

**Speech of H.E. Mr. Per Fabricius Andersen
Ambassador of Denmark
At the occasion of the presentation of his credentials
To His Excellency Mr. Nikos Christodoulides,
President of the Republic of Cyprus**

Your Excellency,

Mr. President,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to present the Letters of Credence by which Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark has appointed me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Denmark to the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the Letters of Recall of my predecessor.

Our two countries share very close and warm relations, both on a bilateral basis and as partners within the European Union. At the official level we have frequent exchanges, including at the highest levels. Thousands of Danes visit Cyprus every year and return with deep appreciation of your beautiful country, its people, its nature, its rich culture and history. For generations Cyprus and Denmark have had very fruitful cooperation in trade and shipping. I look forward to adding my efforts to those of my predecessors and make the ties and the commercial cooperation between Denmark and Cyprus even stronger.

Mr. President,

Cyprus has demonstrated a remarkable economic recovery after a very difficult period during the global economic recession. Over the past years, we have seen a number of very positive developments that has allowed Cyprus to move forward.

Mr. President,

In the course of the years, we have seen close cooperation between our two countries in a number of areas. Very recently we valued the excellent assistance and support we received from Cyprus in connection with the evacuation of Danish nationals from Israel and Palestine. Cyprus is also very constructively assisting in the planning of possible future evacuations of Danish nationals from the Middle East region.

Mr. President,

In March 2024 it will be the 60th Anniversary of the arrival of the UN peacekeeping forces in Cyprus. Denmark was one of the countries that provided troops to the initial deployment, so next year therefore will also mark that 60 years have passed since the

first Danish soldiers arrived on the island to assist Cyprus. Between 1964 and 1992, more than 22.000 Danish soldiers served in Cyprus.

Mr. President,

Over the past many decades, the division of Cyprus has caused negative consequences for all Cypriots as well as for regional stability and cooperation. History shows that the reunification of Cyprus is difficult to achieve. Denmark wishes to reaffirm its principled support to the efforts for the resumption of negotiations under UN auspices for a solution to the Cyprus problem based on International Law and in line with the UN Charter and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The path to reunification is long and not easy to conclude, but we remain confident that the strong ambitions, skill and courage of the present leadership in Cyprus will eventually prevail and lead to a solution that will bring stability and prosperity to a reunited Cyprus for generations to come.

Mr. President,

This year has been yet another year of challenges for the European Union, in particular in the field of security and migration.

Reacting to Russias war of aggression against Ukraine remains a top priority for Europe. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with Cyprus within the EU. Unity in the EU response to this grave challenge to peace and security in Europe remains of the highest importance. Very recently the crisis in Israel and Gaza has been added to our common challenges.

Another major priority is migration. Cyprus is a frontline state and faces challenges from migration. We need stability at EU's external borders and therefore need further to step up action on the external dimension. Frontline states have our full support. As a supplement to the Asylum and Migration Pact that is hopefully soon adopted, we have to develop new solutions in line with our international and EU obligations. New solutions that eventually could be built into partnerships with third countries.

Mr. President,

My Government has instructed me to do my utmost to strengthen the already close ties that exist between Cyprus and Denmark bilaterally and as partners within the European Union and other multilateral fora including the United Nations. As small countries - and neighbours at the Council's table in the EU - Denmark and Cyprus share a special interest in strengthening the rules based international system in order to promote free trade and international order.

We also see opportunities for stronger commercial cooperation between our countries where some of the leading Danish companies within green technology and sustainable energy may be of interest to Cyprus. Also, both nations' proud traditions in shipping provide an opportunity to explore stronger commercial cooperation in this field.

Mr. President,

Finally, at her specific request, let me convey to you and to the people of Cyprus the personal best wishes of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II.