



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
18th Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 4.02.2014

German questions and recommendations to

Cyprus

German National Statement

Mr President,

Germany warmly welcomes the delegation of Cyprus to the second cycle of the UPR and thanks the delegation for its comprehensive report and presentation. We also commend Cyprus for the achievements made since the last review period, especially in regard to refugees and asylum seekers, gender equality and rights of detainees. Nonetheless, room for further progress remains. In this context, Germany would like to draw the attention of the Cypriot government to three issues.

1. As CERD and CRC have noted, the situation of illegal migrants and asylum seekers remains particularly worrisome. What has Cyprus done to improve its asylum procedures and to ensure their conformity with international human rights standards? How is the cooperation with the IOM evolving following the agreement in December 2012? Which measures have been taken to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the asylum application process?
2. The European Council Convention on preventing and combating violence against women has so far – against the backdrop of significant problems with domestic violence - not been adopted by Cyprus. While the government has revised the action plan for gender equality, improved protection against dismissal for pregnant women and conducted training on gender equality in the workplace, tangible progress is still slow. CEDAW noted, *inter alia*, a persisting wage gap between men and women of 18.3%. How does the government of the Republic of Cyprus intend to improve the participation of women in parliament and access to public administration leadership positions?
3. The minimum wage in Cyprus is below the EU standard – a fact that in addition to concerns over individual cases of exploitation and difficulties relating to residence permits led to hundreds of complaints of domestic workers in 2012. Cyprus should ease regulations for domestic workers and allow for more frequent inspections by the responsible authorities.

I thank you, Mr President.

Questions submitted in advance by Germany

1. The EU Commission has ultimately asked Cyprus in November 2013, to finally implement the EU directive on trafficking (of 2011). What is the status of implementation of the EU directive against human trafficking? In addition, Germany would like to learn, what further measures are planned to improve the prosecution and sentencing of traffickers?
2. Media frequently reports of excessive use of force by the police – allegedly taking place both in arrest as well as in police custody cases. Not infrequently, foreign nationals are victims of these acts of violence. What action will the Government of the Republic of Cyprus take to counteract this phenomenon?

