

Speech | Limassol Mayor, Yiannis Armeftis

«Cyprus Forum Cities» - Limassol Municipality

29 April 2025 – 6.00 a.m.

Dear distinguished guests,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour to welcome you all here today at the historic Limassol Municipal Hall for this important networking event, which marks the beginning of the Cyprus Forum Cities conference.

This conference is co-organized by Oxygono, the Municipality of Limassol, and the Cyprus University of Technology (TEPAK), in a spirit of collaboration that highlights the critical importance of partnerships in order to address the challenges and underline the opportunities for our cities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Limassol is proud to be a vibrant, forward-looking city, constantly seeking new ways to innovate and foster sustainable development.

Our participation as one of the 100 EU Mission Cities working towards climate neutrality and smart solutions by 2030 is a clear testament to our commitment.

In this journey, Limassol has also joined the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation "Clima Net", as an equal founding member.

During my visit to Athens last February, along with fellow Mayors, we signed the founding agreement of this newly established entity:

- "EGTC (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation) Clima Net – Network for Climate Neutrality of Cities of Greece and Cyprus."

An important initiative, which operates under the European institutional framework for EGTCs, and will support cities like ours. This opportunity will give to our city the chance to collaborate, exchange knowledge, and implement tangible projects aimed at achieving climate neutrality.

During our discussions in Athens, we set clear priorities such as:

- focusing on innovative projects,
- strengthening partnerships,
- and securing resources to support our environmental and social goals.

We recognize that our city is the ideal ground for pilot actions that can offer valuable knowledge and pave the way for broader national strategies on climate action.

With sufficient support, the success of these initiatives will serve as inspiration for many more cities in Greece and Cyprus to follow, amplifying the collective impact of our efforts.

At Limassol Municipality, we strongly believe that it is not enough to simply participate.

We must lead. We must champion the implementation of real projects and actions that honour our commitments to our citizens – to build greener, economically sustainable, and socially just cities for all.

I wish you all a productive and inspiring conference, full of meaningful exchanges and new opportunities for cooperation.

Thank you.