

Speech of H.E. Ms. Päivi Peltokoski
Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Cyprus
At the occasion of the presentation of her credentials
To His Excellency Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of
Cyprus
Monday, 9 September 2024

Your Excellency, Honorable Mr. President,

Allow me to present the Letter of Credence by which H.E. President of Finland Dr. Alexander Stubb appointed me as Ambassador of Finland to the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the letter of recall of my predecessor.

It is with great honor and privilege that I stand before you today. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent Finland in Cyprus and strengthen our relations for the benefit of our two countries and nations.

Finland and Cyprus share a longstanding relationship rooted in mutual respect, shared values and a commitment to the principles of democracy, peace and stability. We have a common ground in our dedication to fostering international cooperation and ensuring a peaceful and prosperous world. Our bilateral diplomatic relations were established in 1961.

As an EU member state, friend and partner of Cyprus, Finland continues to support international efforts for a viable and peaceful solution, leading to the reunification of Cyprus and based on the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Resumption of talks and negotiations are of great importance towards to this aim, set out in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Over the years, Finland has supported Cyprus in these efforts. Finnish UN battalion served as a part of the UNFICYP peace keeping operations first on 1964-1977, and then further to 2005. Since 2021, we have contributed to the UN mission with Finnish police advisers. All together, more than 10 000 Finns have served on the island.

As I assume my duties here in Cyprus, I am keenly aware about the pivotal role of your country in the Mediterranean, serving as a bridge between Europe, Asia and Africa. In the Eastern Europe, the cruel aggression by Russia against Ukraine continues. Ukraine deserves our unwavering support, as it is defending not only its own freedom, but the freedom of the whole Europe and our shared values.

On the southern side of the Mediterranean Sea, in my previous post in the occupied Palestinian territory, the war in Gaza continues and violence is escalating in the West

Bank. The international community needs to enhance efforts for relieving the human suffering and paving the way for sustainable peace negotiations.

Honorable Mr. President, I am looking forward to the EU Presidency of Cyprus in 2026. Finland is committed to advocate united and resilient Europe. We stand ready to work alongside Cyprus in confronting the challenges of climate change, enhancing security in Europe and wider, and promoting sustainable development. Next year 2025 Finland will hold the OSCE Chairmanship. We are looking forward to good cooperation with Cyprus also in this framework.

On the bilateral agenda, I wish to promote also trade, culture, visits and people-to-people contacts. Finland is eager to enhance joint efforts in areas such as digital innovation, education and environmental sustainability. Already a long time ago, Finnish tourists have found the beautiful island of Cyprus as one of their most popular tourist destinations. Simultaneously, we warmly welcome more Cypriots to discover the Northern beauty of Finland.

Excellency, during my tenure as Ambassador, I pledge to do everything within my power to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Finland and Cyprus. Thank you for the honor of presenting my credentials today. I look forward to fruitful and collaborative relationships during my time in Cyprus, at all levels.