

**Speech of the Mayor of Karavas Nicos Hadjistephanou,
In the Ceremony of Signing the Twinning Agreement between
Karavas, Cyprus and Suceava, Romania (2nd Phase)
Cultural Foundation of Karavas
24 October 2022**

Your Eminence Bishop of Kyrenia and Tamasos,
Your Excellency Ambassador of Romania in Cyprus,
Dear Mayors of Suceava, Kyrenia and Lapithos,
Mr. District Officer of Kyrenia,
Dear Members of the Municipal Council,
Presidents and Members of Karavas' Organizations
Honorable guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Municipality of Karavas I warmly welcome you to this ceremony of Signing the Twinning Agreement between Karavas, Cyprus and Suceava, Romania (2nd Phase). Your presence is a great honor for us, because it denotes the importance, we all give to this Twinning.

I am pleased to welcome you in this building, the Cultural Foundation of Karavas, which was built by the people of our town. We consider it our house in exile, as it gives shelter to the displaced Municipality and the other Organizations of Karavas. At the same time, one of its main objectives as a Foundation is to contribute to the conservation of the tradition and culture of our occupied area.

Actually, the motivation of this Twinning originated from a cultural inspiration. Please allow me to explain:

We all know that the traditional embroidery of Karavas is "fervolites" and it is made almost exclusively in Karavas. Today, fervolites is an element of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Cyprus.

This lace is of European origin and is found in various European countries. (In fact, the name we use in Cyprus - "fervolites" - originates from the French word "frivolite".) Among the countries, where we traced this beautiful embroidery, is Romania. Therefore, we can say that "fervolites" is a common element of the cultural heritage of European Countries, including Cyprus and Romania.

In our search for collaborators, in order to investigate the art of “fervolites” in Romania, we were blessed to meet Dr. Daniella Popescu, President of the European Federation of UNESCO Centers and Associations. After discussing our ideas, we made all the arrangements and met in Suceava. We organized there an exhibition of “fervolites” and signed the Protocol of Cultural Collaboration with UNESCO Romania, in June 2019. We renewed our Cultural Protocol in Cyprus, in November of the same year.

At the same time, we asked from the Mayor Mr. Ion Lungu and the Council of Suceava to expand the cultural cooperation and sign a twinning agreement between Karavas and that unique city. Ion Lungu, an outstanding Mayor, a remarkable man with a broad vision and bright ideas, accepted our request and the prospect of Twinning become a reality. Exactly two years later, on November 27 2021, we signed the First phase of our Twinning Agreement in Suceava. Today we will sign the Second phase.

This Agreement will give us the opportunity to learn more about each other’s culture, find common elements, and create strong bonds, with the prospect of exchange visits between our two cities, organize exhibitions - like the one we organized in 2019 - and promote the rich cultural traditions of both Cyprus and Romania. Furthermore, Karavas can play a special role in taking the Cypriots and the Romanians who live in Cyprus closer together, here, in Cyprus.

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express our greatest satisfaction for signing this Twinning Agreement tonight and to thank all the persons involved in fulfilling this achievement:

I am beyond grateful to the Mayor Ion Lungu, who embraced our desire to sign the agreement between our Municipalities. With his excellent cooperation and dedicated commitment, this desire has been materialized and it is today renewed.

I would also like to thank the Kyrenia District Officer Mr. Antonis Economides for his support to our Municipality on all aspects, including cultural events and international relations.

Special thanks to my colleagues of Karavas Municipal Council, all Karavas Organizations, the women of the Fervolites Committee and all my everyday collaborators.

Finally yet prominently, I would like to thank all of you, Ladies and Gentlemen, who honor Karavas, Cyprus, and Suceava, Romania, with your presence.

Before leaving the floor, dearest friends, let me turn my thoughts back to our occupied land and wish that we soon live similar creative events, in our Municipal building, in a liberated Karavas.