

CYPRUS

Khaleej Times

JANUARY 2026



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HISTORIC UAE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT MARKS NEW CHAPTER IN CYPRUS–UAE RELATIONS

First state visit by a UAE President elevates bilateral ties to strategic implementation, anchored by a joint declaration and expanded cooperation across key sectors



A handout picture provided by the Cypriot government's Press and Information Office shows the UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (centre) inspecting a guard of honour next to Cyprus' President Nikos Christodoulides during a welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Nicosia on December 14, 2025. — AFP

Cyprus and the UAE entered a new phase of their bilateral relationship on December 14, 2025, as the UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan undertook a historic state visit to Cyprus — the first ever by a UAE Head of State. The visit, hosted by Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides, marked a defining milestone in Cyprus–UAE relations and underscored the growing strategic depth between the two nations.

The state visit reflected a partnership built on trust, mutual respect, and a shared vision for regional stability and prosperity. Both sides emphasised that their relationship has matured beyond strategic alignment, with the December 2025 engagements signalling a clear transition toward strategic implementation and tangible outcomes.

At the heart of the visit was the issuance of a joint declaration by Sheikh Mohamed and President Nikos Christodoulides, formally strengthening the Cyprus–UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The declaration outlined an ambitious framework for cooperation spanning trade, investment, energy, defence, tourism, maritime affairs, technology, and humanitarian initiatives.

A key outcome of the declaration was the agreement to develop a Joint Action Plan, to be supervised by the foreign ministries of both countries, aimed at identifying and advancing concrete projects across priority sectors. Economic cooperation featured prominently, with renewed focus on renewable energy, digital transformation, infrastructure development, and cross-border investment opportunities. The leaders also reaffirmed their shared commitment to regional stability, including support for United Nations efforts toward a bizonal, bicommunal solution to the Cyprus issue.

The visit further acknowledged Cyprus's forthcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2026, positioning it as an additional platform to deepen EU–UAE dialogue and cooperation. Humanitarian collaboration was also highlighted, building on the two countries' established track record in maritime aid and regional relief initiatives.

Cyprus reaffirmed its role as a stable and reliable partner in the Eastern Mediterranean, while the UAE reiterated its interest in leveraging Cyprus as a strategic gateway for broader engagement with Europe. The visit followed earlier joint statements and the formalisation of strategic ties in 2022, marking a decisive shift toward implementation and delivery.

Among those closely involved in the visit was the Commercial Counsellor of the Cyprus Trade Centre in the GCC Region – Dubai, George Partasides. Partasides described it as a real honour to be part of a landmark moment in Cyprus–UAE relations, noting that such high-level engagements reinforce bilateral cooperation and reflect a shared commitment to long-term collaboration.

During various discussions in the two days of meetings, Partasides extended his appreciation for the UAE's strong commitment, openness, and continued support, emphasising that the outcomes of the visit will help unlock new sustainable partnerships and long-term value for both economies. In his capacity as Commercial Counsellor, Partasides reaffirmed his role in supporting initiatives that translate political alignment into practical cooperation, particularly in energy, trade, digitalization and investment.

— kushmita@khaleejtimes.com

UAE–CYPRUS TIES ENTER A NEW STRATEGIC PHASE

First-ever UAE President's visit accelerates cooperation across energy, investment, and EU–GCC engagement



The UAE President, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in a meeting with Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of Cyprus, at the Presidential Palace in Nicosia.

► Kushmita Bose

The official state visit of the UAE President, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the Republic of Cyprus on December 14, 2025 marked a historic milestone in relations between the two countries, as the first-ever visit by an Emirati President to Cyprus. The visit reflected the growing maturity of the Cyprus–UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, formalised in February 2022, and highlighted the shared ambition to elevate cooperation well beyond traditional diplomatic engagement.

Set within a period of expanding regional cooperation and economic opportunity, the visit underscored how the Republic of Cyprus and the UAE are positioning their relationship as a long-term, forward-looking partnership rooted in trust, regional stability, and tangible economic outcomes. High-level engagements with President of the Republic of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides focused on accelerating collaboration across priority sectors including trade, investment, energy cooperation, interconnectivity, defence, and large-scale infrastructure, while also reinforcing coordination on humanitarian initiatives and multilateral diplomacy.

Importantly, the visit also came as the Republic of Cyprus prepares to assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2026, adding a wider European dimension to bilateral discussions. Both sides reaffirmed their intention to use this momentum to strengthen EU–UAE and EU–GCC relations, positioning the Republic of Cyprus as a strategic bridge between Europe and the Middle East.

In this interview, Meropi Christofi, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the UAE, reflects on the progress of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, outlines key areas of cooperation now moving

into implementation, and explains how this relationship is evolving into a model for broader regional and international collaboration.

What is the progress on the UAE–Cyprus Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which was formalised in February 2022?

The state visit itself is a very strong indication of the progress we have achieved. Being the first-ever visit by a UAE President to the Republic of Cyprus, it is a milestone that clearly showcases the strategic depth of our relationship. It reaffirms the mutual commitment to further elevating the partnership agreed in 2022, but also reflects an even more ambitious and forward-looking agenda. Today, our cooperation is firmly focused on trade, investments, energy cooperation, and interconnectivity, while also expanding into areas such as humanitarian assistance, where both countries share strong priorities and a proven record of collaboration.

Both nations have expressed determination to increase cooperation across political consultations, defence and security, education, science and technology, and maritime transport. What are the key updates in these areas?

During the meetings, the two Presidents agreed to move decisively towards the development of a Joint Action Plan. This plan is intended to accelerate cooperation across all the fields mentioned and is expected to be finalised very soon. It will include specific tasks assigned to each relevant ministry, alongside formalised consultation mechanisms and regular exchanges. The objective is to ensure that cooperation is not only discussed at a strategic level, but implemented through concrete projects with clear timelines. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus and the UAE will supervise the overall implementation of this Joint Action Plan to ensure continuity and effectiveness.



Meropi Christofi, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the UAE, with President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Right: Constantinos Kombos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus (centre) was also seen in the picture.

Energy, trade and investment, tourism and culture are seen as key growth sectors. Are there any major initiatives or deals in the pipeline?

A wide range of initiatives was discussed at the bilateral level, and both Presidents were very clear that there are no limitations on what can be achieved through our cooperation. Several specific projects are currently under evaluation. Among all sectors, energy cooperation is the most advanced and mature, and I believe this is where we are likely to see the first tangible outcomes. Discussions have covered areas such as energy storage, LNG, logistics, and related infrastructure.

Trade and investment are also a major focus. DP World is already present in the Republic of Cyprus, operating in the country's largest port, and discussions are ongoing regarding the expansion of its operations. We also touched on emerging areas such as artificial intelligence. In this context, the emphasis was that any AI-related investment in Cyprus should be designed to serve a wider regional or European market, ensuring scale, sustainability, and long-term viability.

Our upcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union, starting in January 2026, adds an important dimension to Cyprus-UAE relations. One of our key priorities will be to ensure that the EU maintains a strong focus on its Southern Neighbourhood and on relations with the GCC. We consider our cooperation with the UAE to be a proven success story, particularly in delivering concrete results and effective humanitarian action.

The UAE has also expressed a clear priority to advance negotiations on a free trade agreement with the EU. The Republic of Cyprus intends to play a constructive and facilitating role during its Presidency. Our approach is to identify potential challenges early on, work through them pragmatically, and help move negotiations forward as efficiently as possible. We firmly believe that an EU-UAE free trade agreement would be a win-win outcome for all sides.

People-to-people engagement is often described as a foundation for long-term cooperation. How is this being strengthened?

People-to-people engagement is absolutely central to the success of our partnership. Over the next six months, and especially during the EU Presidency, the Republic of Cyprus will host a number of high-level and technical meetings involving EU member states, Eastern Mediterranean partners, and GCC countries. This will naturally lead to increased travel, exchanges, and institutional interaction.

With the Joint Action Plan in place, we expect these exchanges to become even more structured and frequent. Cultural cooperation is also being strengthened as part of this effort, reflecting our belief that cultural dialogue supports political and economic ties. Connectivity between the Republic of Cyprus and the UAE is already strong, and we are actively exploring ways to expand it further to support tourism, business travel, and broader engagement between our societies.

The Republic of Cyprus is positioning itself as a gateway to Europe and investing in its digital infrastructure. What steps are being taken to attract innovation and technology-driven investment?

The Republic of Cyprus has already put in place the necessary legislative and regulatory frameworks to support innovation and digital investment. This has allowed us to attract a growing number of companies, particularly those seeking access to the EU single market. Establishing a presence in the Republic of Cyprus provides companies with a clear pathway into Europe, which is a significant advantage. Our discussions with the UAE on AI and data centres are part of this broader strategy. These initiatives, once developed, are expected to further enhance the Republic of Cyprus's digital ecosystem and reinforce its role as a technology and innovation hub connecting Europe with the wider region.

Is there anything else you would like to highlight following this landmark visit?

What stood out very clearly during the discussions was the shared understanding between the Republic of Cyprus and the UAE of the global challenges we face and the importance of coordinated responses. There is a strong common priority around humanitarian action and delivering assistance more effectively wherever it is needed.

The discussions were open, frank, and forward-looking. I am confident that in the coming months we will see significant developments, not least because Cyprus's EU Presidency will naturally elevate the visibility of our initiatives. The cooperation between the Republic of Cyprus and the UAE is increasingly seen as an example that can be followed by other EU member states, demonstrating that partnerships can extend well beyond financial and investment cooperation to include humanitarian action, security, and long-term regional prosperity.

CYPRUS—UAE ENGAGEMENT: FROM MOMENTUM TO INVESTMENT

How strategic alignment, institutional frameworks, and sector-led cooperation are translating bilateral ties into measurable economic outcomes



The UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is welcomed by President of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides at the Presidential Palace in Nicosia.

► Marios Tannousis

The relationship between the Republic of Cyprus and the UAE shows what strategic partnerships can deliver when they are built on trust, consistency, and a shared view of progress. Today, this partnership is evolving into a more structured economic agenda, designed to convert high-level engagement into measurable outcomes for trade and investment.

The recent visit of the President of the UAE to Cyprus, alongside senior officials, ministers, and business leaders, reaffirmed the depth of our bilateral ties and the appetite to expand them. It reinforced Cyprus's role as a reliable European partner in a region where stability and predictability carry increasing value, and it set a forward-looking tone for the next phase of cooperation.

A STRUCTURED PLATFORM FOR COOPERATION

This momentum was further strengthened through the Cyprus-UAE high-level roundtable hosted at the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nicosia on 13 December 2025, in collaboration with Invest Cyprus and the Presidency of the Republic of Cyprus.

A key milestone was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Cyprus-UAE Joint Business and Investment Council. The Council provides a standing platform to identify opportunities, coordinate stakeholders, and reduce friction that can delay investment decisions. Invest Cyprus is fully committed to driving closer collaboration with the UAE, and this mechanism can act as a catalyst in this direction.

CYPRUS AS AN EU GATEWAY FOR UAE AND GCC INVESTMENT

Cyprus continues to stand out as a compelling European Union destination, supported by a robust legal framework, strategic geography, and highly skilled human capital. These fundamentals are reinforced by strong macroeconomic performance. Cyprus is among the fastest-growing economies in the EU, operates at near full employment, has reduced public debt below 60% of GDP, and maintains an "A" credit rating from major international rating agencies.

For partners from the UAE and the wider GCC, Cyprus offers direct access to the EU Single Market and a sophisticated, English-speaking professional services ecosystem. This combination supports efficient market entry, regulatory certainty, and long-term stability for companies seeking a European foothold.

WHERE COLLABORATION CAN SCALE

Bilateral cooperation is increasingly focused on sectors that are investment-ready and aligned with both countries' priorities. The recent roundtable discussions highlighted areas including shipping, energy, technology, automation, and multi-thematic projects that combine infrastructure, digital solutions, and sustainable development.

Technology is a strong illustration of Cyprus's evolution. Today, Cyprus is home to more than 800 technology-driven companies across ICT, fintech, gaming, and technology-enabled services. The ICT sector contributes, directly and indirectly, around 14% of GDP, and Cyprus ranks third in the EU in terms of growth in this sector. In 2024, foreign investment in technology increased by more than 200%, while the number of ICT professionals more than doubled in just three years.



/invest Cyprus

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on the ground

As the national investment authority, Invest Cyprus acts as a single point of contact and one stop shop for existing and potential investors. Our dedicated team provides after care and facilitation services, including supporting you in site selection, setting up offices, staff immigration and relocation procedures while continuing to grow its extensive portfolio of available projects and investment opportunities.



www.investcyprus.org.cy



Officials from Cyprus and the UAE sign a memorandum of understanding establishing the Cyprus–UAE Joint Business and Investment Council during a high-level business roundtable in Nicosia on December 13, 2025.

Cyprus is also strengthening its innovation infrastructure. Regulatory tools such as the Capital Markets Commission sandbox, the Central Bank's Innovation Hub, and the upcoming AI Sandbox are positioning Cyprus as a credible place where new solutions can be tested, scaled, and deployed into a market of 450 million EU citizens.

Beyond investment fundamentals, the human dimension matters. Cyprus offers quality of life and a supportive ecosystem for international professionals and their families, backed by a strong academic and research base, including 12 universities, 9 research institutes, and 7 centres of excellence.

TURNING MOMENTUM INTO OUTCOMES

At Invest Cyprus, our role is to help investors move from interest to execution, and from establishment to expansion, acting as a bridge

between investors and the state. The Cyprus-UAE Joint Business and Investment Council adds a practical channel to sustain engagement and accelerate cooperation across priority sectors.

Cyprus, like the UAE, demonstrates that ambition is not constrained by size. The next chapter is about delivery, targeted sector partnerships, investment flows, and results, and we invite UAE and GCC investors to explore the avenues available in Cyprus, the reliable EU partner positioned to support regional and global growth.

— Marios Tannousis is CEO of Invest Cyprus, Member of the Board of the European Fund and Asset Management Association (EFAMA), and Co-Founder and member of the Cyprus Investment Funds Association (CIFA).



Delegates and officials pose for a group photograph outside the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Nicosia during the Cyprus–UAE high-level business roundtable.



Cyprus. Personalised Experiences.

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EXPERIENCE LARNAKA - A MEDITERRANEAN

From coastal city life to mountain villages, Larnaka offers year-round culture, nature

Few destinations combine Mediterranean coastline and cuisine with European culture as seamlessly and as accessibly from the UAE as the Larnaka region in Cyprus. Ideal for an active yet relaxed getaway in every season, Larnaka delivers a well-rounded travel experience just hours from the Gulf.

With flight times of only three to four hours, arrivals at Larnaka International Airport place visitors immediately at the heart of the region, with most hotels and major attractions located within a 15-minute drive.

One of the first sights as the airport gives way to the city is the striking Larnaka Salt Lake, home to flocks of greater flamingos that arrive between November and March. A forest-lined path circles the lake, offering gentle strolls in pleasant year-round temperatures, while the elegant Hala Sultan Tekke Mosque overlooks the water, its reflection shimmering across the surface.

The mosque is the principal Muslim pilgrimage site in Cyprus and one of the island's most important places of worship. It was built on the site where Umm Haram — the Holy Helper and aunt of Prophet Muhammad is believed to have died after falling from her mule during the Arab landing in Larnaka in 648 AD. The mosque was commissioned by Caliph Muawiya and later renovated in 1816 and again in 2002.

Just a five-minute drive from the lake lies Larnaka city itself, which is rapidly gaining attention

for both tourism and investment. International hotel brands are steadily establishing a presence amid broader European infrastructure upgrades, beach enhancements, and digital innovations that bring the city's historic attractions to life.

Despite this evolution, Larnaka has retained a strong sense of authenticity. The modern city remains deeply rooted in tradition, shaped by the many civilisations that passed through this once-vital port town.

Among its historical highlights are the buildings of the British Colonial Administration, marking the start of the palm-lined promenade of Foinikoudes — the city's lively central beach. Nearby, the marina reflects Larnaka's trading past, when it served as the island's main commercial gateway for copper and carob exports. Today, it hosts luxury yachts, mini cruises, and sailing regattas.

Running parallel to the seafront is the historic commercial centre, culminating at the imposing Larnaka Medieval Castle, standing alongside the Kebir (Buyuk) Mosque. Together, they exemplify the city's layered cultural identity. Nearby attractions include the vibrant Larnaka Municipal Market and the restored Zouchouri Square Complex, while a stroll beyond the castle leads to the coastal walkway of Piale Pasha Avenue and the atmospheric Larnaka Art Workshops neighbourhood, where local artists welcome visitors.



MEDITERRANEAN GETAWAY

Culture and authenticity within easy reach of the UAE

One of the city's greatest strengths is its walkability. Landmarks, cafés, restaurants, museums, boutique shops, and interactive monuments — including the Larnaka Storytelling Statues activated via QR codes — are all within easy reach. QR-enabled plaques across the city link visitors to virtual tours, making it simple to explore at your own pace.

English is widely spoken alongside Greek, including on road signs and in shops, ensuring effortless navigation and easy conversation with locals, who are always eager to share a story.

Beyond the city, Larnaka's appeal extends across 75 kilometres of coastline, where organised beaches give way to rolling countryside and mountain villages. Cobbled lanes, stone-built homes, traditional delicacies, and sweeping hilltop views define the rural landscape, complemented by crisp mountain air and panoramic scenery.

Agrotourism is particularly popular, with nature trails winding through aromatic Cypriot herbs, Venetian bridges, and varied terrain ideal for cycling. Each village offers its own character and traditions, including the Larnaka Rural Honey Villages — a cluster of nine mountain communities known for beekeeping and the award-winning village of Lefkara, famed for intricate handmade lace and silver filigree.

Visitors can immerse themselves further through workshops in basketry, pottery, and gastronomy, including halloumi cheese-making and the preparation of unique Cypriot pasta. Whether explored independently or through guided tours, these village experiences reveal the warmth and heritage of the region.

Larnaka's cuisine — a fresh fusion of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern flavours — is best enjoyed al fresco for much of the year, both in the city and in its villages. This relaxed approach to dining reflects the region's broader rhythm of life, where each season brings new reasons to return and explains why Larnaka proudly carries the slogan, "Welcome Back."

More information:

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[i @visitcypruscom](https://www.visitcyprus.com)

[x @visitcyprus](https://www.visitcyprus.com)

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CYPRUS TRADE CENTRE IN THE GCC REGION (DUBAI) DEEPENS CYPRUS AND GCC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH STRATEGIC INITIATIVES IN 2025

A year of landmark milestones for the Cyprus Business Council, global exhibitions with national pavilions reinforced Cyprus's economic, technological and energy ties with the UAE and the wider Gulf



Board Members of the Cyprus Business Council in Dubai: Phivos Stephanou, Member; Andreas Tsintos, Secretary General; Andrea Stefani Melekki, Vice-Chairwoman; Dina El Guindi, Treasurer; Yiannos Olympios, Chairman; Theodoros Kringos, Member; Demetris Zamboglou, Member; Michalis Nikolaou, Member; and Georgios Pandehis, Member.

► Kushmita Bose

Throughout 2025, the Cyprus Trade Centre in the GCC Region – Dubai (CTC), led and supported a wide spectrum of high-impact engagements across the UAE and the wider Gulf, reinforcing Cyprus's positioning as a credible and forward-looking partner in trade, technology, energy, manufacturing, digital assets and software and innovation. From council formations and high-level policy cooperation and MoUs to participation in some of the region's most influential international exhibitions, the year marked a significant step forward in Cyprus–GCC economic diplomacy.

The initiatives beyond the political impact that was reflected at the end of the year with the first ever State Visit of UAE to Cyprus, were aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation, supporting the international expansion of Cypriot companies, and showcasing Cyprus's capabilities across strategic growth sectors.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CYPRUS BUSINESS COUNCIL (CBC) IN DUBAI

One of the most significant milestones of 2025 was the formal establishment of the Cyprus Business Council (CBC) in Dubai. Created following months of collaboration between Cypriot individuals and the CTC, the Council was officially established on 26th November 2025 under the umbrella of Dubai Chambers.

The formation of the CBC marked a decisive and institutional milestone in Cyprus–UAE economic relations, translating long-standing bilateral ties into an operational, private-sector-driven platform. The inaugural meeting was convened in Dubai Silicon Oasis with the strategic support of the International Free Zone Authority, enabling the event to be delivered at scale and with strong institutional visibility with the presence of High Level Executives from both Cyprus and UAE. The CBC was formally established by 30 founding members, representing a cross-section of Cypriot and UAE-based businesses, with the Commercial Counsellor of the CTC acting ex officio. Beyond convening the launch, the CTC supported by initiating consultations with stakeholders, organising preparatory and founding meetings, liaising with UAE partner institutions, and steering the full approval process for the Articles of Association with Dubai Chambers. These concrete actions ensured that the CBC was legally constituted, operationally grounded, and positioned from day one as a credible platform for structured dialogue between Cypriots in the Region, trade facilitation and investment cooperation between the two countries.

PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITIONS WITH A NATIONAL OR/AND AN INFORMATION PAVILION

In cooperation with the Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry (MECI), the CTC organized the participation of the Cyprus with a National or/and an Information Pavilion in major exhibitions in the UAE, as follows:



Gulfood 2025 (19–23 February):

Cyprus participated in Gulfood 2025 with a National Pavilion, in which twenty-five (25) Cypriot companies took part, together with the CTC / MECI.

The significance of participation lies in the fact that Gulfood provides direct access to markets in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, enhancing the outward orientation of Cypriot enterprises and contributing to the creation of new commercial partnerships. During the exhibition, Cypriot companies held business-to-business (B2B) meetings and secured a substantial number of commercial contacts and leads, creating prospects for future agreements and export expansion.



Mobility Elite Summit – Dubai (April 2025):

An information stand was provided to the CTC serving as an information and promotion point for the benefits Cyprus offers for investments.

At the same time, a presentation was delivered by the Commercial Counsellor, during which cooperation prospects, opportunities for business activity and investment opportunities in Cyprus were presented, further enhancing the role and presence of Cyprus in the international business environment and an entry point to Europe.

The Summit brought together senior business executives, sector professionals, investors and representatives from various countries, aiming at knowledge exchange, networking, and highlighting contemporary trends and opportunities in international trade and investment across different countries. Cypriot companies such as Eurofast, MASO Strategic and Cyprus Business Group (CBG) also participated. In cooperation with the organizers, a magazine was also distributed in the local market.



Seamless Middle East 2025 (20–22 May):

The year 2025 marked Cyprus's first participation, with six Cypriot companies. In parallel, the CTC participated with an information stand,

which operated as a point for information and support. Companies participated from various sectors, including cutting edge solutions in Fintech, Reg-Tech Automation, Compliance, Cybersecurity, AI Platforms and more.



World Utilities Congress (WUC) 2025 (27–29 May):

First-time participation with a National Pavilion at the above exhibition in Abu Dhabi (participants included: the Electricity Authority of Cyprus, the Cyprus Solar Energy Industrial Association, the Water Development Department, and the CTC/MECI), with the presence of the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (who participated in a panel), the Permanent Secretary of MECI, the Ambassador, and other senior officials.

Cyprus's presence at the exhibition, constituted an important initiative, with many leads for further strengthening Cyprus and GCC bilateral relations in the energy and water sectors and was highly appreciated by the organisers.



Gitex Global 2025 (13–17 October):

For the fourth consecutive year, the Republic of Cyprus participated with a National Pavilion at Gitex Global 2025 with 14 Cypriot technology companies, showcasing the range of services, solutions and products offered by Cyprus's technology ecosystem.

The companies' fields of activity covered areas such as mixed-reality software, deep tech and AI-based hardware and software solutions, cybersecurity, regulatory compliance (reg for tech), automation (AI-enabled hardware & software), edtech, IT consulting services, as well as hosting services, meteorological monitoring and managed services.

Of particular importance was the networking dinner held on the evening of Tuesday, October 14, on the occasion of Cyprus's participation in Gitex Global. The event, which hosted more than 100 participants and high-level guests, was organised and executed entirely by the CTC, which assumed full responsibility for planning, coordination and implementation at both organisational and strategic levels. Particular emphasis was placed on the methodical and targeted seating arrangement of guests, following careful review of their professional profiles, maximizing opportunities for meaningful networking.

DOERS SUMMIT (26–27 November):

On the initiative of the CTC, Cyprus participated at Doers Summit with an information stand, as part of a joint presence in cooperation with the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy.

This participation was organised and coordinated by the CTC with the aim of promoting Cyprus and constituted the first tangible cooperation in this area between Cyprus and the UAE at B2G level.

HOW CYPRUS DEEPENS GCC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH STRATEGIC INITIATIVES IN 2025

A year of landmark councils, global exhibitions and national pavilions reinforced Republic of Cyprus's economic, technological and energy ties with the UAE and the wider Gulf

Throughout 2025, the Cyprus Trade Centre in the GCC Region (Dubai) strengthened Cyprus's presence across the UAE and wider Gulf. High-impact engagements and major exhibitions reinforced Cyprus's role as a credible partner in key growth sectors. These efforts supported Cypriot companies' international expansion and deeper Cyprus-GCC cooperation.



List of Participants
Event Held on: 17 - 21 February 2025
Venue: DWTC, Dubai

A. Zorbas & Son Ltd
www.zorbas.com.cy

Agathoklis Agathokleous Ltd
www.kingofolives.com.cy

Alambra - Petrou Bros Dairy Products Limited
www.petroubros.com

Ambrosia Oils (1976) Ltd
www.ambrosia.com.cy

Amoresi Ltd
www.zoijuices.com

Charalambides Christis Ltd
www.charalambideschristis.com.cy |
www.halloumicheese.eu

Cyprus Millers
www.cyprusmillers.com

Cyprus Potato Marketing Board (CPMB)
www.cpmbo.org.cy

Eleftherios G. Eleftheriou (Achnagal) Ltd
Website: www.achnagal-dairy.com |
www.cypriota.com

Food Ram Trading Ltd
www.foodram.com

Kean Soft Drinks Ltd
www.kean.com.cy

KEO Group
www.keogroup.com | www.keobeer.com.cy

Lisko Foodstuff Ltd
www.lisko.com.cy

M.G.P Cyprus Salt Co Ltd
www.theodoroussalt.com

M.p. Theodorou (Viomichania Alatos) Ltd
www.theodoroussalt.com

Mitsides Public Co Ltd
www.mitsidesgroup.com

Multego Trading Ltd (Brand: Zerzekkis)
www.zerzekkis.com

New Sevegep Ltd
www.new-sevegep.com.cy

Olympus Foods Cyprus Ltd
www.olympusfoods-cyprus.com.cy

Papouis Dairies Ltd
www.papouisdairies.com

Protino Foods Ltd
www.protinofoods.eu

Serano / E. Neophytou Trading Co. Ltd
www.serano.com.cy

Siricam Ltd
www.serano.com.cy

Strouthos Farm House Dairies
www.strouthosfarmhouse.com

V. Atsas Organic Products Ltd
www.atsas.com.cy

Cyprus Trade Centre, Dubai expresses its gratitude to all the Cypriot companies that extended their kind cooperation in 2025 by participating in various events across various sectors of growth and collaboration



List of Participants
Event Held on: 20 - 22 May 2025
Venue: DWTC, Dubai

Berkley Limited
www.berkley.ae

Compliance By Infocredit
www.infocreditgroup.com

Ad Tag Global Ad Solutions LTD
www.ad-tag.eu

Cyber Dexterity
www.cyberdexterity.com

Robonote
www.robonote.io

G.M. Powersoft Computer System LTD
www.powersoft365.com



List of Participants
Event Held on: 13 - 17 October 2025
Venue: DWTC, Dubai

Additess
www.additess.com

Ascanio
www.ascanio.io

Compliance Suite
by InfocreditGroup
www.infocreditgroup.com

Embio Diagnostics
Detect everywhere
www.embiodiagnosics.eu

Engine
www.engino.com

HostingB2B
www.hostingb2b.com

Ianus Technologies
www.ianus-technologies.com

Maricorp
Corporate • Tax • Consulting
www.cyprusconsultancy.com

Moebius
www.moebiussoftware.com

NetU
www.netgroup.com

QSecure
www.qsecure.global

Reg4Tech
www.reg4tech.com

SignalGenerix
Advanced Signal Solutions
www.signalgenerix.com

All of these events have been supported by



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Nicodemos Damianou, Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation & Digital Policy, Republic of Cyprus; Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive of The Emirates Group and Chairman of Dubai Airports; George Papanastasiou, Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Republic of Cyprus; Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy of the UAE; Dimitris Skourides, Chief Scientist for Research, Innovation and Technology, Republic of Cyprus; Stavros Stavrou, President of Cyprus Chamber of Commerce & Industry; and others guests at the Doers Summit.

Notable was the high-level political and institutional presence, as the Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, the Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the UAE, the Chief Scientist, the President of CCCI, and the Director-General of the Research and Innovation Foundation attended, further enhancing the prestige and effectiveness of the Cypriot participation. Multiple meetings and contacts were also held with business and institutional stakeholders from the UAE and abroad. Meetings were also held with the leadership of Dubai Silicon Oasis, where, among other issues, possible cooperation in additional areas was discussed, such as the potential participation of DSO (through its subsidiaries IFZA, DIEZ) in the technology park in Cyprus. The booth was visited by high-level officials, including Ministers and Ambassadors from both Cyprus and the UAE.

VISITS AND CONTACTS WITH OTHER GULF COUNTRIES

In addition to the various (online) meetings held with the EU delegations in the Gulf countries (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait), a number of visits and meetings were also conducted in the remaining Gulf countries.

the CTC, a meeting was organized with Lulu Bahrain and eleven Cypriot companies on 22/7/2025.

The overall initiative was assessed very positively by those present, as substantive discussions were held and prospects were created for further exports of Cypriot products to Bahrain, as well as to other Gulf countries where the Lulu group is present.



Saudi Arabia

The CTC participated in a mission to Saudi Arabia, during which a series of contacts were held with the main objective of strengthening bilateral relations in the areas of technology, innovation, energy, trade, and investment.

The mission highlighted tangible prospects for further deepening Cyprus–Saudi Arabia cooperation and for advancing specific joint initiatives.

Official state visit of the UAE to Cyprus – Strengthening Cyprus–UAE Bilateral Economic and Strategic Relations, Dec 13–14, 2025

Within the framework of the official visit of the President of the UAE to Cyprus, the CTC significantly supported the role of the UAE Embassy and took an active part both in the meetings and in reception procedures and the organisation of the agenda, as well as forming the final MoU signed between UAE Chamber, Cyprus Chamber and Invest Cyprus. The coordinating role of the CTC and the Embassy will continue, and every effort will be made to coordinate and monitor the joint declaration as well as the action programme announced.

Signing of a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of the Joint Cyprus–UAE Business & Investment Council

In December 2025, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed for the establishment of the Joint Cyprus–UAE Business & Investment Council between the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI),



Qatar: CTC officers visited Qatar to participate in EU meetings and held meetings, inter alia, with the Qatar Chamber of Commerce. Communication also took place with the Qatari Businessmen Association and the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Qatar, with the objective of networking and exploring possibilities for cooperation at regional level. In parallel, the CTC was registered on the Qatar Chamber's digital platform, and the joint creation of a digital platform for a B2B marketplace was discussed.

Bahrain: Following a visit that took place in 2024 in Bahrain, further contacts were made with the Ambassador and, in cooperation with



Networking dinner during GITEX Exhibition hosted by Minister of Energy Commerce and Industry.

Invest Cyprus and the Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce & Industry, under the auspices of Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade of the UAE, and Michael Damianos, Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Cyprus. The MoU was signed within the framework of a Cyprus–UAE Business Roundtable, held in Nicosia on December 13, 2025. The objective of the MoU is to institutionalise cooperation, enhance investment promotion, and deepen business networks and ongoing dialogue between the private sectors of the two countries. In parallel, it creates a structured platform for further development of bilateral trade, investment and long-term business partnerships in areas such as trade, services, energy, technology, tourism and others. The Chair of the CBC also attended the meeting, and special reference was made of the importance of the establishment of the CBC by the head of the UAE delegation.

Bilateral meetings on the Paphos Marina Port, Larnaca Port, AI Gigafactories, and a Technology Park

The CTC participated actively in the bilateral meetings held within the above framework, concerning the Larnaca port, the old Larnaca airport, the Paphos marina and the expansion of the port at Vasiliko, the creation of a Technology Park in Cyprus, AI data centers, submarine fiber-optic cables, etc., supported the Minister of Transport, Communications and Works and the Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy. After the meetings, it was agreed by the Ministers that the CTC, in cooperation with the Embassy, will provide a supportive role and will monitor all developments in the various projects.

EXPORT HELPDESK (EHD)

From the total number of requests received by all CTC's, the CTC in Dubai gathered 34% of the overall requests, recording the highest demand for support worldwide. This figure also demonstrates the strong interest from Cypriot companies and the role of the UAE as a business and trade hub for the region, as well as the confidence of Cypriot enterprises in the CTC's ability to effectively support their internationalisation and market penetration in the UAE and the wider Gulf region.

It is noted that all requests have been addressed: details of potential partners (distributors and importers) have been provided, online and in-person business meetings have been arranged, information on potential exhibitions for participation has been sent, and the CTC also offered substantial support on procedural and organizational matters (including the establishment of the CBC), contributing effectively to the promotion of Cypriot business interests.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS/EVENTS

Green Initiative, EU–GCC: The CTC participates in the platform “EU–GCC Cooperation on Green Transition”, aiming to strengthen the exchange of policies, technologies and financing tools for green growth. Through this cooperation, Cyprus's geostrategic position and its dual linkage with both the European Union and the GCC countries are leveraged, contributing to the shaping of a common framework for sustainable transition in the region.

Investopia Abu Dhabi 2025 (27–28 May): Participation of the CTC and support to the Minister of MECL and CCCI. Participation in high-level meetings. A decision was taken for the establishment of the CBC.

Investopia Limassol 2025 (10 June): The CTC contributed to the organisation of the event, while also facilitating bilateral government meetings (G2G meetings).



Meeting with XRG executive team and Cyprus delegation during ADIPEC.

ADIPEC: Active participation of Cyprus in the largest energy exhibition in the Gulf, including the participation of the Minister of Energy in a panel together with the Minister of Energy of Egypt. Numerous meetings were arranged and two-day contacts were held with all companies active in Cyprus's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as well as meetings with UAE companies interested in operating in the Cyprus EEZ.

In addition, CTC visited many other exhibitions — most of which included Cypriot companies participation — such as: Intersec, Middle East Energy (Energy and Environment), Abu Dhabi Global Healthcare Week, GoTech Gas and Oil Technology Showcase & Conference, Getex Spring (Education, Training and Careers), CABSAT Middle East, GISEC, BIG 5, ATM, AIM, 55th Watch & Jewellery Middle East Show, International Property Show (meetings with Sensi Pro, Alma, Horizon), SiGMA (with more than 10 Cypriot companies participating, IFX PRO, World Government Summit (where the MoU for the AI Task Force was signed with the Deputy Minister for Innovation and the Chief Scientist), LEAP in Saudi Arabia, Sharjah Investment Forum, Wetex, etc., for the purposes of supporting, promoting and networking Cypriot companies.



INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA)

Cyprus has been a member of the above organisation since 2010 and a member of its Council for 2025. CTC represented Cyprus in the work of IRENA in Abu Dhabi, participating actively in both the 29th and 30th Council sessions in the role of Vice-Chair of the Council for the first time.

Within the framework of the 29th IRENA Council, held in Abu Dhabi from 10–12 September 2025, the CTC accompanied and supported the Cypriot delegation, headed by the Permanent Secretary of MECL and the Ambassador of Cyprus to the UAE.

Cyprus, as a vice-chair for both 29th and 30th Council, played an active role in discussions on energy security and grids, renewable energy supply, the promotion of investments in clean energy technologies and institutional matters of the organisation such as procedures concerning IRENA's Director-General (Ethics and Advisory Committee), a coordinating role to be completed within 2026.

MEETINGS WITH INSTITUTIONAL & STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Within the framework of exhibitions and high-level visits, and beyond the meetings held during the official visit to Cyprus, a series of contacts



were made during the year with various other entities (governmental, semi-governmental and private) in the Gulf countries.

MOBILE DESALINATION UNITS – JANUARY 2025

Due to the water scarcity problem in Cyprus, the CTC received a request from the Ministry to investigate, as urgently as possible, the provision of desalination units to Cyprus. The CTC undertook the coordination and the relevant technical and administrative support through direct communication with all Ambassadors in GCC Region.

The coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment and the Legal Service, on both technical and procedural matters, was significant to ensure the successful acceptance and conclusion of the agreement, between the Minister of Foreign affairs Dr. Constantinos Kombos and assistant Minister Sultan Al Shamsi, where Cyprus and the UAE concluded a bilateral agreement under which the UAE provides free 14 mobile desalination units, with a total production capacity of 15,000m³ /day, to help Cyprus address a water crisis and strengthen longer-term water security. The deal is framed as a strategic demonstration of deepening Cyprus-UAE cooperation, with clear humanitarian, technical, and geopolitical dimensions.

In addition, in cooperation with the Embassy, a visit to the installation site of the units was also organised, by the CTC, who supported the

mission as the liaison with the UAE technical team (from Palgroup under IHC Group) and the Water Development Department.

The matter received publicity and statements by both UAE leadership and the President of Cyprus, as well as in local media and on social media.

INDIA-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (IMEC)

The Commercial Counsellor of the CTC assumed the coordinating role for the CTC's and the Embassies of Cyprus involved in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

Within this framework, and on the initiative of the Commercial Counsellor, a policy document on IMEC was prepared and forwarded to all competent Embassies and CTCs, with the aim of collecting suggestions, data and observations.

The main objective of the document was the systematic mapping of the current situation in the region, with particular emphasis on the energy sector. The document records and analyzes key energy developments, relevant exhibitions, conferences and initiatives taking place, as well as the principal energy and industrial groups active in the region.

In parallel, it includes a comparative mapping of the energy landscape and priorities of the countries participating in or potentially contributing to the implementation of IMEC, with a view to better understanding each country's capabilities and constraints.

The policy document is updated annually, or earlier if developments so require, so as to remain a timely tool supporting policy-making and inter-state coordination. In addition, on the initiative of the Commercial Counsellor, a communication network was created for the exchange of information among CTCs in Egypt, India and Israel, in close cooperation with the respective Embassies. Through this network, continuous mutual updates are achieved on projects, investments and actions relating to IMEC and broader geopolitical developments, ensuring better coordination.

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New Sevegep was established in 1972 as a cooperative company, at the Morfou plain, Cyprus' biggest citrus growing area pioneering in the production and export of Fruit Juices, Juice Concentrates and related by-products.

Through commitment, hard work and innovation the Company progressed from a local cooperative fruit juice producer to an international player in the juice industry. New Sevegep operates at modern processing facilities, utilising cutting edge machinery equipment from Tetra Pak and highly trained personnel ensuring the highest quality and safety of its juice products. Our Company is ISO22000:2005, HACCP and Halal certified while we undergo the AIB audit on a yearly basis.

Today New Sevegep is a Cypriot firm that looks to the world with exports to more than 70 countries in Europe, Middle East, Asia, Africa and the Americas. International recognition and the progressive growth of New Sevegep's markets at world level prove its great capacity to discover and interpret the market's needs.



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CYPRUS: NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL SHIPPING

The Island nation has emerged as a hub of maritime excellence, combining quality, innovation and sustainability



At the crossroads of three continents, Europe, Africa and Asia, Cyprus has emerged as a hub of maritime excellence, combining quality, innovation and sustainability. The island seamlessly combines a globally recognized, high-quality maritime administration with a thriving shipping industry that provides a broad spectrum of activities.

A MODERN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CENTRE

Cyprus has evolved into a modern, efficient and integrated maritime cluster. It ranks among the largest shipping fleets in the world and has established itself as one of the top global ship management centres.

The Shipping Deputy Ministry (SDM) has introduced strategic reforms to enhance competitiveness and streamline services. The establishment of the One-Stop Shipping Centre transformed administrative efficiency, providing faster and more accessible services for shipowners and maritime operators. Complementing this, Shipping Deputy Ministry maintains a strongly customer-oriented approach, providing 24/7 support through dedicated maritime professionals and a global network of offices, ensuring that shipowners receive immediate support wherever they operate.

The Cyprus simple, robust and transparent legal framework based on the English common law system is constantly updated to maintain competitiveness. Additionally, Tonnage Tax System, fully aligned with the European Acquis on maritime transport, ensures stability for Cyprus-based shipping entrepreneurs.

Through ongoing investment in digital ship registries, targeted inspections and a risk-based approach to safety, Cyprus maintains a modern, safe and environmentally responsible fleet.

QUALITY, SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Cyprus flag continues to appear on the Paris and Tokyo MoU White Lists, reflecting the country's strong commitment to quality, safety and compliance.

Environmental responsibility has become a cornerstone of Cyprus's maritime strategy. The Shipping Deputy Ministry continues to drive a



Marina Hadjimanolis

Shipping Deputy Minister, Cyprus

resilient and sustainable future for the sector and supporting shipowners transforming environmental challenges into competitive advantages.

Tax incentives and environmental discounts under the Tonnage Tax (Environmental Incentives) Order of 2024 reward shipowners adopting mechanisms-equipment for the environmental preservation of the marine environment and the reduction of the effects of climate change with up to 30% tax reductions.

NAVIGATING CHALLENGES

In a rapidly evolving world, Cyprus is embracing digitalisation. The Shipping Deputy Ministry is on track to fully digitalise its services to enhance efficiency and strengthen competitiveness of the sector. As technology serves as a vital tool for providing innovative solutions to pressing challenges, Cyprus has made significant progress to simplify all procedures, reduce bureaucracy and transition to a paperless Maritime Administration.

In addition to these advancements, Cyprus actively supports initiatives focused on enhancing seafarers' welfare and safeguarding the seafaring profession. The country promotes diversity and gender equality within the maritime sector by launching programmes that encourage young individuals and women to pursue careers in maritime careers. Initiatives include scholarships at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute and the World Maritime University, alongside national campaigns to promote maritime careers in schools.

CYPRUS: A TRUSTED FLAG FOR THE FUTURE

With a legacy of excellence and a clear vision for sustainability and innovation, Cyprus continues to navigate the challenges of global shipping with confidence. Anchored by trust, driven by progress and guided by a forward-looking vision, Cyprus stands ready to navigate the future and remains committed to its role as a leading maritime nation.





REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
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