

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS IN VIENNA

# Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU

24 April 2026



The Cyprus Presidency acts as a **responsible and honest broker**, in full respect of **institutional propriety** and in close cooperation with the European Parliament and the European Commission.

We ensure **continuity and coherence** with the work of our Trio partners, adapting as necessary to **geopolitical and geoeconomic developments**.

Our objective is to **transform challenges into opportunities**, ensuring that our ambition is matched by **tangible results**.

# Cyprus Presidency in numbers (January – March 2026):

- Cyprus Presidency chaired:
  - 21 Council of the EU meetings;
  - 2 IGCs (Inter-Governmental Conferences) advancing Montenegro's accession;
  - 2 Informal Ministerial working meetings advancing Ukraine's and Moldova's accession;
  - 2 Extraordinary Informal Ministerial Meetings on Housing and Energy;
  - 1 Tripartite Social Summit;
  - Over 860 meetings at the level of COREPER (Committee of Permanent Representatives), and working groups.
- Negotiations with the European Parliament conducted by Cyprus Presidency, on behalf of the Council:
  - 21 Political Trilogues (Negotiations between Council of the EU, EU Parliament, EU Commission)
- Meetings hosted in Cyprus
  - 8 Informal Ministerial Meetings and 65 informal high-level and expert meetings, hosting over 9,000 participants.

THE 5 PILLARS OF THE PRESIDENCY



**Security, Defence  
Readiness and  
Preparedness**

**Competitiveness**

**Open to the  
World**

**A Union of Values  
that Leaves No  
one Behind**

**A Long-term  
Budget**



PILLAR 1

# **Autonomy through Security, Defence Readiness, and Preparedness**



# The Cyprus Presidency works to:

- Stand firmly with Ukraine, ensuring continued EU support at all levels
- Accelerate implementation of the European Defence White Paper, Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030, and the Preparedness Union Strategy
- Effectively manage migration in both its internal and external dimensions
- Strengthen internal security, and law enforcement cooperation
- Reach agreement with the European Parliament on the Defence Readiness legislative package
- Advance the Military Mobility Package towards Council agreement



# Outcomes (January – March):

- Implementation of SAFE (Security Action for Europe) instruments:
  - adoption of decisions for financial assistance under SAFE to Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Spain, Croatia, Cyprus, Portugal, Romania, Greece, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Finland;
- Council Conclusions on (i) enhancing the EU's capacity to counter hybrid threats (ii) the EU Drugs Strategic Framework.



PILLAR 2

# Autonomy through Competitiveness



# The Cyprus Presidency works to:

- Strengthen the Single Market
- Promote regulatory simplification to support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
- Strengthen energy security and ensure affordable, predictable prices
- Advance the green transition while supporting competitiveness
- Advance trilogue negotiations on (i) Artificial Intelligence, and (ii) air passenger rights
- Advance legislative work on Environmental, Automotive, food security packages
- Work towards Council Conclusions on: EU Ports Strategy, EU Industrial Maritime Strategy



# Outcomes (January – March):

- Agreement between Council and EP on **(i)** revision of the Union Customs Code; **(ii)** amendment of the Regulation on CO<sub>2</sub> emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles;
- Council Conclusions on: **(i)** the implementation of the five-year consumer agenda up to 2030; **(ii)** the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy; **(iii)** the EU agenda for cities; **(iv)** the European Court of Auditors' special report on 'Financial corrections in Cohesion Policy'.



PILLAR 3

# A Union Open to the World



# The Cyprus Presidency works to:

- Ensure continued EU support to Ukraine
- Achieve further progress on Montenegro accession chapters and advance Albania's accession process
- Advance Ukraine and Moldova EU accession negotiations
- Strengthen engagement with the Southern Neighbourhood and Gulf partners
- Work towards expanding EU trade agreements with Mexico, India, and Indonesia



# Outcomes (January – March):

- Council decisions authorising the Commission (i) to sign agreements between EU and Mercosur (South American trade union); (ii) to sign a package of agreements with Switzerland.
- Adoption of targeted amendments to the Regulation establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe).
- On EU-UK relations:
  - Council decisions authorising Commission to negotiate the UK's participation in the EU internal electricity market, and the UK's financial contribution to EU programmes;
- On Enlargement:
  - Montenegro - held two IGCs and provisionally closed two chapters: Chapter 32 (Financial Control) and Chapter 21 (Trans-European Networks);
- Council Conclusions regarding the 14th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference



PILLAR 4

# **An Autonomous Union of Values that Leaves No one Behind**



# The Cyprus Presidency works to:

- Advance affordable housing
- Safeguard children's rights
- Promote gender equality and inclusion
- Support fair employment and working conditions
- Strengthen the European Health Union
- Enhance mental health support
- Advance trilogue negotiations on: Child sexual abuse Directive & Regulation, Critical Medicines Act
- Support implementation of the European Affordable Housing Plan
- Progress work on: Erasmus+, EU Agora



# Outcomes (January – March):

- Agreement with EP on a Regulation aiming to broaden the scope of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF), extending support to workers facing unemployment.
- Agreement within the Council on **(i)** amendment to the European Electoral Act enabling proxy voting in the EP for pregnant Members; **(ii)** Regulation on the protection of vulnerable adults.
- Council Conclusions on: **(i)** Investing in children: strengthening child well-being, social inclusion and combating child poverty in the EU; **(ii)** the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy and the Joint Employment Report 2026; **(iii)** on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- Council Recommendation on human capital, addressing labour and skills shortages at EU level.



PILLAR 5

# A Long-term Budget

# Expected Outcomes:



- Advance negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (EU long-term budget)
- Deliver a mature negotiating framework with indicative figures
- Advance negotiations on key instruments: NRPP, ECF, Global Europe (Funding instruments under MFF)

Thank you!

