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CYPRUS IS THE PARTNER OF UKRAINE

The article is dedicated to the issues of formation and development of cooperation between Ukraine and the Republic of Cyprus. Modern state of diplomatic, political, juridical cooperation between two countries is under consideration. Current state of political contacts between Ukraine and the Republic of Cyprus has also been analyzed in the article.

The Republic of Cyprus is one of the most energetically developing states in the Eastern Mediterranean region. Since its independence in 1960 Cyprus has achieved economic progress, thus securing its leading positions in tourism and international investments. Despite of that fact that the country was de facto split in two parts in 1974 the Greek Cypriots have achieved spectacular results ranking among the most developed countries worldwide. In 2004 the Republic of Cyprus became the member of the European Union. Nowadays the country plays key roles in the region from the economic and geopolitical standpoint. Cyprus' experience of the EU integration is very valuable for Ukraine.

Historically, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic established the diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cyprus at the ambassadorial level on August 16–18, 1960 right after Cyprus had declared its independence as the result of the long national liberation movement. The Soviet Union supported the Cyprus independency; the USSR government maintained close contacts with archbishop Makarios, the leader of national liberation movement who was elected the first President of Cyprus. Pavlo Yermoshyn was the first

USSR Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador in Cyprus who represented USSR in this country from December 16, 1960 to April 20, 1968. Pavlo Yermoshyn submitted his credentials to the President of Cyprus December 31, 1960.

From April 20, 1968 to December 4, 1970 the USSR Embassy in the Republic of Cyprus was led by Nikita Tolybeev (credentials submitted May 31, 1968)

From 8 January 1971 to 7 July 1973 the functions of the USSR Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus were performed by Anatoliy Barkovsky (credentials submitted February 23, 1971), from 7 July 1973 to 31 July 1986 by Sergei Astavin (credentials submitted August 29, 1973), from 31 July 1986 to 2 October 1990 by Yuri Fokin. The last USSR Ambassador in Cyprus was Boris Zenkov appointed September 14, 1990, who also represented the Russian Federation – until November 18, 1996.

June 9, 1971 the first President of the Republic of Cyprus, archbishop Makarios came with an official visit to the USSR at the invitation of Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet (Parliament) and the Soviet government. He was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Spyros Kyprianou, Presidential Minsiter P. Stavr, Ambassador of Cyprus to the USSR D. Hadjimiltis, and Ambassador G. Pelagias. During this visit Mykolay Podgorny, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR held negotiations with the President of Cyprus Makarios. The parties discussed the issues related to bilateral relations, Cyprus tension problem, the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean region and other international problems. In their joint communiqñ both parties highlighted that in years following the Cyprus' independence the Soviet Union and Cyprus had been developing their relations based on friendship and mutual respect. The USSR had been consistently supporting the Republic of Cyprus' independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as backed up its demands to remove military bases in the island and peacefully settle any Cyprus-related problems without interference of third parties.

In January 1986, the Soviet government came up with the plan: «Principles and ways of settling the Cyprus problem» that were approved worldwide. In this plan the USSR supported independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus avoiding any attempts of settling the Cyprus problems without consulting with

its people. These proposals were made almost simultaneously with the Concept of nuclear-free world and establishment of Fundamental Comprehensive Security System voiced by M. Gorbachov.

George Yakov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus visited the Soviet Union for the first time in April 1987. At his meetings with USSR top officials the Minister pointed out that implementation of Soviet Union initiatives would facilitate resolution of Cyprus problems and transformation of the Mediterranean region into area of sustainable peace and cooperation.

Since the time the counties had established diplomatic relations between themselves and before the breakdown of the Soviet Union both countries had adopted an impressive number of bilateral documents, some of which remain in effect as part of national legislation in former USSR republics.

The Soviet-Cyprian relations are based on the following legal framework:

1. Agreement between the Government of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus in form of exchange of letters on the most favored nation treatment from 22 December 1961;

2. Agreement between the Government of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus in form of diplomatic notes on remission of the USSR and Cyprus citizens from visa consular fee dated 12 September 1962 and 8 October 1962;

3. Agreement between the Government of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on air traffic dated 29 February 1964;

4. Protocol to Trade Representation of the Soviet Union in the Republic of Cyprus dated 22 February 1965;

5. Agreement on cooperation in the field of broadcasting activity between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cyprus dated 17 July 1969;

6. Agreement on cooperation in the field of science, education and culture between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cyprus dated 24 May 1972;

7. Agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus dated 1 October 1975;

8. Long-term trade agreement between the USSR and the Republic of Cyprus dated 24 November 1976 including letters concerning exclusion from the most favored nation treatment in favor of custom union and free trade zone;

9. Agreement between the Government of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Cyprus in letters exchange form on favor purchase of Cyprus goods by Soviet foreign trade organizations during the validity of long term trade agreement between Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Cyprus dated 24 November 1976;

10. Consular convention between the USSR and the Republic of Cyprus dated 8 February 1976;

11. Agreement on development of economic and industrial cooperation between the USSR and the Republic of Cyprus dated 4 July 1983;

12. Agreement between the USSR and the Republic of Cyprus on legal assistance in civil and criminal affairs dated 19 January 1984;

13. Protocol between the Government of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Cyprus on cooperation for construction of Cyprus water facilities dated 16 October 1984;

14. Agreement between the Government of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Cyprus on commercial shipping dated 12 June 1985;

15. Protocol of 31 October 1986 to the Long term trade agreement between the USSR and the Republic of Cyprus dated 24 November 1976;

16. Exchange of notes agreement between the Government of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Cyprus on visa abolition for citizens of both countries with valid diplomatic passports dated 5 June 1989;

17. Exchange of notes agreement between the Government of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Cyprus on transit visa abolition for citizens of the USSR and Cyprus dated 23 February and 5 September 1990;

18. Agreement between the Government of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Cyprus on international road transportation dated 30 January 1990;

19. Agreement between the USSR and the Republic of Cyprus on commodity exchange for the period of 1991–1992 dated 19 July 1991.

On December 27, 1991 the Republic of Cyprus recognized the independency of Ukraine by special Government decision. On this occasion, President of Cyprus Georgios Vassiliou sent his congratulations to the President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk. The Protocol on Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Ukraine and Republic of Cyprus was signed 19 February 1992 in New-York.

In 1997 according to the decision of Cypriot government Mr. Yuriy Getmanenko, Chairman of Expobank Board was designated the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Cyprus in Ukraine (Kyiv).

18 May 2006 the Honorary Consulate of Ukraine in the Republic of Cyprus was opened in Limassol city with Alexis Fotiadis designated as the Honorary Consul.

4 July 2006 the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Cyprus was opened in Mariupol and Kostyantyn Balabanov, Professor, Doctor of Political Science and Rector of Mariupol State University was nominated to the position of the Honorary Consul. In October 2011 the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Cyprus was established in Odessa. Boris Muzalev was appointed the Honorary Consul.

Dmitriy Markov, the Ambassador of Ukraine in Israel was also appointed the first Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ukraine in the Republic of Cyprus. He submitted credentials to the President of Cyprus Glavkos Kliridis on March 23, 1999. D. Markov held this position until July 2003. In August 1999 the Consulate-General of Ukraine was opened in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus. The level of Ukraine's diplomatic representation in the Republic of Cyprus was raised as the Embassy of Ukraine was opened in Cyprus in June 2003. The first Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ukraine in the Republic of Cyprus (in Nicosia) became Borys Gumenyk. On December 22, 2003 he submitted credentials to the President of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos. In January 2007, B.Gumenyk completed his first diplomatic term in Cyprus.

The new Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ukraine Alexander Demyanuk arrived to Cyprus on 8 January

2008. He submitted credentials to the President of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos on January 14, 2008. The first term of Ambassador A. Demyanuk expired on 17 February 2012.

On 21 February 2012 Borys Gumenyk was appointed the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ukraine in Cyprus for the second term. On April 25, 2012 he submitted his credentials



Під час зустрічі з Президентом Республіки Кіпр Дімітрісом Хрістофіасом і Главою адміністрації Президента Республіки Кіпр Георгіосом Якову (2010 р.)

During the meeting with the President of the Republic of Cyprus Dimitris Hristophias and Head of the President's Administration of Cyprus Republic Georgios Yakov (2010)

to the President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias. At the ceremony and the following meeting between Ambassador B. Gumenyk and the President of the Republic of Cyprus D. Christofias the Top Executive of Cyprus had emphasized that he was pleased to receive the credentials from the newly appointed Ambassador of Ukraine and assured that all his efforts would be consistently supported by the President and Government of Cyprus. In his turn B. Gumenyk assured that he would do his best to promote Ukraine-Cyprus bi-lateral relations in historical, cultural and intellectual areas. The Ambassador of Ukraine had also underlined that

both counties were interested and had all necessary potential in expanding and boosting up cooperation, which opens prospects of success in all spheres of mutual interest.

The President of Cyprus Demetris Christofias confirmed Nicosia's consistent willingness to continue supporting Ukraine'

Eurointegration process over the entire duration of Cyprus' Presidency in the Council of Europe during second half of the 2012.

The functions of the Cyprus diplomatic representation in Ukraine were confided to the Embassy of Cyprus in the Federal Republic of Germany. On 12, October 2006 the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Cyprus in Germany and Ukraine Leonidas Markydys submitted credentials to the President of Ukraine. He was followed by Pandelakis Eliadis who submitted his credentials to the President of Ukraine in November 21, 2008.

The establishment of Diplomatic mission of the Republic of Cyprus in Ukraine was a milestone in bilateral interstate diplomatic relations. Charg  d'Affaires of the Republic of Cyprus in Ukraine Evagoras Vrionidis set off to perform his duties in September, 28 2009.

In June 14, 2011 the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Cyprus (in Kyiv) Evagoras Vrionidis submitted credentials to the President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych.

Official opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Ukraine was held on July 4, 2011 and was attended by the President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Kostyantyn Hryshchenko.

The Republic of Cyprus maintains diplomatic relations with 170 countries around the world. It has 40 diplomatic missions and offices in international organizations and parallel accreditation in 110 countries and international organizations.

Taking into consideration the fact that the Republic of Cyprus is a small country and relatively limited diplomatic staff the decision of establishing a stand-alone diplomatic mission in Ukraine is the evidence of strategic nature of bilateral relations and importance of equal partnership in all areas.

Visits and meetings of public officials from both countries is an important form of cooperation between Ukraine and the Republic of Cyprus.

On 23, September 2009, the President of Ukraine Victor Yushchenko and the President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias met at the 64th session of UN General Assembly.

In 2010, the top executive officials from our countries paid respective visits: On 10–12 June Volodymyr Litvin, Chairman of the Verhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) visited the Republic of Cyprus and Marios Karoyan, the President of the House of

Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus (Cyprus Parliament) paid an official visit on 9–11 November. According to the mutual statement these meetings enter upon a new phase for inter-parliamentary dialogue and gain momentum of Ukraine–Cypriot inter-parliamentary relations.

Without any doubt the most significant event in Ukrainian-Cypriot relations was the historical visit to Ukraine of the President of Cyprus Demetris Christofias and Madam Elsie Christofia that was held 3–5 July 2011.

Official meeting between the President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych and the President of Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias was held in Kyiv on July 4. A military orchestra has performed national anthems. Two Heads of State passed the guards; the official ceremony ended by introducing delegations of Ukraine and Cyprus to each other [3].

The welcome ceremony was followed by a tkte-a-tkte meeting between the President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych and the President of Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias.

«Your visit to Ukraine is a solid proof that our states are willing to cooperate in even more efficient way. I am confident that today we a lot of subjects to cover», – Viktor Yanukovych said.

Viktor Yanukovych expressed his gratitude to Demetris Christofias for accepting an invitation to visit Ukraine. The President highlighted the symbolism of this visit: as a mater of fact this was the first visit of the President of the Republic of Cyprus to Ukraine in the history of Ukraine-Cyprus relations.

In return, the President of Cyprus thanked his counterpart for this invitation and assured him in his warm and amicable feelings to Ukrainian people.

«As the President of Cyprus I am very happy of being here for the first time with the official visit to Ukraine. I am confident that our negotiations will be conducted in a friendly atmosphere and will bring their results», – Demetris Christofias said.

After their face to face conversation Viktor Yanukovych and Demetris Christofias chaired the Ukraine-Cyprus negotiations in an enlarged format. In his introductory speech preceding the negotiations the President of Ukraine highlighted that Ukraine is interested in further cooperation with Cyprus. «Ukraine is interested in cooperating with Cyprus in many areas, first of all in trade and business», – he said.

The President of Ukraine pointed out that relations between both states have a huge potential. «I am sure we have a lot of things to talk about», – Viktor Yanukovych said.

According to the Chief Executive Ukraine is working hard to improve legislation and increase international investments. In particular, Viktor Yanukovych said, this relates to development of transportation, tourist and sports infrastructure, construction of industrial and civil facilities.

The Ukrainian Head of State expressed confidence that the first visit of the President of Cyprus Demetris Christofias to Ukraine would open the new page in bi-lateral relations. Viktor Yanukovych highly praised the Cyprus Government's decision to open the Embassy in Ukraine.

Viktor Yanukovych also declared that the Cyprus' support of Ukraine's European aspirations inspires hope in our fruitful cooperation during Cyprus' 2012 Presidency in European Council.

At the joint press conference Viktor Yanukovych highlighted that fact that the first visit of President of Cyprus to Ukraine was the milestone event that proved a high level of Ukraine and Cyprus bilateral relations and the political dialogue between them. According to the Ukrainian President the negotiations were «very fruitful, deep and intensive».

«We are about to open a new page in relations between our two countries; we paid much attention to the state and prospects for mutually advantageous relations as well as Ukraine's integration into the European Union. The most important issue of our bilateral relations is cooperation in trade, economic and investment areas. The President Christofias has assured us that Cyprus would support Ukraine's European aspirations. And this support gives us reason to hope for continued fruitful cooperation between our countries during the presidency of the Republic of Cyprus in the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2012». Viktor Yanukovych informed President Christofias of the progress Ukraine had made in economic reforms and told him about the country's key priorities in foreign policy. «I am pleased to say that the meeting has confirmed the proximity of positions between Ukraine and Cyprus on many international and regional issues. In fact, it creates a solid foundation for further close cooperation between our countries. I am convinced that the visit of the President of Cyprus

will provide a new and powerful impetus to further development of relations between our countries in all areas of mutual interest.

I am grateful to my colleague, President Christofias, for the fruitful discussion that took place in a friendly atmosphere and spirit of mutual understanding», – The President of Ukraine said [3].

When asked about the opportunities of deepening Ukrainian-Cypriot cooperation, the President said that for Ukraine Cyprus is a strategic partner in the area of investment.

He reminded that as of April 1, 2011 Cyprus investments in Ukraine reached \$ 11 billion whereas Ukraine has invested over \$ 6 billion in the economy of Cyprus.



Під час візиту до МДУ Надзвичайного і Повноважного Посла Республіки Кіпр в Україні
Евагораса Вріонідіса (2011 р.)

During the visit of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cyprus to
Ukraine Evagoras Vrionidis to NDA (2011)

According to the President Yanukovich, further development of economic cooperation with Cyprus will be facilitated by establishment of the Ukrainian-Cypriot Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Industrial

Cooperation (which is foreseen in the appropriate Economic, Scientific, Technical and Industrial Cooperation agreement). «This Commission will begin its work at the level of sub-commissions in almost all areas of our joint activities. We believe that the existing trade turnover between our countries did not reach their potential levels», — Viktor Yanukovych said. He expressed confidence that trade and economic relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Cyprus have considerable potential for development.

According to the President, another important component of cooperation between Ukraine and Cyprus is efforts to eliminate double taxation.

For his part, the President of Cyprus also drew attention to the historical significance of the visit in the context of further development of Ukrainian-Cypriot relations. «This visit proves that there are feelings of sincere friendship and mutual support not only between the governments of the two countries, but also between the peoples of Cyprus and Ukraine», — he said.

Demetris Christofias noted that the success of the discussion that took place today was reflected in the signed agreements. «They symbolize a new beginning and reaffirm our willingness to further enhance cooperation between our countries», — he said.

The President of Cyprus also said that in the framework of the visit he would attend the opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Kyiv. «This is a historic moment in our countries' relations, which will even further promote and extend our cooperation», — he said. Demetris Christofias reminded that the Ukrainian-Cypriot business forum would be held as part of this visit. He also informed about soon completion of talks between both countries regarding an agreement to further investment relations between Ukraine and Cyprus. Once again D. Christofias stressed that the Republic of Cyprus supports Ukraine's European aspirations.

The President of Cyprus congratulated the Ukrainian party with the decision about Ukraine's Presidency at the OSCE in 2013. «The Republic of Cyprus has supported nomination of Ukraine and will continue supporting its efforts throughout its entire presidency», — Demetris Christofias said. He expressed confidence that the Ukraine's Presidency at the OSCE would demonstrate its commitment to preserve peace and stability.

Demetris Christofias also updated his Ukrainian counterpart on the progress of negotiations regarding the Cyprus problem. He

thanked the President of Ukraine for the support that our state provides to Cyprus in this regard.

The President of Cyprus invited the President Yanukovich to pay an official visit to Cyprus and the President of Ukraine accepted it.

During his visit Demetris Christofias met the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Economic Development and Trade Andrii Kliuev and Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament Volodymyr Lytvyn.

July 5, 2011 President Christofias visited the Mariupol State University and was awarded there a title of professor emeritus.

The Presidents of Ukraine and Cyprus met once again on September 21, 2011 in New-York at the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Kostyantyn Hryshchenko with President of Cyprus Demetris Christofias and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Erato Kozaku-Markulis was considered as the integrated part of political dialogue. It was held 13 October 2011 in Cyprus (Limassol) as part of the 7th Session of the Council of Europe «Forum for Democracy» [2].

14–16 December 2011 Volodymyr Lytvyn, Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament visited Cyprus.

At his meeting with President Christofias on December 15, 2011 Volodymyr Lytvyn emphasized that Ukraine underlined an importance that Ukraine places on friendly and good relations with the Republic of Cyprus.

The Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament stated that the official visit of President of Cyprus in Ukraine 3–5 July 2011 was a historical event that had opened a new phase of Ukrainian-Cypriot relations. «The visit has confirmed that historical links, common heritage and cooperation unite and strengthen our nations», – stressed Volodymyr Lytvyn.

V. Lytvyn also expressed confidence that the future visit of President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich would further promote Ukraine-Cyprus bilateral cooperation.

Volodymyr Lytvyn also mentioned positive Ukraine-Cyprus inter-parliamentary cooperation and express confidence that Memorandum of Understanding between the Parliament of Ukraine and House of Representatives of Cyprus that would be signed

during the visit of Ukraine parliamentary delegation and would facilitate further development of parliamentary relations.

On his part, the President of Cyprus stressed the role played by the parliamentarians in both countries in development of bilateral cooperation in all spheres. «We want to cooperate with Ukraine even tighter. These days it is easier to withstand challenges by acting jointly», – Demetris Christofias stressed. The counterparts discussed EU integration issues. It was underlined that the Republic of Cyprus is an advocate of Ukraine in its European integration efforts.

Demetris Christofias expressed his gratitude to the President of Ukraine, Government, Parliament and all Ukrainian people for their support in solution of the Cyprus problem. In his response Volodymyr Litvin reassured President of Cyprus that position of Ukraine is simple: «Sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus is a given and requires no further proof». He stressed that in its acts Ukraine is guided by the UN and European principles regarding ways of resolving this problem. «During Ukraine's Presidency at the OSCE we will do our best to make sure the dialogue is conducted only based on these principles because the world is replete with problems even without that», – said the Ukrainian Speaker.

The ceremony of signing the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the Ukrainian Parliament and the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus took place at the meeting of Volodymyr Lytvyn and President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus Yannis Omiru.

In the frame of his visit Volodymyr Lytvyn also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus Erato Cozaku-Marculis, Mayor of Famagusta (Derinya) and former Speaker of the Parliament Alexis Galanos.

The Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament had meetings with the President of Cypriot-Ukrainian Business Association Christos Rotsas and representatives of Cypriot business community.

The vigorous bilateral Ukrainian-Cypriot contacts are an indication of continuous dialogue between authorities of Ukraine and the Republic of Cyprus and importance of economic, political and humanitarian cooperation between the two countries.

The current legal framework of Ukrainian-Cypriot relations consists of 21 documents. It should be noted that this legal base is permanently improved and developed.

The legal framework of Ukraine-Cyprus relations is based on the following documents:

– Protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Republic of Cyprus (19 February 1992);

– Declaration of intent concerning cooperation in the frame of legal reform and juridical assistance in civil and criminal affairs between the Ministry of justice of Ukraine and Ministry of justice and social order of Cyprus (22 April 1999);

– Agreement between the State committee of Ukraine for physical fitness and sports and Cyprus physical culture organization on cooperation in the field of sport (24 June 1999);

– Consultation protocol between MFA of Ukraine and Cyprus (21 February 2000);

– Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on air traffic (8 July 2001);

– Memorandum of understanding between the State department of financial monitoring of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine and Subdivision of the Republic of Cyprus for money-laundering fighting on cooperation concerning exchange of financial statements attributable to money-laundering (3 August 2004);

– Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on visa abolition for citizens with valid diplomatic and service passports (20 January 2005);

– Protocol on enlargement of air service between Ukraine and Cyprus (3 March 2005);

– Agreement on cooperation between Ukraine national committee of International Chamber of Commerce and Cypriot national committee of International Chamber of Commerce (26 September 2005);

– Agreement between Ukraine and the Republic of Cyprus on juridical assistance in civil affairs (18 March 2006);

– Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on crime fighting cooperation (4 January 2008);

– Memorandum of Cooperation between General Prosecutor Office of Ukraine and Legal service of the Republic of Cyprus (25 January 2010);

– Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on cooperation in sphere of culture (25 June 2010);

– Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on cooperation in tourist industry (10 September 2010);

– Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and Cyprus on Cooperation on the European Union Matters (4 July 2011);

– Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Industrial Cooperation (9 December 2011);

– Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on Reciprocal Protection of Classified Information (9 December 2011);

– Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on international road transportation (23 May 2012);

– Ratification of the Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on cooperation in the area of defense is under way. It was signed during the official visit of President of the Republic of Cyprus to Ukraine (3–5 July 2011) [4].

In compliance to Alma-Ata (Kazakhstan) Declaration dated 21 December 1991 there are 3 intergovernmental agreements of the former Soviet Union currently in force between Ukraine and the Republic of Cyprus, i.e.:

– Agreement between the Soviet Union government and government of the Republic of Cyprus on abolishing of double taxation of income and property (29 October 1982);

– Agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on trade maritime traffic (12 June 1985);

– Agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on international road transportation and Protocol on Agreement application (30 January 1990).

Inter-departmental Ukrainian-Cypriot cooperation grows rapidly as well. The following agreements were signed and are currently in effect:

– Agreement between Ukrainian national press agency «Ukrinform» and Cyprus News Agency (CNA) on cooperation of information exchange (25 May 2006);

– Agreement on cooperation between Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine and Cyprus (19 May 2010);

– Agreement on cooperation between Dnipropetrovsk Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Cyprus (20 May 2010);

Three Agreements on cooperation between regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Pathos town and Kyiv, Lviv and Odessa regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry signed during the visit of delegations of mentioned Chambers to Cyprus at the invitation of Chamber of Pathos town.

Also the following 12 Agreements on cooperation between Ukraine and Cyprus educational organizations should be mentioned:

– Agreement on cooperation between Mariupol State University and Cypriot University (4 May 2005) [1];

– Agreement on cooperation between Student Council of Mariupol State University and Students' Union of the University of Cyprus (5 May 2006);

– Agreement on cooperation between Odessa state economy university and College of tourism and hotel management of the Republic of Cyprus (4 May 2007);

– Agreement on cooperation between Mariupol State University and Tourism and Hotel Business Management College of the Republic of Cyprus (5 July 2007);

– Agreement on cooperation between Odessa State University for the Economy and the University of Cyprus (28 August 2008);

– Agreement on cooperation between I.I. Mechnikov Odessa National University and the University of Cyprus (17 February 2009);

– Agreement on cooperation between Mariupol State University and the University of Nicosia (12 April 2010);

– Agreement on cooperation between Mariupol State University and Frederick's University (11 April 2010);

– Agreement on cooperation between Odessa National University «Odessa National Law Academy» and the University of Nicosia (25 November 2010);

– Agreement on cooperation between I.I. Mechnikov Odessa National University and the University of Nicosia (15 February 2011);

– Agreement on cooperation between Mariupol State University and Cyprus University of Technology (22 June 2011);

– Agreement on cooperation between Mariupol State University and European University of Cyprus (20 June 2012).

The following bilateral agreements are under preparation:

– Convention between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of Cyprus on avoidance of double taxation;

– Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of Cyprus on preferential and mutual investment protection;

Intergovernmental agreements on marine trade shipment and air traffic;

– Agreement between the Governments of Ukraine and Cyprus on cooperation in sphere of health care and medicine science.

In general it should be kept in mind that the legal basis of the Ukraine-Cyprus relations constantly develops and is solid enough. There are still some issues of bilateral relations that must be resolved: the avoidance of double taxation, marine trade shipment, air traffic, etc.