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18 May 2026

High Commission of
Cyprus in the UK

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Delegation of the
European Union to
the United Kingdom

08:30-09:30 Registrations and welcome coffee

09:30-09:45 Opening Remarks

Kyriacos KOUROS, High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus to the UK
Pedro SERRANO, Ambassador of the European Union to the UK

09:45-10:00 Keynote Address

Vasilis PALMAS, Minister of Defence, Republic of Cyprus



10:00-10:45 Panel I - The evolving nature of hybrid threats through history and the present day - perceptions and perspectives

This session will offer a geopolitical framing of hybrid threats, looking at lessons from history and analysing current trends, actors and tactics, and provide insights into hybrid strategies. The focus will be on the diagnosis of the problem and its broader geopolitical and security implications.

Jonathan ALLEN, Director General Defence and Security, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Daniel MARKIĆ, Director, EU Intelligence and Situation Centre

Huw DYLAN, Kings College London

N.S, Cyprus National Point of Contact for Hybrid Threats

Moderator: Anna Koukkides PROCOPIOU, President, Politeia Think Tank

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break



11:00-11:50 Panel II - Hybrid operations and interference with state functions and infrastructure

The range of hybrid and coercive tools used primarily by state actors has been constantly expanding in the past years, exploiting vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure, including underwater sea cables and the cyber domain. Speakers will be asked to look at concrete examples and identify opportunities for more effective collective action to deter attacks. This discussion may also address concerns related to targeted violence, including assassinations and attempted assassinations, and their broader societal impact.

Joyce HAKMEH, Associate Fellow, International Security Programme
Chatham House

Eliza LOCKHART, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Finance Security, Royal
United Services Institute

Nigel INKSTER, Senior Advisor for China and Cyber Security, International
Institute for Strategic Studies

Henry WILKINSON, Chief Intelligence Officer, Dragonfly from Dow Jones

Moderator: Patryk PAWLAK, Professor, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced
Studies, European University Institute



11:50-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-12:45 Panel III - Democratic societies and social cohesion under attack

Hybrid threats and disinformation erode the broader democratic order by attacking our shared values. Speakers will explore the impact this has on human rights protections, particularly for the LGBTI+ community, as well as for vulnerable groups and communities on the frontlines of climate change and for public health resilience in the face of pandemics. While public awareness of hybrid threats has increased significantly, this awareness does not always translate into tangible policy improvements or a deep, nuanced understanding of their nature, scope, and implications for our societies. Panellists will examine the importance of whole-of-society approaches to countering hybrid threats and the roles of various stakeholders -such as the media, community structures, civil society, and the private sector- in shaping public awareness, strengthening societal resilience and democratic institutions, and influencing policy responses. The discussion will also consider how to mitigate the risks of manipulation and the potential weaponisation of these same actors and spaces.

Stella KYRIAKIDES, European Commissioner for Health & Food Safety 2019-2024

Alex FARROW, CEO, Kaleidoscope Trust

Pallavi SETHI, Policy Fellow, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change & the Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science

Gold Darr HOOD, International Business Strategist, Cultural Infusion

Moderator: Rachel WINNY, Centre for Information Resilience



13:00 Keynote Address

Stephen DOUGHTY, MP, UK Minister of State,
(Europe, North America and Overseas Territories)

13:20 Closing Remarks

Nicolas KYRIAKIDES, Executive President, Cyprus Forum

13:30-15:00 Networking Lunch