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The Law on the Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council of 2006 is issued by promulgation in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus in accordance with Article 52 of the Constitution

Number 61(I) of 2006

**LAW REGULATING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE
PAN CYPRIAN VOLUNTEERISM COORDINATIVE COUNCIL**

The House of Representatives enacts as follows:

- Short title. 1. The present law may be cited as the Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council Law of 2006.
- Interpretation. 2. In the present Law, unless the context otherwise requires -
- “General Meeting” means the organ in which all members of the Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC) participate in person in the case of natural persons, or through a duly authorized representative in the case of legal persons;
- “Republic” means the Republic of Cyprus;
- “Steering Committee” means the Steering Committee established under the provisions of article 6 of the present Law;
- “volunteer” means any natural person who offers, without any reward, financial or other, services or other means to individuals or groups or to the society at large, in order to address social and other needs;
- “voluntary organisation” means any organisation which is comprised of volunteers and its main or exclusive purpose is not for profit;
- “district” means one of the six administrative districts of the Republic and for the purposes of the present Law, the geographical area of the Morphou region is regarded as a district;
- “District organisation” means every organisation which has administrative structure in only one district of the Republic and the activity of which is limited to the administrative boundaries of one of the districts of the Republic, including every organisation which

forms part of a pan Cyprian organisation and operates as a District branch in one of the districts of the Republic.

“District Volunteerism Coordinative Council” or “DVCC” means every District Volunteerism Coordinative Council established under article 7 of the present Law;

“Community Volunteerism Committee” or “CVCom” means every Community Volunteerism Committee established under the provisions of sub-section (1) of article 9 of the present Law;

“not for profit purpose” means every voluntary action or act which tends to alleviate or relieve human suffering, human poverty, illness or need and any physical, mental and psychological malfunction, as well as any action which serves the welfare or the protection of children, teenagers, young people, adults and older persons, any action which contributes to the prevention or address social problems or needs and generally any action which contributes to the improvement of the welfare of the people residing, permanently or temporarily, in the Republic of Cyprus;

“Register” means the Register of Voluntary Organisations which is established and kept by virtue of the provisions of article 10 of the present Law;

“organisation” means every organised group of natural or legal persons including associations, institutions, committees and clubs, which have administrative structure and operational autonomy, which meets the minimum standards for registration in the Register of Voluntary Organisations and is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Societies and Institutions Law.

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85 (1) of 1997

“pan Cyprian organisation” means every organisation which has administrative structure extending geographically to all or most of the districts of the Republic, as well as every organisation which, irrespective of the geographical extent of its administrative structure, covers with its activity all the territory of the Republic or its most significant part.

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“PWC” means the Pancyprian Welfare Council, which has been established by virtue of the provisions of the Pancyprian Welfare Council Law;

“PVCC” means the Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council established under the present Law;

“Community Volunteerism Council” or “CVC” means every Community Volunteerism Council established by virtue of the provisions of article 8 of the present Law.

PART A
OBJECTIVES AND POWERS
OF THE PAN CYPRIAN VOLUNTEERISM
COORDINATIVE COUNCIL

- Legal personality and recognition
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- 3.-(1) A Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council is established which is the continuation of the Pancyprrian Welfare Council, which had been set up by virtue of the provisions of the Pan Cyprian Welfare Council Law, for the purpose of continuing and fulfilling the objectives set in article 4.
- (2) The PVCC has a legal personality, succession in perpetuity, an official seal and the power to sue and be sued with this name before the Courts and acquire, own, manage and dispose movable and immovable property.
- (3) The PVCC is the supreme coordinative body of voluntary service, which in the framework of its objectives operates and provides social welfare programmes in the voluntary field.
- (4) For the purposes of any law, the PVCC is recognized as serving by inference non for profit purposes.
- (5) The running and operation expenses of the PVCC are covered by the Republic by a special vote provided for in the annual state budget, the management of which is audited by the Auditor General of the Republic. The proposals for the budget of the PVCC are submitted by the Steering Committee to the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance for inclusion in the state budget.
- (6). When the budget of the PVCC is tabled in the House of Representatives at the same time audited accounts for the preceding year are also tabled.
- The objectives of
The PVCC
- 4.-(1) The objectives or the PVCC are the following:
- (a) to identify, study, analyze and project social problems and needs;
 - (b) the active contribution to the planning, the charting and the formulation the social policy of the Republic;
 - (c) the development of volunteerism, as idea and practice, in line with the present international conditions;

- (d) the study, utilization, support and projection of the contribution of voluntary organizations in the field of volunteerism and social welfare;
 - (e) the coordination of the activities and the planning of its members, as well as coordination among the members and between members and the competent services of the state;
 - (f) the facilitation and strengthening of the operation and activities of its members on a purely advisory basis;
 - (g) the charting of policy and strategy for the achievement of the short-term and long-term objectives in the field of volunteerism and social welfare;
 - (h) the provision of technical and advisory guidance to its member organisations for the promotion of community programs, if and when required;
 - (i) the provision of education and training or the contribution to the education and retraining of its member organisations.
 - (j) the establishment, maintenance, education, administration and utilization of volunteer centers.
 - (k) generally, the promotion of contribution in the field of volunteerism and social welfare in the Republic.
- (2) In order to pursue the objectives mentioned in sub-section (1) and generally for its operation, the PVCC is cooperating with governmental and non government agencies.

Competencies
and powers of
the PVCC

5. In order to pursue the objectives mentioned in article 4 of the present law, the PVCC has the competency and authority, subject to the provisions of the present Law, to –
- (a) keep and manage the Register of Voluntary Organisations, established by virtue of article 10 of the present Law;
 - (b) decide on the registration of an organisation in the Registry of Voluntary Organisations, or its deregistration under the provisions of the present Law;
 - (c) chart the short-term, middle-term and long-term plan of action in the field of volunteerism and social welfare, in cooperation with the competent services of the Republic, or with any state, semi-state or non government agency;

(d) to establish, oversee, coordinate and control, administratively and financially, the District Volunteerism Coordinative Councils the Community Volunteerism Councils, and the Community Volunteerism Committees operating by virtue of the provisions of the present Law;

(e) to coordinate the activity of its member-organisations in such a way as to ensure the smooth and productive implementation of the policy charted under the provision of paragraph (c) ;

(f) to provide technical and advisory assistance to its member organisations for the implementation of their programs in the field of volunteerism and social welfare;

(g) submit reports, views, suggestions, memorandums and action plans to the competent services of the Republic, in connection with the charting, formulation, running and implementation of the policy of the Republic in the field of volunteerism and social welfare;

(h) advise the Social Welfare Services or any other competent service of the Republic in connection with the allocation of assistance or grants to its member organisations;

(i) encourage, promote, organize, participate in the organisation and subsidize or finance the active participation of its members in international conferences, seminars, or meetings on the subject of volunteerism or social welfare;

(j) organize, or participate in the organization of local conferences, seminars, meetings and other events, aiming at the attainment or propagation of its objectives and

(k) publish or finance the publication of any kind of printed or audiovisual material, which promotes or serves volunteerism or social welfare and the specific goals set by the PVCC from time to time.

PART B

ADMINISTRATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE PVCC

Administration

6.- (1) The PVCC is governed by a Steering Committee, which subject to the provisions of article 20 of the present Law, is elected, formed and constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations issued by virtue of the provisions of article 14 of the present Law.

(2) The Steering Committee may set up an Executive Secretariat, the composition and functions of which are defined in the decision on its establishment.

District
Volunteerism
Coordinative
Councils

7.- (1) The Steering Committee may establish, following a relevant decision, District Volunteerism Coordinative Councils in each District of the Republic which, subject to the provisions of article 20 of the present Law, are elected and constituted in accordance with the provisions of article 14 of the present Law and function on the basis of internal regulations approved by the Steering Committee.

(2) Every District Volunteerism Coordinative Council administratively and operationally comes under the PVCC and applies the policy and the programmes decided or approved by the Steering Committee.

(3) The Steering Committee oversees and coordinates the operation of every District Volunteerism Coordinative Council and has the authority to intervene for advice or corrective action when it deems it necessary.

(4) Every District Volunteerism Coordinative Council submits to the Steering Committee every year and not later than the end of January a report on the implementation of the programmes and policy of the PVCC for the geographical area under its responsibility, together with its observations, views and recommendations for the better and more productive serving of the objectives of the PVCC in the said district.

Community
Volunteerism
Councils

8.- (1) The Steering Committee may take a decision to set up Community Volunteerism Councils, at the recommendation of the competent in each case District Volunteerism Coordinative Council, which is based on the evaluation in the cooperation with the Social Welfare Services of the Republic of the specific need :

It is understood that in case the Social Welfare Services suggest that there is need for the establishment of a Community Volunteerism Council in any geographical region of the Republic, the relevant recommendation of the corresponding District Volunteerism Coordinative Council should be taken for granted.

(2) Every Community Volunteerism Council is established and operates in order to serve the needs of a specific community in the rural areas of the Republic, or a quarter, or municipal area in the urban areas of the Republic, and its programmes and activities are limited to the geographical area of the corresponding community, or quarter or municipal area.

(3) Every CVC is elected and constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations issued by virtue of the provisions of article 14 of the present Law and operates on the basis of internal regulations approved by the Steering Committee.

(4) Every CVC administratively and operationally comes under the DVCC of the district in the administrative boundary of which the municipality or community or quarter is located and implements the

policy and the programmes decided by or approved by the Steering Committee, at the recommendation of the competent DVCC.

(5) The District Volunteerism Coordinative Council oversees and coordinates the operation of every CVC operating in its District and has the power to intervene in an advisory capacity or correctively, when this is deemed necessary or expedient.

Community
Volunteerism
Committees

9 .-(1) The Steering Committee may set up Community Volunteerism Committees, by a relevant decision taken at the recommendation of competent DVCC, which is based on the evaluation with the cooperation of the Social Welfare Services of the specific need:

It is understood that in case the Social Welfare Services suggest that there is need for the establishment of CVCom in any geographical region of the Republic, the relevant recommendation of the corresponding DVCC should be taken for granted.

(2) A Community Volunteerism Committee is set up when the establishment of a Community Volunteerism Council is not feasible, in accordance with the provisions of Regulations issued by virtue of article 14 of the present Law.

(3) Every CVCom is elected and constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations issued by virtue of article 14 of the present Law and operates on the basis of internal regulations approved by the Steering Committee.

(4) Every CVCom administratively and operationally comes under the DVCC of the district in the administrative boundary of which the municipality or community or quarter in which it operates is located and implements the policy and the programmes decided by or to approved by the Steering Committee, at the recommendation of the competent DVCC.

(5) The District Volunteerism Coordinative Council oversees and coordinates the operation of every CVCom operating in its District and has the power to intervene in an advisory capacity or correctively, when this is deemed necessary or expedient.

PART C

REGISTER OF VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS

Establishment of
a Register of
Voluntary
Organisations

10.- (1) A Register of Volunteer organisations is established, the responsibility for the keeping, running and safe-keeping of which rests with the Steering Committee, in accordance with the provisions of article 14 of the present Law.

(2) The Register is divided into three parts, in the first of which the Pancyprian voluntary organisations are registered, in the second the district voluntary organisations and in the third the local voluntary organisations.

(3) The process of registering a voluntary organisation in the Register or deregistering it is defined in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations issued by virtue of the provisions of article 14 of the present Law.

(4) The Social Welfare Services and every competent authority of the Republic have free access to the data contained in the Register.

(5) A certification of the registering of an organisation in the Register is issued by the Secretariat to all registered organisations free of charge.

(6) Information about the registering of an organisation in the Register is given to any person, following an application.

Registering of
an organisation
in the Register

11.-(1) An organisation which is registered in the Register acquires with its registration the status of a PVCC member.

(2) The registering in the Register of any DVCC or CVC or any CVCom gives it the status of legal person, irrespective of its possible registering or not in the Register of Societies and Institutions under the Societies and Institutions Law.

(3) Every organisation established by a decision of the PVCC by virtue of the provisions of articles 7, 8 and 9 of the present Law is registered without any other formality in the Register.

(4) Every voluntary organisation wishing to be registered in the Register submits an application to the Steering Committee in accordance with the provisions regulations issued by virtue of article 14 of the present Law.

Obligations of
PVCC member
organisations

12. Every organisation which becomes a member of the PVCC with its registering in the Register, shall:

(a) submit to the Steering Committee every year and by the end of March at the latest, a summary note concerning its activity and the implementation of its programmes during the previous calendar year.

(b) send every year to the Steering Committee a copy of its financial budget for the following calendar year, which has

been submitted to the Social Welfare Services of the Republic.

(c) submit every year to the Steering Committee and by the end of December at the latest, summary information on its programme of activities and events for the following calendar year;

(d) implement the overall policy charted by virtue of paragraph (c) of article 5 of the present Law,

(e) allow and accept the consultative role of the PVCC by virtue of paragraph (e) of article 5 of the present Law, and

(f) pay to the PVCC an annual subscription, the amount of which is set in line with the provisions of the Regulations issued by virtue of article 14 of the present Law.

Deregistration of an organisation from the Register

- 13.- (1) An organisation registered in the Register which without reason refuses to fulfill the obligations set by article 12 of the present Law, may be deregistered from the Register by a decision of the Steering Committee.
- (2) An organisation may be deregistered from the Register by a decision of the Steering Committee, in case its operation, actions and decisions are incompatible with the policy, the aims and the goals of the PVCC.
- (3) The decision for the deregistration of an organisation from the Register is taken in accordance with the provisions of Regulations issued by virtue of the provisions of article 14 of the present Law.
- (4) An organisation which has been deregistered from the Register by virtue of the provisions of the present article has the right to appeal in writing to the next regular or extraordinary General Meeting and ask for the annulment of the decision for deletion.
- (5) In case of an appeal in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (4) of the present article, the decision of the General Meeting concerning the validation or invalidation of the deregistration of an organisation from the Register is taken by simple majority vote and is final.

PART D GENERAL PROVISIONS

Regulations

14.- (1) Subject to the provisions of the present Law, the PVCC may issue, on approval by the Council of Ministers,

Regulations published in the Official Gazette of the Republic, in respect of any or all the following matters:

- (a) the composition, activities and running of the affairs of the PVCC;
- (b) the convening, operation and powers and functions of the General Meeting;
- (c) the manner of election and the composition of the Steering Committee, its meetings, quorum, voting and representation in various international and local organisations, as well as in public authorities;
- (d) the manner of election and the responsibilities of the officers of the PVCC;
- (e) the manner of establishment, composition, running and representation of the District Volunteerism Coordinative Councils, the Community Volunteerism Councils and the Community Volunteerism Committees;
- (f) the manner and the procedure for the registration of an organisation in the Register and the deregistration from it;
- (g) the amount of any fees payable for services which the PVCC may render to third parties;
- (h) the fulfillment of the objectives of the PVCC;
- (i) the filling of vacant posts which may be created in any organ of the PVCC;
- (j) the fixing of the amount of fees payable by the members;
- (k) the decision on the emblem of the PVCC;
- (l) the determination of any subject which by virtue of the present Law requires, or is amenable to determination; and
- (m) generally the implementation or the facilitation of the attainment of the objectives of the present Law.

(2) Regulations issued by virtue of sub-section (1) of the present article shall be tabled in the House of Representatives. If in a period of sixty days since they were tabled, the House does not decide to amend them or annul them in whole or in part, then immediately after the lapse of the above time-limit, the said Regulations are published in the Official Gazette of the Republic and come into force from the date of their publication. In case of their amendment by the House in whole or in part, the Regulations are published in the Official Gazette of the Republic, as they have been amended by the House and they come into force from the date of their publication.

Prohibition to use the emblem etc.

15. The use by any other person, except an officer or duly authorized member of the PVCC, for any purpose of the emblem of PVCC, or any unauthorized use, or falsification of the emblem, or the name of the “Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council, “District Volunteerism Coordinative Council”, “Community Volunteerism Council”, “Community Volunteerism Committee” or their abbreviations is prohibited.

PART E OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Use of name or seal without authorization.

16. Any person using without due authorization the name or seal of the PVCC, or any DVCC, or CVC or CVCom shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding six months, or to a fine not exceeding one thousand pounds, or both imprisonment and fine.

Falsification or alteration of a document.

17. Any person falsifying or altering a document or the register of the PVCC or any DVCC, or CVC or any CVCom in order to use it for any purpose or to make any gain is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding one year, or to a fine not exceeding two thousand pounds or both imprisonment and fine.

Usurpation of office or impersonation

18. Any person who engages in the usurpation of the office, or impersonates an officer of the PVCC, DVCC, CVC or any CVCom in order to get economic gain shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding two years, or to a fine not exceeding four thousand pounds, or both imprisonment and fine.

Consent of the Attorney-General

19. No prosecution is exercised by virtue of the provisions of the present Law or Regulations issued by virtue of the provisions of article 14 of the present Law, except following the written consent of the Attorney General of the Republic.

PART F TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Administrative continuity of the Pancyprian Welfare Council 152 of 1989

20 (1) The officers of the Pan Cyprian Welfare Council or any DWC, CWC or CWCom who have been elected by virtue of the provisions of the Pan Cyprian Welfare Council Law and the Regulations issued under this Law and hold a post at the coming into

force of the present Law shall be considered to be officers of the PVCC or the corresponding DVCC or CVC, or the corresponding CVCom in the corresponding posts, until the election of the new officers in accordance with the procedures envisaged in the Regulations issued by virtue of article 14 of the present Law.

(2) Organisations or persons who were members of the Pan Cyprian Welfare Council or any DWC, or CWC or any CWCom immediately before the entry into force of the present Law shall be considered to be members of the PVCC, or the corresponding DVCC, CVC and the corresponding CVC com, and this attribute shall be regulated on the basis of the procedures envisaged in the Regulations issued by virtue of the provisions of article 14 of the present Law.

(3) Any action or decision or activity lawfully taken and executed by the competent organs of the Pan Cyprian Welfare Council, or DWC, CWC or CWCom in the exercise of their powers

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by virtue of the provisions of the Pan Cyprian Welfare Council Law and the Regulations issued under it shall be considered as decision or action, which has been taken, or executed by the competent organs of the corresponding DVCC, CVC or the corresponding CVCom.

Financial
Continuity of the
Pancyprian
Welfare Council
152 of 1989

21 .- (1) Any economic decision, action or activity which has been taken or executed lawfully by the competent organs of the Pan Cyprian Welfare Council or any DWC or CWC or any CWCom. in the performance of their duties by virtue of the provisions of the Pan Cyprian Welfare Council Law and the Regulations issued under it shall be considered as action, or activity taken, or executed by the competent organs of the PVCC, or the corresponding DVCC or CVC or CVCom

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(2) All movable or immovable property acquired lawfully by a decision, action or activity by virtue of the provisions of the Pan Cyprian Welfare Council Law and the Regulations issued under it shall be considered as constituting movable or immovable property of the PVCC, the corresponding DVCC, or CVC or CVCom.

Reservation

22. Nothing in the present Law affects in any way the status, activities or powers granted under any other law to societies, institutions or organisations.

Abolition of
the Pancyprian
Welfare Council
Law.
152 of 1989

23. From the date the present Law comes into force, the Pancyprian Welfare Council Law is abolished.

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(2) The Regulations issued under the provisions of the Pan Cyprian Welfare Council Law shall be considered as issued under the present Law and shall be applied correspondingly on the date of their publication by virtue of article 14 of the present Law.

