

Speech by Ambassador Ava Atzum Arévalo de Moscoso on presenting her credentials to the President of the Republic of Cyprus

It is an honor for me today to present the Credentials by which Mr. Bernardo Arévalo, President of the Republic of Guatemala, has accredited me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Guatemala to Cyprus.

Cyprus's geographical position has been a crucial element in its history. The influence of various nations and their geopolitical dynamics – initially at a regional level and more recently at a global level – have shaped the destiny and identity of this island.

This reality reminds us that, in the 21st century, geopolitics remains a priority in Europe and in the contemporary world, beyond the concept of "self-determination".

Guatemala and Cyprus face similar challenges, such as the fight against poverty, the search for economic stability, the promotion of quality education, gender equality and the defense of fundamental values, including the promotion of democracy, respect for human rights and the strengthening of civil rights for all our peoples.

Europe is a key region in our foreign policy. The Association Agreement between the European Union and Central America, which includes Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, was signed in June 2012, marking a milestone in our interregional relations.

Since the Agreement came into force in 2013, the trade relationship between our regions has been strengthened, facilitating access to the European market, which has more than 500 million consumers. This agreement has provided Guatemala with tariff preferences and favorable conditions for the export of agricultural and manufactured products to the EU, promoting a

predictable trading environment and providing mechanisms for resolving disputes regarding trade barriers.

In recent years, Guatemala's exports to the European Union have grown by 132%. The main products we export are sugar and coffee, while the most imported products from the EU include machinery, mechanical equipment and pharmaceutical products.

Cyprus, as a member of the European Union, has demonstrated its full cooperation in matters of common interest, placing the island in a globalized context that is crucial for the economic dynamics of the Eurozone region.

I am convinced that the areas of agricultural development, renewable energy, collaboration on new technologies, geology – particularly in the exploitation of copper and lithium – and academic cooperation represent great potential for fostering a fruitful bilateral relationship. I look forward to working closely with your Government to develop these areas.

Our shared views have created fertile ground for multilateral assistance, cooperation and mutual support in various candidacies in international organizations.

Your Excellency, I trust that, given the international background of Guatemala and Cyprus, we can together face the many challenges that await us and take advantage of the valuable opportunities that arise in the bilateral and multilateral arena. This will allow us to continue developing new areas of cooperation, promoting trade, tourism and cultural exchange between our countries.

Thank you very much.