

Address by the Mayor of Limassol, Mr. Nicos Nicolaides at the 13th National Session of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) Cyprus, 29/8/2019

Distinguished Guests

Dear friends, dear students,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to our city, for the 13th National Session of the European Youth Parliament Cyprus.

I would like to congratulate the organizers of this important and prestigious event.

On behalf of the city of Limassol, let me express my appreciation to all the participants, especially those of you who came from abroad. I am sure that during your presence here you will take part in the discussion of a number of important issues which currently concern, not only the youth, but the entire European community population.

The new EU Youth Strategy for 2019 – 2027, very rightly focuses on engaging and empowering young people in Europe today, specifically through employment, social inclusion, education and health & well-being.

Developing and empowering youth to encourage their active involvement in society at local, regional, national and European levels, is crucial in enabling them to address their concerns and make a change in society and their future.

Here in Cyprus, for the last 13 years, the local branch of the European Youth Parliament has achieved a number of important goals, including the engagement of hundreds of young students and professionals, in several events each year.

I strongly believe that youth participation should start at local government level, which is the level closest to the citizen. This is the reason that at Limassol Municipality we give strong emphasis in involving young people in the policy-making and in the every-day life of our city. This goal is achieved through organizing several social, athletic and cultural events by the Youth Committee, which operates within the framework of our municipal council.

Before finishing my short address, I would like to take the opportunity to briefly introduce our city to you:

Limassol is a historic city with a 4000 year - long history.

Throughout the years, Limassol has been established as a city of progress, of new opportunities, new people, new ideas.

Our city is the business and financial center of Cyprus. The economic activity of our city is characterized by versatility and a dynamic development that stretches throughout a wide spectrum of sectors, from services, the manufacturing industry, tourism, the building sector, energy and other sectors.

Limassol has all the prerequisites to be a world – renowned place to live, work and do business. An excellent geographic position, new developments in the port infrastructure, new opportunities in the natural gas and the energy sector in general and top quality human resources. A 20-kilometre- accessible- beachfront, 1 port, 2 marinas, 3 universities, excellent infrastructure, a high- standard service network, best-quality food and accommodation facilities, a year-round nightlife, all these elements combine the features that make Limassol the attractive city it is today.

In addition, Limassol is well known for her long cultural tradition. Visitors have the opportunity to experience a variety of cultural and other activities all year around. They can visit museums and other archaeological locations around the city, which is an astonishing combination of ancient Greek, Frankish, Byzantine, Ottoman and modern influence. This cultural richness of our city is further enhanced by its multi-ethnic composition: tens of thousands of friends from other countries have become an integral part of our society with considerable contribution in the social, cultural and economic development of our city.

But I am sure that you know that the best way to get to know Limassol is not by listening to its mayor advertising it, it is by seeing it and experiencing it. I urge you to take advantage of the opportunity of your stay in Cyprus and visit and experience our beautiful, hospitable city.

I would like once more to welcome you all and wish you a fruitful and successful meeting.