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**To:** Alexander DOWNER/UNFICYP@UNFICYP  
**cc:** Sonja Bachmann/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Julie Jimenez Lopez/UNFICYP@UNFICYP

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**Date:** Tuesday, June 02, 2009 10:36AM

**Subject:** Hadjicostis

History:      ← This message has been replied to.

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Costis Hadjicostis, DIAS Media Group

Like Loukis Papaphilippou, Costis Hadjicostis is a former EOKA member. Seen as something of a kingmaker, he apparently likes to boast that he got Papadopoulos elected. He is known to use his media group, the largest in Cyprus, to further his business interests. He apparently has a pragmatic streak that brought him momentarily close to Christofias when the latter was speaker of the house in the pre-referendum period.

Antis Hadjicostis, his son, runs the business on a day-to-day basis and is said to be less political – in the sense that he is less concerned with setting the political line to follow -- than his father.

*The Group*

The DIAS group was established in 1975. It counts the Simerini (The Daily) newspaper, To Periodiko magazine, Radio Proto, Sigma TV and the Cyprus edition of Time Out magazine in its stable of publications. The first four are openly political and hyper “patriotic”. Simerini, for example, used to be regarded as pro-DISY, but disowned the party after it supported the Annan plan. However, it still consciously seeks to appeal to readers who belong to the more hard-line wing of that party. By tradition and inclination a critic of AKEL, the paper sees itself as a thorn on the side of President Christofias. Since Cyprus’ EU accession, the paper adopted the view that a European solution is needed to the Cyprus problem. The paper is very well designed, but its writing is sometimes poor, and generally sensationalist. Apart from the Cyprus problem, the paper's other main obsession is defence and security. It is unsurprisingly anti-British and anti-American. It played a major part in amplifying the claims by Papadopoulos in 2005 that the Americans had funded the pro-yes campaign in the 2004 referendum via UNOPS aid to bi-communal programmes. It went on to regularly publish revelations concerning which Cypriot organizations or individuals had sold their services to the Americans.

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