

**LETTER
FROM THE
GUEST
EDITORS**

Dear friends

For the first time we are given an opportunity to address you in a broad academic and media format, and we hope that this kind of communication will become a tradition. To begin with, let us introduce ourselves.

The School of Governance and Politics is one of the leading academic units within the Moscow State University of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MGIMO University), which is widely known both nationally and globally. For many decades, this university has been educating high-skilled diplomats, administrators and political scholars for working both within our country and abroad. This historically established tendency continues today. For the Russian federal legislative and executive authorities, (especially in the field of foreign relations), and among the staff of Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MGIMO University continues to be one of the key suppliers of human resources.

The faculty of our school plays an important role in these activities and makes significant contributions to the theoretical and practical development of up-to-date concepts for Russian international policy. At the same time, the principal mission of the school is to prepare researchers and practitioners for the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as administrators in the field of foreign relations for governmental or other organisations. The school maintains extensive research and educational relationships with many leading international research and analytical centres, being highly integrated into the international educational processes.

Furthermore, we actively support the exchange of programmes, instructors and students. Many students from Europe and other continents study at our school, and our students, in turn, study at leading foreign educational centres. In particular, our educational programmes in the field of governance are Digital Public Governance, International Public and Business Administration, Smart City Management and External Relations of Regions, and exist in the form of double-degree modules based on our cooperation with the University of Macerata (Italy), Sapienza

University (Italy), Yonsei University (Republic of Korea), and the University of Cagliari (Italy), respectively.

In the segment of political science, the programmes Political Consulting and International Relations and GR and International Lobbying [which are carried out jointly with the University of Pisa (Italy) and the University of Florence (Italy), respectively,] are very popular with our foreign partners. We hope that the double-degree master programme International Political Consulting with the University of Nicosia (Cyprus) will be successfully implemented as well.

For Russians, through many generations, Cyprus has always been spiritually close and without exaggeration, a sister country. This is due to the fact that Christianity, in its Eastern Orthodox version, was embraced in our country from the Byzantine Empire in the tenth century A.D. and had become the spiritual and cultural backbone of our great nation. The historical destinies of our people have always developed in parallel, and our relations have never been blemished for many centuries. Traditionally, there was an existence of a large Greek community in Russia, where Greeks had made a considerable contribution to the Russian political and economic life.

Cyprus and Russia's political and financial relations have seen a significant boost during recent decades. Russian business communities, financial and cultural entities, have increased their presence in Cyprus.

Due to the successfully growing economy of the country and the spiritual and civilisational similarity of its population, many Russian Greeks, together with other Russian nationals have established their residences in the Republic of Cyprus. Beyond doubt, this factor will also be playing an important role in cultural and economic convergence between the two nations.

The research papers contributed by Moscow scholars focus on a wide range of highly topical contemporary issues. These issues include the globalisation of democracy, the organisation of power and government, and various forms of their existence. The readers will find many interesting essays, including new approaches

toward some well-known problems of the contemporary world, such as globalism and ways to ensure the compatibility of different civilisations from a legal perspective, migration-related challenges caused by the demographic explosion in the Global South, as well as crises issues in various countries, such as the problems of democracy and the threat of its transformation into ochlocracy under the influence of radical liberalism. We very much hope that the works of our scholars will be of interest to you and that our research and educational dialogue will develop in a successful manner.

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