

Cyprus relations with Latin American countries The Colombian case*

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Abstract: *In researching the history of institutions, the authors present the evolution of bilateral relations between Colombia and Cyprus as well as fourteen other nations in Latin America, where the presence of this European country appears exotic despite the existence of various treaties, memoranda, conventions, and signed international agreements. The topic is approached from the perspective of the relations of Colombia by one of the smallest countries of the group of the 28 that integrate the European Union.*

Keywords: *Cyprus, Latin America, Treaties, Agreements, Conventions.*

Resumen: *Dentro de la línea de investigación en historia de instituciones, los autores presentan la evolución de relaciones bilaterales entre Colombia y Chipre así como catorce otras naciones en América Latina, donde la presencia de este país europeo aparece exótica a pesar de la existencia de varios tratados, memorándum, convenciones, y acuerdos firmados internacionales. El tema se aborda desde la perspectiva de las relaciones de Colombia con uno de los países más pequeños del grupo de los 28 que integran la Unión Europea.*

Palabras clave: *Chipre, América Latina, Tratados, Acuerdos, Convenciones.*

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Introduction

This article is focused on conducting an account of the relations between Cyprus - one of the smallest countries in the European Union--and Colombia, a leading Latin American nation with great projection and hemispheric leadership, adding a picture about the diplomatic and trade relations between Cyprus and other 14 nations of the continent, from Mexico to Argentina. Initially, the article sets out the general context about Cyprus, a crossroads of civilizations in the Eastern Mediterranean; a country that is integrally and comprehensively a member of the European Union, divided by a Turkish invasion in 1974, which has militarily occupied 36.2% of the island since that year, usurping property, conducting an ethnic segregation and destroying a wide cultural heritage of humanity, which was in more than 500 churches and Orthodox chapels and 17 monasteries deliberately looted from their contents such as icons and manuscripts of the Monastery of Agios Spyridon at Tremetousia, or frescoes from the 13th and 14th centuries of Agios Themonianos Church in the village of Lysi in the District of Famagusta.

The text stresses the fact that the Republic of Cyprus is recognized internationally as the sole legitimate Government of the island, with sovereignty over the whole of the 9521 Km² of its territory, ruled by the President and the Council of Ministers, a unilateral multi-party Parliament and an independent judiciary, all of which govern the two dominant communities, Turkish Cypriots (Muslims) and Cypriots (Christian adhered to the Church autocephalous Greek Orthodox Cyprus).

In the second section of the article, based on the reduced existing bibliography, the text resorts to the historical reconstruction of the Colombian – Cypriot relations, beginning with the account of a courtesy visit made by Colombian president Carlos Lleras Restrepo to Archbishop Makarios III in 1963, when the country had just become independent from the British, until an official visit of the first President of that Country to Bogota in 1966, in order to formalize a first agreement between the two countries, which is already close to fifty years. This visit was used by a writer R.H. Moreno-Duran to recreate the presidential visit in his novel “The mood of melancholy”. Honorary consuls were appointed by the two countries. Complementary agreements were signed between 1986 and 2013, which were archived by the Colombian government. In 2013, through Decree 2193, the Colombian government affected the friendly relations between the two countries by including Cyprus in the list of tax havens. As a reaction to this decision, which included this country of the European Union on that “blacklist”, a decision that was considered unjust by the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus,

Evagoras Vryonides, through the note echo/COL/02-260, requested the initiation of the process of removing the name of the Republic of Cyprus from the list of designated countries as places that Colombia must be wary doing financial exchanges. The Colombian Foreign Ministry did not answer this note; nor did they comment on Colombia's lack of acknowledgement of the Vienna Convention on consular relations, because it was decided unilaterally not to renew IDs and vehicle registrations, which are part of the reciprocal international policies of privileges and immunities, to the consuls of Cyprus, undermining Colombia the international legal and political order.

Finally, the article includes an observation of the need to establish, based on the signed agreements and the principle "Pacta sunt servanda", the bilateral working committees to prepare biennial program implementation between Colombia and Cyprus, in accordance with international practice and the availability of each country, provided there is political will for the reciprocal fulfilment of the agreed obligations, remaining pending the development of mutual areas of cooperation, especially in terms of investment, tourism and fighting of the global problem of drug trafficking.

The context about Cyprus:

According to a legend, Cyprus is an island of love and beauty because Aphrodite was born there in Paphos from the waves. As an enclave in the eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus is and for centuries has been the crossroads between Europe, Asia and Africa and has preserved traces of ancient civilizations, such as Phoenician, Roman and Byzantine. During the time of Crusades while living there, Richard the Lionhearted married Berenguela of Navarre, the Lady of Le Mans.

On February 19, 1959, under the leadership of Britain, an agreement among Greece, Turkey and Britain was signed, by which the international community recognized the creation of Cyprus as a country having a republican form of government based on the autonomy seeking unity of Greek and Turkish communities (Greek and Turkish Cypriots) but with a British military presence in the bases of Dhekelia and Akrotiri.

A painful event occurred a few years later. A Greek military junta supported an insurrection to achieve "enosis" or annexation of Cyprus to Greece. The Turks launched "Operation Attila" that was to bomb the Nicosia airport on July 20, 1974. Then, after a two-year war, one third of Cyprus, 37% of the territory

of the island, was annexed in violation of the United Nations (UN) Charter and all principles of international law, establishing *de facto* state in the north of the island in 1983, unconventionally named the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) (SILVA: 2009, p. 4) recognized only by Turkey and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Turkish armed forces killed thousands of people and displaced 40% of the Greek Cypriot population, which accounted for some 265,000 people with more than 1,600 missing. Turkey also proceeded to alter the demographics and character of the occupied territory by moving in thousands of Turkish settlers and systematically destroying the cultural heritage of this part of the island. All remnants of the Hellenic and Christian cultures were destroyed or sold on the international black market.

After the invasion numerous resolutions have been adopted by the Security Council of the UN as well as all international organizations urging Turkey to withdraw its troops from the Cypriot territory, but Turkey continued with its uncompromising position being firm in its expansionist plans and reluctant to withdraw its troops from the northern part of the island. The Security Council has reaffirmed again and again in its resolutions that the Cyprus solution must be based on a sole state sovereignty, citizenship and international identity, with independence and territorial integrity relished by any sovereign state in a federal system whether zonal and bi-communal. (The UN, to some extent had their hands tied as Turkey justified its invasion with the Treaty of Guarantee that had granted that right).

As Miguel Silva pointed out: “The geographical position has been a determining factor in the history of Cyprus. The influence of other nations and their geopolitical struggles, initially at the regional level and most recently globally, has marked the island’s fate and identity. This is an issue that goes beyond the concept of “self-determination” and we are reminded amidst the XXI century that geopolitics remains a priority in Europe and in the contemporary world” (SILVA: 2009, p. 4).

The government of Cyprus is organized according to the Constitution of 1960, which divided power between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. The country is divided into six administrative districts: Nicosia, Famagusta, Limassol, Paphos, Larnaca and Kyrenia.

Cyprus has a mountainous geography that divides it into two areas. Its economy depends on the service sector, especially tourism. In recent years, however, the industrial sector has experienced significant growth at the same time as the country’s citrus products having a relative commercial importance.

The list of ships, which makes the Cypriot flag fleet the fourth largest in the world, is another source of the country's income. The ships can navigate to the Colombian ports in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The UN has only recognized the legitimacy of the Republic of Cyprus and considered it a Member State based on the 1959 agreement; Likewise, Cyprus has been a member of the European Union since 2004 and it held the Presidency of the European Union in 2012.

As a member country of the European Union, Cyprus with its strong economy in expansion gives Colombia the GSP¹ Plus trade preferences. However, during the last three years no bilateral investments have been reported but they are expected to increase with the creation of the Colombian-Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and with the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiated and signed by Colombia with the European Union. This would increase the trade between the two countries despite the geographical distance between them.

On October 1, the Republic of Cyprus, which lies on the outskirts of Europe as perhaps the last frontier of the West, celebrated its independence. Cyprus is the largest island in the eastern Mediterranean with an area of 9240 km². Since 1960 the capital of Cyprus has been divided by a wall, “a kind of modern medieval wall” (ROLL: 1998, p. 43) known as The Green Line, where “the end of the street is both the end of the city, the end of country, and in a few years will be the end of Europe, and perhaps the last frontier of the West “ (ROLL: 1998, p. 42).

Cyprus, as a member of the European Union, has shown full cooperation in matters within its competence. This position has placed the island within the context of globalization, which plays an extremely important part in economic issues of the region or Eurozone. However, like many countries today, Cyprus is feeling the impact of its remoteness and status as a European island, because imports will always exceed exports.

The Cyprus government, elected in February 2013, has the mission to continue expanding its integrative political initiatives in cooperation with the Commission of the European Union and its European partners. It is also committed to pursuing a viable solution for Cyprus to reunite it and its people, reinstate its economy, satisfy the fundamental concerns of all its citizens and solve the economic problems this country is facing.

1. GSP is an acronym that stands for Generalized System of Preferences which is a preferential tariff system used to benefit some state members of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The Colombian-Cypriot Relations

Having a very scarce literature, we can note that the Colombo-Cyprus relations began on January 25, 1966 during the administration of President Carlos Lleras Restrepo, who wanted to formalize an agreement between the two countries in assuming the presidency of the Colombia. During his journey through several countries, on May 7, 1963, he paid a visit to His Beatitude Archbishop Makarios III (Mikhail Khristódulos Muskos), the First President of the Republic of Cyprus and Head of the Autocephalous Church of Cyprus.

Lleras Restrepo was impressed by the President of Cyprus, as he states in his book “I came across in life with ...” (LLERAS RESTREPO: 1990, p. 85) where he says:

“I return to Makarios. By the time of my visit he was barely fifty years old, a handsome man whose flowing beard contributed to giving him an air of awesome majesty. But something in his eyes and in his manners reminded me of “clever Ulysses”. He spoke softly about the island’s political problems and showed interest in learning about the management system given to the so-called “National Front” in Colombia. The comparison was relevant since, according to the treaties of Zurich and London held in 1959, the government had been organized with the participation of Greeks and Turks, which was something indeed more complicated than our situation. Decisions of the Greek-Cypriot President, Turkish-Cypriot Vice President and House of Representatives, in which Greek Cypriots dominated 70% of the seats, required a separate approval from the majority of Greek-Cypriot members as well as the majority of Turkish-Cypriot members. The same proportion was agreed upon the distribution of public sector jobs from 1960 by the agreement between Makarios and Vice President Küçük. However, the composition of military and municipal organization was more complex. As a result, running a Turkish and Greek municipality in cities ere people of two mixed origins lived was inconceivable”.

The Cypriot ethnarch Makarios expressed his wish for diplomatic relations to exist between the two countries, which took shape after the visit of the President of Cyprus to Bogota on November 1, 1966. A previous invitation had

2. The National front was the political united system through which the two main political parties of Colombia took the 1948-1957 civil war to an end. It consisted of both parties supporting a candidate of one of the parties alternately, beginning with a liberal candidate in the 1958-1962 presidential period, and ending with a conservative party in the 1974-1978 period.

been extended to him by President Lleras Restrepo to visit Colombia, when the Colombian President visited Cyprus on May 15, 1963. Lleras Restrepo had been accompanied on the trip to Cyprus and Israel by: Diego Uribe Vargas, then a House Representative and Member of the Foreign Relations Committee; former Minister Esmeralda Arboleda de Uribe and Dr. Salvador Rozenthal, Israeli Consul in Bogotá, who was accompanied by his wife Ruty.

Makarios arrived at the El Dorado Airport where he received military honors as a Head of State and he said: “I am happy in Bogotá”, stating that through this tour his country wanted to buy Colombian coffee, and strengthen the bonds of friendship and relationships with Latin America. The dignitary stayed at the Military Club in Bogota and about four thousand people came out to meet him in the streets of Bogota. Initially his visit was planned for three days but it was prolonged by two extra days.

That night he was offered a gala dinner at the San Carlos Palace, then the venue of the Colombian head of state. Prior to the dinner Makarios was awarded the Grand Cross of the Extraordinary Order of Boyacá, while his Chancellor was awarded the Grand Cross of Boyacá. Together with the Presidents of Cyprus and Colombia were seated the foreign minister of Cyprus Spyros Kyprianou, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia Germán Zea Hernández and Cardinal Luis Concha Córdoba. Lleras Restrepo chronicles the episode thus: “Makarios ... he impressed everyone who attended the state banquet in St. Charles by the majesty of his demeanor, which contrasted with the affability of his conversation and enigmatic smile that was accentuated when I alluded to the peculiar problems of Cyprus in my speech” (LLERAS RESTREPO: 1990, p. 88).

On November 3, the Mayor of Bogotá Virgilio Barco declared Makarios “Guest of Honor” and handed him the keys to the city while offering a toast of champagne in his honor. For his part, Diego Uribe Vargas, President of the Institute of International Studies in the University of Bogotá “Jorge Tadeo Lozano” awarded Makarios the Diploma as the Honorary Member of the entity. Makarios then visited the Salt Cathedral in Zipaquirá, tasted the typical fried food and pork rinds at the Liberator’s Inn in that city, visited the Gold Museum, the picturesque town of Guatavita and met with the Cardinal, the Auxiliary Bishop Isaza along with the knights and ladies of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, in the Archbishop’s Palace.

That suddenly prolonged visit of Makarios was turned into a story entitled “Helena Castoriadis” by writer RH Moreno-Durán, which became one of the six chapters of his book “The mood of melancholy” (MORENO DURÁN: 2001, pp. 51 – 81).

At first, Colombia had a diplomatic representation before the government of the Republic of Cyprus and it assigned the respective duty to its ambassador in Jerusalem. Today, the Ambassador of Colombia is accredited before the government of Cyprus and to the government of Italy. In the case of the Republic of Cyprus, the Ambassador in Mexico³ is also the concurrent Ambassador to the Government of Colombia and is represented by two honorary consuls: the Consul and former Cypriot Ambassador Elias Eliades and Hernan Olano as the Honorary Vice Consul.⁴

By the Decree 1633 of July 24, 1989⁵, which was approved by the Congress through Law 28 of 1987 and published in the Official Journal # 38070⁶, the President of the Republic of Colombia Virgilio Barco Vargas and his Foreign Minister Julio Londoño Paredes promulgated the “Agreement on Cultural Cooperation, Science and Education between the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus”. It was signed in Mexico City on May 11, 1986 and became an international instrument which came into force on June 24, 1989, two months after the exchange date of the indicated ratification instruments.

The agreement⁷, with only fourteen articles, provided for developing and strengthening the friendship between the two countries, the cultural relations as well as the educational and scientific cooperation between the two countries and it was signed in Mexico City by the Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia in Mexico, Ignacio Umaña de Brigard and the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the Government of Colombia, Charalambos Christoforou.

The main purpose of the agreement was to facilitate and encourage cooperation in the fields of culture, art, education, science, cinematography, media, music, tourism, physical education and sports. In fact, there are a number of professional Colombian football players who have taken part in the teams of the Cypriot League.

3. La legación diplomática de Chipre en México se estableció en la nación azteca a partir de 1978.

4. Los dos cónsules reemplazaron luego de su fallecimiento al doctor Virgilio Olano, sobre quien se hace referencia en <http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-425587>, consultada el 14 de agosto de 2013.

5. REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA. Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. Decreto 1633 de 1989 (julio 24). Diario Oficial # 38912, miércoles 26 de julio de 1989.

6. REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA. Congreso de la República. Ley 28 de 1987 (septiembre 30). Diario Oficial # 38070.

7. <http://www.olc.gov.cy/olc/olc.nsf/AII/5DCEFC9C0CBB409C22575D700234FA5?Opendocument>

The agreement is also intended to foster the exchange of experts as well as promotion of cooperation in the field of culture and art by:

- Exhibitions of fine arts, bibliography and crafts on the basis of reciprocity
- Exchange of artistic groups and individual artists for concerts and other performances.
- Exchange of information on activities of organizations dedicated to the preservation of national cultural identity, popular culture and social history of the nations.
- Exchange of musical material.
- Visits by writers, composers and researchers.

Moreover, the exchange of publications, books and information materials ought to be fostered through national libraries, museums and other cultural institutions, and translations, publications of scientific and literary works of both countries ought to be promoted as well.

Through their relevant agencies, Cyprus and Colombia determine their own choice of scholarships to be awarded in their respective countries in order to advance training as well as development studies in cultural and educational fields in accordance with the regulations and procedures established in each State.

In the same manner, the development of relations in the fields of education and science will be promoted through the exchange of teachers, experts, researchers and scientists for seminars, conferences, courses, conventions and scientific events. Colombia and Cyprus agree to exchange information on their systems, higher education programs, and their scientific and educational institutions. They also agree to promote the exchange of publications in the areas of science, economics, geography, history and culture of both countries.

For the purpose of educational reciprocity and in accordance with their internal regulations, Cyprus and Colombia will recognize high school diplomas that certify the completion of secondary studies and provide access to higher education in both countries. Pursuant to this agreement, the two countries will study the system of equivalences for degrees and diplomas in higher education of both countries. However, this is a pending task for both countries.

Within the framework of their national legislation, cooperation between state-run broadcasting organizations and other media of the two countries has to be provided through exchange of cultural, artistic, sporting and educational programs.

Cyprus and Colombia are to promote cooperation between their state news agencies through a systematic exchange of information and informational materials. Furthermore, it follows from the two countries' commitment that they have to encourage educational tourism, mutual contacts in the fields of physical education and sports, and promote cooperation among their youth and sports organizations.

In the field of culture, the contracting states should promote and encourage the participation of their representatives in festivals, scientific and educational conferences, seminars and other international professional meetings that take place in their territories. In the case of Cyprus and Colombia, this participation has been quite low, since the only Colombian representative who has participated in a worldwide event in Cyprus was Catalina Inés Acosta Albarracín. As Miss Colombia, she participated in the Miss Universe pageant held in Cyprus in 2000 and she was included in the group of the ten semifinalists, "but her appearance in a bathing suit (she was the only candidate to wear a one-piece bathing suit) was not in her favor at all and downplayed the points that she failed to recover despite her excellent presentation in an evening dress, in which she had the second highest score".⁸

A pending task is that in order to develop the agreement the contracting parties had agreed to establish a joint committee to prepare and negotiate biennial execution programs, in which specific commitments of cooperation and exchange would be established including alternative meetings without an exact date in Bogotá and Nicosia in connection with the expiration of the execution program.

Of particular interest is that, prior to sending delegations, art groups, exhibitions and staff by both countries during the development of the agreement, consultations should be made to determine the costs that each of the contracting parties must assume in accordance with the international practice and budget availability of each country.

The aforementioned agreement was negotiated to be valid for three (3) years and automatically renewable for equal periods unless either of the parties notifies the other in writing of its intent to terminate it six (6) months prior to the expiry of the respective term. The agreement may also be denounced by either party via a written notice to take effect six (6) months after the date the notice is received.

As of yet, the negotiations for signing the Agreement for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments have not advanced. In fact, during the Cyprus crisis of March 2013, the price drop of shares of the oil sector in Colom-

8. <http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-1242837>

bia, which are the strongest on the local market as crude oil is the major source of foreign currency, had implications on expected revenue flows and currency exchange rate.⁹

Another agreement between Cyprus and Colombia was concerning the exchange of notes regarding diplomatic, official and service visas, which was signed in Bogota on July 14, 1999 and has been in force since November 2, 1999. Although the text is in Spanish, it has a title “Exchange of Notes Constituting an Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Colombia on the Exemption of Visas on Diplomatic, Official and Service Passports”.

At a meeting held in New York on September 21, 2010 by the Colombian Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin with her Cypriot counterpart, a third agreement between Colombia and Cyprus was signed. The agreement’s title was “Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus for the establishment of a mechanism for political consultations”, which became effective as of the date it was signed. On that occasion, mutual interest in seeking new areas of cooperation between Colombia and Cyprus was reiterated, especially in tourism and combating the global drug problem as well as strengthening the trade relations, particularly in the area of tourism.

On the economic side, the balance of trade imported products from Cyprus¹⁰ to Colombia made a breakthrough between 1991 and 2011, according to a statistical analysis performed by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Colombia.

For example, in 2007¹¹ Colombia exported materials to Cyprus in USD as follows:

- crude oil - \$ 205,739,299.00
- rigid conduit and vinyl polymers - \$ 30.146.00
- pipe fittings - \$ 17.996.00
- ozone, oxygen and aerosol therapy devices - \$ 3.243.00
- fresh roses - \$ 2.960.00
- ethyl acetate - \$ 2.570.0

9. Mercados de Colombia caen por riesgo ante crisis de Chipre, en: <http://www.portafolio.co/economia/tesis-chipre> , consultada el 13 de agosto de 2013.

10. <https://www.mincomercio.gov.co/publicaciones.php?id=17417>

11. REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA. Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo. Dirección de Relaciones Comerciales. Perfil Comercial de Chipre, mayo de 2008.

- printed advertising - \$ 132.00
- plastic plates - \$ 52.00
- wooden furniture - \$ 50.00

In turn, Cyprus exported materials to Colombia in USD as follows:

- titanium minerals - \$ 76.641.00
- synthetic and polyester fibers - \$ 21.261.00
- parts and accessories - \$ 2.325.00
- data processing equipment - \$ 1.538.00
- oil bottles and syringes - \$ 678.00
- direct dyes - \$ 356.00
- granite stone - \$ 153.00

Cyprus relations with other Latin American countries:

Since Cyprus is exotic to Latin America, I consider it important to present different treaties, memoranda and agreements signed between the Republic of Cyprus and Republics of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua¹², Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

ARGENTINA:

Cyprus has two treaties with Argentina. The contents are in English, Spanish and Greek. They were signed and became effective on 4 November 1996. The first treaty was Agreement on Cooperation Between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Argentina in the Field of Agriculture.

The second one was Framework Agreement on Animal Health Between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Argentina, which was signed in Buenos Aires and became effective as of November 4, 1996.

As a curiosity, Argentina is one of the few countries with which Cyprus has signed more than two treaties. The most recent has been the Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a Mechanism for Political Consultations

¹²http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/embassies/embassy_mexico.nsf/mex06_es/mex06_OpenDocument&print, consultada el 14 de agosto de 2013.

Between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic, which was signed in New York and became effective as of September 22, 2010.

BOLIVIA:

There are three agreements between Bolivia and Cyprus. The first one is written in Greek, Spanish and English and it was signed in La Paz on December 3, 1993. Yet, it did not go into effect until March 7, 2002. It is the Agreement for Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation Between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Bolivia.

The second agreement is in Spanish and English and it was signed in Mexico City on May 18, 2001. It entered into force two months later on July 18 of that year. The agreement was named as Exchange of Letters Constituting an Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Bolivia on the Abolition of Visas for Holders of Diplomatic, Special, Official, Service and Ordinary Passports.

Finally, there is the Protocol on Consultations Between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Bolivia, which was signed in Mexico City on May 28, 2002 and entered into force shortly after being signed. The contents are in Greek, Spanish and English.

BRAZIL:

There are two treaties. The first one is written in English and named as the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between the Republic of Cyprus and the United States of Brazil at Ambassadorial level Nicosia and Brasilia, which was dated July 21, 1964.

The second agreement is the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Establishment of a Mechanism for Political Consultations in Rio de Janeiro, May 28 2010, which was signed and came into binding force as of May 28, 2010. It is in English and Portuguese.

COSTA RICA:

The establishment of relations between Cyprus and Costa Rica began on 17 November 1981. Currently there is the Visa Waiver Agreement for Diplomatic Passports and Services between Cyprus and Costa Rica from

April 24, 2000, and at the parliamentary level there is the Friendship Group Costa Rica-Cyprus dated February 14, 2012, which is one of the most recent agreements concluded by Cyprus in Latin America.

ECUADOR:

Relations between Ecuador and Cyprus date from February 14, 1979. Among the treaties, written in only English and into force the same day it was signed in New York, it is the Joint Statement Regarding the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Ecuador.

The second one we found is the Protocol on Political Consultations Between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador, which was signed in Quito on May 10, 1999 and became effective as of December 14, 1999. The contents were in English.

EL SALVADOR:

Relations between El Salvador and Cyprus began on November 5, 1979. Currently, there exist the Political Consultation Protocol between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus and El Salvador as of May 13, 1979 and the Agreement Tourist cooperation between Cyprus and El Salvador, effective from February 25, 2013.

MEXICO:

Located in Mexico, the headquarters of the Embassy of Cyprus has served over thirteen countries concurrently. Mexico is one of the countries with which Cyprus has signed the greatest number of agreements. In chronological order they were signed as follows:

- 1958 - the Consular Convention between the United Kingdom and Mexico on Affairs of Merchant Ships, extended to Cyprus by the order of the Governor.
- June 14, 1995 - the Agreement on Cooperation in Culture Education and Science between Cyprus and Mexico
- January 26, 1996 - the American Agreement on Tourism between Cyprus and Mexico
- May 19, 1996 - the Visa Waiver Agreement for Diplomatic Passports and Services between Mexico and Cyprus

- October 16, 2000 - the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus and Mexico in Order to Establish a Consultation Mechanism on Matters of Common Interest

There is also a parliamentary agreement for the Establishment of the Mexico-Cyprus Friendship Group effective as of September 7, 2010.

NICARAGUA:

Nicaragua began its relations with Cyprus on May 26, 1982, although the Tourism Cooperation Agreement between Cyprus and Nicaragua and the Memorandum of Political Understanding between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus and Nicaragua in order to establish a mechanism mutual cooperation and political consultation were signed as late as on April 6, 2011.

PANAMA:

Panama began its relations with Cyprus on 11 February 1971. The two countries signed the Agreement on Cooperation in Culture, Education and Science between Cyprus and Panama on August 1, 2001 and the Visa Waiver Agreement for Diplomatic Passports and Services between Cyprus and Panama, which was effective as of the same date.

PARAGUAY:

There is only a single treaty signed in two identical copies in Spanish and English in Geneva, Switzerland on October 8, 2001: Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Paraguay.

PERU:

The lengthiest negotiations between Cyprus and a Latin American country were those with Peru. We have found the Agreement on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Peru, which was signed New York between September 12 and 19, 1966. The document is in English.

SURINAME:

We have found the Agreement on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Suriname form July 25, 1980 and an English version that was added since it was signed.

URUGUAY:

There are two treaties. The first one is the Agreement for Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation between the Governments of the Republic of Cyprus and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay signed in Nicosia on 16 July 1987 which went into effect as of August 5, 1990. It was in English and Spanish. It is the only document signed directly in Cyprus and not in New York, nor at United Nations Headquarters or in any partner country.

The second treaty is the Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a Mechanism for Political Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, signed in New York in Greek, English and Spanish on September 21, 2010 and effective as of December 23, 2010.

VENEZUELA:

The agreement, which is in Greek, Spanish and English, was signed in Caracas and became into force as of January 12, 2009. Its title is the Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a Mechanism for Political Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of the people's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Conclusion

The main conclusion drawn from this research study is that Cyprus is not only a poorly-known country in Colombia, and it does not seem to have a special place on the agenda of the foreign relations of Colombia. This is probably due to its small size and how limited are the relations between the two countries. In the author's opinion, this situation should be corrected because of Cyprus's category as an integral member of the European Union, which represents an opportunity for Colombian companies to access new markets within the European Union, and for domestic travelers can serve as a gateway into Europe.

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El Arzobispo Makarios III, Presidente de Chipre, acompañado de la primera dama de la nación colombiana, Cecilia de La Fuente de Lleras Restrepo, en su visita a Bogotá en 1996, aprecia algunas piezas de la cultura Tayrona en el Museo del Oro de Bogotá.