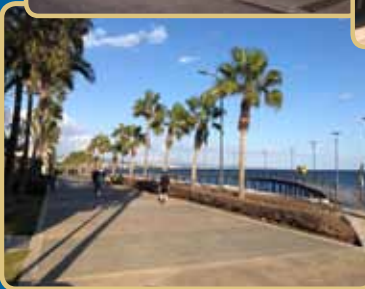


POLAND - CYPRUS

PAST AND PRESENT
OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS







Nicosia, February 2021

Ambassador
of the Republic of Poland
to the Republic of Cyprus

Dear Friends,

To mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and Cyprus, I am very pleased to present this booklet which shows both the history and present day of close ties between our two countries.

Although the geographical distance between Poland and Cyprus seems to be quite large, we share the same universal values. Such fundamental issues as democracy, stability, prosperity and security are top priorities for all of us. Up to now we have had many occasions to work together for mutual benefit.

We also know each other very well. Before the pandemic Cyprus was in the top ten of the most popular tourist destinations for the Polish people. At the same time, more and more Cypriots decided to travel to Poland. I very much hope that in the near future it will be happening again.

Our intention for this brochure was to show not only the political cooperation, which usually makes the headlines, but also all other forms of bilateral contacts thanks to which we can simply get to know each other better. And, last but not least, we tried to present and promote the beauty and uniqueness of our two countries.

I would like to thank all the institutions, both Polish and Cypriot, which helped us to prepare this booklet, above all by providing us with photographs and other source materials. In particular I want to stress my gratefulness to the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Warsaw, Press and Information Office of the Republic of Cyprus, Nicosia Municipality and Archives of the Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and Cyprus I have the honour to convey the best wishes to all of you.

Irena Lichnerowicz-Augustyn

History of the relations between Poland and Cyprus – overview

The history of the relations between Poland and Cyprus dates back to the Middle Ages. In October 1362 the King of Cyprus, Peter I of Lusignan, set off from the port of Paphos on a three-year journey around Europe. The aim of the Cypriot monarch was to encourage European rulers to organize another crusade. In this way, in September 1364 Peter I came to Cracow where he took part in the congress of monarchs organized by the Polish King, Casimir the Great. The culminating moment of the convention was a feast hosted by a Cracovian Burgher, Mikołaj Wierzynek.

In the following years Cypriot delegations visited the court of the Polish kings several times. From the 15th century onwards, Cyprus was also known to Polish travelers for whom it was a stopover on a journey to the Holy Land.

Many of them described their stay on the island of Aphrodite in their diaries that have been preserved until today.

A unique chapter in our shared history is the brotherhood in arms during World War II. Worth mentioning, above all, is the joint Battle of Monte Cassino which occupies a special place in the Polish memory. We will also never forget that in the years 1940-1941 several hundred Polish refugees found shelter in Cyprus. After the defeat of Poland in September 1939, they crossed over to Hungary and Romania, and then fled from internment camps to continue the fight against Nazi Germany. Their route to the Polish Army led through Cyprus. One of those refugees was the famous Polish writer and journalist Melchior Wańkowicz. In May 1941, in the small courtyard of the Catholic Church of St. Elizabeth in Kyrenia, a monument was unveiled to commemorate the presence of Polish refugees in Cyprus.



- 1 "Feast at Wierzynek's", painting by Bronisław Abramowicz, 1876, the collections of the National Museum in Cracow
- 2 Ruins of Monte Cassino Monastery, 1944
- 3 Monument in the courtyard of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Kyrenia commemorating the Polish refugees in Cyprus in the years 1940-41





Both our countries could always count on mutual support and interest in the most important moments of their history. And, just as in September 1939, the Cypriot press extensively reported on the fight against the Third Reich and the USSR that Poland had undertaken, so in the 1950s the Polish society admired the fight of the Cypriots for freedom. And when Cyprus gained its independence in 1960, Poland was one of the first countries to recognize the new republic. Talks on the establishment of diplomatic relations started immediately. The necessary arrangements were made in record time. It was agreed that the date of establishing diplomatic relations will fall on the day

of the publication of relevant information in the main newspapers of both countries. It happened on January 15, 1961. That is why we celebrate the anniversary exactly on this day.

The first Polish diplomatic representative was Zygmunt Dworakowski who, on June 14, 1961 presented his credentials to the President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III. Demos Hadjimiltis, in turn, became the first Cypriot ambassador to Poland.

In all the years following the Turkish invasion of 1974, the representatives of Poland have always expressed sympathy for the Cypriot people and solidarity with Cyprus in international fora.



- 4 Front page of "Haravgi" daily newspaper of 15th June 1961 reporting about the presentation of credential letters by Mr Zygmunt Dworakowski, the first Ambassador of Poland to Cyprus
- 5 Credential letters of Mr Demos Hadjimiltis, the first Ambassador of Cyprus to Poland
- 6 Mr Henryk Golański, Ambassador of Poland to Cyprus (1966-70) after the ceremony of presenting his credential letters
- 7 Mr Tadeusz Wujek, Ambassador of Poland to Cyprus (1971-74) is presenting his credential letters to the President of Cyprus Archbishop Makarios III





HIS BEATITUDE ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
OF STATE OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
MR. MARIAN SPYCHALSKI

Great and Good Friend:

Being desirous to foster and strengthen relations of amity and good understanding between our two countries, I have to that end made choice of Mr. Demos Hadjimiltis to be the accredited Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cyprus in the Polish People's Republic.

The personal qualities of Mr. Demos Hadjimiltis and his talents, character and ability assure us that he is eminently worthy of the important Mission for which he has been selected and that he will discharge the duties of his High Office in a manner that will fully merit Your Excellency's approbation and esteem.

I have therefore every confidence in commending Mr. Demos Hadjimiltis to You and in requesting that You receive him favourably and give entire trust and credence to all that he shall communicate to You on my behalf especially when he shall express to Your Excellency the assurances of my high esteem and sincere friendship.

Given on this 5th day of December in the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Nine and of the Republic the 10th.

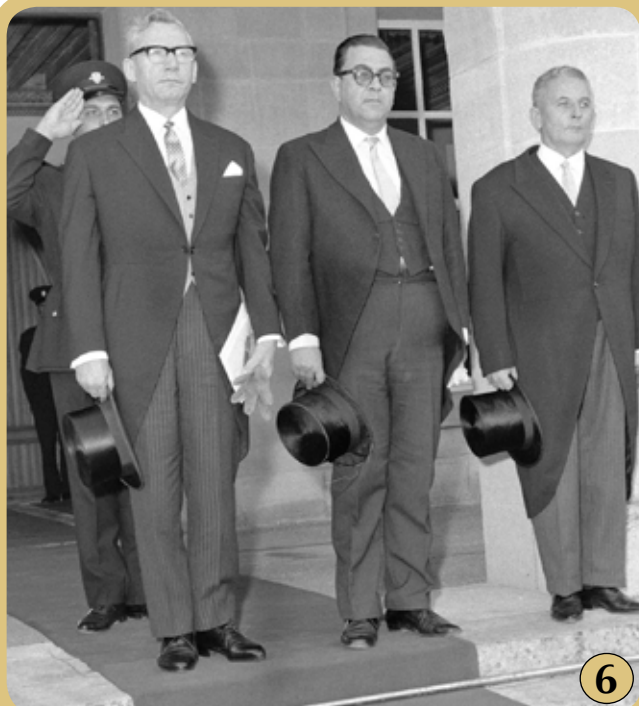
Your Good Friend

for Giorgos Mavroggi

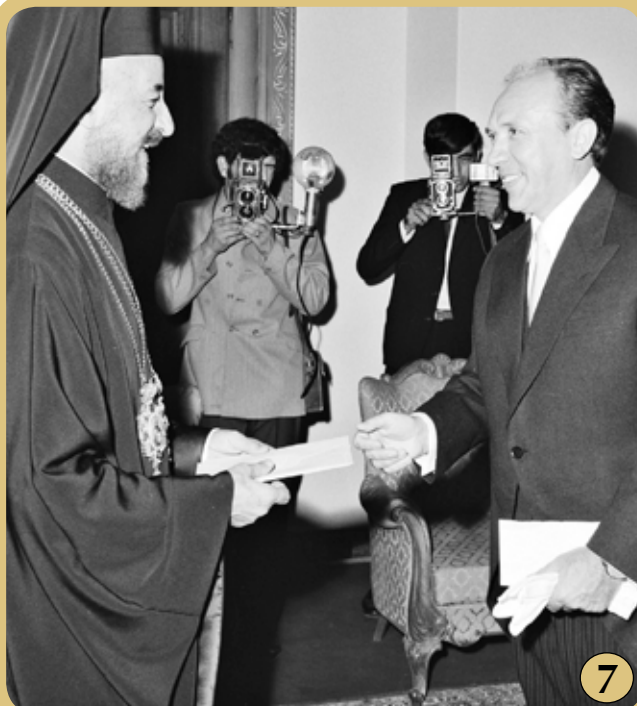
[Signature]
Minister of Foreign Affairs



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- 8 Mr Petros Kestoras, Ambassador of Cyprus to Poland (2016-20) is presenting his credential letters to the President of Poland Mr Andrzej Duda, 3rd November 2016
- 9 Ambassador of Poland Mrs Irena Lichnerowicz-Augustyn is presenting her credentials to the President of Cyprus Mr Nicos Anastasiades, 14th November 2018
- 10 Office of the Embassy of Cyprus in Warsaw
- 11 Office of the Embassy of Poland in Nicosia



May 1, 2004, when we joined the European Union together with eight other countries, was a turning point in the history of Poland and Cyprus. Thanks to the membership in the bloc, we not only gained a chance to boost our bilateral cooperation and accelerate economic development but – above all – to participate in a unique political project which brings together countries sharing the same universal values.

In 2011-2012, we jointly held the presidency of the EU Council as part of the Poland-Denmark-Cyprus trio. Another such opportunity will emerge as soon as in four years, when we chair the EU Council in the same formula in 2025-2026.



12 13 Poland and Cyprus joining the European Union. Celebrations in the Marshal Józef Piłsudski Square in Warsaw and the Eleftheria Square in Nicosia, 30th April 2004





- 14** Meeting of the EU Council Presidency trio leaders, Warsaw, 9th May 2011. From the left: President of Cyprus Mr Demetris Christofias, Prime Minister of Poland Mr Donald Tusk and Prime Minister of Denmark Mr Lars Løkke Rasmussen
- 15** The European Council summit. From the left: President of Cyprus Mr Nicos Anastasiades, Prime Minister of Denmark Ms Mette Frederiksen and Prime Minister of Poland Mr Mateusz Morawiecki
- 16** One of many Polish-Cypriot talks in the margins of the Foreign Affairs Council meetings – Ministers of Foreign Affairs Mr Nikos Christodoulides and Mr Jacek Czaputowicz



In addition to the membership in the EU, the last 20 years have seen enhanced bilateral contacts between Poland and Cyprus. In March 2005, the President of the Republic of Poland, Aleksander Kwaśniewski, paid an official visit to the Republic of Cyprus. The Presidents of Cyprus - Tassos Papadopoulos, Demetris Christofias and Nicos Anastasiades visited Poland several times, leading the Cypriot delegations during multilateral events and anniversary celebrations. Close contacts are maintained between

Parliaments, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other ministries and institutions. The relations of the two Orthodox Churches are characterized by harmony and their Heads - His Beatitude Chrysostomos II and the Archbishop of Warsaw and Metropolitan of All Poland Sawa have good contacts. Furthermore, an intensive cooperation exists in the field of science, education, culture, sport and youth. Contacts at the level of local governments are maintained and supported as well.



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Official visit by
Mr Aleksander Kwaśniewski,
President of the Republic
of Poland and
Mrs Jolanta Kwaśniewska
to Cyprus,
17th March 2005





- ①⑨ Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus Mr Ioannis Kasoulides in Warsaw hosted by his Polish counterpart Mr Radosław Sikorski, 2nd July 2014
- ②⑩ Commemoration event of the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII in Gdańsk with the participation of the President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr Nicos Anastasiades, 8th May 2015
- ②① Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Mr Witold Waszczykowski is paying a visit to Nicosia. Press conference together with the Head of the Cypriot diplomacy Mr Ioannis Kasoulides, 4th November 2016





22 Tête-à-tête between Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus Mr Nikos Christodoulides and Secretary of State in the Polish MFA Mr Szymon Szykowski vel Sęk, Nicosia, 15th November 2018



23 Visit by the President of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus Mr Demetris Syllouris in the Polish Parliament, Warsaw, 2nd May 2019

24 President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr Nicos Anastasiades is receiving Mr Paweł Soloch, Head of the National Security Bureau, Nicosia, 11th September 2019

25 Visit by the Polish MPs from the Polish-Cypriot Parliamentary Group chaired by Mr Ryszard Bartosik in Nicosia, July 2019



Paphos, the city listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, plays a special role in the Polish-Cypriot relations. It is the place where Polish archaeologists have been present continuously since 1965. Initially, the research work was carried out by a team from the University of Warsaw under the supervision of Prof. Kazimierz Michałowski. The second mission, this time from the Jagiellonian University, started excavations in 2011 and for the last few years has been supported also by experts from the Warsaw University of Technology. In autumn 2019 the decision was taken to combine all research groups under the leadership of Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka from the Jagiellonian University.

In 2020, we jointly celebrated the 55th anniversary of the presence of Polish archaeologists in Cyprus.



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- 26 Prof. Kazimierz Michałowski at the site of the future excavations in Paphos, 1965
- 27 Prof. Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski presents the mosaic in the Villa of Theseus at the Paphos excavation site, 1975
- 28 Visit by the Ambassador of Poland to Cyprus Mr Paweł Dobrowolski at the excavation site in Paphos, 2011
- 29 Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka is guiding Minister Yiannis Karousos and Director of the Department of Antiquities Mrs Marina Solomidou-Ieronymidou during their visit at the excavation site on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the Polish archaeological activity in Paphos, 15th October 2020



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Educational and cultural activity of the Polish community in Cyprus constitutes yet another notable element in contacts between our two countries, including the well-known projects implemented by the Cultural Association of Poles in Cyprus “MALWA”, which is about to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2021. We are also pleased with the involvement of teachers from four Polish schools in five Cypriot cities.

The embassies in Nicosia and Warsaw play an important role in strengthening our bilateral relations. Thanks to the organized concerts, film screenings, exhibitions, participation in fairs and other events, Poles and Cypriots can get to know each other better and grow ever closer.



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- 30 Celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the independence of Cyprus, Warsaw, 2010
- 31 White and red illumination of the old City Hall in Nicosia on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Poland's regained independence, November 2018
- 32 Concert marking the inauguration of the Cypriot presidency in the EU Council, Warsaw, July 2012





33 Unveiling of the bust of St. John Paul II in Nicosia, 16th October 2020

34 Mr Loukis Papaphilippou, Honorary Consul of Poland in the years 1993-2018 (since 2001 – Honorary Consul General)

35 Inauguration of the new office of the Honorary Consulate of Poland in Limassol with the presence of the Ambassador of Poland Mrs Irena Lichnerowicz-Augustyn, Honorary Consul General Mr Leandros Papaphilippou and Mayor of Limassol Mr Nicos Nicolaides, 13th June 2019

36 Family photo of the Ambassador of Poland Mrs Barbara Tuge-Erecińska and artists of the folk band “Regle” after the concert, Nicosia, July 2014



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37 Decoration ceremony of the representatives of the Polish community in Cyprus with the participation of Mr Adam Kwiatkowski, Secretary of State in the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, Nicosia, 9th December 2018

38 Polish booth at the 22nd International Tourism Exhibition TAXIDI 2019, Nicosia, May 2019



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Poland associates Cyprus with beautiful beaches, interesting monuments, hospitable inhabitants as well as a fascinating, though often painful, history, including the recent one. It is therefore not surprising that before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Cyprus was one of the favorite tourist destinations for Poles. This was undoubtedly facilitated by a very extensive network of direct air connections. Thus, we all hope that in the near future we will return to normality and be able to promote our beautiful countries again.

Presenting Polish-Cypriot relations in such a short text is hardly possible. For those interested in our common history, we invite you to acquaint yourselves with numerous publications and sources, such as the book edited by Giorgos Georgis and Giorgos Kazamias entitled "Poland-Cyprus. From Chopin's country to the island of Aphrodite. Historical and Cultural Relations", published in 2011 to mark the joint presidency of the trio in the EU Council.





Sources of photographs and pictures:

Source

Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland

Chancellery of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Warsaw

Press and Information Office of the Republic of Cyprus

Nicosia Municipality

Archives of the Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw

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of the Republic of Poland
in Nicosia

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