

Litigation - Cyprus

Limitation periods suspended until December 31 2011

Contributed by **Andreas Neocleous & Co LLC**

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Limitation periods in Cyprus are set out in the Limitation of Actions Law (Cap 15), which dates back to the time when Cyprus was a British colony. The principal time limits range from two to 15 years, depending on the nature of the claim. In relation to causes of action not expressly covered by the Limitations Law or not expressly exempted, the limitation period is six years from the date on which the cause of action arose.

The Limitations Law was suspended in 1964 following inter-communal disturbances and has effectively remained suspended ever since.

The Suspension of Limitation Period (Provisional Provisions) Law (110(I)/2002) provided that the Limitations Law would re-enter into force with effect from June 1 2005, except in relation to any immovable or movable property situated in areas now occupied by Turkish troops (or any property which was situated there at the time of the Turkish invasion), but its entry into force has been postponed by a succession of laws passed in the interim, each temporarily extending the suspension. The latest of these, enacted in March 2011, extends the suspension for a further nine months until the end of 2011.

*For further information on this topic please contact **Chrysanthos Christoforou** at **Andreas Neocleous & Co LLC** by telephone (+357 25 110 000), fax (+357 25 110 001) or email (chrysanthos@neocleous.com).*

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Author

Chrysanthos Christoforou



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