

## PREZES RADY MINISTRÓW

Warsaw, 4 September, 2020

*Dear Minister,*

*Honourable Guests,*

it is my distinct pleasure to be able to address such a distinguished forum whose members have dedicated their lives to the cause of fostering better digital education of the entire population – a cause more important now than ever before.

I find especially satisfying that today's gathering highlights the constantly enhancing and deepening collaboration between Poland and Cyprus – a relationship dating back to the 14th century and continually growing today. Years ago we joined the European Union together, and today we make another step forward on our way to shaping the European standards of knowledge-based economy.

Giving both our societies a free and convenient access to a unified certification standard will, without a doubt, positively impact the economic, cultural and scientific collaboration between our two countries, as well as the level of digital skills in both our nations. I welcome and appreciate the contribution of Polish and other scientists in making this day possible.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has demonstrated how crucial it is for us to build an innovative and digital-driven economy but has also shown that it will never fully materialise unless the society as a whole has the skills to reap its benefits. Our vision remains that of a society, in which everyone is able to fully comprehend the opportunities and threats of the ongoing digital transformation. Only then will we be able to speak of a successful digital transition and skills are key to achieving this aim.

Saint John Paul II used to say that the future begins today, not tomorrow. We all know that the same principle applies to shaping the workforce of the future's economy – it needs to happen now. I strongly believe that today we have taken an important step towards achieving that goal.

Please allow me to once again express my thanks and congratulations to all who have worked on making today's meeting a reality as well as wish all of you a fruitful discussion, which I am certain will contribute to the development of both our societies as well as the Polish-Cypriot relations.

M. Morawiec