

Local # fikardou # police # Top News # traffic

# Traffic adjustments for Fikardou village



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8 January 2024



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The Police announced on Friday that traffic adjustments will be implemented for access to Fikardou Village on December 23, 24, 25, and 26, 2023.

The adjustments are deemed necessary due to the expected surge in visitors and potential traffic congestion towards Fikardou Village during these days, according to the Police statement.

Citizens will be able to travel to the village from Klirou and return via Gourri. Relevant signs will be placed along the routes, as noted in the announcement.

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Local # asylum # migration # refugees # Top News

## Irregular migration in 2023 sees shifts in mode of entry, countries of origin



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Significant shifts in migration dynamics are being observed in Cyprus this year, with changes observed in countries of origin and modes of entry.

The Green Line remains the primary entry point for irregular migrants into the Republic, albeit with a substantial reduction in arrivals compared to the previous year.

Meanwhile, sea arrivals, especially from Syrian nationals and Palestinians, continue.

The departures of irregular migrants have outnumbered arrivals this year. New asylum applications from March to November 2023 reached 9,091, compared to 17,065 in the same period of 2022, marking a 53% decrease.

In total, 21,565 applications were submitted in 2022, and this year (excluding December) saw 10,589 applications, reflecting a 49% reduction.



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A significant decrease is noted in the number of individuals with African origins arriving in Cyprus during the past year.

An increase in asylum applications from Syrian nationals is observed, primarily arriving by sea. Syria remains designated as an unsafe country, due to the ongoing Syrian civil war.

In 2023, voluntary returns have reached 7,200, compared to 5,100 in the previous year.

Overall departures for January to November 2023 reached 11,040, compared to 5,900 in the same period of 2022.

From March to December 15, a total of 1,680 resettlements occurred in seven EU member states through the resettlement mechanism. Germany leads in the number of resettlements from Cyprus, followed by France.

Concerning the countries of origin for arrivals, the top 10 countries in 2022 through the Green Line were Syria, Congo, Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Somalia, Iran, and Iraq.

In 2023, the top 10 countries were Syria, Nigeria, Cameroon, Congo, Iraq, Somalia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, and Liberia. The data indicate a 68% reduction in arrivals from African countries compared to 2022 and a 34% decrease in Syrian arrivals.

Regarding sea arrivals, in 2022, they were mainly from Syria and Palestine, while in 2023, arrivals included Syrians, Palestinians, Lebanese, and Moroccans (the majority being from Syria).

From March to November 2023, a total of 16,005 decisions were issued, including rejections, supplementary protection and residence decisions, and refugee status grants.

Of the 16,005 decisions, 11,579 were rejections.

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## Climate change, cyber attacks will affect insurance sector, Cyprus Central Bank warns



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**It's not just banks that need to be vigilant against cyberattacks and take climate change seriously; insurance companies must also be on guard, notes the Cyprus Central Bank, responsible for overseeing credit institutions rather than the insurance sector.**

However, the Central Bank emphasizes the readiness message that should be in place for both new challenges.

Regarding the insurance sector, it highlights that increased insurance requirements may arise due to the higher frequency and severity of extreme climate events.

The climate impacts on the Cyprus region, expected to affect insurance companies, include temperature rises, wildfires, and drought. The general sector, particularly fire and property damage, is anticipated to be more significantly impacted.

In a relevant document discussing the options for reducing the insurance protection gap for climate risks, Cyprus is among the European countries with the lowest insurance coverage for climate-related damages (below 5%), according to the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) and the European Central Bank (ECB).

The Central Bank states, "The lack of insurance for climate-related destruction can affect the economy and financial stability. If damages are not covered by insurance, the speed at which households and businesses can continue their activities decreases, slowing down economic recovery."

The second major challenge for the insurance sector is cyber attacks.

While there have been no observed cyber incidents affecting the smooth operation of insurance companies until the Central Bank prepares its report on the stability of the banking sector, it sends a message to insurance businesses to be cautious.

The Central Bank emphasizes, "The advent of new technologies, digital transformation in insurance, digitization of data, infrastructure and information systems upgrade, technological applications, and the use of modern and innovative solutions for providing insurance services (insurtech, insurance technology) may pose challenges but also increased risks from cyber attacks."



On the other hand, the investment of insurance companies in digital transformation and new technologies is expected to lead to improved service levels for policyholders, increased efficiency, and the quality of provided services, as well as opportunities for further development and evolution through personalized services and innovative insurance products.

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