AGENDA

Cyprus Forum Athens 2026

Greece and Cyprus in a Changing World:

Europe, the Transatlantic Relationship and the Eastern Mediterranean

DATE	VENUE
Friday, 6 November 2026	**Athens Capital Hotel – MGallery Collection**

PROGRAMME

09:00 - 10:00	**Registrations**
10:00 - 10:30	**Welcome Addresses** **10:00 - 10:15 Dr. Nicolas Kyriakides** Executive President, Cyprus Forum **10:15 - 10:30 Dr. Elena Lazarou** Director General, ELIAMEP

01

10:30 - 11:30

PANEL DISCUSSION

Europe's Competitive Edge: Opportunities in a Shifting Global Economy

Geopolitical competition is increasingly accompanied by economic and technological competition. Changing trade relationships, concerns over strategic dependencies, the transformation of global supply chains, technological disruption and the green transition are challenging Europe to rethink the foundations of its economic model.

The panel will move beyond a diagnosis of Europe's competitiveness challenges to consider where new opportunities lie. It will explore how Europe can mobilize investment, deepen the Single Market, strengthen innovation and productivity, reduce critical dependencies and leverage its economic and regulatory weight internationally.

The discussion will also consider the perspectives of Greece and Cyprus as outward-looking European economies located at the Union's southeastern frontier.

PANELISTS

Agathi Pafili
Senior Vice-President, Capital Group

Dr. Fay Makantasi
Research Director, diaNEOsis

Prof. Spyros Blavoukos
Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB) and ELIAMEP

Yannis Mastrokostas
Director Government Affairs, PAPASTRATOS, An affiliate of Philip Morris International

MODERATOR

Lucas Velidakis
Journalist, Senior Editor, Athens Voice

11:30 - 11:35	**Keynote Address** **Dr. Tasos Chatzivasileiou** Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic
11:35 – 11:40	**Keynote Address** **Marilena Raouna (online)** Former Deputy Minister for European Affairs, Republic of Cyprus
11:40 - 11:55	**Coffee Break**

02

11:55 – 12:55

PANEL DISCUSSION

Geopolitics:
A View from the Region

The Eastern Mediterranean sits at the intersection of some of today's most consequential geopolitical developments. The continuing war in Ukraine, instability across the Middle East, the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz and global maritime routes, the growing strategic presence and influence of China and Russia across the wider region, and changes in the transatlantic relationship all have direct implications for the security and prosperity of the region.

Taking place only three days after the U.S. midterm elections, the discussion will also provide an opportunity to assess the direction of U.S. foreign policy and its implications for Europe, NATO and American engagement in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East.

Rather than addressing these developments separately, the panel will explore how they interact when viewed from Greece and Cyprus and what they mean for the region's role in an evolving global order.

PANELISTS

Prof. Panayotis Tsakonas

Professor of International Relations and Security Studies, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Anna Koukkides-Procopiou

President of Politeia Think Tank, Fellow of Jackson School of Global Affairs/Yale University, former Minister of Justice and Public Order of Cyprus

Prof. Constantinos Adamides

Head of Dpt of Politics and Governance, University of Nicosia
Director, Institute of Studies for Politics and Democracy (ISPD)

Prof. Konstantinos Tsimonis

Assistant Professor in Chinese Politics and Academic Lead of the Institute of International Relations (IDIS) China Program, Panteion University

MODERATOR

Ino-Despoina Afentouli

Senior Policy Advisor and Head of the Observatory of Geopolitics and Diplomacy, Hellenic Foundation for Foreign and European Policy (ELIAMEP)

03

12:55 - 13:55

PANEL DISCUSSION

Zooming into the Region: Energy, Technology and Transport as Strategic Connectors

The final panel will move from the global and European levels to the Eastern Mediterranean itself, focusing on sectors where geopolitical relevance can translate into tangible economic opportunity.

Energy networks, ports and shipping, transport corridors, digital infrastructure, telecommunications and emerging technologies increasingly determine how regions connect to global markets and how resilient they are to external shocks.

Greece and Cyprus occupy strategic positions between Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. The panel will consider how energy, technological and transport connectivity can strengthen the region's economic role while contributing to European energy security, resilience and competitiveness.

PANELISTS

Presentation on the Strategic Importance of AI:

Professor Georgios Doukidis
School of Business, University of Nicosia at UNIC Athens
Vice-Chairman, National Council for Research, Technology and Innovation, Greece

Philokypros Roussounides
Secretary General, Cyprus Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Danae Bezantakou
CEO, Navigator Shipping Consultants Ltd

Pavlos Efthymiou
Director General, Hellenic Entrepreneurs Association (EENE); Executive Advisor to the Athens Medical Group

MODERATOR

Evdokia Bakalou
Member, Think Tank SYNERGIA

13:55 – 14:00

Closing Remarks

Dr. Nicolas Kyriakides, Executive President, Cyprus Forum

Dr. Elena Lazarou, Director General, ELIAMEP

14:00 - 15:30

WORKING LUNCH

Global Shifts - Regional Aspects

By invitation only

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