

1. CHARITABLE SIR STELIOS

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Charitable Sir Stelios

Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou has signed up for the Giving Pledge initiative, essentially pledging to give half his fortune to charity through his will.

The founder of easyJet, easyGroup, and the Stelios Philanthropic Foundation is the first Greek Cypriot to sign up for the Giving Pledge initiative.

In his letter on the Giving Pledge site he said: “My belief is that nobody has a mo-

nopoly on good charitable ideas, and the problems in our world will never all go away. So we have to keep helping, within our means, forever.”

“I think all wealthy people have a debt to repay because it is thanks to their customers who bought their goods and/or services that they acquired their fortune,” said Haji-Ioannou.

“It took me another 10 years of both ‘thinking’

and ‘doing’ philanthropy to conclude that, by giving more than half of one’s fortune to charity, one can balance the needs of family and friends against other good causes.”

The Giving Pledge was set up by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett, as a way to help society by encouraging the world’s wealthiest to give up the majority of their wealth to philanthropic causes.