

(b) Asset and interest disclosure system

In 2004 three laws were enacted for purposes of enhancing transparency in public life and combating corruption: (1) the Declaration of Assets and Other Interests by the President, the Ministers and the Members of the House of Representatives Law (Law 49(I)/2004), (2) the Declaration of Assets and Other Interests of certain other Officers of the Republic (Law 50(I)/2004) and (3) the Illegal Acquisition of Benefits by Officials and Public Officers Law of 2004 (L.51(I)/2004). The last Law complements the other two laws, by constituting the illicit enrichment a criminal offence.

According to the Laws (1) and (2) above, the President of the Republic, the Ministers, the Members of the House of Representatives and every other officer referred to the Law, must submit a declaration of the assets and other interests he may have, three months after he assumes his office. These Officials must also submit a declaration of their assets, three months after the date of the expiration of the term of office, or of their resignation of their office, or of the loss of their office for any reason.

The Law concerning the declaration of assets by the President of the Republic, the Ministers and the Members of the House of Representatives provides that these officials submit their declaration to an ad hoc Parliamentary Committee. The other Officials submit their declaration to a Special Council, provided for in the Law.

The declaration includes every asset, movable or immovable, in Cyprus or abroad, including the bank accounts and also any debts that the Officials may have. The declaration includes full information of the assets of the Official, of their spouses/husbands and also of their minor children. The part of the declaration which refers to the property/assets of the Official is published, so it is accessible to everyone. The part of the declaration which refers to the property/assets of the spouses/husbands and of the minor children of the official is not published (The reason is that the Supreme Court found unconstitutional the provision contained in both the above referred laws, imposing obligation for publicizing also the statements of assets of the spouses and minor children of the Officials covered by the Laws. So, two enactments were subsequently promulgated and published in the Official Gazette with the necessary amendments as to bring them in conformity with the Decisions of the Supreme Court. According to the laws as they now stand, the parts of the declarations of the Officials containing the assets etc. of spouses/husbands and minor children are not publicized). The declaration is submitted in paper format.

Both the illicit enrichment and also the omission of submitting a declaration, or the submission of a false declaration, constitute a criminal offence.