

Litigation - Cyprus

Further suspension of limitation periods

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 limitation periods are as follows:

- For bonds in a customary form or any mortgage, the limitation period is 15 years from the date on which the cause of action arose;
- For any judgment, the limitation period is 15 years from the date on which the judgment became enforceable;
- For any book debt due to or from a bank, the limitation period is six years from the date on which the cause of action accrued;
- For goods sold and delivered, bills, work done and wages, the limitation period is two years from the date on which the cause of action accrued;
- For property irrevocably earmarked for Muslim, religious or charitable purposes (known as *Evkaf* or *Vakf* property), the limitation period is 15 years from the date on which the cause of action accrued. Where the action concerns the corpus of any such property, the limitation period is 36 years; and
- For causes of action not expressly provided for by the law or not expressly exempted, the limitation period is six years from the date on which such cause of action accrued.

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). However, 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 laws, Law 111(I)/2010 enacted in November 2010, extends the suspension until March 31 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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