

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU

13 January 2026

An Autonomous Union.
Open to the World.

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

Security can no longer be understood as one-dimensional. Autonomy entails the capacity to act independently, when necessary, with the protection of citizens and European interests as a paramount objective. Reducing strategic dependencies and adopting a multidimensional, 360-degree approach to security are therefore essential.



The Cyprus Presidency will:

01. **Stand firmly with Ukraine**, ensuring continued EU support at all levels
02. Accelerate implementation of **the European Defence** White Paper, Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030, and the Preparedness Union Strategy
03. Reinforce **transatlantic relations**, deepen EU–NATO cooperation in inclusive and mutually beneficial manner and cooperations with like-minded partners
04. Advance work on **economic security** reducing strategic dependencies
05. Enhance **maritime security**, freedom of navigation and critical infrastructure
06. Strengthen **water security** and resilience as a core stability factor
07. Deliver on the Pact on **Migration** and Asylum - returns and cooperation with third countries
08. Focus on protecting our **democracy** and democratic processes



Key initiatives:

- Facilitate the implementation of the EU Maritime Security Strategy
- Advance discussions on Water Resilience Strategy
- Conclude negotiations on the Directive on smuggling of migrants
- Advance negotiations on the revision of the Cybersecurity Act
- Conclude negotiations on the Returns Regulation
- Drive forward the Democracy Package through work on the European Democracy Shield and the EU Strategy for Civil Society



PILLAR 2

Autonomy through competitiveness

Europe's competitiveness is the basis for resilience and autonomous action. A more competitive Europe will be better placed to secure sustainable growth and deliver on its strategic objectives.



The Cyprus Presidency will:

01. Promote regulatory **simplification** and reduce red tape
02. Deepen the **Single Market**
03. Boost investment, capital markets, and **financial autonomy**
04. Strengthen **energy security** and affordable prices
05. Advance **cross-regional connectivity** through resilient digital networks, modern transport links and key energy corridors
06. Advance the **green and digital transition**



Key initiatives:

- Aim to adopt Council Conclusions on EU Ports Strategy and Industrial Maritime Strategy
- Advance negotiations on the upcoming Industrial Accelerator Act
- Advance negotiations on the Digital, Food and Feed Safety, Automotive, Environment Omnibus Package
- Aim for a political agreement on the Regulation establishing the Union Customs Code and the EU Customs Authority
- Aim for a General Approach on the European Grids Package
- Advance negotiations with the EP on the Regulations ensuring Passengers' Rights.
- Advance negotiations on Connecting Europe Facility (CEF II) 2028-2034



PILLAR 3

Open to the world, Autonomous

Autonomy strengthens Europe's capacity to engage globally. Unity constitutes the Union's core strategic asset, while clarity enhances credibility. Openness remains a deliberate strategic choice, enabling Europe to act outward with confidence and cohesion.



The Cyprus Presidency will:

01. Advance EU **enlargement** as a strategic investment
02. Continue to advance the Union's multifaceted support to Ukraine
03. Expand engagement with **neighbouring regions**
04. Deepen **Mediterranean, Middle East & Gulf** partnerships
05. Reinforce **transatlantic cooperation**
06. Enhance cooperation with UK and other like-minded partners
07. Promote open, rules-based **trade & multilateralism**

Key initiatives:



- Promote implementation and operationalisation of the New Pact for the Mediterranean
- Advance the implementation of the EU-US Joint Statement
- Promote implementation of the EU-UK Summit's outcomes
- Support efforts to strengthen cooperation between EU and NATO
- Support ongoing trade negotiations with strategic partners in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East
- Finalise procedures in Council for already concluded agreements with Latin American and ASEAN states
- Hold an Informal Meeting of Head of States or Governments (including leaders of Southern Mediterranean partner countries)



PILLAR 4

An Autonomous Union of values that leaves no one behind

The strength of our autonomous Union lies in its people and in the active involvement of every European. An autonomous Union leaves no citizen behind: it exists to protect our shared values, empower participation, and create an enabling environment in which all can thrive.



The Cyprus Presidency will:

01. Advance **affordable housing**
02. Safeguard **children's rights** (safe online environment, child poverty, education)
03. Promote **gender equality**, the empowerment of **people with disabilities**, **active ageing**
04. Support **fair and inclusive employment** with adequate working conditions
05. Build a more resilient and **integrated health system**
06. Enhance **mental health** support



Key initiatives:

- Conclude negotiations on Traineeships Directive and the Regulation on Social Security Coordination
- Conclude negotiations on the Critical Medicines Act (Revision of Pharmaceutical legislation) – High level Conference on mental health with focus on youth
- Support the implementation of the European Affordable Housing Plan – Informal Ministerial Conference on Housing
- Council Conclusions and High-Level Conference dedicated to children's wellbeing
- Advance and conclude negotiations on the legislative proposals preventing and combating child sexual abuse
- High Level Conference on Preventing and Combating Cyber Gender-Based Violence - Council Conclusions



PILLAR 5

A long-term budget for an Autonomous Union

Strategic autonomy depends on credible and sustainable financing, with ambition matched by adequate resources. In this context, the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework is the key instrument for translating long-term objectives into concrete action.

The Cyprus Presidency will:



01. Advance negotiations on the **Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–2034**
02. Advance negotiations on key elements as well as the sectoral regulations of the new MFF with the aim of achieving a **Partial General Approach**
03. Deliver a mature negotiating box with **indicative figures** by June 2026



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Thank you!

