

Opening remarks - Mr Yiannis Armeftis

European Maritime Day 2026

21.5.2026 – Carob Mill – 9.00 a.m.

Honourable European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans,
Honourable Deputy Minister of Shipping,
Esteemed representatives of institutions, organisations, universities, and maritime businesses,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour and a genuine pleasure to welcome you all to our city, Limassol.

Today, our city proudly opens its doors to Europe’s maritime community, warmly welcoming distinguished representatives from European institutions, ports, universities, research centres, businesses, and organisations, all united in shaping the future of our seas and coastal regions.

Limassol is a city with a rich maritime heritage and a profound connection to the Mediterranean. For generations, the sea has shaped our economy, influenced our culture, and defined the identity of our city. It has connected Limassol to the world, transforming it into a dynamic hub of trade, shipping, and international cooperation.

We are proud that Limassol has evolved into one of the largest and most renowned shipping centres in the world.

Around our port, a strong ecosystem of shipping companies, maritime services, logistics, technology, and innovation has developed, making a significant contribution to the economic growth and international profile of Cyprus.

Meanwhile, our universities and academic institutions are actively investing in maritime education, marine research, and sustainable innovation, strengthening the connection between knowledge, entrepreneurship, and the blue economy.

An approach that can ensure the sector’s future growth while also cultivating in young people an appreciation for the importance of the blue economy.

As a coastal city, we are fully aware of both the opportunities and responsibilities that come with our relationship with the sea.

This is why the Municipality of Limassol actively supports policies and initiatives that promote sustainability, resilience, and climate neutrality.

Our participation in the European Mission “100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030” reflects our commitment to building a greener, smarter, and more sustainable future for our citizens and future generations. For us, this is a serious political commitment. A commitment to rethink the way we move forward.

European Maritime Day is an important platform for dialogue, cooperation, and the exchange of ideas.

It brings together people and organisations that shape the future of maritime Europe and strengthens the shared vision for sustainable growth and the protection of our marine environment.

It also offers an engaging and fully interactive experience through important panel discussions and workshops, providing an opportunity to gain insight into the current state of play across a broad range of issues relating to the blue economy and the marine environment, while also discussing ways of moving forward.

I hope that, during your stay, you will have the opportunity to experience the hospitality of Limassol, enjoy our beautiful coastline, discover our rich history and culture, and immerse yourselves in the unique atmosphere of our Mediterranean city.

I wish you all a successful and productive conference, as well as a memorable stay in Limassol.

Thank you.