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UNIVERSAL SUPPORT FOR THE WHITE PAPER ON “POTHEN ESCHES”

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**In a written statement, the Government Spokesman, Mr. Kyriacos Koushios, referred to the meeting of the President of the Republic with Messrs Panayiotides and Syrimis on the White Paper addressing the issue of the declarations of wealth by politically exposed persons (in Cyprus). 16/02/2021**



The President of the Republic, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, had, today, a meeting, at the Presidential Palace, with Messrs Christos Panayiotides and Nicos Syrimis, in the presence of the Minister of Justice, Ms Emily Yiolitis.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposal submitted by Messrs Panayiotides and Syrimis and Professor Christopher Pissarides, contained in the White Paper, which addresses the issue of wealth statements by politically exposed persons and the issue of conflicting interests. The proposal is an initiative on the part of Dr Pissarides and Messrs Panayiotides and Syrimis.

In the course of today's meeting those attending engaged in a constructive discussion on the issues addressed in the White Paper and in the proposal submitted. The President suggested that the authors of the proposals should continue their contacts with the state services involved in the process, with a view of arriving at a fully fledged legislative proposal.

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**Public Statement by Mr. Zacharias Zachariou, MP, on the meeting of Chairman Averof Neophytou with the authors of the White Paper. – 18/02/2021**



A meeting between the authors of the White Paper, Mr. Panayiotides and Mr. Syrimis, and the Chairman of the Democratic Rally, Mr. Averof Neophytou, took place today, at the offices of the party, in the presence of the Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Institutions Committee of the House, Mr. Zacharias Zachariou. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Zachariou made the

following statement:

“The White Paper dealing with the issue of the wealth declarations and the related statements of the source and application of funds of the politically exposed persons was at the centre of the discussion we had today with the Chairman of the party, Mr. Averof Neophytou and the authors of the White Paper, Mr. Christos Panayiotides and Mr. Nicos Syrimis, while the Nobel prize winner, professor of economics, Sir Christopher Pissarides was unable to attend due to other commitments in the UK.

We carefully heard what the authors of the White Paper had to say and being aware of the status of the law governing the issue of “pothen esches”, we unambiguously state that we, the Democratic Rally, are fully aligned with the contents of the White Paper and we are prepared and committed to press on with the implementation of the proposals forthwith”.

On his part, Mr. Panayiotides underlined the following: “Our efforts in the direction of combating corruption are extensive. It is a difficult task. We sincerely hope that, with the help of all the political parties and the support of the society at large, we will succeed in meeting this ambitious goal”.

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**Statement of the Secretary General of the Executive Committee of AKEL, on the conclusion of a meeting with Messrs Christos Panayiotides and Nicos Syrimis.– 18/02/2021**



First of all, I wish to thank Mr. Panayiotides, Mr. Syrimis and Sir Pissarides for the important initiative they have assumed. They have compiled a comprehensive study of the problem and they have aimed at formulating an appropriate framework for the setting of the statements of sources and applications of wealth of the politically exposed persons. I congratulate them because they have produced a comprehensive study, which we view favourably.

We have agreed that we will set up a team that will look carefully at the proposals made and we will revert and reconvene within a very short period of time for pursuing the issue. We will seek the explanations, which may be deemed necessary to ensure that we are ready to proceed and give our full support to the White Paper. Thus, the public at large will have no doubt that a level of full transparency on the part of the politically exposed persons will be attained.