

SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR JUAN MANUEL PINO VASQUEZ
AMBASSADOR OF CHILE TO THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO
HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. NIKOS CHRISTODOULIDES,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

NICOSIA, DECEMBER 16th, 2024.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to present the Letters of Credence by which the President of the Republic of Chile, Mr. Gabriel Boric, has accredited me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Chile.

Cyprus and Chile share the most basic values, such as the promotion of democracy, the respect of human rights, the reinforcement of civil rights, and equality for all their people. Also, we share similar challenges, such as overcoming poverty, transparency, economic stability, high quality education and gender equality.

Europe has always constituted a relevant area for our foreign policy. In 2002 my government signed an Association Agreement (AA) with the European Union, which laid out the foundations for a closer relationship. The joining of Cyprus to the European Union in 2004 established a new bridge for a broader liaison.

However, aware that the global context has evolved and therefore it was necessary to have an updated institutional framework with new disciplines to face emerging challenges, Chile and the European Union decided to be more ambitious and move towards a new stage in the relationship, modernizing the Association Agreement.

For such reason, on December 13th, 2023, Chile and the European Union signed the "Advance Framework Agreement" and the "Interim Trade Agreement", which will replace and upgrade the current treaty between both parties. The new relationship will entry into force once both parties complete the internal and administrative procedures.

This new agreement will most certainly boost the political dialogue, the cooperation, the economic and our trade relations, with a more diversified agenda that includes science, technology, research and innovation for the development of our international competitiveness, with the participation of Small and Medium Size Companies, universities and scientific agencies. In this context, we believe that agricultural development, renewable energies, collaboration in new technologies under start-up programs, geology – especially copper and lithium – as well as academic cooperation, are areas in which there is an important potential for fruitful cooperation, that I look forward to work closely with your Government.

In this regard, I have the honour to inform that the Chilean Parliament approved the Advanced Framework Agreement ending the legislative ratification process and in a few weeks the new treaty will be publish through a promulgation of a Presidential Decree.

Our common views have created a fruitful ground for multilateral assistance, cooperation and mutual support for candidatures in several international organizations. Within the framework of this collaboration, Mr. President, Cyprus supported the Chilean candidate to the International Court of the Sea for the period 2020-2029, a woman whose election came in accordance with one of Chile's most important foreign policy pillars, which is the strict respect for international law, the inviolability of treaties, the judicial and peaceful resolution of controversies, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and the search for peace and international security. This policy, obviously, has been especially significant in the field of maritime delimitation and the extension of continental shelves, where the Republics of Cyprus and Chile share the same views.

Between our nations, a clear manifestation of friendship throughout the years has been our participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Since year 2003 we have had a group of military observers, a policy that is aimed at alleviating the consequences of the territorial division, for which we hope to find a comprehensive and peaceful settlement. We have a strong commitment with Peace and Security, and we believe in the importance of promoting and reinforcing multilateral institutions, while supporting democratic and human rights principles, as well as equity at the international level.

Finally, I would like to stress two important policies that the Government of Chile is actively pursuing. One is the so-called Turquoise Foreign Policy, which combines the priorities of the sea with the challenges presented by the environmental field, which is aimed at promoting concrete actions to develop solutions in harmony with nature in order to ensure the conservation of biodiversity at a global level. And the second is the so called Feminist Foreign Policy, which aims to enhance the role of women at the highest levels of policy making. In this regard, we congratulate the Government of Cyprus for the recent initiative called "National Strategy for Gender Equality", designed to remove obstacles and gender stereotypes and build a fairer society, in order to create enabling conditions so that every man and women can enjoy their rights to the full extent. We see that our bilateral relation moves upon this path.

Your Excellency, I am confident that considering the international backgrounds of Cyprus and Chile, we are in good condition to face together the many challenges that lie before us, and grasp relevant opportunities in the bilateral aspect that will help us to further develop new areas of cooperation, cultural exchange and business between our countries.

Thank you