

Yiannis Armeftis, Limassol Mayor
Blue Limassol | Round Table Discussion
Targeting Green Port and City Integration
15 May 2025

- First of all, I would like to thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to participate in today's panel discussion. It is always valuable for us, as local authorities, to engage in dialogue with key stakeholders, experts, and the community on issues that will define the future of our city.
- If we want to have a serious conversation about Limassol in 2030 and its goal of climate neutrality, we must start by addressing the city's relationship with its port. Currently, this relationship is incomplete, fragmented, and often characterized by conflict.
- Limassol's port can no longer operate as a fenced-off industrial zone, disconnected from the city's daily life. Its organic and spatial integration into the urban fabric is not just a matter of planning; it is a matter of our shared future.
- **The first step** is to connect the port with Aktaiá Avenue, transforming the entire seafront zone into a high-quality public space. For pedestrians, cyclists, micro-mobility, and green routes—a space that is human-centered and accessible to all. And let's be clear: this cannot happen while the shipyard remains in place. This is a use incompatible with the modern vision for the waterfront, both environmentally and aesthetically. It must be relocated.
- **The second step** is the creation of a new pier—not just as an infrastructure project, but as an urban connector. A place of seamless access to the sea, where residents and visitors alike can once again experience the horizon. Where today there are barriers

and limits, we must create plazas, walkways, resting points, meeting spaces, and places of life.

- At the heart of this transformation is the reduction of car dependency. Our city needs fewer, if not zero, private vehicles along its seafront. It needs a modern public transportation system—such as a tram—that connects the western districts, the passenger terminal, the port, the historic center, the Municipal Garden, and extends to the tourist areas in the east. This is the backbone of sustainable mobility.
- A critical node in all this is the port’s passenger terminal. It is Cyprus’s gateway to the world, and yet today it is poorly connected to the city. Visitors arrive and are forced to rely on taxis or rental cars to reach the center. This must change. Access must be easy, direct, user-friendly, and environmentally sustainable.

I will close with this:

- Limassol must break down the hard barriers between the city and the port. The commercial activities on the eastern side, which no longer serve the city’s daily life, must be reconsidered. In their place, we can develop cultural, recreational, and mobility-oriented uses—supporting multimodal transportation in Limassol.
- The eastern quay can—and must—be transformed into an open plaza of maritime cultural life. A place for concerts, festivals, public events, and entertainment. A part of Limassol that lives and breathes 24 hours a day.
- This is not just about redevelopment. It is about reconnection—a new relationship of trust, functionality, and shared identity between the port and the city. And this is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss.

Thank you.