



Stella Kyriakides

Cyprus (EPP)

Background

Stella Kyriakides has been a member of the Cypriot Parliament since 2006 and a Vice-President of the DISY political party since 2013. She has served in the Parliamentary Committee on Health and as President of the Committee on Social Affairs, health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2016-2017). She has been very active in that organisation, having served on its Presidency since 2015 and as President (2017-2018). She is currently the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Gender Equality and a member of the Committees on Foreign and European Affairs and Health.

Born in Nicosia, she studied psychology at Reading University and undertook postgraduate studies at the University of Manchester and the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (a school of King's College London). She has also attended seminars on the psychological effects of cancer and leukaemia on children and teenagers; on domestic abuse; and learning disabilities. She worked as a clinical psychologist in the period 1979-2006.

Stella Kyriakides has been very active on various cancer-related organisations, serving as president of the European Confederation for Breast Cancer Europa Donna (2004-2006). She was also president of the Cyprus branch of the organisation (2000-2015) and was patient representative in the European Organisation for Cancer (2010-2012). Since 2016 she has been President of the Cyprus National Committee for Cancer.

Upon her nomination as Cyprus' candidate, she emphasised that she will work to make Cyprus more visible in Europe, but also Europe more visible on Cyprus, "defending a Europe of equal opportunity, gender equality, human rights and the rule of law". She also mentioned a Europe that will tackle today's challenges, such as climate change, immigration and economic inequality, as well as work to create a Europe of technological development, giving hope and vision to the young. She concluded that she will work for a Europe that supports Cyprus in its "just struggle" (an allusion to the island's division between the Greek and Turkish sides).

EU priorities

Her comments following her nomination are too general to showcase a clear preference for a portfolio. However, given her professional experience and strong focus on health policy, and especially cancer, she could be taking up a relevant portfolio, where her experience and training will be most

useful. The Cypriot President has reportedly asked that his country maintain its current portfolio, that of Humanitarian Assistance and Crisis Management.

Personal Insight

She is seen as a competent party cadre with good communication links to the Cypriot President. Party insiders have given favourable views of her competence for the new role.

Torchbearer for Cyprus in the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Education

Studied psychology at Reading University

Postgraduate studies at the University of Manchester and the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (King's College London).

Attended seminars on the psychological effects of cancer and leukaemia on children and teenagers; on domestic abuse; and learning disabilities.

General Work Experience

Clinical psychologist, Children and Adolescent psychiatry sector, Mental Health Services Department, Health Ministry (1979-2006)

Political Experience

National Politics

2006-2019: Member of Parliament. Served on committees on Health; Foreign and European Affairs; President of the Committee on Human Rights and Gender Equality

2013—2019: Vice-President of the DISY political party

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

2016-2017: President of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

2012-today: Head of Cyprus Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Parliamentary liaison for the campaign to end sexual violence against children

2013-2015: General Rapporteur on children

Since 2015: Member of the Presidency and Chair (2017-2018).

Other activities

Very active on various cancer-related organisations and groups. She has participated in various fact-finding missions and conferences on different forms of cancer at the national and international level.