

**Speech of H.E. Mr. W. Wouter Plomp**  
**Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands 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, Mr. President,

It is a great honour for me to present Your Excellency with letters from His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands accrediting me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of Cyprus. It is my pleasure to convey His Majesty's best wishes to your country and people.

I would like to acknowledge the work done by my predecessor, Mrs. Elke Merks-Schaapveld and thank you and the government of your country for the close cooperation and kind assistance extended to her. I hope that I may benefit from the same trust and understanding in the coming years, and I pledge to do my utmost best to contribute to the enhancement of the relations between our two countries to merit that trust.

Mr. President,

The developments in the Middle East are of great concern to us all. The de-escalation of the present situation is of utmost importance. The Kingdom of the Netherlands expresses its gratitude towards Cyprus for the cooperation in the preparations for possible evacuations from the Middle East and the efforts made by Cyprus in its role as Temporary Safe Location. On this note, I would like to reiterate the ongoing Dutch commitment to supporting the Amalthea humanitarian sea corridor for alleviating the suffering of the people of Gaza. Also of utmost importance for the Dutch government is the support for Ukraine and its people against Russian aggression. We believe that as EU partners we should continue working closely in order to safeguard freedom, human rights and the security of our continent.

We will continue to welcome every effort in support of a lasting solution for the Cyprus problem within the UN framework, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in line with the principles on which the European Union is founded. We hope that the efforts of the UNSG and his Personal Envoy will help pave the way for a restart in the Cyprus talks. We stand ready to help where we can.

Mr. President,

Our partnership in the European Union in the last 20 years since Cyprus joined, has added important layers in our bilateral relations. Our common European heritage forms the base of our continuous pursuit for shared positions based on the understanding of our interests and views.

Your visit to the Netherlands on February 28th of this year is a testament to the increasingly strong bilateral relations between our countries. These excellent bilateral relations are based, but not limited, on a variety of sectors. We are major trading partners, including in essential sectors such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals and technology. The Dutch economy is very innovative and entrepreneurial, and I hope we can further develop our knowledge exchange during my stay in Cyprus. In that context, I look forward to enhancing cooperation between the different stakeholders of our countries on climate adaptation, energy and green mobility. On the latter, we have an ongoing cooperation with local stakeholders on advancing cycling in Cyprus with aim of reducing carbon emissions.

In the field of peace and security, the Netherlands and Cyprus work closely together. We remain both active supporters of Frontex, the European external borders agency. Our countries have also agreed to a Bilateral Annual Defense Program. We look forward to further implementing this framework.

In tourism, Cyprus' appeal as a top European holiday destination keeps resonating to Dutch tourists. In addition, universities and schools in the Netherlands are increasingly popular among young Cypriots. We will also continue to look for ways to enhance the academic cooperation between our countries. This is already evident in quite a few joint partnerships in EU projects on topics of equal interest, such as water management. I am also proud to highlight that we both share a long maritime tradition.

Our countries have both active and vibrant civil societies. In order to promote mutual respect and understanding, I will do my utmost best to enhance the relations between our two countries and work for closer contacts on various levels of our respective societies. As members of the Equal Rights Coalition, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Cyprus cooperate in the promotion of Equal Rights for all. In addition, with a view to enhancing people-to-people dialogue, the Netherlands Embassy in Cyprus contributes to dialogue between the communities on the island through public diplomacy events and its Dutch Universities alumni.

Mr. President,

I sincerely welcome the opportunity to work and live in your beautiful and fascinating country. In my first few days here, I have already had the pleasure of experiencing your people's renowned hospitality and generosity. Moreover, I intend to learn more about the history and culture of Cyprus, and connect with its people.

It's a pleasure to be here in your country, and I greatly look forward to working with you.