

THE PRESIDENT

Jerusalem, March 25, 2021

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people and the State of Israel, I have the honor and the pleasure to convey my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency and to all the people of the Hellenic Republic on the occasion of your 200th Independence Day. I send our good wishes for your personal well-being and for the ongoing progress and prosperity of your country and its people. When we celebrate your national day, we are also celebrating the profound contribution of Greece to global values and culture. Today's world is safer and more stable when it follows the principles of democracy; it is richer and more reasoned when it draws from the well of philosophy.

Greece also served as a warm and flourishing home for its large Jewish community up to the Second World War when almost the entire community from Saloniki perished at the hands of the Nazis. I cannot fail to mention the many heroic rescue efforts by their fellow Greeks who have been honored as "Righteous among the Nations" by Yad Vashem.

We, in Israel, are very pleased with the deep friendship and the strong and diverse strategic bilateral relations between our two countries that includes security, energy, trade, health, tourism, regional cooperation and many more.

Allow me to send our best wishes and hopes for the success of your country in combatting the many challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and a speedy return to normal life.

Madam President, I hope we will have an opportunity to meet before the end of my presidency to mark the specials bonds between or two nations and to discuss matter of mutual interest.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest considerations.

Yours Sincerely,

Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin

Her Excellency Ms. Katerina Sakellaropoulou President of the Hellenic Republic