



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

INFSO	Adonis n° A / 513329					
Date	02 AVR. 2008					
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THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Ref.: 14.06.25

MPG

Brussels 31 March 2008

Dear Mr. Paulger,

First report on the application of the Recommendation of the EP and of the Council of 16 November 2005 on film heritage and the competitiveness of related industrial activities

In 1989 the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus decided to create the Cyprus Film Archive. The responsibility for its organization and function was entrusted to the Press and Information Office.

It is worth mentioning that Cyprus is perhaps the only country in the European Union that has to apply to private collections abroad in order to find archival material related to the history of Cyprus. In any case this material can be used only for reference purposes.

Since then the Archive operates in the premises of the Press and Information Office with an annual budget of about €130.000.

Currently the Archive comprises 200 films produced from 1927 to 2008. The biggest part of the collection is made up of films which were produced since 1994, the year the Cyprus Cinema Advisory Committee was established, with feature films, documentaries short and experimental films. A second important part is made up of short films which were used till 1960 by the British Authorities for educational purposes. The third part is made up of films which were produced by the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation. These films are mainly documentaries.

The Archive began a digitalization program and so far more than the 85% of the collection has been digitalized among them about 150 hours of newsreels covering a period from 1942 until 2003. Most of this material can only be used for reference purposes. A programme of recording on film various areas of Cyprus particularly towns, which are changing rapidly, has been in operation since 2005. So far the programme has covered Nicosia, Limassol and Pafos.

There are no laws in Cyprus regulating the operation of the Cinema Archive and this is the reason why such principles as the "Legal Depot" can not be put into practice.

Regarding the question of audiovisual literacy responsible for the application such kind of programs is the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Chacalli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "C".

George Chacalli

Deputy Permanent Representative

Mr. Gregory Paulger
Director
Audiovisual, Media, Internet
Information Society and Media Directorate-General
European Commission