



L'AMBASCIATORE D'ITALIA

Prot. N. 508  
Nicosia, 23 MAR. 2022

Your Excellency,

I have the privilege and honor to present to you the Letter of Credentials by which the President of the Republic of Italy, H.E. Sergio Mattarella, has accredited me as the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Italy to the Republic of Cyprus. On this occasion, I also kindly ask you to accept the Letter of Recall for my predecessor, Ambassador Andrea Cavallari.

Mr. President,

My mandate in Cyprus started in a challenging time. Our countries and the entire International community had just started to believe that the pandemic was over and that the time for recovery deserved every country's greatest attention. Hope lasted shortly. The political and social developments in Ukraine are appalling and security in Europe is threatened again. Our responsibility as citizens and Europeans calls on stronger commitment for peace, for the withdrawal of occupation forces wherever they are, for the respect of international law and sovereignty, for the protection of human lives. To face the recent events and any other global threat renewed cooperation and solidarity between the EU members and likeminded international players is the only tool. The EU has so far proved to be united but maintaining peace, fostering human development, protecting democratic values and preventing major crisis requires an enduring effort and a shared vision of our future.

As the new Ambassador of Italy to Cyprus I am strongly committed to work with you and your government, as well as with all Cypriot institutions to further enhance our relations and to nourish our bilateral dialogue, also on the basis of common belonging to the MED 9 format. Italy is strongly committed to promote joint action and closer cooperation between Mediterranean countries and to encourage the formation of shared positions within the European Union. So will I in Cyprus.

A more effective consultation and coordination among our Countries and the other EU partners might play a positive role both in solving critical issues such as migrations and fight against inequalities but also in pushing for economic and social resilience, strategic autonomy and green transition. In this respect it is essential to work together in order to preserve general convergence on the need for reforms that can ensure effective solidarity between Member States. Cyprus and Italy have proven so far to share the same vision for the implementation of a European agenda based upon equal sharing of responsibility.

Your Excellency,

Geography as well as history have put our two Nations at the crossroads of ancient civilizations. Italy and Cyprus not only have a strategic position in the Mediterranean but they share a common vision where peace, stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region are shared goals that we want to pursue together with our partners for the benefit of all. Today, more than ever, Italy and Cyprus have

a mutual interest in promoting intercultural understanding and regional cooperation, thus contributing to peace and stability in the entire region.

In this context, Italy strongly supports your efforts to find a comprehensive, mutually acceptable, just and viable solution of the Cyprus problem in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the *acquis communautaire*. A bi-communal, bi-zonal federation that will reunite Greek and Turkish Cypriots under the same nation will bring stability and growth to the entire region and will benefit all people living in the area. For these reasons, we sincerely hope that the negotiation process can resume soon. Italy, as a close friend of Cyprus and an EU and UN active member, stands ready to support your efforts in this direction, as demonstrated by our long lasting our participation in the UNFICYP mission.

Mr. President,

Bilateral relations between Italy and Cyprus have consistently improved in recent years. Because of the strong cultural relations existing between our two countries, Italy considers itself as a reliable and solid partner of Cyprus. Intense political bonds and economical exchanges characterize our dialogue. Cultural initiatives have flourished broadly. The Italian language and Italian culture are finding a new renaissance among Cypriots. An increasing number of Italian companies have shown interest in developing business with Cyprus.

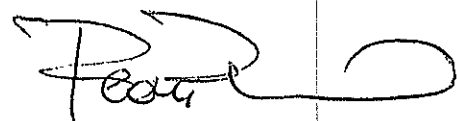
My mission as Ambassador will be inspired by the quality of our understanding and existing bonds with the aim of facilitating further common initiatives and increasing cooperation.

The recent visits to Cyprus of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Luigi Di Maio, and the Minister of Defense, Lorenzo Guerini, respectively in March 2021 and October 2020, have confirmed the excellent relations that exist in the area of Foreign Affairs and Defense and have set the basis for even closer cooperation between our two countries. The exploration and use of gas resources in the Eastern Mediterranean requires constant dialogue between our countries; joint participation in the East Mediterranean Gas Forum and for the development of Cyprus's energy sector are concrete examples of the ongoing cooperation between Italy and Cyprus.

Your Excellency,

In the course of my mission as Ambassador of Italy to Cyprus, in a spirit of continuity with the work done by my predecessor, I will work closely with my Cypriots counterparts in order to strengthen our dialogue in all areas of bilateral relations and to further strengthen our close cooperation as Mediterranean and EU partners in every international fora.

I seize this opportunity to convey you the assurances of my highest consideration.



Federica Ferrari Bravo  
Ambassador designate of Italy