

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES
4th Study Commission – ABIDJAN 28-31 October 2002

CYPRUS

WORKING CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN

Our answers to your questions are as follows:

1. Yes in Cyprus the protection of children and young persons at work is safeguarded by the Protection of Young Persons at Work Law No. 48(I)2001, which is fully in line with the European Union Directive 94/33/EC on the protection of young people at work as well as with the provisions of the European Social Charter, Article 7, Para 8, concerning the right of children and young persons to protection.

Furthermore the Government of Cyprus has ratified on 17.11.2000, by Law No. 31(III)2000, the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

According to the Protection of Young Persons at Work Law:

- The employment of children (under 15 years of age) is prohibited.
- The employment of a child is allowed for the purposes of performance in cultural, artistic, sports or advertising activities on condition that the activities are not harmful to his/her safety, health or development and provided that a relevant license is granted by the Minister. Also a child, who is at least 14 years of age and has completed successfully the Gymnasium cycle (the lower level secondary education), or has been released from his/her obligation to attend school, after approval from the Ministry of Education and Culture on the basis of the Primary and Secondary Education (Compulsory and Free of Charge Education) Law, can be placed, after special license is granted by the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance, under a combined work/training programme, with the purpose of learning a trade.

Furthermore, the above mentioned Law:

- defines the maximum hours of work of children (thirty six hours in one week or seven hours and fifteen minutes in one day) and of young persons (38 hours and in one week or seven hours and five minutes in one day),
- where daily working time is more than four and a half hours, young people are entitled to a break of at least 30 consecutive minutes,
- prohibits the employment of children at night in any occupation (between the hours 19.00 of one day and 07.00 of the following, except during the months June to September during which the night hours are between 20.00 of one day and 06.00 of the next day).

Finally, according to the Ordinary and Secondary Education (Compulsory and Free Education) Law, education is compulsory until the pupil completes a gymnasium cycle or reaches the age of 15 years.

2. According to the provisions of the above mentioned Law any person who breaches the children's rights at work is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding three thousands pounds (£3.000) or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such penalties.

According to the records of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance there are no recent cases of violation of children's rights at work.

3. In order to improve the conditions of children at work, new regulations will be drafted by virtue of the above mentioned Law.