

**Address by the Mayor of Limassol, Mr Nicos Nicolaides
at the 12th Cyprus-Russian Festival (10-11 June 2017)**

Your excellency President of the Republic,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the municipality of Limassol, I salute the 12th Cyprus-Russian Festival and I welcome you all to our city's beautiful Municipal Garden Theatre.

It is a pleasure and an honour to host in our city for the 12th year in a row this exceptional event, which is a tribute to the Cyprus Russian friendship. A friendship which has been consolidated on our common values and principals and finds expression on the excellent and mutually beneficial ties between our two countries. For two days, this strong friendship will be celebrated in the best festive and joyful way, but most of all, it will be celebrated at its most important level: the level of the Cyprus and Russian people, who will have the chance to get to know each other and each other's cultural identity, during this festival.

Limassol is an exemplary place, where the Cyprus – Russian friendship manifests itself. Tens of thousands of Russian and Russian – speaking friends, who are living in our city for many years now, have become an integral part of our society with valuable contribution to the social, cultural and economic development of Limassol. Limassol would not be what it is today, had it not been for the richness and diversity of the composition of the people living in it.

I would like to thank and congratulate our dear friend Natalia Kardash whose tireless efforts have made the Cyprus – Russian Festival a remarkable cultural event. Limassol Municipality has been a staunch supporter of the festival and it will continue to be so for the years to come, not just for its cultural value, but primarily because it is the epitomy of the Cyprus – Russian

bondage. Our Municipality is deeply committed to safeguard and strengthen this bondage through numerous actions which go beyond the boundaries of Limassol, an example of which are the fraternal relations we have been cultivating with the local government of St. Petersburg through a wide spectrum of activities.

Once again I would like to congratulate the organizers and all the supporters that responded to our call to be part of the Cyprus – Russian Festival.

I wish all an enjoyable weekend.

NN