

**Speech of the Mayor of Karavas Nicos Hadjistephanou,
in the ceremony of renewing the Protocol of Cultural Collaboration,
Cultural Foundation of Karavas
27 November, 2019**

Excellencies,

Honorable guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Municipality of Karavas I warmly welcome you to this ceremony of renewing the Protocol of Cultural Collaboration between the Municipality of Karavas, the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO and the European Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Association. It is a great honor for us because your presence denotes the importance we all give to this collaboration.

I feel proud to welcome you in this Cultural Foundation of Karavas, which was built by the people of our small town. We consider it to be our house in exile, as it houses our displaced Municipality and the other Karavas' Organizations. 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.

Please allow me to briefly refer to the initial agreement of Cultural Cooperation, which was signed in Suceava, Romania:

The motivation originated from the traditional embroidery of our town called "fervolites". In Cyprus, fervolites has a local character, since it was made exclusively in Karavas. Today, fervolites is an element of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Cyprus.

It is well known that this type of embroidery can be found in various European countries and it appears that the name we use in Cyprus - "fervolites" - originates from the French word "frivolite". Among the countries, in which we traced this type of 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 to investigate the art of "fervolites" in Europe, we had the help of UNESCO Cyprus and the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture. During our search we were blessed to meet Dr. Daniella Popescu, President of the European Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Association. After exchanging views and discussing our ideas and plans, we made all the arrangements and met in Suceava, where we organized an exhibition of "fervolites" and signed the Cooperation Protocol on the 24th of June this year.

I am very happy to say that our expectations were materialized and the cooperation was very successful and promising. Our cultural collaboration provides us with the opportunity to learn more about each other's culture. It also helps us to create strong bonds that give us the opportunity to exchange visits between our two Countries, organize exhibitions, like the one we have organized in Romania and the one that is now organized here, in Cyprus, and promote the rich cultural traditions of both Cyprus and Romania.

I would like to express our greatest satisfaction for renewing this Protocol of Cultural Cooperation tonight and to thank all the persons involved in fulfilling this achievement:

I am beyond grateful to Dr. Daniela Popescu who, from the first moment, embraced our desire to sign an official agreement for partnership collaboration between our countries. With her excellent cooperation and dedicated commitment, this desire was materialized and it is today renewed.

I would also like to thank Mr. Ani Matei, Secretary General of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO, for taking part in this collaboration.

Please allow me to also thank the Director of the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus Mr. Pavlos Paraskeva for his continuous support and Dr. Antigoni Polyniki, Officer of the UNESCO of Cyprus, for her decisive contribution to all the steps of this process.

We are indebted to Mr. Nicos Christodoulides, our Minister of External Affairs, who has the vision to promote our Culture. We are grateful to him for his support and for his willingness to place our ceremony under his auspices.

Special thanks we express to Mr who delivered the Minister's address.

Dear friends,

I would also like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Menelaos Menelaou for his cooperation, encouragement and support to our Municipality on aspects of international relations.

Last but not least, I am thankful to all the ladies of the Fervolites Committee of Karavas Municipality and to all of you, Ladies and Gentlemen who honor Karavas and Romania with your presence.