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Annual reception boosts bicommunal ties



NICOSIA, 13 November 2015 – Nicosia officials, residents and friends of Nicosia had the chance to meet, socialise and build relations on Friday 13 November during a reception at the Chateau Status organised by the Nicosia Coordination Group, headed by the Deputy Mayors of the city, Ms. Eleni Loucaidou and Mr. Akin Aktunc.

The reception is the latest in a series of events and activities organised by the Nicosia Coordination Group to foster cooperation between the two municipal offices, including study trips, municipal bazaars and a photography exhibition. It was attended by Nicosia's Mayors, Deputy Mayors, council officials and technical experts, UNFICYP civilian, police and military personnel as well as members of the Technical Committees on Crossings, Culture and Cultural Heritage.

"You may find yourselves amongst very familiar and completely new faces tonight, rest assured that all you see here today, have

one thing in common, the wellbeing of this city - Nicosia – and all its citizens," Faylene Woolley, head of UNFICYP's Civil Affairs Section, said in her welcome remarks.

"We know that you are all trying to do the best for Nicosia and we encourage you to keep working together," she added. "We hope to be a partner in these efforts and to be able to reach mutually beneficial plans for the future."

Mr. Aktunc said these meetings were providing support to the cooperation between two municipalities and looked forward to the continued work of the Nicosia Coordination Group.

"At the beginning of this journey, we began the meetings of the Core Coordination Group, to get to know our beloved Nicosia as a whole...Along the way we got to know each other, we became friends and partners, with a common goal: reconciliation and the relief from dividing lines," Ms. Loucaidou said in her remarks.



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