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REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS SUPREME COURT

ONLINE CONFERENCE FOR LAWYERS “NEW RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE: A STEP FORWARD”

3 March 2021

CONCEPT

Today Cyprus is undertaking the ambitious reform process with a view to improving the court system and strengthening the efficiency of justice. An important step in the ongoing reform - revision of the Rules of Civil Procedure - is facilitated under a Joint project of the COE and EU in collaboration with the Supreme Court.

Successful progress in the integration of the new Rules into the Cypriot civil law and procedure, which will undergo a serious reformation for the first time during the last 60 years, is of paramount importance as it is expected to provide ground for improvement of the efficiency of justice and to contribute to an investment-friendly environment in Cyprus.

While the most difficult and demanding part – the drafting of the Rules and Forms – is over, the next challenging step – adoption and implementation of the new Rules – is ahead.

At the Conference the Draft Rules will be presented and the philosophy behind them will be explained for better understanding of particular provisions and changes in the civil procedure. In anticipation of the collection of the comments to the Draft Rules from the legal community, such explanations are expected to contribute to the process of the preparation of the comments. Also, comparison of the process of the change of Rules in other Common Law jurisdictions could be a valuable contribution to the understanding of the novelties in the Draft Rules and the philosophy behind them.

The challenges, questions and possible solutions linked to the application of new procedural rules in various jurisdictions will be discussed at the Conference. The discussions will be dedicated to the exchange of experience of practicing lawyers and judges from the UK and Ireland faced with such changes. The participants will be presented with the new Rules and the logic behind them, which will be followed by discussions about the practical benefits for lawyers and other stakeholders.

Venue: Online on **Kudo** platform: <https://vmeeting.coe.int/k8/241116849601/join>

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PROGRAMME
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SESSION A

Moderator: Mrs Tatiana-Eleni Synodinou, Associate Professor of Private and Commercial Law, Chairperson of the Law Department, University of Cyprus

OPENING – WELCOME ADDRESSES

- 15.00 – 15.30**
- Mrs Persefoni Panayi, President, Supreme Court
 - Dr. Christos Clerides, President, Cyprus Bar Association
 - Mr George Erotocritou, Former Judge of the Supreme Court, Director of Reform and Training
 - Mr Daniele Dotto, Acting Director, Directorate B – Support to Member States reforms, Head of Unit, Unit B2 – Governance & Public Administration, European Commission
 - Mrs Pilar Morales-Fernandez-Shaw, Head of Programming Department, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe

PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT RULES

- 15.30 - 16.50**
- The main concept of the new Rules**
The Rt. Hon. Lord John Dyson, Former Justice of the UK Supreme Court, Former Master of the Rolls, Chairperson of the Expert Group on Guiding Drafts for new Civil Procedure Rules in Cyprus *(20 minutes)*
- What will be the main changes?**
Mr Yiasemis N. Yiasemi, Justice of the Supreme Court, President of the Permanent Rules Committee *(20 minutes)*
- How the new Rules will affect the legal practice?**
Dr. Christos Clerides, President, Cyprus Bar Association *(20 minutes)*
- What are the next steps?**
Mr George Erotocritou, Former Judge of the Supreme Court, Director of Reform and Training *(20 minutes)*

SESSION B**CHANGE OF RULES: UK and Irish Experience**

Moderator: Mr Achilleas Demetriades, Advocate, President of Human Rights Committee of the Cyprus Bar Association

17.00 – 18.00 Change of Civil Procedure Rules in the UK

Mr Darragh Connell, Barrister at Forum Chambers, Guest Teacher in the Department of Law at the London School of Economics 2019 – 2020
(20 minutes)

Change of Civil Procedure Rules in Ireland

The Honourable Mr Justice Peter Kelly, former President of the High Court of Ireland, Chairman of The Review Group for Civil Justice (20 minutes)

Mr Eoin Martin, Barrister, Member of the British Irish Commercial Bar Association, Adjunct assistant professor of land law at Trinity College Dublin 2018-2019 (20 minutes)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**18.00 – 18.30 Questions and Answers****18.30 – 18.40 Closing Remarks by Moderator****NB:-**

The Conference will be held with simultaneous interpretation from Greek to English and vice versa.

The session will be recorded.

For any questions or support regarding joining the meeting please contact Rafaella Hadjikyriacou at Rafaella.Hadjikyriacou@coe.int (tel. 35796790308) or Aggeliki Fotopoulou Karageorgou at Angeliki.Fotopoulou-Karageorgou@coe.int (tel. +33640988523).

All times indicated is Eastern European Time (Nicosia).