ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO CYPRUS

SWEDEN

- Credible reports indicate high levels of violence against women in Cyprus and a persisting de facto discrimination of women in the labor market. The Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern over the pervasiveness of patriarchal attitudes and traditional social prejudices and stereotyped attitudes. Cyprus has recognized these stereotypes as the main problem for the advancement of women and as a basic cause for women’s disadvantaged position in the labor market and within the family.

- What measures is the Government of Cyprus taking to prevent violence against women and ensure women’s equal rights in the labor market?

- Reports indicate recurring incidents of discrimination in Cyprus against migrants and asylum seekers. In its concluding observations in May 2009 of its latest consideration of Cyprus, the Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern that “third-country migrants continue to have limited access to employment and suffer from labor exploitation and social isolation.” Migrants are reported to be generally excluded from integration measures, while civil society organizations have contended that there is a recurring lack of access by migrants to legal aid.

- Could Cyprus elaborate on the efforts it is taking to integrate migrants into Cypriot society and what is Cyprus doing to end the discrimination of migrants? What forms of legal aid are available?

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- We would be grateful for more information about the extent to which civil was society involved in the preparation of the national report for this review?

- Could you please elaborate on the existence of a national human rights institution in Cyprus and if it is in full compliance with the Paris Principles?

- Please could you inform us whether Cyprus has undertaken recent awareness raising campaigns has Cyprus undertaken to prevent the spread of illegal immigration? What percentage of asylum seekers have successfully received vocational training and what form has this training taken?

- We note that for European Parliamentary Elections, Turkish Cypriots are allowed to vote "irrespective of their place in Cyprus". Could you please give us further information about how this works in practice, for example, how is an electoral register is formed and where are Turkish Cypriots able to vote?