



## 3<sup>rd</sup> CEN-CENELEC Annual Meeting Lemesos, CYPRUS

Partners' Programme (as of 15 June 2007)

### City Tour of Limassol

Tuesday 26 June, 2007  
11.00-15.00

A bus will be arranged to transfer the partners to the old town where they will have the chance to visit:

- **The Castle of Limassol**

The Castle of Limassol is a structure rebuilt under the Turkish domination (19th century). The architectural features of a much more extended Medieval Museum have been included.

The oldest report on the existence of the Castle of Limassol dates back to 1228 when Frederick the Second of Germany and his supporters sent to prison the hostages seized by Ibeline, the king regent of Cyprus. This Castle was likely to be an ancient Byzantine Castle or the one that took its place over the early Frankish period. According to Stephen Lusignan, Guy de Lusignan had the original Castle built in 1193. This original fort, if it really existed, has not yet been localized by the archaeologists. It is more likely to have been given up to the knights for administration purposes on behalf of the crown in 1308.

In the corridor that links the big hall to the eastern grounds, the basement was discovered in a log done before 1951. A marble podium of a small basilica dating back to the Early Christian times and the floor of a Middle Byzantine monument (10th – 11th century) were also discovered there.

The eastern side of an arched basement composed of three parts has a big apse on the floor with an approximately 12-metre diameter which could be considered part of the first Latin cathedral of the town. The questions concerning the extent and the precise time when the monument had been erected will never be answered unless some excavations take place in the South and North side of the Castle. The winding staircase in the southwest corner was likely to be part of this chapel leading to its roof.

The more recent division in three parts of the apse of this aisle with the arched roof could at least originally be considered a worship place too.

In 1373 the Genoese burned the town after having conquered the castle. At this attack serious damage must have been caused to the monument. According to the tourists the town had almost no inhabitants at the late 14th century. A small recovery was observed over the latest decade and the early 15th century at the Latin Bishop's See of Limassol which apparently used a rebuilt old Middle

Byzantine Temple, Zik-Zak street behind the today's Kepir Mosque, while at the same time the Castle was being repaired. It is often featured that it was a place of resistance against the Genoese in 1402 and 1408. In 1413 the resistance against the attacks of the Mamluks, who were eventually not able to conquer it, was a fact indeed.

Serious damage caused then and maybe a little later, owing to the earthquakes, which were not dealt with efficiently, made it easy to be conquered in 1425 by the Egyptians during their second raid conducted on the town.

According to some information a stronger earthquake affected seriously the monument. When in 1518 Saige visited the town, the Castle was still maintained in a strong position. The most probable is what happened in the case of the Zik-Zak street temple during this period; repairs to a great extent and reconstruction works took place. The gothic arcs that can be observed in the ground western hall belong therefore to this reconstruction phase. Also some openings with arch hewed doorframes are likely to be seen at the sidewalks of the first floor and above the today's entrance.

In 1538 the Turks landed at Limassol and conquered the Castle. Bragadino, the Venetian Governor of Cyprus decided to have the Castle demolished in order to prevent any further use of it or its being conquered by the Turks to be used as a fort.

Boustronios blamed the Governor for this act of his, stating that the expenses for the demolition of the castle went beyond the costs for having it repaired. The demolition works took place through several phases and their completion was achieved owing to the earthquakes occurred in 1567/8.

Following the complete conquest of the island (1576) by the Ottomans, the ruins of the old castle or parts of it were incorporated into the new fort built by the Ottomans in 1590. A 2-metre thick wall and the specially tailored ground floor cells used as a prison until 1950, have been two particularly important features of it.

- **The Cyprus Medieval Museum**

The Cyprus Medieval Museum is located near the old port of Limassol. It was built in the 14th century on the site of an earlier Byzantine castle. In the basement of the museum are photographs of Byzantine churches in Cyprus, as well as some replicas of sculptures from the Santa Sophia cathedral in occupied Nicosia. The exhibits on the upper floors are arranged in small rooms off a central hallway. On the ground floor are coats of arms, wall paintings and tombstones, particularly from Nicosia and the church of Pyrga. On the second floor are some impressive displays of weaponry and a full suit of armor. There are also exhibits of jewelry and pottery and some fine stone gargoyles. The stairs up to the next floor lead to the battlements from where there are good views of the city. Even better views can be found from the next floor, which is a small raised square right at the top of the castle.

- **The Municipal Market**

The Municipal Market is a listed stone building consisting of halls and shops of total area 3000 m<sup>2</sup>, covering a building square in the old centre. The market was originally constructed in 1917, at a

period when Lemesos was booming ,and gradually expanded to its present form by 1947. The Market along with the surrounding traditional shops and restaurants had been the centre of trade and social activities until the late 70's when it started losing its importance due to the fast expansion of the town and the creation of shopping centres in the periphery.

- **The Great Mosque of Kepir**

The Great Mosque or Kepir Mosque is a sign of the coexistence of the tow communities of Lemesos (Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots). Built in Ottoman times, on the ruins of a previous Byzantine and a later Gothic church, it is an example of the different historic phases Cyprus went through.

- **The Cathedral of Ayia Napa**

The Cathedral of Agia Napa stands proudly in the heart of the residential and shopping area of Lemesos. A building of the 19th century with traditional Byzantine architectural elements.

- **Agiou Georgiou street**

The place not to be missed is of course the traditional shopping center of Agiou Andreou street - now a pedestrian walk - where one can enjoy shopping safely.

## **DETAILED PROGRAMME**

Organized by CYS and the Cyprus Tourism Organisation

Lefkara is a traditional village situated in the semi mountains region of Larnaka and is characterized by the white of its silica and limestone from which it took its name: Lefkara is derived form the Greek words 'lefka ori' - white mountains.

Meeting point in the lobby of the Hawaii Grand Hotel & Resort

11:00 Pick up from the Hawaii Grand Hotel & Resort

11:30 Visit the village Lefkara

13:00 Lunch at a Cyprus tavern at the centre of the village

16:00 Return to the Hawaii Grand Hotel & Resort

## Visit to Lefkara

Wednesday 27 June 2007

10.00 – 16.00

A bus will be arranged to transfer the partners to the village of Lefkara (20 minutes by bus).

- **Lefkara**

Built 730m above sea level, in the foothills of the Troodos Mountains, Lefkara is one of the prettiest villages in Cyprus. Its population is roughly 1,500 and it has numerous small restaurants, tavernas and cafes to offer. To drive from Paphos airport will take you about one hour and twenty minutes and from Larnaca only about forty minutes.

The narrow, winding streets with traditional old houses attracts many artists, but Lefkara is more famous as the home of Cyprus lace. Women still sit in the narrow streets and courtyards making lace and beautiful linen openwork in intricate and traditional patterns, as they have done for hundreds of years. Apparently Leonardo da Vinci bought the cover for Milan Cathedral's altar from Lefkara in 1481.

### **DETAILED PROGRAMME**

Tour organized by the Municipality of Lemesos and CYS

**Meeting Point:** Lobby of Hawaii Grand Hotel & Resort

**Time:** Exactly at 09.00 am

09:00 Pick up from the Hawaii Grand Hotel & Resort

09:30 Visit the theatre of **Kourio** in Lemesos

10:30 Visit the **Castle** of Lemesos

12:30 Visit the **Municipality** of Lemesos- The Mayor of Lemesos will  
welcome the partners