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28 - 30 September 2026
The Landmark Nicosia



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Cyprus Forum 2026

Monday, 28 September 2026

Venue. Landmark Nicosia

Time	Format	Programme
20:00-20:10	Welcoming speech	Annita Demetriou, President of the Parliament
20:10-20:40	Roundtable discussion Official Conference Dinner, by invitation only	Prof. George Katrougalos, United Nations Independent Expert on a democratic and equitable International Order Discussant: Dr. Elena Lazarou, Director General, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)

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Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Venue. Landmark Nicosia, Ball Room

Time	Opening programme
08:30-09:00	Registrations
09:00-09:05	Welcome address: Nicolas Kyriakides, Executive President, Cyprus Forum
09:05-09:10	Opening address: Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of Cyprus
09:10-09:25	Zeno of Citium keynote address: Marilena Raouna, Former Deputy Minister for European Affairs
09:25-09:35	Keynote Speech on Security and Defence: Costas Mavrides, Member of the European Parliament (S&D, Cyprus)
09:35-09:45	Themis Christophidou, Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
09:45-09:50	Opening address: Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission (recorded)
09:50-09:55	Opening address: Dubravka Šuica, Commissioner for the Mediterranean, European Commission (recorded)
09:55-10:00	Opening address: Dr. Costas Kadis, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, European Commission (recorded)
10:00	Room transition

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Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Venue. Landmark Nicosia. Ethos 1 is labelled Zeno Room, and Ethos 2 is labelled Aphrodite Room.

Schedule	Session, status, and format	Policy problem, purpose, and perspectives	Indicative speakers, roles, and notes
Tuesday, 29 September 2026	**Landmark Nicosia: Zeno Room, and Aphrodite Room**		
01 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 10:10-11:00 **Room.** Zeno Room	**European economic challenges and the case of Cyprus** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Europe's competitiveness agenda will not deliver for Cyprus unless broad commitments on simplification, investment, skills, energy costs, innovation, and scale are translated into a short national reform sequence. **Purpose.** Identify three reforms Cyprus should prioritise by 2030, the institution responsible for each, and the investment or productivity indicator by which delivery should be judged. Assess how Cyprus should position its reform and investment priorities within the emerging 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework and translate new EU funding instruments into productive investment. **Complementary perspectives.** European economic policy, parliamentary and ministerial experience, business, employers, productive investment, and independent moderation.	Chrisis Pantelides, Member of the Parliament, Democratic Party Andreas Theophanous, President, Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs Chair: Dr. Elena Lazarou, Director General, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) Knowledge partner: Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs, The Tassos Papadopoulos Centre for Studies

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02 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 10:10-11:00 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Beyond Resilience: Choosing the Region's Next Economic Model in an Age of Geoeconomic Risk** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** The Eastern Mediterranean and wider Southeast European region is entering a period in which economic policy can no longer be separated from geopolitics. Strategic competition, trade fragmentation, energy security, shifting investment flows, sanctions and supply-chain realignment are reshaping the conditions for growth. For small and medium-sized economies such as Cyprus, Greece and their regional partners, the challenge is not simply to remain resilient, but to determine where they can build sustainable competitive advantage within a changing European and global economic order. **Purpose.** Identify three priorities for a more productive, diversified and geopolitically resilient regional economic model, examining how Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean can position themselves within changing trade, energy and investment corridors. The discussion will address choices around investment, economic security, energy, connectivity, skills and the role of the state, while considering how regional cooperation and deeper European integration can translate geopolitical relevance into sustainable economic growth. **Complementary perspectives.** Geoeconomics and international economic relations, macroeconomic and financial policy, regional security and diplomacy, energy and connectivity, investment and business, and independent economic journalism.	Antonella Cavallari, Ambassador of Italy to Cyprus Michalis Sarris, Chairman, AstroCapital Ioannis Tirkides, Economist and President, Cyprus Economic Society Chair: Pavlos Efthymiou, Growth Partner, Fortune Greece Knowledge partners: ELEC, Cyprus Economic Society
03 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 12:00-12:45 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Migration Governance at the EU Frontline: Protection, Capacity, and Integration and the role of Cyprus** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Migration debate is polarised between control and protection, while operational capacity, reception standards, integration, returns, and local impacts require joined-up governance. **Purpose.** Identify where Cyprus needs institutional capacity, EU support, and measurable safeguards to implement a credible migration policy. **Complementary perspectives.** Government, EU policy, legal or rights expertise, local delivery, and migrant or refugee experience.	Dr. Nicholas A. Ioannides, Deputy Minister of Migration and International Protection Elizabeth V. Kassinis, Executive Director of Caritas, Co-chair, European Philanthropic Initiative for Migration (EPIM) Zenaida Onoufriou, Senior External Relations Associate, UNHCR Cyprus Chair: Dr. Markos Karavias, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, University of Piraeus Knowledge partners: MedMA

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04 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 12:00-13:00 **Room.** Zeno Room	**Europe's Security Choices: Neutrality, Hybrid Threats, and Strategic Capacity** **Format.** 45-minute European security policy panel with four panellists and one moderator in the Aphrodite Room	**Policy problem.** European states face coercion, cyberattacks, disinformation, infrastructure vulnerability, and military pressure, while neutrality, alliance commitments, and national capabilities produce different thresholds for action. **Purpose.** Clarify what credible neutrality requires, which capabilities Europe must be able to provide, and how small states can contribute without overstating their leverage. **Complementary perspectives.** European security policy, neutrality and hybrid threats, Cypriot diplomatic experience, Romania and the Black Sea, Armenia and the South Caucasus, and independent moderation.	Dr. Krisztina Lakos, Ambassador of Hungary to Cyprus Inna Torgomyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Cyprus Alexandros Zenon, Ambassador a.h. Caitríona Heinl, Executive Director, The Azure Forum for Contemporary Security Strategy Radu Burduja, Executive Director, Euro-Atlantic Institute for Building Resilience Chair: Michael Zinkanell-Süss, Director, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy Knowledge partner: Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy, The Azure Forum for Contemporary Security Strategy
05 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 12:45-13:45 **Room.** Zeno Room	**Reinforcing Europe's Democratic Future: The Role of University Alliances in Higher Education and Talent Retention** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** European University Alliances can strengthen mobility, research cooperation and educational innovation, but persistent skills shortages, brain drain and uneven opportunities for talent development continue to affect smaller member states in particular. **Purpose.** Examine how alliances such as YUFE can translate European university cooperation into opportunities for talent retention, researcher and student mobility, skills development, responsible research, knowledge exchange and stronger integration across the European Higher Education and Research Area. **Complementary perspectives.** European university alliance governance, higher education leadership, education and research policymaking, academic and research practice, and talent development and mobility.	Athena Michaelidou, Minister of Education, Sports and Youth Tasos C. Christofides, Rector, University of Cyprus Nadia Charalambous, Professor of Architecture, Lead of Society and Urban Form research lab, Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus Ivan Romashchenko, YUFE4Postdocs Researcher Chair: Maria-Valerie Schegk, Secretary General, YUFE - Young Universities for the Future of Europe Knowledge partner: YUFE, University of Cyprus

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06 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 12:45-13:30 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Europe's Digital Sovereignty: Building Strategic Self-Reliance in Technology and Infrastructure** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Europe depends heavily on non-European providers for cloud services, semiconductors, AI infrastructure, cybersecurity tools, platforms, and critical digital supply chains. The strategic challenge is to reduce coercive dependencies and strengthen the capacity to act without pursuing technological isolation. **Purpose.** Identify which digital capabilities Europe must control or be able to supply, where trusted partnerships remain essential, and what Cyprus can contribute through infrastructure, regulation, skills, investment, and its regional technology ecosystem. **Complementary perspectives.** European and Cypriot digital policy, technology-industry capacity, critical infrastructure, economic security, innovation, and strategic autonomy.	Nicodemos Damianou, Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy to the President, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy Valentinos Polykarpou, Chairman & Chief Locations Officer, TechIsland & Wargaming Dr Vasilis Tsakalos, Vice President for Research and Technological Support, The Cyprus Institute Chair: Ioanna Theodosopoulou, Policy Officer, Zenox Public Affairs Community partner: TechIsland
07 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 13:45-14:00 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Format.** Fireside discussion	**Fireside discussion with the President of Democratic Party**	Nicolas Papadopoulos Chair: Nicolas Kyriakides, Cyprus Forum
08 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 14:00-14:15 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Format.** Fireside discussion	**Fireside discussion with the Negotiator for the Greek Cypriot side**	Menelaos Menelaou, Chief Negotiator Chair: Nicolas Kyriakides, Cyprus Forum

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Time. 13:30-14:00 **Room.** Programme-wide	**Lunch break**		
09 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 14:15-15:15 **Room.** Zeno Room	**A National Water Strategy for Cyprus: From Emergency Measures to Accountable Delivery** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Water policy is fragmented across supply, leakage, reuse, pricing, infrastructure finance, agriculture, and environmental protection, with no single accountable long-term framework. **Purpose.** Test the case for a 15-25 year national strategy and define governance, targets, financing, and public reporting needed for implementation. **Complementary perspectives.** International water policy, local government, the Water Development Department, hydroinformatics, environmental policy, and implementation advice.	Constantinos Yiorkadjis, President, Nicosia District Local Government Organisation Charalampos Theopemptou, Environmental Consultant, C. Theopemptou Consulting Ltd. Dr Tedd Moya Mose, Senior Executive Consultant, Morphosis Group, and specialist in energy law, climate policy, sustainable finance, and the just transition Eliana Tofa-Christidou, Director, Water Development Department (WDD) Michalis Michael, Acting Chief Water Officer, WDD Alexandros Stefanakis, Associate Professor at School of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Crete / President, International Ecological Engineering Society / Chair, Specialist Group, International Water Association Marios Charilaou, Researcher in Hydroinformatics and Water Policy Design and Chief Executive Officer, Morphosis Chair: Andreas Kazamias, Board Adviser, Morphosis, and International Management Consultant Knowledge partner: Morphosis
10 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 14:15-15:00 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Europe's Strategic Test: Enlargement, Security, and Cohesion** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** The geopolitical case for enlargement is strengthening faster than the Union is resolving questions of absorption capacity, institutional reform, security exposure, regional convergence, and the effect of instability in the Eastern Mediterranean. The proposed 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework is a concrete test of whether the Union can finance enlargement, security, competitiveness, and cohesion simultaneously, without weakening support for existing Member States and regions. Domestic political shifts in pivotal Member States, illustrated by the AfD's electoral victory in Saxony-Anhalt, may also affect the Union's capacity to agree on enlargement, common financing, and collective security. **Purpose.** Integrate the former opening strategic framing into a main-room discussion that defines the	Gunther Krichbaum, Minister of State for Europe, Germany (recorded) Dr. Sandro Knezović, Research Adviser, Institute for Development and International Relations Igor Šlosar, president of the Centre for Public Policy and Economic Analysis (CEA) in Croatia Mihaela-Adriana Pădureanu, Studies Unit Coordinator, European Institute of Romania Chair: Dr. Ritsa Panagiotou, Senior Research Fellow, Wider Europe Programme, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) Knowledge partner: ELIAMEP, Centre for Public Policy and Economic Analysis

		safeguards and sequencing needed for enlargement to strengthen European capacity and cohesion. Complementary perspectives. European political leadership, candidate-country government, EU regional policy, Western Balkans expertise, and an independent chair.	
11 Date. 29 September Time. 15:00-15:45 Room. Aphrodite Room	**The Future of EU-US Relations: Security, Trade, and Strategic Autonomy** Format. Panel discussion	Policy problem. EU-US relations are being tested simultaneously by burden-sharing, trade and industrial policy, technological competition, Ukraine, the Middle East, and uncertainty about the long-term terms of transatlantic engagement. Purpose. Identify where Europe should build greater autonomous capacity, where transatlantic integration remains indispensable, and what role Cyprus can realistically play. Assess whether emerging arrangements such as the Mecca defence agreement complement existing US and NATO partnerships or reflect regional hedging against uncertainty about long-term Western security commitments. Complementary perspectives. Atlantic Council analysis, EU and Black Sea diplomacy, European defence, the United Kingdom's transatlantic role, and regional journalism.	Dr. Oana Cristina Popa, EU&RO Ambassador to MNE, SRB,HR US German Marshall Fund, Black Sea Trust, Distinguished Fellow James Batchik, Deputy Director, EU Programs and Operations, Europe Center, Atlantic Council Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, former Minister of National Defence of Greece Panagiotis Mihalos, President of the Mihalos Foundation and the «Nisyros Dialogues - Bridging the East Med»®, f. Secretary General for Int'l Economic Affairs at the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs Yaşar Aydın, Researcher, the Centre for Applied Turkey Studies (CATS) at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) Chair: Sean Mathews, Middle East Eye, Media and Publications Knowledge partner: Atlantic Council, Nisyros Dialogues
12 Date. 29 September Time. 15:15-15:45 Room. Zeno Room	**Cyprus's Energy Trilemma: Security, Affordability, and Regional Integration** Format. Fireside discussion	Policy problem. Cyprus must reconcile security of supply, electricity affordability, decarbonisation, and regional energy diplomacy. The Great Sea Interconnector (GSI) is the clearest immediate test of this trilemma, promising to end Cyprus's electricity isolation and facilitate renewable-energy integration, while raising questions about cost allocation, financing, regulatory certainty, implementation, and geopolitical risk. At the same time, Gulf and Levant actors are linking energy, transport, data, and security through corridor projects, including the wider IMEC vision, while conflict, pipeline constraints, and maritime chokepoints expose the fragility of interdependence. Purpose. Clarify the sequencing of near-term electricity measures, gas and interconnection decisions, and regional co-operation through 2030,	Charles Ellinas, CEO, eCNHC Chair: Alexandros Chronides, Journalist, Stockwatch Knowledge partner: Institute of Energy Strategy

		and identify where Cyprus can contribute credibly to wider corridor infrastructure without overstating its role. Complementary perspectives. Government, independent energy analysis, energy law and the just transition, infrastructure and interconnection, regional economic diplomacy, and consumers or industry.	
13 Date. 29 September Time. 15:45-16:30 Room. Zeno Room	**Disinformation as a Democratic Security Threat: From Detection to Public Response** Format. Panel discussion	Policy problem. Detection initiatives are multiplying, but public authorities, media, researchers, and platforms still lack a trusted protocol for attribution, communication, correction, and public resilience. Purpose. Define who should communicate what, when, and on what evidential threshold during a significant information incident. Complementary perspectives. Diplomacy, journalism, intelligence and strategic communications, fact-checking or observatory expertise, and civil society. Consider how AgoraEU funding could support independent media, media literacy, civil society, and resilience against disinformation while safeguarding editorial independence and avoiding politically directed funding.	H.E. Mrs Clélia Chevrier Kolačko, Ambassador of France, French Embassy (Keynote Address) Michael Tatham CMG, British High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus, British High Commission Nicosia Dr. Theodora Maniou, Assistant Professor in Journalism, UCY, Media Monitor Coordinator, MedDMO Christodoulos Ioannou, Co-Director, Cyprus Security and Intelligence Institute - CySII Chair: Nektaria Stamouli, POLITICO Europe EastMed correspondent, Kathimerini English edition deputy editor, POLITICO Europe/ Kathimerini Knowledge partner: MedDMO
14 Date. 29 September Time. 15:45-16:30 Room. Aphrodite Room	**Citizens' Participation in Public Decision-Making: From Consultation to Influence** Format. Panel discussion	Policy problem. Public consultations often collect views without clarifying how evidence, citizen proposals, or dissent will affect the final decision or how public authorities will report back. Purpose. Agree a practical participation protocol for public bodies covering agenda-setting, inclusion, evidence, decision weight, a reasoned institutional response, and follow-up. Complementary perspectives. The Commissioner for the Citizen, civil society, the Polis initiative, local government with practical dialogue experience, and participation design.	Irene Poyiadji, Commissioner of the Citizen, Presidency Republic of Cyprus Sofia Christodoulou Makri, President, EDEK Dr. Anastasia Karatzia, Chief Research Officer, Breez Cyprus Savvas Charalampous, Polis Forum George Melios, Research Officer, London School of Economics and Political Science Chair: George Isaia, Founder & Policy Advisor, PolicyLab Knowledge partner: ASPON, Hellenic Observatory – LSE Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece & Cyprus

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15 **Date. 29 September** **Time. 16:30-17:00** **Room. Zeno Room**	**AI and Equal Participation: Who Shapes the Digital State?** **Format. Panel discussion**	**Policy problem.** Digital-government and AI systems risk reproducing exclusion when women and other under-represented groups are absent from design, procurement, data governance, and oversight. **Purpose.** Identify concrete requirements for representative design teams, impact assessment, procurement, participation, and accountability in public-sector AI. **Complementary perspectives.** Gender equality and public-sector digital governance, tested through a focused interviewer-led discussion on representation, procurement, impact assessment, and accountability.	Josie Christodoulou, Commissioner for Gender Equality, Republic of Cyprus Rodoula Papalambrianou, Children's House Scientific Coordinator, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center Chairs: Andreas Demetriou, founding member, Legal Advisor and Secretary Knowledge partner: AI³
16 **Date. 29 September** **Time. 16:30-17:15** **Room. Aphrodite Room**	**Climate risks to the Cypriot economy and adaptation investment needs** **Format. Fireside discussion**	**Policy problem.** Climate risk is recognised, but adaptation choices remain weakly prioritised, inconsistently financed, and fragmented across levels of government. **Purpose.** Identify the decisions Cyprus must take on risk assessment, infrastructure standards, local delivery, and adaptation finance before the next major shock. **Complementary perspectives.** Climate economics and one public-investment or infrastructure decision-maker, tested through a tightly briefed interviewer.	Andreas Charalambous, Chairperson, Fiscal Council of Cyprus Chair: Theodoros Zachariadis, Professor and Acting Director of the Energy Environment and Water Research Centre, The Cyprus Institute Knowledge partner: The Cyprus Institute The discussion is part of the European project ‘ACCREU - Assessing Climate Change Risk in Europe’
17 **Date. 29 September** **Time. 17:00-18:00** **Room. Zeno Room**	**Rule of Law beyond Formal Independence: Accountability, Remedies, and Public Trust** **Format. Panel discussion**	**Policy problem.** Formal institutional independence does not by itself secure transparent decision-making, effective remedies, timely enforcement, or public confidence. **Purpose.** Identify reforms that strengthen independence while adding reasoned decisions, review mechanisms, performance transparency, and effective remedies. **Complementary perspectives.** Justice policy, prosecution, independent oversight, legal practice, EU rule-of-law policy, and civil society.	Costas Fytiris, Minister of Justice and Public Order (keynote) Haris Boyiadjis, Transparency Commissioner (keynote) Menelaos Kyprianou, Managing Partner, Michael Kyprianou Law Firm (keynote) Sophia Kleopa Hadjikyriakou, Law Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus, Office of the Law Commissioner Anne Pantazi, European Prosecutor, European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) Symeon Keletzis, Founder and coordinator, EU Diplomatic LGBTIQ+ Network, European External Action Service Chair: Dr. Nicolas Kyriakides, Executive President, Cyprus Forum Knowledge partner: Procedural Law Unit, University of Nicosia

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18 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 18:00-19:00 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Public Disclosure of Intelligence: Trust, Accountability, and Operational Risk** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Authorities need to warn and prepare the public without compromising sources, methods, investigations, or operational effectiveness. **Purpose.** Develop principles for when intelligence should be disclosed, by whom, with what safeguards, and under what accountability framework. **Complementary perspectives.** Intelligence studies, international politics, strategic communications, oversight, and responsible public communication.	Marek Szczepanowski, Ambassador of Poland, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Nicosia Professor Irena Chiru, Professor of Intelligence Studies and Strategic Communications, Mihai Viteazul, National Intelligence Academy Dr. Ofek Riemer, Assistant Professor, Ben-Gurion University Edward Bogan, Founder and Governing Board Chairman, Institute for the Study of States of Exception Chair: Dr. Petros Petrikkos, Head of Operations, Cyprus Security and Intelligence Institute Knowledge partner: Cyprus Security and Intelligence Institute
19 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 18:00-18:30 **Room.** Zeno Room	**A New Concept of Global and Regional Security** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Traditional security models centred on territorial defence and established alliances are being challenged by hybrid threats, cyberattacks, disinformation, attacks on critical infrastructure, supply-chain vulnerabilities, regional conflicts, and the emergence of new security arrangements. For Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean, the challenge is to understand how national defence, EU and NATO capabilities, regional partnerships, and societal resilience should interact within this changing security environment. **Purpose.** Define the essential elements of a contemporary security concept for Cyprus and the wider region. Examine which capabilities states must develop nationally, which should be secured through European or regional co-operation, and how defence planning, procurement, interoperability, critical-infrastructure protection, and democratic accountability should adapt to new threats. **Complementary perspectives.** National defence policy and strategic planning, capability development and defence procurement, EU and NATO security co-operation, international and public law, regional security arrangements, critical-infrastructure resilience, and democratic oversight of defence policy.	Symeon Zambas, Director, Cyprus Security & Defence Academy Panayiotis Hadjipavlis, Defence Director, Ministry of Defence Aris Georgopoulos, Assistant Professor in European and Public Law at the School of Law of the University of Nottingham and Head of the Innovation, AI, Strategic and Defence Procurement Research Unit of the Public Procurement Research Group (PPRG) Chair: Anna Koukkides-Procopiou, President, Politeia Think Tank Knowledge partner: Politeia

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20 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 18:15-19:15 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Resilient Cyprus. A New Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society Architecture of Prevention, Preparedness and Response for National Resilience in the 21st Century** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Prevention, preparedness, response, critical-infrastructure protection, volunteering, and public communication remain distributed across institutions without a clearly tested all-hazards architecture. **Purpose.** Define governance, interoperability, exercises, public communication, and accountability needed to translate the EU Preparedness Union Strategy into a Cyprus model. **Complementary perspectives.** Risk science, central government, local authorities, emergency services, critical infrastructure, civil society, and private sector.	Nicos Longinos, Chief Fire Officer, Cyprus Fire Service Laurent Alfonso, Senior Advisor on Civil Defense and Resilience, SOPRA STERIA GROUP Michael Hadjimichael, Community Leader, Kyperounta Marios Argyrou, Secretary General, Cyprus Red Cross Society Chair: Pierantonios Papazoglou, Head of Research & Strategy, Senior Research Associate in Civil Protection & Safety of Responders, CERIDES Centre-of-Excellence in Risk & Decision Sciences - European University Cyprus Knowledge partner: CERIDES
21 **Date.** 29 September **Time.** 18:30-19:15 **Room.** Zeno Room	**Can Cyprus Reform the State? Governance, Performance, and the Future of Public Administration** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Public-administration reform is repeatedly announced through isolated restructuring, digitalisation, or legislative measures without a stable performance framework, clear ownership, implementation capacity, or transparent reporting to citizens. **Purpose.** Identify three reforms that can improve institutional performance by 2030, assign a responsible owner to each, and define the public indicators through which implementation should be judged. **Complementary perspectives.** Administrative rights and oversight, organisational change and public management, parliamentary and audit experience, executive implementation, and independent moderation.	Maria Stylianou-Lottides, Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights Odysseas Michaelides, MP, Leader, ALMA Dr. Adonis Pegasiou, EIMF Academic Director, European Institute of Management and Finance (EIMF) Chair: Georgia Channi, Financial Editor, Politis Newspaper Knowledge partner: Oxygen for Democracy
Time. 19:15-19:45 **Room.** Programme-wide	**Peace and Democracy Award**	Recipients will be announced on the day.	

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Wednesday, 30 September 2026			
Time. 08:00-08:30 **Room.** Programme-wide	**Registration**		
22 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 08:30-09:15 **Room.** Zeno Room	**From Participation to Influence: Strengthening Civic Engagement in Cyprus** **Format.** Panel Discussion	**Policy problem.** Civic engagement in Cyprus often remains fragmented, episodic, and disconnected from final decisions. Public consultations, citizens' assemblies, participatory budgeting, digital participation, and other mechanisms can become symbolic unless their mandate, inclusiveness, relationship with elected institutions, and influence on policy are clearly defined. At EU level, the proposed AgoraEU programme would bring support for democracy, citizens' participation, rights, equality, culture, and media into a common funding framework, creating both opportunities and questions about how Cyprus can translate European funding into durable national and local participation mechanisms. **Purpose.** Identify how Cyprus can develop a coherent framework for civic engagement that enables citizens to participate meaningfully between elections. Assess which mechanisms are appropriate for different policy questions, including citizens' assemblies, and define the institutional commitments needed to ensure transparency, a reasoned public response, and follow-up. **Complementary perspectives.** Civil society and Politeia, Ireland's citizens' assembly experience, government and Parliament, local government, civic education, digital and community participation, and deliberative-democracy practice.	Assya Kavrakova, Executive Director, European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) Sarah Hamilton, Ambassador of Ireland to Cyprus, Department of Foreign Affairs Yiannis Laouris, MP, Direct Democracy; CEO and Lead Scientist, Future Worlds Center; Past President, International Society for the Systems Sciences; President, Institute for 21st Century Agoras, Cyprus Parliament, Future Worlds Center, Institute for 21st Century Agoras Chair: Cameron Bell, Director of Civic Engagement & Asst. Professor, Hellenic American University

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23 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 08:30-09:15 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Education for Democratic Agency: From Campus to Public Life** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Education systems provide young people with academic knowledge, but do not consistently equip them with the practical skills, confidence, and institutional pathways needed to participate in democratic and public life. Universities, colleges, youth organisations, and civic-education initiatives often operate separately, limiting their collective impact. **Purpose.** Identify how educational institutions and youth organisations can work together to strengthen civic literacy, critical thinking, democratic dialogue, and meaningful youth participation. Develop practical proposals for connecting classroom learning with deliberation, community engagement, policymaking, and European civic opportunities. Examine how Cyprus could use European instruments, including AgoraEU, to connect civic education with democratic participation and media literacy. **Complementary perspectives.** International and Cypriot higher education, civic and international-relations education, student development, youth-policy delivery, experiential learning, and youth-led democratic participation.	Metanios El Halabi, Professor, President, Alexander College Cyprus Dr. Alain Daou, first dean of the Faculty of Business at the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo (AUB Mediterraneo) Dr Alessia Chiriatti, Head, IAI Academy, Istituto Affari Internazionali Maria Miltiadou, Deputy Executive Director, ONEK Chair: Christos Ioannou, Human Resources Officer, EYP, Anthony Chabarekh, Associate Prof., Academic Director, Alexander College Knowledge partner: Alexander College Cyprus
24 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 09:15-10:00 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**From Voting to Public Decisions: Building Real Pathways for Youth Participation** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Youth engagement is frequently limited to consultation or election campaigns, with weak routes into agenda-setting, implementation, and scrutiny. **Purpose.** Map the institutional changes needed for young people to influence decisions between elections at local, national, and European levels. **Complementary perspectives.** Young participants, local government, EU participation mechanisms, youth organisations, and policymakers.	Amalia Avraam, Lawyer, and Co-Chair of the Technical Committee on Youth, MICHAEL KYPRIANOU & CO LLC Charalampos Stylianou, President of the Executive Committee, The European Youth Economic & Political Forum Chair: Neoclis Neocleous, Journalist, Alpha Cyprus Knowledge partner: CARDET
25 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 09:15-10:15 **Room.** Zeno Room	**Finance Beyond Traditional Banking: Digital Banks, Crypto-assets, and Consumer Protection**	**Policy problem.** Digital banks, electronic-money and payment institutions, crypto-assets, and technology-enabled investment services are changing how consumers and businesses access finance. Regulation and oversight remain divided across different authorities, while consumers may	George Karatzias, Chairman, Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission Valentina Georgiadou, Financial Commissioner, The Financial Ombudsman of the Republic of Cyprus Andreas Papadatos, General Manager, The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus

	Format. Panel discussion	not understand whether their funds are protected, which authority supervises a provider, or how they can obtain redress when something goes wrong. These developments also create new challenges concerning governance, financial reporting, cybersecurity, anti-money-laundering controls, market integrity, and professional accountability. **Purpose.** Clarify how Cyprus should regulate and supervise its evolving financial-services ecosystem while supporting responsible innovation. Identify gaps in consumer protection, disclosure, complaints and redress, governance, accounting, and regulatory co-ordination, and define the safeguards needed to build trust in digital banking, payments, investment services, and crypto-assets. **Complementary perspectives.** Securities and crypto-asset regulation, market supervision and investor protection, financial complaints and consumer redress, accounting and audit, corporate governance, professional standards, compliance, and the operational perspective of digital financial-service providers.	Irena Georgiadou, Vice Chairperson, Glafcos Clerides Institute Chair: Tasos Zachos, CEO/Partner Fortune Greece, Managing Director Forward Media
26 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 10:15-10:45 **Room.** Zeno Room	**Cyprus-China at 55: Partnership, Connectivity, and Strategic Choice** **Format.** Fireside discussion	**Policy problem.** The 55th anniversary of Cyprus-China diplomatic relations provides an opportunity to assess bilateral ties against changing EU policy, economic-security concerns, connectivity needs, and competing approaches to major global crises. **Purpose.** Identify areas of practical bilateral co-operation, clarify how they interact with Cyprus's EU obligations and risk-management needs, and surface areas of agreement and disagreement on major international issues. **Complementary perspectives.** Chinese diplomacy, Mediterranean connectivity and investment, EU policy analysis, Cyprus trade and foreign policy, and independent moderation.	H.E. Ambassador Yundong Yang, Ambassador of China to Cyprus, Chinese Embassy in Cyprus Chair: Cleopatra Kitti, Advisor to International Organisations and Governments; Certified Independent Director; Founder, The Mediterranean Growth Initiative, Cleopatra Kitti Limited

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27 **Date. 30 September** **Time. 10:00-10:45** **Room. Aphrodite Room**	**What Future for UN Peacekeeping in the Eastern Mediterranean?** **Format. Panel discussion**	**Policy Problem. The UN is entering a period of significant institutional and operational change. Geopolitical fragmentation, renewed conflict and severe financial pressures are challenging multilateral action, while the UN80 reform process and the review of UN peace operations are prompting a broader rethink of how peacekeeping can remain effective. In the Eastern Mediterranean, this challenge is particularly immediate as UNIFIL enters its final mandate period and questions arise over the future of functions such as monitoring, liaison, reporting and de-escalation. Cyprus provides a particularly relevant setting, given that UNFICYP remains one of the UN's longest-running peacekeeping missions.** **Purpose. Examine what this period of transition means for the future of UN peacekeeping in the Eastern Mediterranean, including which functions remain indispensable when missions are reduced, reconfigured or closed, what lessons can be transferred across different missions, and where the UN can continue to provide distinctive value in preventing escalation and sustaining peace.** **Complementary perspectives. Peace operations and peacebuilding expertise; experience from international peace and security institutions; regional and Cypriot perspectives on conflict prevention and democratic resilience; and practical experience of UN political processes and peacekeeping in the Eastern Mediterranean.**	**Annika Hilding Norberg, Head of GCSP Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)** **Dr. Arthur Boutellis, Non-resident Senior Adviser at the International Peace Institute (IPI)** **Dr. Judith Vorrath, International Security Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)** **Chair: Dr. Carsten Wieland, Former Senior UN Adviser in the Political Process on Syria; Senior Associate at the PRIO Cyprus Centre; Associate Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)** **Knowledge Partner: FES**
28 **Date. 30 September** **Time. 10:45-11:30** **Room. Zeno Room**	**Housing beyond Demand Subsidies: Can Enterprise Zones Rebalance Cyprus?** **Format. Panel discussion**	**Policy problem. Housing affordability, regional imbalance, planning constraints, and access to employment are being treated as separate problems, while supply-side governance remains underdeveloped.** **Purpose. Stress-test enterprise zones against alternative housing tools and identify the legal, fiscal, planning, and infrastructure conditions for a viable pilot.**	**Charalambos Pitros, CEO, Zyprus Real Estate** **Patrina Taramidou, Director, Head of Housing Policy and European Affairs Directorate, Ministry of Interior** **George Chrysochos, Executive Director, Cyfield Group** **Michalis Hadjipanayiotou, Chief Executive Officer, Cybarco Development Ltd** **Chairs: Nicoletta Kouroushi, International Relations Analyst & Journalist, Independent** **Andreas Papallas, Architect / Researcher, ADP**

		Complementary perspectives. Property economics, development, business, local government, planning, social housing, and tenant or household experience.	**Knowledge partner:** Nea Dynami
29 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 10:45-11:15 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**SPARKing Democratic Change: Removing Barriers for Youth with Disabilities** **Format.** Fireside discussion	**Policy problem.** Young people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities face practical and institutional barriers to participation that generic youth-engagement policies do not address. **Purpose.** Identify specific accessibility, support, representation, and procedural changes needed for meaningful participation in public life. **Complementary perspectives.** A young person with lived experience, disability-rights expertise, project implementation, and a responsible public authority.	**Stavros Stavrou**, President, Centre of Theatre for Children and Young People - ASSITEJ (Cyprus) **Chair:** Olga Constantinou, Journalist, Alpha Cyprus **Knowledge partner:** CARDET
30 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 11:30-11:45 **Room.** Zeno Room	**Format.** Keynote Address		**John Breslow**, US Ambassador to Cyprus introduced by Dr. Nicolas Kyriakides, Executive President, Cyprus Forum

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31 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 11:45-12:45 **Room.** Zeno Room	**Israel, Palestine, and the Future of Regional Diplomacy: From Humanitarian Emergency to a Credible Political Horizon** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Regional diplomacy is repeatedly pulled back into crisis management. New security and connectivity architectures, including initiatives presented through the Board of Peace, cannot be assessed separately from humanitarian protection, Palestinian political agency, Syria's political and economic stabilisation, refugee and displacement dynamics, security guarantees, and a credible political horizon. **Purpose.** Identify the minimum diplomatic and institutional conditions required to move from emergency response towards an implementable political process, and test whether emerging regional frameworks can support inclusive and sustainable peace across interconnected crises, including Palestine and Syria, or merely manage instability. **Complementary perspectives.** Palestinian diplomacy, Syrian political and regional perspectives, Arab-American bridge-building, Israeli and regional peacebuilding, European-Mediterranean diplomacy, and Cyprus-based regional analysis.	Farah Al Atassi, Ambassador of Peace , UN Peace Foundation, President, American Arab Center , Senior Political Advisor to the transitional Syrian Government, CEO AL Farah Foundation for Development, American Arab Center, AL Farah Foundation, Syrian American Investment Forum Dr. Nimrod Goren, Executive Board Member & Co-Founder, Diplomeds; President and Founder, Mitvim Institute, Diplomeds - The Council for Mediterranean Diplomacy & Mitvim - The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies Narek Minasyan, Expert, Armenian Council Omar Shaban Ismail, Founder and CEO of Palthink for Strategic Studies (online) Chair: Harry Tzimitras, Director, PRIO Cyprus Centre Knowledge Partner: Diplomeds, PRIO, Armenian Council
32 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 11:15-12:15 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Missing-Person Investigations after the Metaxas Case: Risk Signals, Police Policy, and Accountability** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** The Metaxas case raised serious questions about how missing-person reports are assessed, escalated, connected across cases, and communicated, particularly where vulnerability, migration status, gender, or institutional bias may affect the response. **Purpose.** Identify the operational and oversight reforms required for risk assessment, case escalation, data linkage, supervisory review, family communication, and transparent accountability in missing-person investigations. **Complementary perspectives.** Police operations, parliamentary scrutiny, independent oversight, migrant and victim perspectives, gender-based violence expertise, and trauma-informed moderation.	Michalis Paraskeva, MP Andriani Tsili, Ph.D. Candidate, Gender Studies Program, Research Project Manager, University of Cyprus Evie Nicolaou, Cyprus Police Caroline Van den Berghe, Journalist (online) Chair: Paris Prokopiou,Director, 'Pleiades', Andreas Sheittanis, Film Director & Writer, Parrot With a Carrot, Andreas Hadjigeorgiou, Senior Lawyer (Michael Chambers & Co LLC) & Visiting Lecturer on Human Rights (University of Cyprus), Michael Chambers & Co LLC

33 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 12:15-13:00 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**From Strategic Location to Strategic Agency: Cyprus's Sovereign Capacity Test** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Cyprus's geography and partnerships create strategic relevance, but relevance does not automatically provide the capacity to function, choose, repair, and sustain essential systems under pressure. The Gulf and the Levant are increasingly connected through infrastructure, energy, data, and maritime routes, making unmanaged dependencies a security issue. The Mecca defence agreement between Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and Pakistan illustrates the emergence of new regional security arrangements outside traditional Western-led structures, with implications for deterrence, defence co-operation, and the strategic choices of states in the Eastern Mediterranean. **Purpose.** Apply a practical test to critical dependencies: what Cyprus must own, what it can reliably assure with partners, and what it must be able to substitute across energy, data, maritime awareness, cyber resilience, repair, and dual-use innovation. **Complementary perspectives.** Operational sovereignty and aerospace, research infrastructure, the technology ecosystem, India-Cyprus and India-Europe connectivity, partner-country resilience, and independent moderation.	Mirko Kruppa, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Germany in Cyprus Manish, High Commissioner of India to Cyprus, High Commission of India Shay Gal, Founder & Principal, Line of State Symeon Kassianides, Group Chairman and CEO, Hyperion Group (Hyperion Systems Engineering Ltd) Chair: Konstantin Valkov, Director of Special Projects and Lecturer, New Bulgarian University, Host, The Bureau
Time. 13:00-14:00 **Room.** Programme-wide	**Lunch break**		
34 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 14:00-14:20 **Room.** Zeno Room	**From Commitments to Credibility: Delivering Transparency and Rule-of-Law Reform in Cyprus** **Format.** Fireside discussion	**Policy problem.** Cyprus has advanced reforms concerning anti-corruption, lobbying transparency, public consultation, and the governance of key independent institutions. Formal compliance and legislative activity, however, do not necessarily secure effective implementation, institutional independence, accountability, or public trust. **Purpose.** Assess whether the current reform programme is producing enforceable checks and balances, transparent public decision-making, meaningful institutional autonomy, and	Christodoulos Charalambous, Member of the Office of the Deputy Minister to the President, Presidency of the Republic of Cyprus Chair: Dr. Nicolas Kyriakides, Executive President, Cyprus Forum Knowledge partner: Oxygen for Democracy

		demonstrable consideration of citizens' input. Identify the remaining implementation gaps and the measurable benchmarks against which progress should be evaluated. Complementary perspectives. Executive co-ordination and reform delivery, institutional design and checks and balances, anti-corruption and lobbying compliance, digital public consultation, civil-society scrutiny, and public trust.	
35 Date. 30 September Time. 14:00-14:45 Room. Aphrodite Room	**From Candidate Status to Membership: Moldova and the Credibility of EU Enlargement** Format. Panel discussion	Policy problem. EU enlargement has regained strategic urgency, but a gap remains between political commitments, accession negotiations, domestic reform delivery, and the Union's capacity to absorb new members. Moldova must advance institutional and rule-of-law reforms while confronting security pressures, foreign interference, economic vulnerabilities, and the unresolved Transnistrian conflict. Purpose. Identify the reforms and political decisions required to translate Moldova's candidate status and accession negotiations into measurable progress towards membership. Assess how the EU can preserve credible conditionality while providing candidates with security, institutional, and economic support, and consider the contribution of smaller member states such as Cyprus. Complementary perspectives. Moldova's accession experience, EU enlargement policy, institutional and rule-of-law reform, security and democratic resilience, unresolved territorial conflicts, and comparative perspectives from Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.	Cristina Cerevate, State Secretary for European Affairs, State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova Dr. Dritan Abazović, Former PM of Montenegro, Member of Parliament of Montenegro, Parliament of Montenegro Tedi Dobi, Deputy Minister of Justice of Albania Marilena Raouna, Former Minister of European Affairs of Cyprus Marko Skral, Deputy Head of Mission, Head of Political Section, Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Cyprus Chair: George Hadjipavli, Programme Coordinator, The Eastern Mediterranean Programme at Oxford Knowledge partner: SEESOX

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36 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 14:20-15:05 **Room.** Zeno Room	**Informal Care as Essential Infrastructure: A Cyprus Policy Settlement** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Informal carers sustain long-term care systems but remain under-recognised in social protection, employment policy, respite provision, data, and service design. **Purpose.** Define a practical policy package for recognition, assessment, respite, income and employment support, training, and integration with formal services. **Complementary perspectives.** European carers network, social-welfare administration, patient organisation, carers association, and health-services research.	Shannon Pfohman, Executive Director, Eurocarers Stavroulla Georgiou, Administrative Officer, Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare Filios Savvides, informal carer to his mother Antri Mina, informal carer to her child Chair: Marios Kantaris, Chair of Thalpo/Θάλπω Informal Carer Network Knowledge partner: Health Services and Social Policy Research Centre, Cyprus
37 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 14:45-15:30 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Pension Reform after the Missed Deadline: From Social Dialogue to a Credible Settlement** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** The government's target of tabling its pension-reform bill in Parliament on 20 September is no longer achievable, while the social partners still do not have the draft. The delay leaves limited time for scrutiny and agreement on adequacy, sustainability, contributions, retirement conditions, and transitional protections. **Purpose.** Set a credible revised timetable, identify the policy choices still unresolved, and agree minimum standards for consultation, evidence, impact assessment, and parliamentary scrutiny before the bill is tabled. **Complementary perspectives.** Trade unions, the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance or Social Insurance Services, employers, and independent moderation with pensions or public-finance expertise.	Maria Christou, Social Insurance Officer A'Social Insurance Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance Andreas Charalambous, Chair, Cyprus Fiscal Council Lena Panayiotou, Assistant Director General, Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation (OEB) Andreas Alexi, legal officer KEBE Chair: Philippos Mannaris, CEO, Aon Solutions Cyprus Ltd
38 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 15:05-15:50 **Room.** Zeno Room	**Tourism as Political Infrastructure: Mobility, Influence, and Regional Connection** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Tourism policy is measured mainly through arrivals and revenue, overlooking its effects on public diplomacy, regional connection, labour mobility, local legitimacy, and social pressure. **Purpose.** Define where tourism policy legitimately intersects with diplomacy and social policy, and where claims about political impact require stronger evidence. **Complementary perspectives.**	Yiannis Kouis, Director of Tourism, Deputy Minister of Tourism Dr. Fabio Carbone, UON School of Marketing & Hospitality Management | Faculty of Business and Law, Head of the UON Research Centre for Global Economic and Social Development (GESD), UNAI Institutional Lead (recorded) Philippos Drousiotis, Executive Chairman, Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI) Raymond Hyma, University of Warwick, UK, Monash University, Australia, PRIO Centre Cyprus

			Chair: Dr. Katerina Antoniou, Assistant Professor in Tourism and International Relations, UCLan Cyprus Knowledge partner: UCLan
39 Date. 30 September Time. 15:50-16:30 Room. Zeno Room	**Capital Markets Union for Founders: What EU Inc Would Actually Change** Format. Panel discussion	Policy problem. European founders still face fragmented company-law requirements, uneven access to growth capital, different employee-share-option regimes, and significant costs when operating or raising finance across borders. The proposed "EU Inc" or 28th-regime company structure could simplify incorporation and cross-border scaling, but it would not automatically resolve differences in taxation, insolvency, securities regulation, or labour law. Purpose. Define which practical barriers an EU-wide corporate regime could remove for founders and investors, and which would remain dependent on wider Capital Markets Union and Savings and Investments Union reforms. Identify the minimum legal, regulatory, and financing package required for EU Inc to become a usable scale-up instrument rather than an additional corporate form. Complementary perspectives. Founders and scale-ups, venture capital and institutional investment, company and securities law, employee equity and talent mobility, insolvency and restructuring, taxation, digital incorporation, and the position of start-ups based in smaller European markets.	Panayiotis Georgiou, Legal Engineer, Fidura Stefanos Kyprianou, APLA Chair: Panis Pieri, Founder of Panis.News Knowledge partner: APLA

40 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 16:15-17:00 **Room.** Aphrodite Room	**Institutions Under Strain: How Resilient Is Democracy in Cyprus?** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Democratic resilience depends not only on the holding of elections, but also on the strength of institutions, the rule of law, effective checks and balances, the protection of fundamental rights, and public trust. In Cyprus, growing demands for transparency and accountability, combined with political polarisation and broader challenges to democratic governance, raise questions as to whether the existing institutional safeguards are sufficiently robust and effective. **Purpose.** Assess the resilience of Cyprus's institutions, identify the gaps between institutional safeguards and their implementation in practice, and consider the reforms required to strengthen accountability, institutional credibility, the rule of law, and the protection of citizens' rights. **Complementary perspectives.** Parliamentary oversight and legislative practice; the role and institutional independence of the Auditor General, the Independent Authority against Corruption, and other independent public officials; constitutional and public law; human rights; and independent legal moderation.	Fotini Tsiridou, Chairwoman, Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice and Public Order, House of Representatives Nikitas Hatzimihail, Professor at Department of Law, University of Cyprus, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Studies for Politics and Democracy Dr. Costas Paraskeva, Associate Professor of Public Law and Human Rights, Chair of the Department of Law, the University of Cyprus. Dr. Panagiotis Christias, Associate Professor of Political and Social Philosophy at the University of Cyprus, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Studies for Politics and Democracy Chair: Dr. Kriton Dionysiou, Lecturer in Private and Commercial Law, University of Limassol and Member of the Board of Directors, Institute of Studies for Politics and Democracy Knowledge partner: Institute of Studies for Politics and Democracy
41 **Date.** 30 September **Time.** 16:30-17:15 **Room.** Zeno Room	**Democratic Backsliding in Europe: How Resilient Is Cypriot Democracy?** **Format.** Panel discussion	**Policy problem.** Democratic backsliding in Europe is expressed not only through institutional ruptures, but also through the gradual weakening of checks and balances, public trust, accountability, and citizen participation. The AfD's victory in the September 2026 Saxony-Anhalt election, with 43.8 per cent of the vote but without an absolute majority, raises questions about the durability of the political 'firewall', the response of mainstream parties, and how democratic institutions should address profound electoral realignment. **Purpose.** Assess the resilience of Cypriot democracy against specific criteria and identify	Dr. Yiannos Katsourides, Associate Professor, University of Nicosia, Department of Politics and Governance, Unit of Comparative Democratic Studies Maria Stylianidi, Assistant Professor at Frederick University School of Law, Attorney at Law, Member of the Supervisory Committee of OLAF/Elected Chair, Frederick University /School of Law, Supervisory Committee of OLAF Katerina Kalaitzaki, Lecturer in EU Public Law, University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) Cyprus, Centre for the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV) Philip Petropoulos, Founder & President, Debate House Scott Greytak, Deputy Executive Director, Transparency International U.S.

		institutional interventions for prevention, early warning, and accountability. Complementary perspectives. Cypriot political analysis, comparative European experience, the rule of law and democratic legitimacy, diplomacy, and independent journalistic scrutiny.	Chair: Loucianos Lyritsas, Cyprus correspondent for Deutsche welle, Investigative Journalism and Editorial Direction for the De Facto docuseries on Omega TV, Deutsche welle Knowledge partner: Comparative Democratic Studies Unit, CRoLEV, Frederick University
42 Date. 30 September Time. 17:00-17:45 Room. Aphrodite Room	**Quality of Life Index: From Measurement to Service Reform** Format. Panel discussion	Policy problem. Survival metrics do not capture the long-term physical, psychological, social, employment, and financial effects of cancer, and service planning lacks a shared quality-of-life measure. Purpose. Test the proposed Cyprus Quality of Life Index and identify how its evidence could change survivorship services and funding decisions. Complementary perspectives. Patients and survivors, oncology, psycho-social care, health policy, data or index design, and service commissioning.	Marios Charalambides, Patient Advocate/ Ombudsman of the Republic of Cyprus, Patents' Advocate Office Stephanie Christodoulidou, Head of Psychosocial Services/Patient Advocate, Europa Donna Cyprus Yiola Marcou, Medical Oncologist, Bank of Cyprus Oncology Centre Chair: Dr. Sotiris Themistokleous, Director of Strategic Development, Center for Social Innovation - CSI Knowledge partner: CSI