

## **THE INFLUENCE OF THE MAJORITY SEGMENT ON THE FAILURE OF THE CONSOCIATIONAL ARRANGEMENT - THE CASE OF CYPRUS**

### **ABSTRACT**

The paper refers to the contribution to the literature on comparative democracy of Arend Lijphart with the division into majority and consensus democracies. Special attention is paid to his theory of consociationalism as its arrangements enable alleviating conflicts in deeply divided societies. As an example of the ineffectiveness of the application of this pattern of democracy and confirmation of Horowitz's position that the consociational arrangement is unmotivational for the leaders of the majority communities, the case of Cyprus is presented. The paper analyses the impassable starting points for achieving a balance in the division of power between the dominant preferences of Greek Cypriots for a single state and Turkish Cypriots for recognizing separate political entities. It is concluded that the collapse of consociational settings was determined by the unfavourable balance of power between the segments, with the inability of international actors to achieve effective incentives for cooperation between the two divided communities.

**Keywords:** consociational democracy; Cyprus; multiethnic society; diversity management.