



**1st Trilateral Meeting of the Presidents of the Parliaments of
Cyprus, Egypt, Greece**

Nicosia, 11 February 2019

JOINT STATEMENT

The President of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the President of the Hellenic Parliament, having gathered in their 1st Trilateral Meeting, on 11 February 2019, at the House of Representatives, in Nicosia, stress the importance of parliamentary cooperation between Cyprus, Egypt and Greece, which complements the close intergovernmental cooperation between the three countries and is based on shared values and principles. This cooperation is to the benefit of the three countries and their respective peoples and the goals of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Based on their constructive discussions regarding prospects of further promoting regional cooperation, particularly in three selected fields, namely energy, tourism and education and culture, the Presidents of the three Parliaments have resolved to further deliberate on these matters and eventually on other matters of common interest, with the aim of producing tangible results through joint initiatives and actions.

In this context, they have agreed to further strengthen cooperation between the three Parliaments through regular exchanges and in the framework of international parliamentary organisations. The usefulness of further expanding cooperation to the level of competent parliamentary committees,

to promote the exchange of knowledge, best practices and legislative experience, was also highlighted.

The Presidents have agreed to fully exploit the potential of parliamentary diplomacy and to consider the possibility of cooperating with other Parliaments of countries in the region, which share the same principles.

The Presidents of the Parliaments of Cyprus, Egypt and Greece have stressed the significance of turning energy into a catalyst for peace and prosperity and of promoting energy security, in strict compliance with international law and the respect of States' sovereign energy rights. The three Presidents have focused more particularly on joint initiatives and actions, which aim at further promoting energy saving, energy efficiency and environmental protection and at combating marine pollution. In this context, the benefits of maximizing the use of renewable energy sources were highlighted. They have also agreed to further encourage synergies in the fields of research and innovation with respect to energy between competent institutions and stakeholders from the three countries.

The Presidents of the three Parliaments have also discussed ways to further promote cooperation in the field of tourism, more specifically through joint tourist packages targeting new markets, as well as by diversifying and upgrading common thematic travel. A particular point was made of the need to further engage the diasporas of the three countries, whose contribution can be very substantial, also in this field. Moreover, the three Presidents have agreed to promote the creation of educational exchange programmes for tourism professions between the three countries.

In the fields of education and culture, the Presidents of the three Parliaments have discussed possible ways towards further fostering mutual understanding and closer people-to-people relations. Facilitating and

promoting the teaching of the Arabic and Greek languages was given particular attention as a key instrument in this respect.

Moreover, the Presidents have highlighted the rich cultural heritage of the three countries. In this respect, they stressed the need to build on cooperation initiated at the bilateral and trilateral levels, aiming at combating the illicit trade of antiquities and of other cultural heritage treasures. The Presidents of the three Parliaments have affirmed their intention to promote the regular exchange of information and best practices, as a key tool in joint and parallel efforts by Cyprus, Egypt and Greece in this field.

It was agreed that the 2nd Trilateral Meeting of the Presidents of the Parliaments of Cyprus, Egypt, Greece will take place in Greece and the 3rd, in Egypt.