

George Y. Yiangou & Co is celebrating 30 years of success

This Year George Y. Yiangou & Co is celebrating 30 years of success and growth in the business sector as a Law Firm, offering Corporate and Commercial Services, International Debt Collection, Accounting and International Tax Planning Services.

Over the past 30 years George Y. Yiangou & Co has achieved the capability of providing a full range of professional legal services delivered with the highest of standards to clients throughout the world. Services are offered to either small or multinational business entities, organizations or individuals, through its attorneys and legal consultants and its network of professional law representatives worldwide. In order to accommodate clients needs George Y. Yiangou & Co established offices in Nicosia (Head office) Kolonaki in Athens, Thessaloniki and Istanbul.

Mr. Yiangou started his career in a modest sized office, he faced many challenges but his vision, ambition and hard work helped him to expand and attain his goal. He is now in a position to feel satisfied with his accomplishments even though this does not deter him from carrying on with his expansions, developing the firm and taking it into new horizons.



LEGAL 500
Recommended our
Firm for Europe
Middle East & Africa
2011 in the areas of
Banking, Finance and
M & A.

It is our pleasure to announce that our firm has been highly recommended by Legal 500 for the services we provide in the areas of Banking, Finance and M & A.

Chris Yiangou Partner and Head of the Corporate, Banking and Finance Department said: "we are delighted that the services we offer in this area of business have been recognised by Legal 500 and can confirm that we will continue our consistent commitment to provide all our clients, whether local or international, with an excellent, professional and very high standard of service that a firm of our size, with our many years of experience, can offer. We thank you all for choosing and supporting us and promise that we will continue serving you, to the highest of standards, in the front line."



International Business improves in Cyprus

The statistics by the Company Registrar in Cyprus show that the international activities in 2011 are on the increase.

According to the latest report, the applications for the registration of the Companies in February 2011 increased by 7.3% bringing the current number of registered companies to an amount of 1656 which is comparable to the corresponding month last year with figures at 1543.

For the year 2011 applications for the registration of companies in Cyprus increased by 18.3%. Statistics show that international business is on an upward trend which is direct result of the foreign companies actively developing their business in Cyprus.

We can confirm that the total amount of registered companies up until end of May 2011 is already 244.862.

Cyprus has become a centre for international arbitration

Nowadays, thousands of foreign businesses in Europe, Asia and USA, are using Cyprus as a base for international activities. This is due to the strategic position of the island, the favourable tax system, the modern banking and legal system and the highly educated specialists in this field of practise.

The conference on International Arbitration was held in Cyprus in March 2011, at this conference the president of the Republic of Cyprus stated that due to that fact Cyprus has a special legal framework for the conduct of international commercial arbitration, Cyprus has become a regional centre for international arbitration.

According to this framework of conduct, disputes concerning the internalization of commercial transactions, which have their base in different states and are subject to more than one law and codes, can now be simplified by proceeding with the arbitration in Cyprus. This procedure also offers fast solutions to sectors where the economic chain is problematic.



Cyprus-Russian business cooperation

During a conference which took place in March 2011 in Cyprus, it was announced by the president of Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Mr. Mavromatis and the Director of International Cooperation Department Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sergey Vasiliev that the investments from Cyprus to Russia until June 2010 were \$52,18 billion and the investments from Russia to Cyprus during the same period were 415,96 billion.

The most important vehicle helping these two countries in the business sector is the Treaty for the avoidance of the Double Taxation which was signed in October 2010 in Cyprus by the Russian president Mr. Medvedev. This is the beginning of a new era in the business industry and it also enhances the relations between the two countries.

The Limitation of Actions Law

The Limitation of Actions Law, Cap. 15 sets out the period within which the claims must be filed at the Court, even though, the Limitation of Actions Law was suspended in 1964 it is still pending.

In 2002 a Law 108(1)2002 was passed in order to enter into force the Limitations of Actions Law, this was also suspended until November 2010, finally, with the Law 41(1)/2011 which was passed by the House of Representatives in March 2011, the enforcement of this Law has now been suspended to 31 December 2011.

Cyprus Law removes restrictions on estate agents

The European Commission has decided to terminate the infringement proceedings against Cyprus relating to the law on estate agents which restricted the activities of professionals from any of the other Member States. The Law concerning this right was adopted by the Commission on 17th of July 2010. IP/11/182

It is now possible for estate agents from the European Union to come to Cyprus not only to exercise their activities without any restrictions, but also to help buyers who are abroad to easily obtain all the necessary information in order to acquire property in Cyprus.



New Double Tax Treaty between Cyprus - UAE

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Markos Kyprianou, signed with his counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the 27th of February 2011, an agreement between Cyprus and the UAE on the Avoidance of Double Taxation which is expected to further empower the economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Cyprus /German double tax treaty

On 18th of February 2011, Cyprus and Germany signed a new treaty for the avoidance of double taxation between the two countries.

The new treaty was signed by the Minister of Finance of Cyprus, Harilaos Stavrakis and by the German Ambassador in Cyprus, Gottfried Zeitz.

The purpose of the treaty is to enhance economic and commercial relations between the two countries. Harilaos Stavrakis stated that the Cyprus government is committed to continue efforts to maintain and further strengthen its position as an international financial centre. The new DTT is pending parliamentary ratification from both sides and it will come into force on 1st of January 2012.

Cyprus-Armenia Double Tax treaty

On the 17th January 2011 a new Double Tax Treaty was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Cyprus, Marcos Kyprianou and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, the purpose of this new double tax treaty is to replace the old treaty in relation to the Income Tax that is required to be paid.

Bank Levy on Cyprus Tax Law

On the 14th of April 2011 The House of Representatives voted in the Bill for a special levy on Banks in Cyprus.

As from the beginning of 2011 all credit institutions operating in Cyprus will be required to pay a levy of 0,095% on their customer deposits. The levy should not exceed 20% of the total taxable profits of the financial Institution as these are assessed by the Income Tax Authorities.

The levy does not include deposits from foreign financial institutions and inter-bank deposits between banks operating in Cyprus.

The amount that would be collected due to this special levy for the years 2011 and 2012, will be deposited at the Governmental account and by March 2013 will be transferred to a special account named "Financial Stability Fund". As from March 2013 the Bank levy will be directly transferred to the Financial Stability Fund.

The law came into force on the 29th of April 2011 the day it was published in the official Gazette of the Cyprus government.

VAT amendments

Obligations of taxable persons affected by the changes

The Amendments which have been made to the VAT legislation as from 10th of January 2011 are as follows:

a) Changes regarding the supplies of foodstuff

The House of Representatives approved the taxation with the reduced VAT rate of 5% of foodstuffs including beverages which are intended for human consumption, with the exception of alcoholic beverages, beer, wine and soft drinks.

The above amendment was applied due to the termination of the derogation enjoyed up to 31 December 2010 by the Republic of Cyprus for the application of the zero rate on foodstuffs intended for human consumption according to article 125 of the EU VAT Directive 2006/112/EC.

The reduced VAT rate of 5% also applies to supplies of prepared or unprepared foodstuffs or/and beverages that are not accompanied by support services, irrespective of whether the goods are delivered from the supplier to the consumer.

b) Changes regarding the supply of medicine

The House of Representatives also approved the taxation with the reduced VAT rate of 5% for pharmaceutical products and vaccines that are used for health care, prevention of illnesses and as treatment for medical or veterinary purposes.

As from 10 January 2011 the distinction of supplies into supplies that are subject to the reduced VAT rate and into supplies that are zero rated is removed.

These changes apply as from 10 January 2011. On the basis of the provisions of the legislation all taxable persons have an obligation to proceed with a stock take for the goods for which the VAT rate changes. The stock take should include both quantitative measurement and valuation. The stock take should take place at the end of the working day prior to the change of the VAT rate.

Selection of tax rate

The taxable persons have a right to choose the VAT rate that they will apply on the sales of the goods that are affected by the changes. The choice exists in case the basic tax point of the transaction occurred prior to the change of the VAT rate and the actual tax point occurred after the change of the VAT rate or vice versa. In these circumstances the right to choose between the previous and the revised VAT rate exists.

For more information please visit our website www.yiangou.com.cy



New year's party

Once again the Management decided to surprise the staff of George Y. Yiangou & Co Cyprus with a New Year Weekend Party at the luxurious Le Meridien Spa & Resort in Limassol. All members of staff with their partners were invited to attend this event. Many activities, were organized including a Saturday evening Gala dinner, bowling and bingo with wonderful prizes for the lucky ones and lots more!!!!

The event was a great success and was perfectly planned by Philios Yiangou and Christiana Pericleous who exhibited their excellent planning skills and great ideas to create a wonderful and memorable weekend party for the "Yiangou" staff



Mr. Yiangou cutting the traditional 'vasilopita' bread/cake. The Vasilopita contains a hidden coin, the cake is cut and then a piece given to every one present, the person who finds the hidden coin in their piece of cake is said to be brought 'good luck' throughout the year.



Mr. Vangelis Evangelou and Mr. Chris Yiangou



newsletter competition

We are pleased to introduce our newsletter competition. Two lucky winners will win one weeks holiday in Cyprus including flights and accommodation.

There will also be 15 runner up prizes.

Try your luck! Complete the coupon below and return it by the end of August 2011 to qualify for the draw.



When will Cyprus take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union?

1. Second half of 2012 | 2. Second half of 2015 | 3. Second half of 2016

.....

circle the correct answer and complete your full details below

name

company name

address

email

telephone fax

Please return your completed entry as follows: newsletter competition, George Y. Yiangou & Co
By mail to: christianap@yiangou.com.cy, or by post P.O. Box 24293, 1703, Nicosia, Cyprus, or by Fax: +357 22763370

Global Russia Business Meeting

April 2011, Limassol, Cyprus.

Chris Yiangou attended the Global Russia Business Meeting which took place in Limassol in April 2011. The meeting was co-hosted by the Government of Cyprus and the Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency (CIPA), and supported by several Russian organizations. Over 300 professionals from the sphere of corporate structuring, participated at the conference.

International Tax Conference April 2011

Michael Loizou, one of the Advocates at our offices in Nicosia, attended the International Tax Conference which took place in Nicosia in April 2011. The conference was organized by the KPMG Academy in Cyprus and targeted all professionals and business people in this field of practice, giving them the opportunity to better understand the recent developments and trends relating to international tax planning and issues.

Travel Plans

We intend to visit the following countries over the coming months: Russia, United Kingdom, Poland, Ukraine, Belgium, Greece, Denmark, and Germany.

Clients' visits

Mr. Chris Yiangou, Lory Cirstea, Panayiotis Panayides, George Polemidiotis and Christiana Pericleous, have visited several clients in numerous countries over the last few months including, France, Russia, Poland, Ukraine, U.K, Greece, Switzerland, Germany.

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