



Organisers



**oxygen.**  
for Democracy

18 May 2026

High Commission of  
Cyprus in the UK

[cyprusforum.cy/london](http://cyprusforum.cy/london)

Supporter



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**, Reader in Intelligence and International Security, King's 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**