ITALY AND CYPRUS
60 years of diplomatic relations
1961-2021
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Excerpts from the statements by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus Mr. Nikos Christodoulides and by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr. Luigi Di Maio following their deliberations in Nicosia on 9th March 2021.

"Today I welcome my friend, the Italian Foreign Minister, Luigi Di Maio, to Nicosia. His presence at this important juncture and the substantial consultations we have had are proof of our common will and desire to further strengthen the traditionally excellent relations between our two countries, and of course the historical ties between the peoples of Cyprus and Italy."

Nikos Christodoulides

"Relations between Italy and Cyprus are excellent and we will continue to work towards strengthening even further the collaboration between our two Counties. Our common belonging to the Mediterranean and European family is the foundation on which to build an ever wider and more articulated relationship. Based on this, extraordinary opportunities arise that we want to seize by working together."

Luigi Di Maio
Greetings from Ambassador Elisabetta Belloni
Permanent Secretary, MFA Italy

“Sixty years have passed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Italy and Cyprus. Year after year, a solid partnership has developed, becoming even deeper and more significant after the accession of Cyprus to the European Union in 2004, which Italy strongly favored.

Bonded by a long common history, shared political and economic interests, Italy and Cyprus are working together to promote a greater stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean region. I was particularly proud of the work done during my tenure as Secretary General of the Italian MFA, in particular of the very fruitful and effective bilateral consultations held in 2018 and 2020 with my Cypriot counterparts.

This booklet, for which I congratulate the Italian Embassy in Nicosia, illustrates well how those efforts were part of a much longer and intense history of friendship, common endeavors and fruitful work among our two Countries.”

Elisabetta Belloni
Greetings from Ambassador Kornelios Korneliou
Permanent Secretary, MFA Cyprus

This year marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Cyprus and Italy. The Italian Republic was one of the first countries to recognize the newly formed Republic of Cyprus. Ties between our peoples go way back in history, when the island was a hub for Roman trade routes, while Venetian-era bridges and other landmarks are part of our country's historical mosaic. Our Mediterranean heritage binds us together, as is our EU identity and our shared democratic ideals based on international legality.

Throughout the years, our relations have grown into a concrete partnership, working together on an array of issues ranging from the protection of cultural heritage, to Energy, Migration and Defence, not only bilaterally but also in the framework of multilateral fora, such as the United Nations and the European Union. Business exchanges are thriving, as are the people to people contacts.

Cyprus remains committed to this partnership, and we look forward to an exciting new chapter of collaboration for the benefit of our countries and our region.

Kornelios Korneliou
15.08.1960. Message of the President of the Republic of Italy Giovanni Gronchi to Archbishop Makarios III on the occasion of Cyprus declaration of independence.
Message of the President of the Republic of Cyprus Archbishop Makarios III replying to the President of Italy Giovanni Gronchi.
12.09.1961. Presentation of credentials of the first Ambassador of Italy to Cyprus, Pietro Solari.
27.09.1962. Archbishop Makarios III, President of the Republic of Cyprus, welcomed in Rome at the Quirinale Palace by the President of Italy, Antonio Segni.
29.06.1973.
Signature of Cultural Cooperation Agreement.

05.03.1980. Visit of President Spyros Kyprianou to Italy. Meeting with President Sandro Pertini (centre), Prime Minister Francesco Cossiga (left) and Foreign Affairs Minister Attilio Ruffini (right).
02.07.1982. Visit of Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Emilio Colombo to Cyprus. Meeting with President Spyros Kyprianou and Foreign Affairs Minister Nicos Rolandis.
10.11.1988. Visit of President George Vassiliou to Italy. Welcomed at the Quirinale Palace by President Francesco Cossiga.
03.04.1990. Visit of Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti in Cyprus. Meeting at Presidential Palace with President George Vassiliou.
23.11.1994. Visit of President Glafcos Clerides to Italy. Meeting with President Luigi Scalfaro at the Quirinale Palace.
06.07.1995. Visit of Foreign Affairs Minister Susanna Agnelli at the Presidential Palace with President Glafcos Clerides.
04.01.1996. Visit of the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Emanuele Scammacca del Murgo.

22.01 & 28.3.1996. Visit of the Special Representative on the Cyprus Problem Federico Di Roberto.
30.05.2003. Visit of the President of the Senate Marcello Pera. Meeting with the President of the House of Representatives Demetris Christofias.

16.11.2004. Visit of President Tassos Papadopoulos to Italy, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs George Iacovou.
06.06.2005. Visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Gianfranco Fini and signature of cultural agreement. Meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister George Iacovou and with the President of the House of Representatives, Demetris Christofias.
20.02.2006. Visit of Demetris Christofias, President of the House of Representatives in Italy.
Meeting with his counterpart, President Pierferdinando Casini.
17.01.2008. Visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Massimo D’Alema. Meeting with President Tassos Papadopoulos and Foreign Affairs Minister Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis.

08.09.2009. Visit of President Demetris Christofias to Italy. Meetings with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and President Giorgio Napolitano and laurea ad honorem from the University of Perugia.
17.10.2012. Visit of President Demetris Christofias to Italy. Meeting with President Giorgio Napolitano and inauguration of the exhibition «Cyprus, the island of Afroditе». 
11.02.2016. Visit of the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Laura Boldrini. Meetings with President Nicos Anastasiades, Foreign Affairs Minister Ioannis Kasoulides, President of the House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou and Archbishop Chrysostomos II.
25.03.2017. President Nicos Anastasiades attends celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome at the Quirinale Palace.
Meeting with Minister Christoforos Fokaides

Defence Cooperation Agreements signed on 18.09.2013 in Rome on the occasion of Defence Minister Photis Photiou’s visit and in Nicosia in 2017 during Minister Pinotti’s visit.
Recent Years

10.01.2018. President Nicos Anastasiades in Rome for the IV Med7 Summit.
27.01.2019. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in Nicosia for the V Med7 Summit. Bilateral meetings with President Nicos Anastasiades.

08.10.2020. Visit of Italian Defence Minister Lorenzo Guerini. Meeting with Minister Charalambos Petrides.
09.03.2021. Visit of Foreign Affairs Minister Luigi Di Maio in Cyprus. Meetings with President Nicos Anastasiades and Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Christodoulides. Visit to UNFICYP and meeting with UNSG Special Representative, Elizabeth Spehar.
Italy and Cyprus - 60 years of diplomatic relations
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Over sixty years of intense diplomatic relations between Italy and Cyprus have passed since President Gronchi and Archbishop Makarios III exchanged messages over the independence of Cyprus, on 15th August 1960, and expressed their willingness to open formal diplomatic missions, creating the basis for a special relationship between the two Countries.

Since then, Heads of State and Government, Speakers of Parliaments, Ministers and other officials both Cypriot and Italian, have frequently exchanged visits, contributing with their personal commitments to build a strong and long-lasting bond that has its roots in ancient times. The common belonging to the European family and the Mediterranean region has been the backbone of a meaningful partnership.

The Ambassadors of the two Countries - a list of which is provided at the end of this booklet - and their respective staffs, developed over the decades a vast network of relations and friendship that have encompassed all the spectrum of our common interests, from the political and economic fields to the cultural, scientific, environmental and defence sectors, just to name a few.

With this commemorative booklet, which is published to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations, the Embassy of Italy in Nicosia wishes to pay tribute to all the women and men who built lasting connections and true friendship between Italy and Cyprus.

I wish to thank the Press and Information Office of Cyprus, the State Archives of Cyprus and the Cyprus News Agency, as well as the Archives of the Presidency of the Italian Republic and of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for making available their photographic and historical material.

Many heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Marie Ghalanos, of the Italian Embassy in Nicosia, for accompanying me with all her passion, dedication and personal engagement in the making of this project.

Finally, my gratitude goes to Ambassador Elisabetta Belloni, Secretary General of the Italian MFA, and Ambassador Kornelios Korneliou, Permanent Secretary of the Cyprus MFA for accepting to place this project under their auspices.

Andrea Cavallari
Ambassador of Italy in Cyprus
List of Italian & Cypriot Ambassadors

Pietro Solari - 12th September 1961
Franco Bounous - 9th June 1965
Alessandro Capece Minutolo di Bugnano - 29th September 1969
Vittoriano Manfredi - 9th September 1972
Romano Rossetti - 23rd September 1975
Giorgio Stea Antonini - 23rd October 1978
Ugo Toscano - 8th May 1981
Paolo Valfrè di Bonzo - 23rd November 1986
Guido Rizzo Venci - 10th January 1989
Graziella Simbolotti - 16th March 1993
Francesco Bascone - 5th July 1997
Gherardo La Francesca - 1st October 2001
Luigi Napolitano - 30th September 2005
Alfredo Bastianelli - 1st December 2009
Guido Cerboni - 14th January 2013
Andrea Cavallari - 25th September 2017

Nicos Kranidiotis - 27th April 1964*
Demos Hadjimiltis - 18th July 1979*
George Pelaghias - 4th February 1982
Kypros Kyprianou - 13th January 1984
Andros Nicolaides - 15th September 1987
Petros Michaelides - 20th September 1991
Michael Sherifis - 17th November 1994
Myrna Kleopas - 11th December 1997
Alexandros Zenon - 6th September 2000
Stavros Epaminondas - 8th September 2005
Athena Mavronikola - 15th February 2007
Leonidas Markides - 10th March 2011
Tasos Tzionis - 18th February 2015
Minas Hadjimichael - 9th May 2019

*Ambassador in Athens accredited to Rome