

The Special National Plan "ESTIA" is the National Action Plan of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, which is activated in case of emergency or crisis situation, in order to allow for the safe evacuation of civilians from a nearby crisis area (from the wider Middle East region) through Cyprus. It may also be implemented in cases of natural disasters in the region, which might also result to the evacuation of EU and third country citizens through Cyprus.

Depending on the nature of the crisis and the severity of the situation, the Plan has 4 stages of activation:

#### ESTIA-1

The Ministerial Crisis Management Team activates the Plan following recommendation of the Executive Crisis Management Team (ECMT). The National Crisis Management Centre is staffed with representatives of the involved services (Crisis Management Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cyprus Police, National Guard, Civil Defence, Medical Services)

#### ESTIA-2

Activation of all Operation Centers of the involved services, Regional Centers and Local Centers at the ports and airports of the Republic of Cyprus. Readiness of personnel and assets to apply the Plan.

#### ESTIA-3 (*stage which was activated today*)

Full activation of the plan by the Ministerial Crisis Management Team.

#### ESTIA- 4

De-escalation of measures, restoration and preparedness reset to normal. Assessment of damage, casualties and environmental destruction.

*Note: In case of a natural disaster in the region there is an immediate implementation of ESTIA 3*