

**Speech of H.E. Ms. Suzana Bošković-Prodanović  
Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to Cyprus  
At the occasion of the presentation of her credentials  
To His Excellency Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of  
Cyprus**

Mr. President,

I have the honor to present the Letters of Credence by which the President of the Republic of Serbia accredited me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Serbia to the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the Letters of Recall of my esteemed predecessor.

Your Excellency,

Allow me to take this opportunity to convey to You, the Government, and the brotherly people of the Republic of Cyprus, the warmest greetings and the best wishes from the President of the Republic of Serbia, His Excellency Aleksandar Vučić, all members of our Government, and the people of Serbia. Allow me, also, to express my sincere appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality that I have received from all your associates since my arrival to the Republic of Cyprus.

It is with a sense of great honor and the highest responsibility that I am today taking over the duty of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of my country in the Republic of Cyprus. The decades of excellent relations existing between our two countries and the warm friendship between our two people, founded on deep understanding, mutual support, and solidarity, will represent both great encouragement and high obligation for me in executing my function here.

Throughout history, our two nations shared similar faith, collective experiences, and challenges that so often bring small countries closer to each other in a powerful friendship. Our cultural and traditional values are deeply rooted in the Orthodox Christianity, and further down the historic line in the joint Byzantine and ancient Hellenic origins. Both Cypriot and Serbian people have fought fiercely and proudly for their independence against powerful empires of different cultural, linguistic, and religious backgrounds. We cherished our independence and freedom to choose how to develop our societies and create environments for political, economic, and cultural prosperity. Both countries strived as well to develop relations of high respect for our neighbors and promote peaceful coexistence in our respective regions and around the globe.

Your Excellency,

Allow me to observe that the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Serbia in modern times have again faced similar problems and challenges concerning the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of our countries. Throughout the past decades, leadership of our countries have courageously offered each other support in fighting for the full respect of the principles of international law and order in all global and regional international arenas. In this respect, I assure you that the Republic of Cyprus

will continue to receive unequivocal understanding and support from our Government and our people in its endeavors to reach a fair and viable solution to the Cyprus problem, mutually and freely agreed by both communities, and based on the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and EU acquis.

Serbia, on its side, is fully dedicated to finding a durable solution to the Kosovo and Metohija question within the framework of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, through the dialogue facilitated by the EU between Belgrade and Pristina, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country. With regard to this question, allow me to reiterate heartfelt gratitude to the Republic of Cyprus for its principled and unchanged position and continuous support extended to the Republic of Serbia. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Mr. President,

For over two decades the Republic of Serbia's priority foreign policy goal of becoming a part of the larger European family and a full member of the European Union has been firmly supported by the Republic of Cyprus on every occasion and before all relevant EU bodies, as well as in relations to other EU member states, for which we remain deeply grateful. We continue to rely on your benevolence, past experience, and practical expertise in this complex and transformative political, economic, and legal process.

Your Excellency,

As I assume my duties as Ambassador, I remain deeply committed to working closely with You and your Government to further strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between our two people and further develop our cooperation in all fields of mutual interest that can be beneficial for the prosperity of our societies.

In closing, Your Excellency, allow me to emphasize my confidence that the excellent relations between our countries will continue to grow stronger in the years to come. In a world that is increasingly interconnected and interdependent, yet extremely volatile, the challenges we all face, whether economic, security-related, or environmental, require collaborative solutions. In regard to that, friendship between Serbia and Cyprus remains more meaningful and powerful than ever.

Long live the friendship between Serbia and Cyprus.