

GIORGOS GEORGIS - GIORGOS KAZAMIAS

editors

LINKED BY HISTORY - UNITED BY CHOICE
Cyprus and its European Union Partners

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INTRODUCTION

The volume **LINKED BY HISTORY-UNITED BY CHOICE: Cyprus and its European Union Partners**, is published on the occasion of the Cyprus Presidency of the European Union Council. It aims to present the multi-faceted relations between Cyprus and its European Partners, through time. The volume is the result of wide-ranging research, undertaken by the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus. The research base is part of the Programme “Evrodaktylios” which aims at creating a databank regarding the political, diplomatic, cultural, commercial and other relations between Cyprus and the countries of the EU. Based on this research, a volume on the bilateral relations between Cyprus and the country holding the EU presidency has been produced biannually for the last years. Four such volumes have been published to date, on Cyprus’ relations with Spain, Hungary, Poland, and Denmark.

This volume, the fifth in this series, is a journey through time and history, where individual personalities and events form the tesserae in the mosaic of relations of Cyprus and its partners; these document the long term, multi-level presence of Cyprus in the European continent as well as the multiple and varied bonds linking Europe and Cyprus. Needless to say in such an ambitious and wide-ranging project, in the majority of cases we cannot (and do not) claim to have exhausted the subject: to each topic examined, there are bound to be others (sometimes many others) that we have not been able to include.

The road leading to the completion of this volume has been long and many persons and organisations have helped us along the way.

First and foremost we wish to thank the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis for her continuous support and cooperation in our efforts to bring this project to fruition. Her contribution is far greater than our expression of thanks can convey. We believe that this book will become a valuable contribution in the field of cultural diplomacy, an area to which the Minister has herself greatly contributed.

We also wish to thank the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Petros Eftychiou for his support and encouragement. Mrs Androula

Laniti, Director of the Communication Policy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended her cooperation to us; she showed constant care for our work and contributed time and effort that allowed us to overcome the multiple practical and other problems we came across in the course of our research and particularly during the production phase of the volume.

We also wish to thank all the authors who contributed to the volume. Special thanks should go to Mrs. Maria Mavrou; beyond her contributions, Maria also oversaw the practical, day to day process. The members of the large team who worked for this project merit special mention: Constantinos Kouratos, Elli Athanasiou, Demetra Demetriou, Kyriakos Iakovides, Christos Alexandrou and Lambros Kaoullas. We also wish to thank Anna Maragou, Ioannis Theocharides, Maria Michail, Anastasia Yiangou, Anastasia Hamatsou and Anna-Maria Kopatos Ferrer who wrote texts on areas they specialise in for this volume. Our friend Filippos Stylianou, experienced journalist and translator had the difficult task of the linguistic homogenisation of the final translated text, produced by the no less than seven individual translators; we extend our thanks to each and every one of them.

Our thanks also go to the Heads of the many Government Departments and other organisations that have allowed us to use material from their archives; particular mention should be made of the Press and Information Office, the State Archive, the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Library of the Holy Archbishopric of Cyprus.

Last but not least, we must express our thanks to the *En Tipis Publishers* and specially to its Director Mrs. Voula Kokkinou, for the continuous interest and constant care they showed all the way to the realisation of a high quality publication.

This is a collective work in which many persons and organisations have contributed. We believe that the end result is something we can all be proud of.

Giorgos Georgis
Associate Professor of Modern Greek History,
Department of History and Archaeology,
University of Cyprus

Giorgos Kazamias
Associate Professor of Modern European History,
Dean of the School of Letters,
University of Cyprus