

**Welcome address Mayor of Limassol**  
**Mr Yiannis Armeftis**  
**European Maritime 2026 – VIP Dinner**  
**20.5.2026 – Cazebo Mare – 7.00 μ.μ.**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Esteemed Guests,  
Dear partners and friends,

We are delighted to welcome you to our beautiful city of Limassol, on the occasion of the European Maritime Day 2026 and to host this special evening in such a remarkable venue.

Tonight's dinner takes place by the sea, an element of great importance to our city. The sea has shaped Limassol throughout its history and continues to define its identity, both economically and socially.

As a coastal city situated at the crossroads of cultures and trade routes, Limassol has always maintained a strong connection with the maritime world.

From commerce and shipping to tourism, innovation, and international cooperation, the sea remains at the heart of our city's DNA, identity and development.

It is therefore a great honour for us to host this important European event and to welcome so many distinguished guests from across Europe.

Tonight, we have the great pleasure of welcoming:

- the European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, Mr Costas Kadis,
- the Director-General of DG MARE, Ms Charlina Vitcheva,
- the Deputy Minister of Shipping, Ms Marina Hadjimanoli,
  
- as well as representatives of European institutions, distinguished members of the Government of Cyprus, officials from Cyprus and other European countries, shipping executives, representatives of universities, and members of the business and maritime community from Cyprus and abroad.

This special gathering provides a valuable opportunity, to exchange experiences and expertise on issues related to the blue economy and the marine environment, while also exploring ways to move forward together.

We are proud that Limassol today stands as one of the leading maritime and business centres of the Eastern Mediterranean, with a dynamic shipping sector, significant port infrastructure, and a growing ecosystem of research, technology, and innovation linked to the blue economy.

At the same time, our municipal policies remain firmly committed to building a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive coastal city through initiatives focused on climate neutrality, smart

urban development, environmental responsibility, and creating a welcoming and accessible city for all.

I sincerely hope that your stay in Limassol will provide with the opportunity to engage in productive discussions and build meaningful partnerships, as well as to experience the hospitality, culture, and unique atmosphere of our city.

Thank you for being with us, and I wish you all a wonderful evening.