

**Address by the Head of the Cyprus Business Delegation**

**Mr Nicos Syrimis**

**President of the Cyprus-Nordic Countries  
Business Association**

**Oslo Business Forum**

**Copenhagen Business Forum**

**Dear Mr**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**On the Southeastern tip of the Mediterranean sea there is an island of about 9000 square km and a population of about 900,000 thousand people. Indeed a very small place compared to many countries on the planet.**

**This is our home. Cyprus. It may be a small country but it is a large island. The third largest in the Mediterranean and the most eastern part of the European Union, a gateway to three continents and a place that gives its visitors a genuine welcome and treats them not as strangers but as friends.**

**Suffice it to say that Cyprus with its spectacular scenery and enviable climate is an island of beauty and a major tourist destination. Also it is a country with a free-market oriented economic system that leads to a satisfactory successful economic performance.**

**The success of Cyprus in the Economic Sphere is attributable first to the sound policies of macroeconomic management by the government.**

**Secondly to our highly educated and skilled labour force and of course not least to the initiatives and dynamism of our entrepreneurial community.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Undoubtedly you will agree with me when I say that the progress of civilization has nearly always seemed inextricably intertwined with the progress of commerce. From the dawn of time the advance of civilization has signaled the growth of commerce. And both our countries irrespective of size are testimony to this fact.**

**We attach great significance to our visit here for two very important reasons. First we see it a practical way to build synergies, by meeting face to face in business to business meeting will give us the opportunity to explore ways to strengthen our economic co-operation in ways that will be beneficial to both our countries.**

**Secondly and without a doubt there are times when history presents people and nations with a decisive opportunity, which if seized, will mark their present and formulate their future. This is such a time for Cyprus. Having crossed the doorstep and joined the expanded family of the European**

**Union Nations and the Eurozone we are experiencing in a new, more difficult and challenging environment a wind of fundamental changes on the way we act and conduct business. These are the winds of globalization and liberalization of trade that have blown away the days when, with artificial barriers economic co-operation between nations limited the horizons of entrepreneurship and enterprise. At this crossroad we at the Cyprus-Nordic Business Association are trying to cultivate an outward looking economy in our island.**

**I pledge the willingness of our Chamber of Commerce and the Cyprus-Nordic Business Association to place at your disposal all our facilities for responding to trade inquiries and providing business information and practical assistance and for bringing you in touch with Cypriot Entrepreneurs.**

**To our colleagues from the Scandinavian Countries I extend an invitation to visit Cyprus.**

**The possibilities of our cooperation are promising. They can cover investments, joint ventures and any economic activity. I underline our high standard of college and university education at lower fees than other European**

**countries. I emphasize the possibilities of culture tourism especially in conjunction with other neighboring countries such as Greece Egypt and so forth.**

**The distinguished speakers that will follow shall present the various aspects of the existing opportunities about Cyprus more extensively.**

**In closing I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the business people of this great and friendly nation and their corresponding business organization, the Chamber of Commerce, for the attention given to our business delegation and the interest expressed in strengthening our economic relations through the business meetings that will follow.**

**Thank you all for attending.**