



PRESS RELEASE

Cyprus Hosted the 4th European Maritime Space Forum

The 4th European Maritime Space Forum (EMS Forum) was held on 16 April 2026 in Limassol under the auspices of Ms Gesine Meissner, European Coordinator for the European Maritime Space, with the participation of representatives from the European Commission, EU Member States, European organisations, port authorities, as well as stakeholders from the maritime and port industry. The Forum was organised with the support of the Cyprus Ports Authority.

The Forum served as an important platform for dialogue on the progress and future prospects of the European Maritime Space (EMS), within the framework of European transport policy and the strengthening of the resilience and sustainability of supply chains.

In his address, the Minister of Transport, Communications and Works, Mr Alexis Vafeades, highlighted the importance of strengthening the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), particularly for the island Member States of the European Union (EU), as well as the role of reliable maritime connectivity in economic development. He also referred to the need to promote digitalisation and investments in alternative fuels as part of the green transition.

In her opening remarks, the Vice-Chairperson of the Cyprus Ports Authority, Ms Christiana Iacovidou, referred to the role of the EMS as a key pillar of the TEN-T and as an instrument for enhancing connectivity between maritime and land transport, while also emphasising the geostrategic importance of Cyprus as the easternmost Member State of the EU and as a gateway between Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.

As part of the conference, co-funded European projects contributing to the implementation of EMS objectives were presented, including IMPACT, which concerns the expansion of Vasiliko port, and DECARBONLIM, which promotes low-emission solutions at the port of Limassol. The SEMAS-EMSWe and TRAMA projects of the Port of Valencia in Spain, as well as transport-related projects in Malta, were also showcased, while a presentation on support mechanisms was delivered by a representative of the European Investment Bank.

The organisation of the Forum in Cyprus, attracting prominent stakeholders from the maritime and transport sectors, confirms the country's active role in shaping European policies for maritime transport and highlights its strategic position.



