

Speech by the Mayor of Limassol, Mr Andreas Christou at the XXI International Police Association World Congress in Limassol, 12 – 18 October 2015.

Opening Ceremony at the Grand Resort Hotel, on Wednesday, 14th October 2015 at 09.00 hours

We are greatly pleased and honoured to host the XXI International Police Association World Congress at such difficult times for both our country and the Middle East, as well the humanity in general.

The role of the Police as an organized body of the society is of particular importance, and this is why the experience and the wisdom of these veterans can play a major role in this effort.

As you all probably know, our city of Limassol, being the largest municipality in Cyprus, has been – and still is – the "steam engine" of the Cyprus economy, where thousands of local and international companies and enterprises undertake their local and international activities. Today, our city is the largest ship-management centre in the European Union.

Crucially, the Municipality has led the cultural evolution of Limassol into a major multiethnic, multicultural city, where about 20% of our population are expatriate citizens, who have become an integral part of the local society with considerable contribution to the social, cultural and economic development of our city. We believe this is a proof of the city's multinational outlook and welcoming attitude to international corporations using the Cyprus hub as a base for their global activities.

Whilst in Limassol, I encourage you to explore the city and the traditions of Cyprus. Our city has a long history dating 4000 years back. The Limassol region features some of the most well known archaeological sites – including the ancient Amathus site, which is very close to your hotels. The Limassol region is also home to some of the most well known wineries of Cyprus, situated either in the town or in nearby villages. I encourage you, therefore, to use this opportunity for complimenting your stay with a taste of Cyprus through the wide cultural, entertainment and recreational opportunities that Limassol offers.

I wish you all the very best in the deliberations of your Congress.