

Written contribution

- 19. The 2022 Rule of Law Report contained a recommendation to Cyprus to ‘introduce rules on asset disclosure for elected officials to establish regular and comprehensive filing, combined with effective, regular and full verifications’. What are the legislative, organizational or operational actions taken to respond and achieve the implementation of this recommendation?**
- c. Are other (non-elected) civil servants bound to declare assets?**

The Law regarding Certain Publicly Exposed Persons and Certain Officials of the Republic of Cyprus (Declaration and Control of Property) (Law 50(I)/2004) imposes the obligation (article 3) to certain high ranking officials and certain publicly exposed persons to submit a declaration of assets (within a 3-months period from the assumption of the post/office and every three years after the year he/she assumed the post/office) to a three-member Council appointed by the Council of Ministers. The law is applicable, as mentioned above, to certain high ranking officials and certain publicly exposed persons, including Director Generals of the Parliament and the Ministries, the Accountant General and the Deputy Accountant General and the Secretary of the Council of Ministers, who are public servants.

- 22. What is the result of the works initiated as to develop a strategy for the rotation of civil servants more exposed to risk of corruption?**

The establishment of the rotation of civil servants who are exposed to risk of corruption, as a practice, is included in the Action Plan against corruption for 2021-2026. With the Circular no. 1671, dated 31/08/2021, the Public Administration and Personnel Department addressed a number of recommendations to Ministries, Deputy Ministries, Independent Offices, Departments and Services aiming to combat and minimize the risk of corruption in the public service. The PAPD recommended the following:

1. The Heads of the public services should implement rotation measures and specifically, among the civil servants dealing with sensitive and more exposed to risk of corruption duties.
2. The Heads of the public services, as the responsible persons to assign tasks and duties to the personnel, should proceed with the rotation of civil servants within a reasonable time, in order to avoid civil servants remaining in specific tasks (and avoid the development of an environment conducive to the creation of phenomena of entanglement and corruption).
3. Heads of the public services are expected to assess the risk for such phenomena and then proceed with the rotation of the civil servants exposed to the risk of corruption every 5-6 years.
4. In case the rotation of staff cannot be implemented – due to expertise of the civil servant or due to lack of personnel or due to any other justified reason, the Heads of public services should take other measures eg. Enhancing supervision, promoting team work, transferring specific tasks to other teams/sections of the public services.
5. The Heads of public services may reallocate tasks among the civil servants. There are also several rotation/mobility tools available in the public service that can also be used (transfer, movement, secondment, assignment of specific tasks).

By the end of 2022, several public services responded to the abovementioned recommendations. Only in few cases they mentioned that rotation of civil servants cannot be implemented due to lack of personnel. In many public services there are already taken measures to combat corruption, by using rotation/mobility tools (eg. Treasury, Internal Audit Service, Public Service Commission, Directorate General Growth Ministry of Finance, Audit Service, Deputy Ministry of Tourism).