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PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

EUROPAUDVALGET

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REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
Presidential Palace

Nicosia, 26th March, 2003.

Mr. Claus Larsen-Jensen,
Chairman of the European Affairs Committee,
Folketinget, Christiansborg,
DK -1240 Koebenhavn K.

Fax No.: +45 3 337 36 90.

Dear Mr. Larsen-Jensen

I wish to write to you directly to inform you that at the recent Presidential elections in the Republic of Cyprus, the Greek-Cypriot electorate bestowed on me the great honour of electing me President of the Republic of Cyprus.

It is with great pleasure that I address this letter to you in order to express my wholehearted appreciation for the cooperation we have had until very recently as fellow chairpersons of our respective Parliamentary Committees on European Affairs within the framework of COSAC and other related meetings.

Following the successful completion of accession negotiations between the ten applicant countries and the European Union and the Copenhagen European Council decision on these countries' accession, I need hardly emphasize the crucial role our Committees have played within our national Parliaments in the gigantic enlargement effort in particular and in the furtherance of European construction in general. Undoubtedly, national Parliaments still have a pivotal place in this on-going process and I trust that European Affairs Committees at "15" + "10" will carry on with their excellent work in the transitional period up to 1 May 2004 and thereafter, in an enhanced combination of duties and rights within a United Europe of "25".

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I should like to assure you that, from my new office as President of the Republic of Cyprus, I will spare no effort for Cyprus' best possible contribution in the further advancement of European integration and in enhancing even more Europe's well-deserved high position on the international scene. In this respect, I will pay particular attention to consolidating cooperation between the executive and the legislative powers in my own country, but also to encouraging similar intentions and practices among our growing European family.

Let me reiterate once more my gratitude and highest of sentiments and esteem for the cooperation we have had and the sincere friendship, which has resulted therefrom and which I will treasure and nurture unfailingly into the future.

Sincerely yours,

Tassos Papadopoulos
President of the Republic of Cyprus