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Address by the President of the Republic of Latvia on the occasion of the accreditation of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cyprus

Your Excellency!

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cyprus to Latvia!

Since December 20, 1991, when diplomatic relations were established between our countries, Latvia and Cyprus have become mutually attractive cooperation partners. We can be satisfied at the recent enhancement of political dialogue between our countries, which was sealed by the official visit of the Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs Indulis Brzi to Cyprus in March 2001. The increased interest in expanding the opportunities for practical cooperation in the spheres of economy, tourism and elsewhere is a logical continuation of the good political relations between our countries. Last year the Latvian Minister of Economy visited Cyprus, while the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Cyprus paid a visit to Latvia. A substantial judicial base has been established between both countries, providing the grounds for closer cooperation in the future.

Our shared foreign policy goals of closer political and economic cooperation with other European countries have been pursued by both countries side by side in recent years. They are of great significance in the consolidation of relations between Latvia and Cyprus. While Latvia is enhancing its cooperation with Cyprus as an EU candidate country, the future of our cooperation will be marked by our common membership in the European Union. This is no longer a distant goal the term of your work in Latvia coincides with important decisions for both countries concerning the EUs enlargement. I am confident that in the very near future the relations between Latvia and Cyprus will develop as relations between two EU member states.

Latvia supports efforts to ensure the irreversibility of security and stability in the whole of Europe. Although the resolution of the Cyprus issue has not been outlined as a precondition for Cypruss joining the EU, we believe that the speedy and decisive integration of Cyprus in the EU may accelerate the solution of the political issue of Cyprus. We support a fair, comprehensive and irreversible resolution of the Cyprus issue in compliance with the basic principles of the international law and UN resolutions. We have a high regard for the role of the United Nations in the solution of the Cyprus issue; we are following with hope and interest the negotiations between the two communities taking place under the auspices of the United Nations. We are confident that EU membership will benefit both communities in Cyprus.

In international politics Latvia holds in high esteem the mutual support and cooperation between small and medium-sized countries. The relations between Latvia and Cyprus are friendly and there are good prospects of enhancing them even further both bilaterally and within the framework of international organizations, particularly the European Union.

Your Excellency!

I wish you success in fostering friendship and cooperation between our countries and people!