



PRESS RELEASE

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The Open Cyprus Coalition celebrates Right to Know Day 2010

The Open Cyprus Coalition is marking the Right to Know Day, 28 September 2010, by renewing its call for full recognition of the right of access to information in Cyprus.

“Over 80 countries around the world now have access to information laws: it’s time for Cyprus to catch up,” said David Pardo of Access Info Europe.

The aim of Right to Know Day is to raise awareness of every individual's right of access to government-held information. “We have the right to know how elected officials are exercising power and how the tax-payers' money is being spent,” said Orestis Tringides of IKME.

The right to know is a fundamental human right as recognised by the highest international courts, the European Human Rights Court among others. The legal instruments that grant internationally the right to know are the laws of access to information and their implementing regulations.

The Open Cyprus Coalition is carrying out legal analysis, training for civil society, and monitoring of current levels of transparency in Cyprus. It will hold public consultations on recommendations for advancing the right to know in Cyprus. It is currently formed of the Cyprus EU Association (Kıbrıs AB Derneği, KAB), the Socio-political Studies Institute (‘Ιδρυμα Κοινωνικοπολιτικών Μελετών, IKME) and Access-Info Europe.

“We would like to invite all members of civil society and NGOs to join us in our vision of a well-informed society where public bodies comply with high standards of transparency and public participation,” said Faika Deniz of KAB.

Civil society organisations (CSOs or NGOs) can become members of the Open Cyprus Coalition at www.accessinfocyprus.eu, where various resources, toolkits and guidelines can be found, and prepare an activity to celebrate Right to Know Day 2010.

The Open Cyprus Coalition is calling on journalists to mark Right to Know Day 2010, with articles and news stories about events around the world and local transparency issues. Journalists are also encouraged to file information requests.



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This project is implemented by Cyprus EU Association in partnership with Socio-political Studies Institute and Access-Info Europe.



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Note for editors:

Access Info Europe is an international human rights organization based in Madrid, which works to promote a strong and functioning Right of Access to Information in Europe and globally.

<http://www.access-info.org/>

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KAB is founded by a group of Civil Society volunteers in 2006 with the aim of ensuring that information flow among the Turkish Cypriots and the international community.

<http://www.cypriuseu.org>

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IKME was registered in 2002 in Cyprus as a Non Governmental Organisation aiming to contribute to the prevalence of freedom, democracy, socialism and the European values.

<http://www.ikme.eu>

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