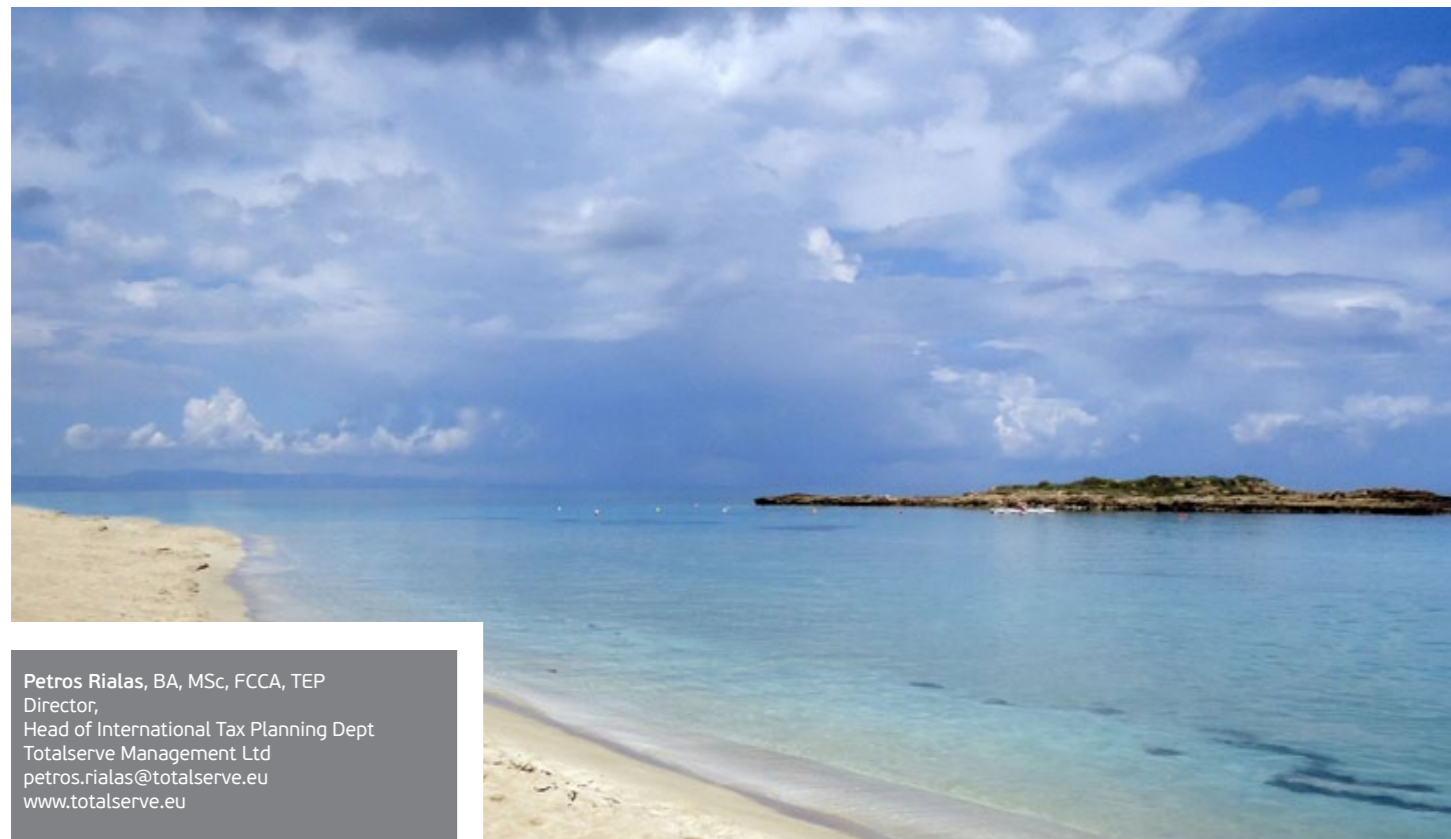


CYPRUS CONTINUES TO ATTRACT HIGH NET WORTH INDIVIDUALS (HNWIS)



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Nissi Beach, is one of the 57 beaches in Cyprus, awarded with the Blue Flag

Attracting HNWI's was once the prerogative of just a handful of jurisdictions. Nowadays, there are plenty of options available. Still though, not many jurisdictions can claim to offer a well-rounded package as is the case with Cyprus.

The use of Cyprus by HNWI's, as a place to live, invest and as a base from which to conduct their international business, continues unabated. In some cases, these are EU residents but the majority are non-EU (Russian, CIS countries, South African, Middle Eastern and

Chinese nationals) seeking to acquire an EU passport or permanent residency permit - both of which are offered in Cyprus through attractive programs by way of investment.

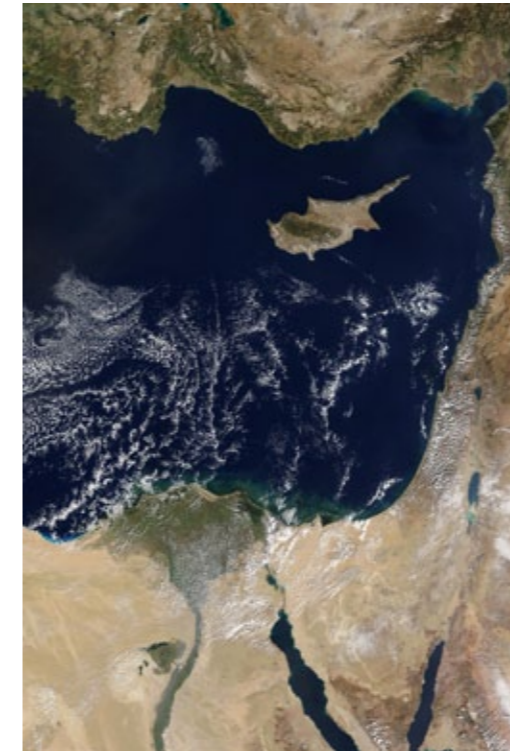
At the doorstep of the Suez Canal, Cyprus is in close proximity to the Middle East, North Africa and Europe, offering access to a number of destinations, hence the historical significance of the island as an important trade route and shipping centre.

The Cyprus tax and legal frameworks are amongst the most competitive in the EU while at the same

time being simple and tested, thus constituting Cyprus a prime jurisdiction in today's international tax structuring for Companies and Trusts. These frameworks remain unscathed despite the recent banking crisis.

This is just half the story though. The quality of life and the facilities offered are just as important.

The pleasant Mediterranean climate, an abundance of Blue Flag beaches, low crime rate, modern infrastructure, high-end



beachfront or mountain properties, top quality golf courses and a brand new marina offering a unique 'Living on the Sea' concept, international schools and advanced medical care facilities as well as fine dining and wine - all combined with the local hospitality, make quite a strong case for Cyprus as a supreme place to live and raise a family.

Physical presence or substance is now a main concern for many international companies. When compared to other EU jurisdictions, Cyprus is ideal for physical presence (offices) due to the comparative advantages in operating costs as well as certain tax incentives for foreign individuals and employees relocating to Cyprus.

Last but not least, another element that differentiates the attractiveness of Cyprus is the high level of all-round professional services. The professional services industry and specifically the actual persons comprising this, are the main driving force of the economy that continuously

provides the necessary service, guidance, trust and reassurance to foreigners.

Indicatively, many foreign persons who used to do business in Cyprus or use local banks prior to the 2013 banking crisis and who then decided to move these operations elsewhere, are now returning back. The main reason is the unparalleled personal professional support that they have been accustomed to over the years in Cyprus.

The international regulatory environment and continuously increasing demand for global fiscal transparency is changing at a fast pace. Relevant pressure for compliance is placed on all countries. Cyprus is not just required to comply but also aims to remain ahead of these developments.

While never losing focus and confidence for what Cyprus really has to offer, all necessary actions are being taken so that Cyprus remains a compli-

ant jurisdiction of a high standard. At the same time, Cyprus manages to retain its competitive edge through various new legislative updates and other new incentives that are very relevant and attractive to foreign investors.

The financial crisis affected certain depositors that held funds in two Cypriot banks. Following the bail in, restrictions on banking transactions were introduced by the Central Bank of Cyprus - all of which have now been lifted and business continues as usual. Regaining the trust in the banking system is a challenge that shall be overcome.

The recovery rate of Cyprus is being hailed as a small miracle and by 2016 it is expected that Cyprus will have recovered entirely. For as long as Cyprus remains competitive and continues to improve in certain areas, the outlook is positive. 🌟



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