

Italy-Cyprus Maritime Business Forum Opening Remarks



Antonella Cavallari

Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to the Republic of Cyprus

Antonella Cavallari is Ambassador of Italy to Cyprus. A career diplomat since 1987, she has held senior positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic posts in Egypt, Japan and Paraguay, where she served as Ambassador. She was Central Director for Latin America and Secretary General of the Italo-Latin American Institute. Minister Plenipotentiary since 2018, she is an Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.



Marina Hadjimanolis

Shipping Deputy Minister to the President of the Republic of Cyprus

Marina Hadjimanolis is the Shipping Deputy Minister to the President of the Republic of Cyprus. A lawyer by profession, she holds an LLB from the University of Leicester and is also a Barrister of the Lincoln's Inn in England. She served as a Limassol Municipal Councillor and Director of the Political Office of President Nikos Christodoulides. Appointed as Shipping Deputy Minister in 2023, she received the 2024 Maritime Person of the Year Award from the International Propeller Club of the United States.



Costas Kadis

European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans

Costas is a founding partner of A. & E. C. Emilianides, C. Katsaros & Associates Ltd and a practicing lawyer in Cyprus, advising major Cypriot and international organisations. He holds an LLB and LLM from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, specialising in maritime and legal studies. He has extensive board and governance experience across banking, insurance, media and real estate, and serves as Vice President of the Italian-Cypriot Chamber of Commerce.



Panicos Pourgourides

Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Cyprus

Panicos Pourgourides is Head of the European Commission Representation in Cyprus, with extensive experience in EU policymaking, parliamentary affairs and diplomacy. A lawyer by training, he served in Commissioner Stella Kyriakides' Cabinet (2019–2024), advising on interinstitutional relations and key Cyprus-related files. Previously, he held senior positions in Cyprus' House of Representatives and the Council of Europe.



Stavros Stavrou

President of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr Stavrou is President of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, he holds a First Class Honours degree in Accounting and Finance from Middlesex Polytechnic and a Diploma for Non-Executive Directors. He has extensive executive and board experience across oil and gas, banking, insurance, mining, technology, property, construction and shipping.

