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PUBLIC LECTURE/DISCUSSION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The role of the Attorney General in the Republic of Cyprus. Theory and Practice

The open public lecture with the Attorney General of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Costas Clerides, was held on February 20th. Topic was "The role of the Attorney General in the Republic of Cyprus. Theory and Practice".



At the beginning of the event, the Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs of the University of Cyprus, Professor Athanasios Gagatsis and the Dean of the School of Economics and Management, Professor Andreas Charitou who coordinated the whole event, addressed short welcoming remarks.

In his speech, the Vice-Rector, congratulated initially the School for its initiative to organize this lecture with the Honorable Attorney General, and then he talked about the importance of the justice system in a country and especially in our country that experienced many corruption cases during economic crisis. Corruption, he said, is one of the biggest problems internationally and failure to address it, is a threat for the economy and the democracy of each state. Referring to the results of a recent survey, he highlighted the magnitude of the problem in Cyprus, while stressing the role and importance of the Attorney General in re-establishing the sense of justice to the public. Finally, he thanked the Attorney General for his presence and the School for the invitation.



The Dean of the School of Economics and Management, after thanking the Attorney General for accepting the invitation to participate as a speaker at this important event, he expressed his worries for the increased incidents of injustice and corruption in recent years, while stressing that growth and development of a country is directly linked to the existence of justice and transparency. Referring to the results of various studies, such as the International Transparency Survey and the Global Competitiveness Index, he argued that there are no signs of improvement in Cyprus over the last few years, which must worry us. The problems of corruption and interdependence have also had an impact on our economy as they prevent the inflow of investment in the country, thus limiting growth and raising the unemployment rate. Continuing,

he exhibited the work of Mr. Clerides who led many cases in the path of justice, despite taking up duties in a difficult period. In conclusion, he thanked Deloitte for sponsoring the event.



The Attorney General initially noted that the persons selected by the President to the posts of the Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General must be of high moral standing and remain in their place until their 68th year of birth. The Attorney General added, "It may and must exercise its powers, which are in fact judicially unaware, in a completely independent manner and far from any interference by any person or any authority." He noted that one of the most important tasks assigned to the Attorney General is to exercise a judgment as to what is and to which the "public interest" is leaning, adding that the public interest is a very "tormented" term. He then expressed the need of creation of a truly independent and autonomous Legal Service, in a similar way to the other pillar of the judiciary, the Judicial Service. Then he stated that both good criticism and persistent disagreement are always acceptable and welcomed. Finally, he answered questions from the public about the topic of the lecture.



The lecture was very well attended. At the end of the lecture, a cocktail reception took place in the courtyard of the hall. The sponsor of the event was Deloitte Limited.