Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
https://pace.coe.int

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 1197 (1992)[1]

Demographic structure of the Cypriot communities

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Historic events led to the de facto division of the island of Cyprus into two parts. Almost the entire Greek-Cypriot community lives in the southern part, controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. Almost the entire Turkish-Cypriot community lives in the northern part controlled by the Turkish-Cypriot administration.

2. According to the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, the population in the southern part was estimated at 575 000 at the end of 1990, whereas the figure was 505 700 for 1974. This would give a rate of increase of 13,7% for the period 1974 to 1990.

3. According to the Turkish-Cypriot administration, the population in the northern part was estimated to be 171 500 at the end of 1990, as against 115 600 in 1974. This would give a rate of increase of 48,35% for the period 1974-90.

4. As the natural rates of increase in the population, based on the number of births and deaths, are comparable in both parts of the island, the population growth in the north must be due to a substantial influx of migrants.

5. It is an established fact that, from 1975 onwards, Turkish nationals arrived in the northern part of Cyprus, where they settled on a long-term basis. The waves of migrants were particularly large in 1975 and 1977 because, even on the lowest estimates, they represented 10% of the Turkish-Cypriot population at that time. Subsequently, there was a smaller, but steady flow. A fairly visible presence of Turkish armed forces is also to be noted in the northern part of the island.

6. The aim of the Turkish-Cypriot administration's policy regarding the Turkish migrants has been to encourage their permanent settlement on the island. Migrants are granted housing, land or other properties on special terms. However, the most important measure has been to allow them to acquire Cypriot nationality and hence political rights. The legal texts give the authorities discretionary power in this matter.

7. The Greek Cypriots are extremely concerned at the arrival of the Turkish migrants. At first, the Turkish Cypriots regarded this injection of manpower as essential. Today, the growing number of migrants, their naturalisation and the important role that some of them play in political life have given rise to wide divergences within the Turkish-Cypriot community.

8. The presence and naturalisation of the Turkish migrants, who once established on the island become settlers, constitute an additional obstacle to a peaceful, negotiated solution of the Cypriot conflict.

9. The Assembly therefore recommends that the Committee of Ministers :

9.1. instruct the European Population Committee (CDPO) to conduct a census of the island's population, in co-operation with the authorities concerned, in order to replace population estimates with reliable data ;

9.2. request the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish-Cypriot administration to keep the arrival of aliens on the island under strict control ;

---

1. Assembly debate on 8 May 1992 (8th Sitting) (see Doc. 6589, report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography, Rapporteur : Mr Cucó). Text adopted by the Assembly on 7 October 1992 (20th Sitting).

9.3. appeal to the Turkish-Cypriot administration to reconsider the legislation on naturalisation in force in the part of the island it controls, so that no changes in the demographic structure of the island result from the application of such legislation ;

9.4. promote the establishment of a climate of trust between the two Cypriot communities ;

9.5. invite the guarantor powers of the Republic of Cyprus to respect the provisions of the 1959 agreements scrupulously, especially with regard to the presence of armed forces on the island ;

9.6. invite Turkey to register in its Cyprus consulate all Turkish citizens residing and arriving in Cyprus ;

9.7. give its full support to the efforts of the Secretary General of the United Nations to achieve the rapid re-establishment in the whole of Cyprus of a law-based state accepted by both communities.