

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus**  
**at the High – Level Segment of the 11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on**  
**Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**  
**Bangkok 18-25 April 2005**

Mr President  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates and participants  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I have the great honour to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus and his Minister of Justice and Public Order.

2. At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the 11<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress and extend the congratulations and appreciation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and organisers of this Congress for their excellent work. On behalf of the Government of Cyprus I would like to thank the people and government of Thailand (the land of smile indeed) for the warm and cordial hospitality extended to our delegation.

3. Cyprus fully associates itself with the statement of the European Union, delivered by the Minister of Justice of Luxembourg. Cyprus, a Member State of the United Nations and European Union, has already taken effective and appropriate measures in order to combat all forms of crime, including terrorism. I refer only to a few of them:

a. Since the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice of 2000, the Republic of Cyprus has ratified the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the three Additional protocols,

b. The United Nations Global Convention Against Corruption has been signed and the Draft Ratification Law will soon be placed before the House of Representatives for enactment.

c. Moreover its worth to notice that Cyprus is a party to all 12 existing International Conventions against terrorism.

d. Cyprus ratified the international instruments in the area of economic crime, the U.N. Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Vienna Convention) and the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime” (Strasbourg Convention).

e. Adoption of the Council Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant and the Surrender Procedures between Member States, on Joint Investigation Teams, Ratification of the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Member States of the European Union and its Protocol, Ratification of the Convention relating to Extradition between the Member States of the European Union.

f. The Republic of Cyprus has also concluded several bilateral agreements with Member-States of the European Union, as well as third countries, which provide for cooperation in the combat and prevention of organised crime and other forms of crime.

5. The close relationship between organised crime, drugs, corruption and terrorism has shown no respect for borders or nationalities and threatens democracy and development in each country. At every national level should be an effort for further strengthening civil society and enhance cooperation between the general public and government authorities in the fight against crime. It should be also noted that any measures taken for resisting crime should not tend to establish an oppressive regime for one's own citizens. Democracy and the rule of law should remain high in our priorities.

6. The UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice have already mobilized the member states to express through the Bangkok Declaration for one more time the political will in the spirit of common and shared responsibility, the willingness to improve international co-operation in the fight against crime and terrorism at the bilateral, multilateral and regional levels.

7. The Government of Cyprus is fully committed to joining forces with all other governments on a bilateral level, as well as in international forum in the struggle to eliminate crime. This determination has been explicitly stated at the highest level with assurance that all practical measures are carried out in cooperation with the international community and in accordance and in line with international conventions, to which Cyprus is a party.

8. Mr. President, concluding the statement on behalf of the Minister of Justice and Public Order, I would like to affirm once more, Cyprus' determination to work with the international community and other institutions to fight crime and terrorism without jeopardizing human rights and democracy.

Thank you.