



Ambassador  
of the Republic of Poland  
to the Republic of Cyprus

*Your Excellency,*

It is my great honour and pleasure to present to you, Your Excellency, the Letters of Credence signed by H.E. Andrzej Duda, the President of the Republic of Poland, who has appointed me the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Cyprus.

Our two countries seem to be quite remote, however it refers only and literally to the geographical distance. Poland and Cyprus share the same universal values. Such fundamental issues as democracy, stability, prosperity and security are the incontestable top priorities for all of us. Up to now we have had many occasions to work together for mutual benefit. Our positions on key issues from the international and European agendas are often very similar, to mention only activities aimed at strengthening the energy security in Europe, the role of the Cohesion Policy and Common Agriculture Policy in the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework and necessity to maintain close ties with the United Kingdom after Brexit. We also very much appreciate our fruitful cooperation and reciprocal support of our candidatures to various international organizations. Taking this opportunity please let me reiterate the Polish request to support our candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2020-2022.

Our bilateral relations are very good, however there are still some areas where our cooperation could be enhanced or accelerated. That is why, I am very pleased that today the Polish Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Szymon Szynkowski vel Sęk, is paying a visit to Nicosia for bilateral consultations, leading to the next year's visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, to Warsaw. This may also hopefully prepare the political background for any higher level visits which have not taken place since 2005. Still this year I look forward to the visit of Secretary of State at the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Adam Kwiatkowski, to Cyprus. I also have got engaged in the works on the Polish-Cypriot Parliamentary Group that shall be constituted soon. Thus, the political dialogue may certainly get more intensive and my aim is to keep this momentum and to make it even more dynamic and fruitful, also in terms of public and cultural diplomacy. Here I wish to underline the cooperation between the city of Paphos and its archeological park with the Polish researchers and archeologists working for many years at the ancient agora and beyond. Such activities and projects bring our two countries closer and make people-to-people relations even more important. In today's world of IT and constant digitalization, so-called personal touch is more than appreciated. During my mission to Cyprus I would like to see even more of my nationals coming to your beautiful island for tourism or work but also to encourage Cypriot citizens to visit Poland and to discover by themselves not only its beauty and uniqueness but also potential fields of cooperation on various fields.

*Mr. President,*

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2019 we will celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession of our two countries to the European Union. It is a good moment not only to make a summary but, above all, to think deeply about the direction we want the EU to take. I have no doubt that Poland and Cyprus have the same vision. We both want the EU to be more competitive, more democratic and bring more benefits to its citizens, ensuring their prosperity and security. On the other hand, it should also be stressed that the need for further EU reform is undeniable. We share the views on key rules governing the process of discussing the future of the Union: need to focus on citizens' interests, step-by-step approach and, above all, fundamental importance of preserving the unity of the EU 27. This is what we agreed in the aftermath of the UK referendum. Unity provides us with the scale needed to shape new international order against the background of challenging external environment. There are many difficult issues in Europe – security, our position in global trade, protection of our common social model – none of them can be tackled by dividing Europe.

*Your Excellency,*

Poland has always presented a principled stance when it comes to the Cypriot issue. We appreciate effort of all parties engaged in this process. My country, also in its capacity as the non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, will support any just, lasting and functional solution that is a result of negotiations and will be accepted by all Cypriots in referendum voting, including the system of guarantors. The Cypriots are the ones who will decide what is good for their future. What is fundamental, as is said by the Cypriot leaders themselves, is that the two communities feel safe in their new state.

*Mr. President,*

Poland admires the international policy of Cyprus of building bridges between the EU, MENA and Gulf States which contributes to the security of the whole region. We are more than interested to use your experience and strengthen economic ties in the Eastern Mediterranean. There is a unique expression, which I personally like very much, that Cyprus is the European lighthouse to the Middle East. As the European country, Poland is eager to make the most of this light for our common prosperity.

*Your Excellency,*

May I convey to you and to your people of Cyprus the expression of my highest esteem and consideration from the President, the Government and the people of Poland. Let me assure you of my strong commitment to strengthening and developing our good relations on all possible levels. You can count, Your Excellency, on my personal engagement and dedication.

  
Irena Lichnerowicz-Augustyn