

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

Speech by the High Commissioner-Designate of the Republic of Cyprus

H.E. Mrs Martha Mavrommati

Your Highness,

It is my honour to convey to Your Highness the best wishes of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, H.E. Mr Nicos Anastasiades.

Your Highness,

It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to present today the Letters of Credence by which the President of the Republic of Cyprus, H.E Mr. Nicos Anastasiades accredits me as High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus to the Independent State of Samoa. At the same time, I have the honour to present to Your Highness the Letters of Recall of my predecessor High Commissioner Mr Yiannis Iakovou.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Cyprus and Samoa, the bilateral and multilateral cooperation grew with a steady pace, despite the geographical distance between our two countries.

In a multilateral and globalized environment, Cyprus seeks and plays an important role in a very turbulent area of the world. It does so with the double capacity of a proud European Union Member State and at the same time, with the status of one of the few remaining EU Member States enjoying simultaneously the membership to the Commonwealth of Nations.

The aforesaid two capacities of Cyprus have provided the set of shared values, such as freedom, peace, justice and respect for human rights, on which our bilateral and multilateral cooperation have been established upon. As an EU MS representative, I would like at this point to highlight the 2014-2020 National Indicative Programme (NIP) as a practical example of EU-Samoa cooperation.

Your Highness,

As you are aware the July 2017 Conference on Cyprus failed to succeed due to the intransigent stance of Turkey and the latter's unwillingness to negotiate within the UN Secretary General's framework. In this respect, I would like to convey my President's strong commitment to negotiate a

solution within the parameters that the UN Secretary General set, for a viable comprehensive settlement, fully in line with the European and international law, that reunites Cyprus in a truly independent and sovereign state, free of any third country dependencies.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of Samoa in finding a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem, in accordance to the International Law, the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the EU acquis.

Your Highness,

As Cyprus' High Commissioner to Samoa, I will exert all my efforts to further strengthen the already excellent relations between our two countries and the friendship of our two peoples. This is an extremely honourable and important mission, in which I am confident that I can rely on Your support, as well as the support of Samoas' Government.

Before concluding, I would like to congratulate the Independent State of Samoa for hosting the 2019 Pacific Games and wish you every success to said great event.