



PARLIAMENTARY  
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## **MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF COSAC**

### **Session I: Priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU**

#### **BACKGROUND NOTE**

**11 – 12 January 2026**

**Nicosia**

Cyprus assumes the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union at a time of intensified geopolitical instability, persistent security challenges, economic transformation and growing social pressures. Beyond the management of an extensive legislative agenda, the Cyprus Presidency aims to contribute actively to shaping the Union's strategic direction.

The priorities of the Cyprus Presidency are structured around three main pillars:

1. A Strategically Autonomous and Resilient European Union,
2. An outward-looking European Union, and
3. A socially strong and cohesive European Union.

#### 1. A Strategically Autonomous and Resilient European Union

Strengthening the European Union's strategic autonomy lies at the core of the Presidency's agenda. Priority will be given to reinforcing the European defence industrial base, enhancing the protection of the EU's external borders and promoting a broader and more comprehensive understanding of security, including maritime security.

Competitiveness will also remain high on the agenda of the Cyprus Presidency, with an emphasis on efforts to reduce administrative burdens and improve the regulatory environment for businesses. At the same time, the digital agenda, the further development of the Single Market and the strengthening of the EU's energy autonomy will continue to be promoted, while discussions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework will be regarded as an important horizontal element supporting EU policies.

At the same time, migration will be addressed through a security-oriented perspective, with emphasis on the effective implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum and on the external dimension of migration, including enhanced cooperation with key partner countries in the EU's southern neighbourhood.

#### 2. An Outward-Looking European Union

The strengthening of the European Union's external action and its geopolitical role will constitute a central element of the Cyprus Presidency's orientation. In a rapidly evolving international environment, the Presidency will contribute to efforts aimed at reinforcing the EU's global engagement and its capacity to act as a credible and reliable partner. In the field of trade, partnerships and external relations, attention will be given to supporting ongoing processes and promoting

the Union's broader connectivity objectives with strategic partners, in line with existing EU frameworks and priorities.

EU enlargement will be approached as a policy of heightened geopolitical relevance and strategic importance for the future of the Union. The Presidency will support an enlargement process based on established principles, agreed criteria and strict and fair conditionality.

### 3. A Socially Strong and Cohesive European Union

The Presidency will underline the importance of ensuring that the social dimension of the European Union, and in particular issues related to social cohesion, is addressed on an equal footing with other key EU priorities, reflecting the need for a balanced overall policy approach. Within this broader approach, particular attention will be given to affordable housing, which has gained increased prominence at EU level, including through the establishment of a dedicated portfolio, and which will form part of the social policy dialogue during the Presidency.

The discussions will also address a range of issues related to vulnerable groups, social protection and poverty, as well as matters concerning persons with disabilities. Attention will also be given to the mental health of children and young people, in relation to developments linked to the digital environment.