

In Memory of Costas Kounnas

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July 3, 2023

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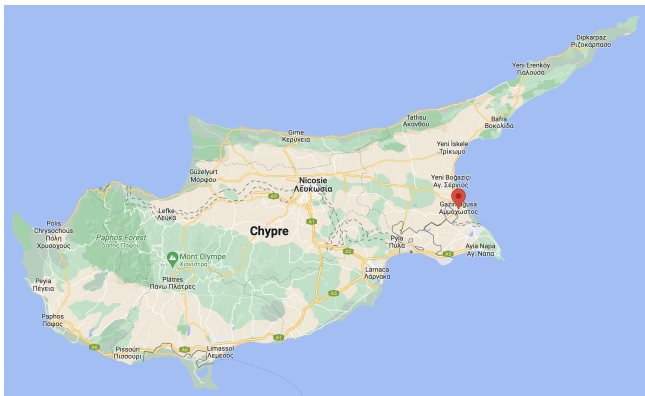


■ Our friend and colleague Costas passed over in January 2022, just before his 70th birthday.



■ Strange feeling to present very few aspects of his personality because he was a unique person: His personality, his way of expressing himself, all the stories that happened to him, etc.

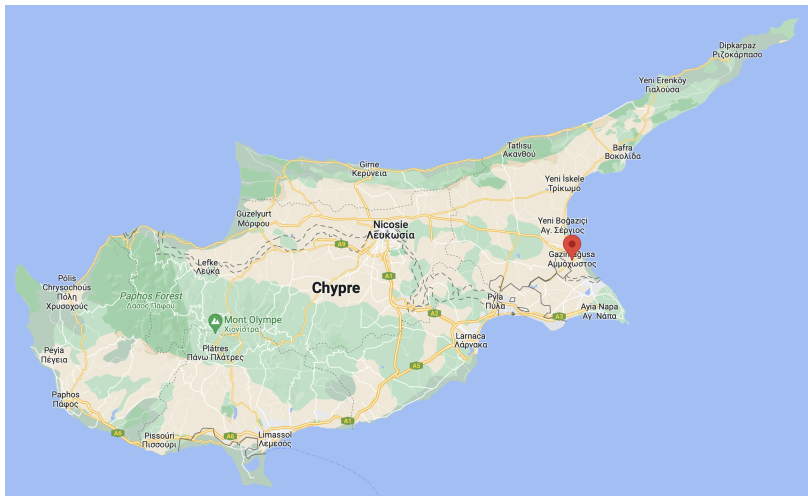
- He said he is a **“citizen of the world.”**
 - This may illustrate his character, which does not like limitations.
 - Maybe related to his personal history:
- He was **born in Cyprus in 1952, in Famagusta**



- He was always talking about this town as a **lost paradise**. With the most beautiful beaches of the Island.



- 1974: Turks invade the island and start to occupy the northern part of it.



- Famagusta is just at the border:

- The town was taken in 2 days and all its inhabitants left, thinking that they would come back soon after everything gets fixed.
- However, things did not happen like that. Access to the town has been forbidden by the Turks. Only this town was abandoned to itself, surrounded by barbed wire since 1974.



- Since then, cactus and plants are growing up in the houses. They can be seen when you walk along the barbed wire.

■ **Costas was 22 years old.** He was doing his military service.

■ Then he came to Paris to do his Master + thesis with John.

- He would have probably come to Paris in any case.

- However, since he was kicked out of his city of Famagusta, it could be that his claim to be a “citizen of the world” was an attempt to make things more acceptable (?)

- In fact, he kept very strong links with his island. Going back and forth.

- He was always disappointed to be the second best client of Cyprus Airways. The best client was going every week: “It is impossible to be the 1st.”

- He was for many years the official representative of the Cypriot community in France.

- He never asked for the French nationality. Maybe to remain faithful to its origins?

At 12 years old



Brother

Sister

Costas

[sent by Kakia]

Enjoying life... Also in conferences



At 67 years old



January 30, 2019

11 / 14

At almost 69 years old

No fancy, sophisticated food!

Pig prepared for the new 2021 year

[sent by Kakia]



■ Costas had many friends, from many origins. He was always introducing them to each other to create links between them.

The physicist

- He was an **outstanding physicist**, with its own way of thinking:
“I am not a follower”
- Very easy to work with him.
- Always enthusiastic about the current paper.
- With one new idea everyday.
- With infinitely long discussions at the blackboard.
- With an incredible memory: He could talk about any paper he wrote 20 years before and do the calculations on the blackboard.
⇒ No need to keep notes!

Good Bye Costas and Thank You

for all you gave to the scientific
community and to your friends...