

**LETTER
FROM THE
EDITOR-
IN-CHIEF**

Dear Readers

It is with great pleasure that the 31st volume of *The Cyprus Review* hosts this special issue on Cyprus-Russia relations, edited by two esteemed colleagues from the Moscow State University of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MGIMO University), namely Professor Robert V. Yengibaryan, Academic Research Supervisor of the School of Governance and Politics, and Associate Professor Genri T. Sardaryan, Dean of the School of Governance and Politics.

The issue comes as the culmination of a process that began with an agreement signed between the two Universities –Rector of the University of Nicosia Professor Philippos Pouyioutas and Vice-Rector of MGIMO University Professor Andrey Baykov– in December 2018, to launch an academic project, offering the possibility to UNIC students of the Master’s degree Programmes in ‘International Relations and European Studies’ and ‘Law and Politics in the European Union’, to earn a Master’s Degree in International Political Consulting from MGIMO.

In May 2018, and in the framework of agreeing the details of the MoU between the two Universities, the University of Nicosia was happy to host the Dean of the School of Governance and Politics of MGIMO, Genri Sardaryan. It was in the framework of this visit that a collaboration between the respective journals issued by the two Universities was agreed as a way of promoting original research on Cyprus-Russia relations. In this context, *The Cyprus Review* issued a Call for Papers directed mainly to Russian academics interested to publish their research in a special issue of our Journal on this topic, whereas Law and Administration. XXI Century (MGIMO’s political science in-house journal) issued a Call for Papers directed mainly to Greek and Cypriot academics interested to contribute to a special issue of the MGIMO Journal. The rationale was to share and exchange views on the relations between the two countries, but in a reverse way than how it would traditionally be done.

There are a number of people that I wish to thank, without whom this publication would not have been possible: Dr Sardaryan has been instrumental in this collaboration between our Journals ever since his visit here in May 2018; Professor Yengibaryan, my counterpart in the Law and Administration. XXI Century Journal, has also kindly facilitated this collaboration. Both Professor Yengibaryan and Dr Sardaryan have acted as guest editors of this issue and I wish to thank them for this. Dr Antyukhova has been most helpful in acting as the main point of contact between *The Cyprus Review's* Editorial Team and the authors, investing hours on this process, and for this I am grateful. Finally, I appreciate the willingness of the authors to work together with our team and conform to our Author Guidelines and other adjustments requested from them.

Christina Ioannou
Editor-in-Chief