COSTAS MARKIDES

PRESIDENT OF THE CYPRUS KAZAKHSTAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

I have the honor of serving as the first president of the Cyprus-Kazakhstan business association, an association that is operating under the auspices of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The primary mission of our association is to promote and encourage the economic and trade relations between investors and the business community to the highest degree possible, with the prospect of developing on solid ground, a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship between our people and our countries.

A milestone event that led to the instant need for the creation of the Cyprus Kazakhstan business association, was without a doubt the conclusion of a Double Tax Treaty, the first in the history of the two countries. Such a positive development was of course not a random act, but rather the culmination of the excellent political and diplomatic relations between the Governments of our countries in recent years.

The Treaty was signed by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Kazakhstan, Mr. Alikhan Smailov and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Nicos Christodoulides during an official visit to Kazakhstan. The treaty has been swiftly ratified by both countries in 2020 and is in effect as from January 2021.

It is in my opinion, neither possible nor feasible to do business in earnest, without getting to know and understand each other. Especially when cultures differ. It is for this reason that our association aims to organize and promote cultural and other similar events in Cyprus and in Kazakhstan in an effort to get to know and understand each other better.

After all, doing business with people you know, respect and trust is the only recipe for long lasting success.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to warmly welcome you and at the same time promise you, that we will work hard and hand in hand with each and every one of you to bring our people and countries a step closer.