

# **HIS BEATITUDE MEETS WITH HER EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CYPRUS**

His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa met with Her Excellency Mrs Erato Kozakou Markouli, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, who is on an official visit to Egypt, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011.

The head of the Cypriot Diplomats congratulated the Alexandrian Primate on the missionary efforts of the Orthodox Church of Africa, and stressed that Cyprus will always be at the side of the Second Throne Patriarchate.

On his part, Patriarch Theodoros thanked all the Cypriot people who practically assist the missionary effort, mentioning the Cypriots who live abroad particularly who are active in Africa and support the ancient Patriarchate.

During their discussion, His Beatitude and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus talked of the general conditions prevailing in the Arab world and His Beatitude thanked the Ambassador of Cyprus in Tripoli, Libya, who, when it became necessary, assisted His Eminence Theophylaktos of Tripoli to return to Greece via Tunisia. He also thanked the Cypriot government for all that they do for the Dependency of the Patriarchate of Alexandria in Nicosia. Gifts were then exchanged at the Patriarchal Vicariate in Cairo.

During her visit to Cairo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs met among others the Head of the Senior Military Council of Egypt General Tantawi, the Secretary General of the Arabic Association, Patriarch Shenouda and the Sheik of Al Azhar. "Egypt is a great country with importance for us, and we want to strengthen the ties between our countries", said

the Minister.