



AUDIT  
OFFICE



REPUBLIC  
OF CYPRUS

## **AUDIT OF CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY**

### **Executive Summary**



**AUDIT OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC  
SPECIAL REPORT no. ΚΥΠΕ/01/2020**

**14 February 2020**

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## **Executive Summary**

**AUDITED ENTITY**  
**Cyprus News Agency**

## Executive Summary

Within the framework of the provisions of article 12(3) of Cyprus News Agency Law (Law 87/89), as well as article 109(3) of the Financial Responsibility and the Financial Framework Law (Law 20(I)/2014), a performance audit and a compliance audit were carried out of the Cyprus News Agency (CNA) for the year 2018.

The most important findings of the audit concern the following:

- ◆ In 2018, the CNA paid €52.417 as compensation for Sunday work, as Sunday is not included in the five-day roster of the employees who work on the shift system.  
A recommendation was made that the shift of Sunday is included in the five-day roster of the employees.
- ◆ No timely submission of annual leave and non-signing of the hand-written “Attendance Register” by all staff, to check the time of its arrival/departure from work.  
We indicated that the staff is obliged to complete its annual leave forms on time and CNA must check staff time attendance.
- ◆ Salary placement of the Director, above the initial scale of A15, which was mentioned in the proclamation of the position and the modification of this term by the Board of Directors afterwards, during the signing of the contract. Granting, according to the contract which was signed, of annual leave to the Director, of 29 days annually, instead of 20 days which are granted to respective positions of Directors/Director Generals in other organizations, since in the proclamation of the position, no mention was made regarding the number of days of annual leave and sick leave, contrary to the provisions of Law 115/1990.  
We indicated that the salary placement of the Director is not legal and a recommendation was made that CNA recovers from the Director, all the amounts which were illegally paid to him.
- ◆ For the agreement to grant services to the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC), from a journalist of CNA, it was not possible to confirm that the services which are offered are not prepared during his/her working hours at CNA, as the agreement between CyBC and CNA states.
- ◆ Action was not taken in time for the collection of amounts due. Debtors as at 31.12.2018 amounted to €110.515.  
A recommendation was made so that all the necessary measures are taken by CNA for the collection of the amounts due.
- ◆ The decision to lease state owned land for the construction of a building was not the most economic, most efficient, as well as, the most effective option. From 5.11.2007 until 16.11.2019, a total amount of €394.948 was paid for the lease of the land and an additional amount of €141.871 for the study, preparation of plans, securing the necessary licences for the said building and other sub-expenses. The necessity or not to lease, has still not been re-examined and a final decision on the subject has not been taken. Therefore, while the procedure started in 2007, the construction of the building has not been materialized yet.  
A recommendation was made, to re-examine the necessity or not of the lease.