiations an investment agreement with China. Other topics covered included the Emergency Autonomous Trade Preferences for Pakistan which is currently at trialogue stage, the possible mandate for FTA negotiations with Japan, the Omnibus and the need for Council to accelerate the adoption procedure of this dossier, pending horizontal commitology issues in various trade agreements, the Colombia & Peru and Central America FTAs, bilateral commercial relations with the US, CETA, the plurilateral agreement on services and ACTA.

9.30 – 10.00 Meeting with Mr Yiannakis L. Omirou, President of the House of Representatives,

Venue: House of Representatives

The meeting with the President of the House of Representatives was a very significant one. The discussion was of a more political and general nature, but the significance was in the understanding that this was a sign of the trust that the Cypriot Parliament has in the European Parliament as a vehicle for democratic scrutiny and citizen representation in the EU legislative process. Topics discussed included the Euro crisis and the effect of the recent Greek elections on European and Cypriot politics, trade as a tool to achieve a better balance between fiscal discipline and growth, the significance of the Cypriot presidency motto of a "Better Europe", the MFF, sustainable development, and the need for stability and cooperation with Southern Mediterranean countries, trade policy as the external dimension of the internal policies of the EU and the role of international trade policy (combined with the completion of the internal market) and as an "ready" way of creating immediate growth and jobs.

10.00 – 11.00 Meeting with the Chairman and Members of the Standing Committee on Trade and Industry of the House of Representatives of Cyprus

Venue: House of Representatives

The delegation held an interesting meeting with the counterpart of INTA in the Cypriot Parliament. Six of the eight Members sitting on the Committee on Trade and Industry of the Cypriot Parliament were present for the meeting, confirming the strong interest of National Parliaments in the work of the European Parliament. The Cypriot MPs were particularly interested in knowing more about the policy of the Union on protecting and promoting union products, especially those produced by its SMEs, the role of the European Parliament in the EU Commercial policy and its relationship with national parliaments, as well as the state-of play of ongoing FTA negotiations.

11.10 – 12.15 Meeting with Mr. Andreas D. Mavroyiannis, Deputy Minister to the President for European Affairs

The meeting with Mr. Mavroyiannis was more technical than any of the others. The previous position of Mr. Mavroyiannis as Coreper II Member and his current role in the Cypriot Presidency allowed for an in-depth exchange of views on pending files. During the meeting the discussion touched upon, *inter alia*, the recent meeting between the CCC and the Cypriot Presidency, the EP request for Council not to issue a mandate for FTA negotiations with Japan before Parliament has expressed its official position, ACTA and the silence of the Council on the matter, the MASP, the importance of finding a solution for Omnibus under Cypriot presidency, and Neighbourhood trade agreements.

12.30-14.00 Working Lunch with the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
Venue: Paragadi,

The final engagement of the delegation was a working lunch hosted by Mr Sylikiotis, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. This second meeting with the Minister allowed for an informal follow-up on the issues discussed in the meeting with Mr. Mavroyiannis and also of the first concrete steps to be taken in the CCP under the Cypriot Presidency.

Conclusion

The Delegation's visit to Cyprus was a very fruitful one and was a unique opportunity for INTA Members to meet, face to face, not only the key functionaries of the Cypriot Presidency but also the other governmental, parliamentary and social and business actors in the country. The visit helped the delegation understand better what will drive the Cypriot presidency with regard to the Common Commercial Policy and also to convey its message that throughout the new presidency INTA is ready to engage as constructively as possible with the Council and all stakeholders in order to advance the Unions Commercial policy. For the Rapporteur this visit confirmed the need for Parliament to **keep organising official delegations to the country holding the Presidency of the Council.**



COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Delegation to Nicosia, Cyprus

18-19 June 2012

FINAL PROGRAMME

Monday, 18 June 2012

Morning **Arrival from Brussels (or other departure points) to Nicosia**

15.30 *Appointment at the EU House*

15.45-16.45 **Meeting with Trade Unions [PEO/SEK/DEOK]**

Venue: EU House

Participants:

Diomidis Diomidous, General Secretary DEOK
Andreas Pavlikas, PEO representative to the EESC
Andreas Ph. Matsas, Deputy General Secretary SEK
Christos Karydes, Department of Economic Studies of SEK

17.00 – 18.30 Visit of "Green Line" in Nicosia

20.00 **Working dinner with the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industries**

Venue: Palia Elektriki, Address: 19, Apostolou Varnava, Old Nicosia

Tuesday, 19 June 2012

08.00 *Appointment at the lobby of the hotel, check-out, transfer to the EU House*

08.15 – 09.15 **Meeting with Mr. Neoklis Sylikiotis, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism**

Venue: EU House

09.15 *Transfer to House of Representatives*

09.30-10.00 **Meeting with the President of the House of Representatives, Mr Yiannakis L. Omirou**

Venue: House of Representatives, President's office

10.00 –11.00 **Meeting with the Chairman and Members of the Standing Committee on**

Trade and Industry of the House of Representatives of Cyprus

Venue: House of Representatives, Kyrenia room D1

11.00-11.15 *Transfer to the EU House*

11.15-12.15 **Meeting with Mr Andreas D. Mavroyiannis, Deputy Minister to the President for European Affairs**

Venue: EU House

12.30-13.30 **Lunch hosted by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism**

Venue: Paragadi, 3 Niovis Street, Agioi Omologites

End of Programme and Departure of delegation

LIST OF MEMBERS <i>(in protocol order)</i>		
	Name	Political Group
1.	Vital Moreira	S&D
2.	Peter Šťastný	EPP
3.	Ioannis Kasoulides	EPP