Foreword by Christos Giakoumopoulos

Director General, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

to the submission of draft new new Civil Procedure Rules for their adoption by

the Supreme Court of Cyprus

The present new Rules of Civil Procedure in Cyprus represent a valuable contribution to the ambitious reform process undertaken by the Supreme Court of Cyprus with a view to improving the court system and strengthening the efficiency of justice.

As a Pan-European organisation with extensive in-house expertise in the field of human rights and rule of law, the Council of Europe has been supporting, in close partnership with the European Union, the reform process in Cyprus as it does in all its member states.

As stated in the European Union 2020 Rule of Law Report[[1]](#footnote-1), effective justice systems are the basis for mutual trust, which is the bedrock of the common area of freedom, justice and security, an investment friendly environment, the sustainability of long-term growth. The rule of law has a direct impact on the life of every citizen. Respect for the rule of law is essential for citizens and business to trust public institutions.

The justice systems are being subjected to more serious challenges in the current circumstances of the healthcare crisis. Its grave impact on all areas of human life compells the justice systems to demonstrate greater strength and resilience.

The success of our joint work on the new Rules owes so much to the national partners, and in particular to the President and the members of the Rules Committee and the Director of Reform and Training of the Supreme Court. Nothwithstanding the unexpected pandemic related restrictions on the project activities, they showed their highest commitment and professionalism in the current difficult circumstances. Special gratitude shall be expressed to all those who contributed to the successful progress of the project amidst the pandemic outbreak.

The new Rules of Civil Procedure are expected to become an important tool for the protection of the rights and freedoms of all the parties concerned, providing ground for the upholding of the rule of law and allowing the judiciary to improve its efficiency. The new Rules will therefore become an essential component of the ongoing reform in Cyprus which the Council of Europe will continue to support.

1. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1602583951529&uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0580 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)