

**Χαιρετισμός του Υπουργού Παιδείας και Πολιτισμού στο Συνέδριο “La  
rencontre de Nicosie-Larnaca : The cities of the Mediterranean and Intercultural  
Dialogue” που διοργανώνεται από τον οργανισμό “Association for European  
Cities and Regions for Culture” σε συνεργασία με τους Δήμους Λάρνακας και  
Λευκωσίας στις 18-19 Απριλίου 2008  
(Πολιτιστικό Κέντρο Δήμου Λάρνακας και Πύλη Αμμοχώστου)**

*It is with great pleasure that I welcome here in Cyprus the “Association for European Cities and Regions for Culture” which has organized the “Meetings Nicosia-Larnaca” on the topic “Mediterranean Cities and Intercultural Dialogue”.*

*The Ministry of Education and Culture, being the National Coordinating Body for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 welcomes and encourages the activities and initiatives aiming at the promotion of dialogue between civilizations, the enhancement of intercultural cooperation, the establishment of peace and the development of humanism within our society. The Ministry of Education and Culture as well as all those involved in the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue aim at, not only on a European but also on a global level, establishing mutual understanding, cooperation and tolerance of diversity, as essential prerequisites for the peaceful and harmonious coexistence of people in the modern world of globalization and multiculturalism.*

*The “Meetings Nicosia-Larnaca” comply with the targets and expectations set for the creation of an active citizen, who eventually will be able to coexist harmoniously with his fellow human beings, no matter where he is.*

*Simultaneously, they constitute a proof of the significant role that the local authorities perform in the promotion of universal values and intercultural cooperation, essential for the progress of mankind within the framework set by the local and universal realities of today.*

*Cyprus, which has always been at the crossroads of civilizations, welcomes with utmost satisfaction the ‘Meetings Nicosia-Larnaca’, as another challenge for the exchange of knowledge and experiences, having as a target the improvement of cooperation among the Mediterranean cities.*

*I welcome here in Cyprus the delegates representing twenty cities and I wish them every success in accomplishing their task.*