**Address by the Director of the Museu de Marinha at the opening of the PIO exhibition, entitled: “The Maritime Tradition of Cyprus”, in Lisbon**

Madam Minister,

Honourable Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus,

Excellencies Ambassadors,

Madam Executive Director of EMSA,

Members of the Administrative Council of EMSA,

On behalf of his excellency the Admiral Director of the Navy's cultural sector, who is representing his excellency the Admiral Chief of Staff of the Portuguese Navy, and on my own capacity as the director of the Portuguese Maritime Museum, I would like to give you a warm welcome to our museum and to thank you all for your presence; especially the Shipping Deputy Minister to the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Ms Natasa Pilides, who is honoring us with her presence, and his excellency the Ambassador of Cyprus in Portugal, who has proposed our museum to host the temporary exhibition dedicated to the pertaining theme of Cyprus 's naval traditions.

An initiative that we gladly support and join due to the importance of the messages it conveys and the quality it carries. It is our mission to cooperate with equivalent museums and organizations from friendly countries, such as Cyprus, where initiatives like this certainly help strengthening the ties of cooperation and friendship between our countries.

With this well-presented and interesting maritime exhibition on a journey of more than three millennium of history, we hope to convey the relevance of the naval and maritime traditions of Cyprus, which reflects our extraordinary connection to the sea and culture of the sailor people.

Without further due and before giving the floor to His Excellency the Ambassador of Cyprus in Portugal for opening the exhibition, I would like, once again, to thank you for your presence.