



ITALY AND CYPRUS

60 years of diplomatic relations



1961-2021



Sources:

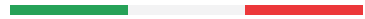
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**Embassy of Italy
Nicosia**



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09.03.2021. Joint press conference of the Foreign Affairs Ministers Luigi Di Maio and Nikos Christodoulides in Nicosia.



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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 Countries. 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.

The Sixties



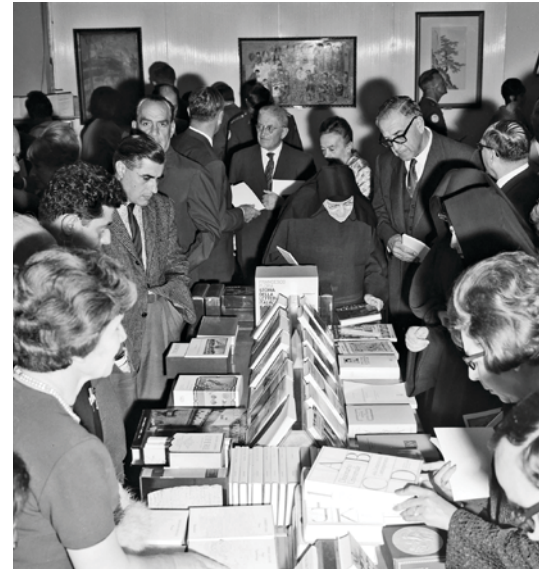
12.09.1961. Presentation of credentials of the first Ambassador of Italy to Cyprus, Pietro Solari.



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.

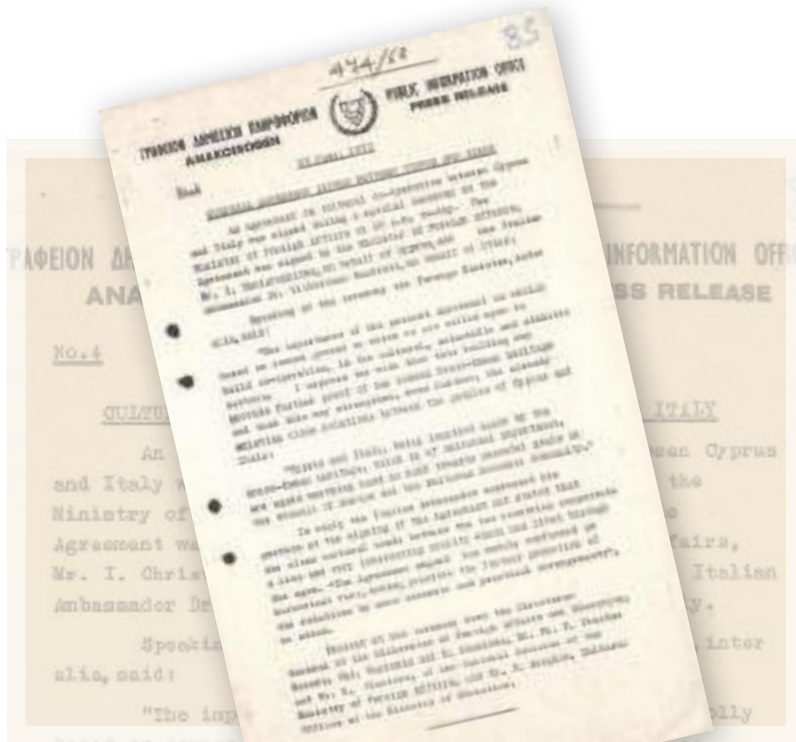


14.09.1966. Inauguration "Padiglione Italia" at State Fair in Nicosia.



22.11.1966. Italian Stand at the 1966 Book Fair in Nicosia.

The Seventies



29.06.1973.

Signature of Cultural Cooperation Agreement.



09-10.12.1973. Visit of Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Mario Pedini in Cyprus. Meeting with President Archbishop Makarios III.



09 - 10.12.1973. Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Mario Pedini visiting the Cyprus Archaeological Museum, Salamis Archaeological Site and the port of Kyrenia.

The Eighties



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.

The Nineties



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.





03.12.1997. Visit of the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Piero Fassino.

The New Century



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.



29.09.2008. Visit of Pier Ferdinando Casini,
President of the Foreign Affairs Committee.
Meeting with President of the House of
Representatives Marios Garoyian.



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 Afrodite».



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.



12.09.2016. Visit of Foreign Affairs Minister Paolo Gentiloni. Meeting with President Nicos Anastasiades and Foreign Affairs Minister Ioannis Kasoulides.



25.03.2017. President Nicos Anastasiades attends celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome at the Quirinale Palace.



31.07.2017. Visit of Italian Defence Minister Roberta Pinotti.
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.



01.10.2020. Visit of the Italian Chief of Defence Staff General Enzo Vecciarelli. Military Parade for the 60th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Republic of Cyprus.



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 1961-2021

Nicosia, 2 June 2021

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 Nicolaidis - 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



Embassy of Italy
Nicosia