



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Malta
Bridge Among Civilizations


13 July 2009

Excellency,

At the outset, please accept my grateful thanks for the kind words and support conveyed in your letter dated 30 June 2009 on the subject of the Alliance of Civilizations. I wish to especially convey my gratitude to the Government of Malta for its voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund and your confirmation that it would be your intention to make this contribution on a regular annual basis.

The success of the Alliance is dependent upon the encouragement by Malta as a member of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations. I hope that the Alliance will continue to benefit from the support of Malta in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Tonio Borg, LLD, MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta
Valletta

29 - 06902

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

13 July 2009

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you would kindly forward the enclosed letter to His Excellency Mr. Tonio Borg, LLD, MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta.

A copy of this letter is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vijay Nambiar", with a horizontal line underneath.

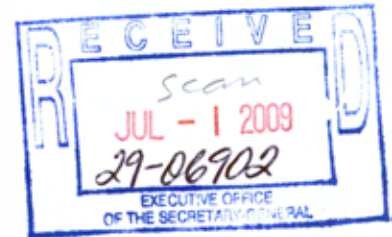
Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Saviour F. Borg
Permanent Representative of Malta to the
United Nations
New York

MINISTERU
TA' L-AFFARIJET BARRANIN



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS



B-Viċi Prim Ministru

The Deputy Prime Minister

30th June 2009

Excellency,

I thank you for your letter of 7 May 2009. I am in full agreement with your assessment that, just two years after the appointment of President Jorge Sampaio as your High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, and one year after the inaugural Madrid Forum of January 2008, the Alliance has been universally acknowledged as a very important initiative by the United Nations. Its significant contribution towards the development of the political agenda of respecting cultural diversity and developing a better understanding and respect between and within diverse societies across cultures and religions has continued to enhance the prospect of a better world. This widespread acknowledgement was further evidenced by the successful Istanbul Forum of April 2009, both in terms of the level of participation as well as in terms of the quality of the discussions and the number of projects launched.

I attach great value to Malta's membership of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations. Malta therefore looks forward to continue to actively participate and contribute constructively towards the promotion of a fruitful dialogue with a view to stem prejudices and obstacles which obstruct and jeopardize the harmonious interaction between peoples of different races and religions. I firmly believe that we need to nurture a pre-emptive dialogue among cultures and civilizations in such a way that potential tense situations can be averted and dealt with in a timely manner. This was in fact the overriding theme of the first-ever meeting of EU-Arab League Foreign Ministers which Malta successfully spearheaded and hosted in 2008. The success of this Maltese initiative has redoubled our determination to create a structured framework for the continuation of this dialogue, including support to Egypt's proposal to hold a Ministerial meeting in 2009, and possibly taking the dialogue to an even higher level by seeking to hold a summit of EU and Arab League leaders. The setting up in Malta of the European Union - Arab League Liaison Office is another contribution towards this end.

In this context, it is my firm belief and conviction that the Alliance of Civilizations has an essential role to play in this process. Indeed, I welcome the endorsement by High Representative Sampaio of my initiative to put forward the proposal at the appropriate juncture whereby the Alliance of Civilizations be invited to participate in future EU-Arab League meetings whenever the subject of dialogue between cultures is on the agenda.

Mr Secretary General, I am most sensitive to your request to consider making contributions, regular if possible, to the Alliance of Civilizations Trust Fund. I also take note that this Fund is based solely on voluntary contributions and does not in any way draw any funding from the United Nations budget, and finances the activities of the UN High Representative for the AoC and the Secretariat in New York, who have indeed done a sterling service. In this regard, and in response to your appeal, I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Malta has just made a voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund. I also wish to confirm that it is the Government's intention to make this contribution on a regular annual basis.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

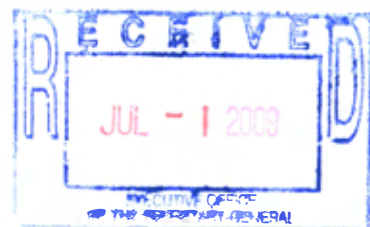
Yours sincerely,



TONIO BORG

H.E. BAN Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations

L-Rappreżentant Permanenti ta' Malta



The Permanent Representative of Malta

30th June 2009

Dear Mr. Nambiar,

I would highly appreciate if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter dated 30th June 2009 from H.E Dr. Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the attention of H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

A copy of the letter is attached, for your information.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Saviour F. Borg
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Mr. Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Room S-3830 United Nations
New York, NY 10017

(by hand)

Malta



Central



Ir-Rappreżentant Permanenti ta' Malta

The Permanent Representative of Malta

6th July 2009

Dear Mr. Nambiar,

I would highly appreciate if you could kindly forward the enclosed original letter dated 30th June 2009 from the Honourable Dr. Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, to the attention of H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Saviour F. Borg
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Mr. Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Room S-3830
United Nations Secretariat Building
New York, NY 10017



MINISTERU
TA' L-AFFARIJJIET BARRANIN



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Il-Viċi Prim Ministru

The Deputy Prime Minister

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Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



TONIO BORG

H.E. BAN Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations