



ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ

**Salutation Of the Permanent Secretary of MoEC
Ms Egly Pantelakis At the evening dedicated to the**

Bulgarian Antarctic Programme

Thursday, 12th April 7pm, Melina Mercouri Hall

I would like to express my enthusiasm for being here at this Evening dedicated to the Bulgarian Antarctic Programme. It is indeed a very innovative event and I would like to congratulate his Excellency, the Ambassador of Bulgaria Hristo Georgiev for taking the initiative to organise it. I would also like to warmly welcome to Cyprus the leader of the mission Professor Hristo Pimpirev. It is a great honour to have Professor Pimpirev with us and hopefully his presence here will open new pathways both to people to people understanding as well as to scientific cooperation.

The Bulgarian Antarctic Programme has a long and fruitful history. The Bulgarian Antarctic Institute was registered on 10.11.1993 in Sofia, Bulgaria as a noncommercial organization working under patronage of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, It has 58 members and 4 collective partners - the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Academy of Medicine and the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria. The programme supports expeditions with specialists of different areas: geology, geochemistry, geophysics, meteorology, glaciology, biology, medicine and etc. These investigations are published in many scientific editions and books. Through the Programme the establishment of Bulgarian Antarctic Base "St. Kliment Ohridski" (BAB) is in the eastern part of Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands was made possible. The site is particularly appropriate for an Antarctic settlement and the existence of the BAB has a minimum negative impact on local wildlife, for Bulgarian beach has

fairly modest population of penguins and seals. I think the programme is demonstration of what clear vision and determination can achieve.

Tonight's event is giving to the Cypriot public the opportunity to get acquainted with images and knowledge which is geographically and symbolically distant from its everyday life. In this respect it is widening our horizons and help us embrace a more global vision of today's realities. It is also a very important opportunity to celebrate and enhance the long lasting and amicable relations between Cyprus and Bulgaria. We all know that historical and cultural bonds have linked Cyprus and Bulgaria for centuries and they are extending to the present time. The friendly character of the bilateral relations is reflected in the same or similar position of the two states in important international issues and the cooperation in a wide array of issues. These relations have gained a new momentum with the accession of our two countries to the European Union. The presentation of the Bulgarian Antarctic Programme provides an new opportunity for cooperation in the scientific field.

With these few words I am inviting you to enjoy tonight's exhibition, screening and reception.