

Mayor Mr Yiannis Armeftis
Closing Remarks - European Maritime Day 2026
22.5.2026 – Carob Mill – 5.00 p.m.

Honourable European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans,
Honourable Deputy Minister of Shipping,
Regional Minister of Industry, Employment, Innovation and Trade of the Government of Cantabria (**Eduardo Arasti Barca**)
Esteemed representatives of institutions, organisations, universities, and maritime businesses,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
It is with great pleasure and sincere emotion that we gather here today for the Closing Ceremony of the European Maritime Day 2026 in Limassol.

Over the past two days, our city has had the honour of hosting one of Europe's most significant events dedicated to maritime affairs, the blue economy, and the future of coastal communities.

Through meaningful discussions, the exchange of knowledge, workshops, and constructive dialogue, we have reaffirmed that Europe's coastal regions can work together, towards a more sustainable, resilient, and innovative maritime future.

For the Municipality of Limassol, hosting the European Maritime Day 2026 has been both a great honour and an important responsibility.

As a city with deep historical and economic ties to the sea, shipping, trade, and maritime culture, Limassol strongly believes in the value of European cooperation and in our shared responsibility to protect and sustainably develop our seas and coastal areas.

We are proud that Limassol became a meeting point for institutions, organisations, experts, and communities working together towards this common vision.

Beyond the important discussions and exchanges that took place during these two days, we also had the opportunity to experience the true spirit of connection and friendship that such gatherings create.

We were delighted to welcome participants from across Europe and beyond, to meet new people, exchange cultures and ideas, and share memorable moments together here in Limassol.

As a city well known for its hospitality and warm-hearted people, Limassol was proud to offer its very best to all our guests, through its culture, cuisine, seaside atmosphere, and genuine hospitality.

We sincerely hope that everyone leaves with beautiful memories and that you will choose to visit our city again in the future, not only as participants in international events, but always as valued friends of Limassol.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the European Commission and especially to the European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans Mr. Costas Kadis, for the excellent cooperation and for the trust placed in Limassol and Cyprus in hosting this important event. I would also like to extend my warm thanks to the Deputy Ministry of Shipping of the Republic of Cyprus, and especially to Deputy Minister Ms Marina Hadjimanolis, for the close collaboration, professionalism, and collective effort that made this successful organisation possible.

Distinguished guests,

As this year's celebrations come to an end, we are delighted to pass the responsibility and privilege of hosting the European Maritime Day 2027 to the city of Santander in Spain.

We warmly wish the organisers every success and are confident that Santander will offer participants an equally memorable and enriching experience.

As a token of appreciation and friendship between our two coastal cities, it is my great pleasure to present to you with a bronze replica of the ancient Kyrenia Ship. A 4th-century BC Greek merchant vessel discovered off the northern coast of Cyprus.

This ship is a powerful symbol of Cyprus's maritime heritage and of our enduring relationship with the sea. Handcrafted in Cyprus, this replica reflects the timeless spirit of exploration, exchange, and unity.

May this symbolic gift serve as a lasting reminder of the friendships built here in Limassol and of our shared commitment to Europe's maritime future.

**Thank you all for being part of the European Maritime Day 2026 in Limassol.
We wish every success to Santander and to European Maritime Day 2027.**