



Concerns about discrimination against liberal candidate in Cyprus

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On Tuesday 15 January, ALDE Party President **Sir Graham Watson MEP** spoke during a debate at the European Parliament in Strasbourg reviewing the Cypriot Presidency of the European Council that ended on 1 January.

He congratulated the Cypriot government on their "fruitful first presidency" before raising concerns over the lack of progress on domestic reforms on the island and the discrimination by Cypriot broadcasters against Liberal Democrat candidate **Praxoula Antoniadou-Kyriacou**, leader of ALDE member party the United Democrats, in the forthcoming elections to

succeed Demetris Christofias as President.

He said: "*President Christofias, I was rather critical of your presidency at the outset but I would like to congratulate your government on a fruitful first presidency.*"

"*Liberal Democrats regret that no progress has been made on matters on your island affecting hundreds of thousands of other EU citizens such as reform of your land laws and the establishment of a banking ombudsman. We are deeply concerned about discrimination by your broadcasters, especially CYBC, against our candidate in your current presidential election,*" he continued.

"*But we hope that your experience of seeing how other member states function will inspire the domestic reforms which will make your country a well-functioning modern democracy.*"