



**CIRCULAR 06/2009
To ALL MEMBERS**

DATE	05 FEBRUARY 2009
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SUBJECT	SOCIAL INSURANCE UPDATE

Dear Members,

We refer to our circulars 2009/03 and 2009/05 and, having had a meeting with the Director of Social Insurance on 03 February 2009, we can provide you with the following update:

The Director confirmed the interpretation of the decision of the Ministerial Committee on Migration Matters dd. 23/12/2008: holders of an immigration permit, holders of a long term resident permit, managers (annual salary over 24.000 CYP/year) and executive staff (annual salary over 12.000 CYP/year) have to contribute to the Social Insurance Fund as from the first day of their employment.

Non executive staff (salary below 12.000 CYP/year) are exempted during the course of the validity of their first residence/working permit.

Mr. Theofanis Tryfonos stressed that third country nationals who contribute to the Social Insurance Fund will receive exactly the same benefits under exactly the same conditions as Cypriots and/or EU Citizens:

- Marriage, maternity and funeral grants.
- Maternity allowance
- Sickness benefit
- Unemployment benefit (where possible)
- Invalidity pension
- Old age pension*
- Widow's pension*
- Injury, disablement or death benefits (as a result of work related accidents)

(* With the possibility of asking for a one time lump sum payment for people who have not contributed enough years to enjoy the full pension – more detailed information about this subject will follow later).

Third Country Nationals already working and residing in Cyprus and who are not contributing yet to the Social Insurance Fund should start doing so **as from 01 January 2009**. Instructions have been given to the respective Social Insurance Offices and to the Migration Department in order to take this as the effective date.

In order to avoid further complications we advise our members to take the



necessary steps to register all their Third Country National staff (excepted those who are still within the validity of their first residence/working permit and the ones who are registered already) immediately at their local Social Insurance Office or to contact their professional advisers and request them to do so.

Members who have no experience with this procedure will find in attachment of this message an explanatory note drafted and issued by the Social Insurance Department.

More information can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance as follows:

www.mlsi.gov.cy

click left under on the "Social Insurance Services" icon
click in the left column on "Schemes and Legislation"
click in the left column on "The Social Insurance Law"

All information on this website is available in Greek and English.

In case members should encounter any difficulties at their local Social Insurance Office, please refer to our above mentioned meeting with Mr. Theofanis Tryfonos, Director of Social Insurance and Mrs. Syla Kyrmitsis, Senior Social Insurance Officer.
