

Dear Colleagues, for the first time, 13 political parties are joining forces to give a voice to animals in Europe – it is exciting to be part of this movement.



Animal Party Cyprus

Introduction

The roots of the Animal Party Cyprus go back twenty years.....

Animal Responsibility Cyprus (ARC/Kivotos) was founded in 1994 by Kyriacos and Patricia Radnor Kyriacou. The aim of ARC was to introduce Humane Education to Cyprus. Over the years, some 35.000 children were reached through educational visits to schools and scout cub groups, with ARC producing its own materials, specific for Cyprus (in Greek, English and Turkish). Seminars for adults were also organised, including an international seminar for chiropraterologists, who attended from over 30 countries.

During the *aquis* process, as Cyprus approached EU membership, the founders attended many seminars throughout Europe on Animal Welfare legislation. The knowledge gained enabled them to succeed in gaining freedom for caged large exotics: captive for decades, two brown bears, three leopards, many primates and raccoons were flown to sanctuaries in Europe and South Africa (the latest – a baboon – caged for 32 years!). ARC's successful cooperation with international NGOs made this possible. In addition, ARC succeeded in gaining the closure of a dolphinarium, with a permanent ban on the import of cetaceans (in 2010 – now unfortunately being contested).

Kyriacos, in parallel with his ARC activities, was also a founder member of the Cyprus Green Party where - over 20 years - he was able to build up a valuable network of contacts including all of the main Cypriot political figures and Ministers.

In 2013 Kyriacos became aware of the Party for the Animals, Netherlands. He immediately understood that this is where he could use his 20 years of political experience, together with his 20 years of experience with ARC, and put the animal struggle on the political stage.

The idea of a Cypriot Party for Animals was first presented at a very enthusiastic public meeting in January 2014 by Kyriacos Kyriacou, and the party was subsequently launched on 27 April 2014. Marianne Thieme MP came to the launch and addressed the crowded auditorium.

In recent months APC has held formal meetings with Ministers, political party Heads, Chief of Police, Mayors etc, receiving a warm reception each time.

Members

The party has a Facebook following of approximately 5000 and nearly 700 registered Members, Friends and Supporters. The Central Committee consists of 10 Members,(structural diagram is attached) – also specialist committees such as the 6 strong Monitoring Group which was formed to respond to Animal Cruelty cases.

Party Structure

Please see the Organisation Chart

Elections

The Party did contest the May 2014 Euro-Elections and received an amazing 2300 votes - almost 1% of the total 300,000 who actually voted – and this only a month after the initial launch. This raised the profile of the Party in the eyes of the other Parties and created a boost in popular support.

Political Landscape

Cyprus has the presidential system where the president governs with 11 ministers. The system consists of three bodies: Executive, Judicial and Legislative 'Εκτελεστική', 'Δικαστική', and 'Νομοθετική'. At the moment there are 6 political parties with parliamentary representation and the voting system is by proportional representation. Since the 1974 Turkish invasion, Cyprus has remained (following German reunification in 1990) the last divided country in Europe, occupied by 40,000 Turkish troops. In the Turkish-occupied area in the North, the *aquis communautaire* does not apply. APC (ARC having previously worked with Turkish-Cypriot NGOs) will seek to cooperate with such bodies.

What are the chances of a seat?

As the Party is only barely six months old there is as yet no political representation – but watch this space!

The next target on the horizon is the National Elections in March 2016 and the party is quietly confident that its ongoing success rate will result in the election of an MP. Also, APC will participate in December 2016 local (municipal-communities).

Goals

In the short term the Party plans to reinforce its already excellent organisation with the expansion of the Branch structure following the Party's Convention and the continued development of close ties with the many NGOs, Charities and Private Organisations involved in the support and welfare of companion animals in Cyprus. A principal medium-term goal will be to forge strong links with the other Animal Parties and to mutually benefit by sharing experience, common strategies and targets. The party is also organising a November campaign for the increase of the Membership in line with its aims for the 2016 elections.

Finance

The Party's finances are totally self-generated and – as yet having no MP - it receives no subsidy whatever. A combination of Membership Fees, Private Donations, Sales of Goods and Revenue from Entertainment Events provides the total Party income. Plus of course the generosity of its active Members who pay their own expenses and help with many contributions of goods and services small and sometimes large. Although the Party's growth and achievement has been excellent and continues to be so, it is definitely the case that even a comparatively small amount of external financial support would impart an enormous acceleration and momentum to progress by enabling essential capacity-building in the initial stages.

Once again, for the first time, 13 political parties are joining forces to give a voice to animals in Europe – it is exciting to be part of this historical movement.

Kyriacos Kyriacou
APC

2/10/2014

Organisation Structure of the Party

Central Committee (10 members)

Chair Person

Vice Chair

Secretary

Ass. Secretary

Treasurer

Region/Limassol

Region/Nicosia

Region/Famagusta

Region/Larnaca

Region/Paphos

Each District
consist of 5
members, one
whom is and
elected represents
its Region as
above

1. Local coordinator
2. Deputy coordinator
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Member

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2. Deputy coordinator
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Member

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With in the Central Committee ex officio members are those who hold a public office such as Member of Parliament, commissioner, municipality/Community council and they are not allowed to vote