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PRESS RELEASE

“Friendship Park” at Larnaka International Airport inaugurated by President Christofias

During a brief ceremony at Larnaka International Airport on Thursday, 23 June 2011 the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Dimitris Christofias, inaugurated the Friendship Park at Larnaka International Airport and unveiled the three columns that have been erected outside the Airport to commemorate the historic visits to Cyprus of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Dmitry Medvedev and the Chancellor of Germany, Mrs. Angela Merkel.

The three columns were unveiled in the presence of the Vatican Representative in Cyprus, Rev. do P. Evencio Herrera, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vyacheslav D. Shumskiy and the Ambassador of Germany, Mr. Gottfried Zeitz. The Ambassador of France, Mr. Jean-Marc Rives, also attended the event.

In a short address, the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Dimitris Christofias, congratulated Hermes Airports for taking this initiative and stressed that the creation of the “Friendship Park” at Larnaka Airport is a symbol of the close ties of friendship between Cyprus and the Vatican, the Russian Federation and Germany. He also expressed, yet again, his satisfaction at the co-operation between Hermes Airports and the public sector stakeholders in all their endeavours to elevate Cyprus into a hub for international air transport.

The President of Cyprus was welcomed at Larnaka International Airport by the Chairman of Hermes Airports, Mr. Nikos K. Shacolas. In his speech, Mr. Shacolas pointed out that a milestone had been reached when the three leaders came to Cyprus and passed through the new, contemporary international airports of Larnaka and Pafos which, as he noted, have been developed and successfully operated by Hermes Airports.

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The Chief Executive Officer of Hermes Airports, Mr. Alfred van der Meer, in his speech, noted that it is an honour for Hermes Airports to host at Larnaka International Airport a project which not only recalls the history of Cyprus but also recalls the visits of three important personalities to the Island.

The event was also attended by several high-ranking state officials, the Mayor of Larnaka, Mr. Andreas Moyseos, Member of Parliament of AKEL in Larnaka, Mr. Panikos Stavrianos and many other officials. The three classical columns adorning the entrance of Larnaka International Airport are replicas of ancient columns located at the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates at Curium in Limassol and date back to the late-Roman and late-Hellenistic period.

