

Speech of Dr. Andreas Moleskis

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests, dear friends,

I consider it a great privilege and a pleasure to be present here today at the signing ceremony between the Cyprus Institute and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Both in my capacity as a member of the Board of the Cyprus Institute and as former Chairman of the Board of the Research Promotion Foundation, I have been following the Institute's progress closely and with quite some pride. It is with great satisfaction that in such a short term I witnessed its development into an active institution for scientific research, tackling problems of regional and global importance and contributing to the research capacity of our country. Within a few years The Cyprus Institute has established itself as an important part of Cyprus' scientific community with contributions towards the attainment of the country's development objectives in the fields of productivity and competitiveness, towards the acquirement of new knowledge and the adoption of advanced technology, across the whole spectrum of the productive process.

The Board of Trustees of the Institute has always envisioned the formation of strong scientific partnerships as an integral part of the successful implementation of the Institute's development plan. Strong collaborations and research alliances, as the one being signed today, secure not only the future of the Institute but also ensure the continuation of conducting scientific research at the highest level.

The signing of this agreement is with an institution which I also hold dearly, as a former graduate. The University of Athens is the leading university in Greece with a remarkable track record in education and research and an extraordinary faculty. With over 30 departments, the University offers quality education both at graduate and post-graduate levels, and is active in a vast area of scientific fields, conducting research in innovative cutting-edge subjects. As a result it lends itself for establishing interdisciplinary collaborations with all research centers of the Cyprus Institute.

This collaboration is certain to strengthen the scientific ties between Cyprus and Greece and further enhance and promote science in the region. Cyprus which assumes the EU Presidency in 2012, will place particular emphasis in promoting scientific collaboration and the creation of scientific and educational networks amongst the EU countries and also the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. Within this context, I hope that today's agreement will pave the way for the formation of more partnerships between institutions in our region.

Thank you.

