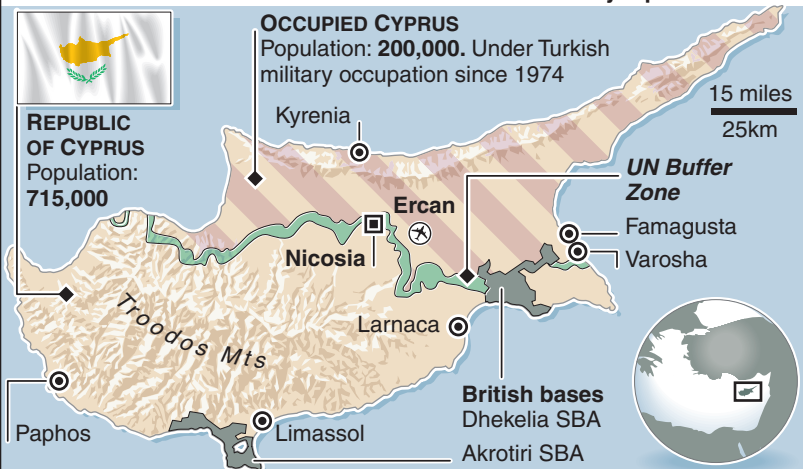


Cyprus presidential election

More than 515,000 voters go to the polls to elect a president tasked with reuniting the divided island of Cyprus. Nine candidates are standing, but polls give incumbent Tassos Papadopoulos and challengers Demetris Christofias and Ioannis Kassoulides virtually equal chances



Tassos Papadopoulos:
Age 74. Won presidency in 2003. **Led rejection of UN-backed reunification plan in 2004 – regarded as a “no-compromise candidate” toward Turkey.** Backed by his centre-right Democratic Party (**DIKO**), Social Democrats Movement (**EDEK**) and European Party (**EvroKo**)



Demetris Christofias:
Age 62. House President since 2001 and secretary general of communist Progressive Party of the Working People (**AKEL**). Backed by Front for Center's Reconstruction and United Democrats. **Accuses Papadopoulos of failing to be pro-active in seeking reunification**



Ioannis Kassoulides:
Age 59. Euro MP and former foreign minister. Right-winger backed by opposition Democratic Rally party (**DISY**). Helped negotiate admission to EU and supported reunification blueprint in 2004. **Will work with UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon to achieve reunification**