

**Address by the Mayor of Limassol, Mr Nicos Nicolaides  
at the 12<sup>th</sup> Cyprus-Russian Festival (02-03 June 2018)**

Your excellency, President of the Republic,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Municipality of Limassol, warmly welcomes you to the 13th Cyprus-Russian Festival.

For 13 consecutive years, our city proudly hosts what has become the biggest and most prestigious intercultural festival in Cyprus.

I would like to take this opportunity, to, once again, express on behalf of the Limassol Municipal Council, our deep appreciation to the tens of thousands of our Russian and Russian-speaking friends, who have chosen Limassol to be their home -away -from -home. We are more than glad to be fellow citizens with you, living together in our beautiful city. A city that has been shaped with your contribution as well. In all aspects, socially, economically and most importantly, culturally.

The Cyprus – Russian festival, is an exceptional event, that may have started as a tribute to Cyprus - Russian friendship, but over the years it has developed into a tribute to international friendship and intercultural understanding and cooperation. It has become a festival, in which Cypriots, Russians and representatives of many more nationalities who live in Limassol, find expression and have a place to be and be joyous and celebrate, on the basis of the principal of mutual respect. For two days and through tens of events, the people of Limassol will have the chance, in a festive and joyful way, to get to know each other and each other's cultural identity.

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. I would like to thank her for her contribution to the strengthening of the Russian-Cyprus friendship. The Limassol Municipality has been a staunch supporter of this friendship, and we are deeply committed to continue to support it for the years to come.

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 you all an enjoyable weekend.