

Media guide

**Opening Ceremony
of the Cyprus Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union 2026**

7 January 2026

Cyprus Theatre Organisation, Main Stage

Contents

Accreditation and facilities	4
Media accreditation.....	4
Temporary Press Centre (adjacent to the venue).....	4
Transport to the venue	4
Useful information.....	4
Interpretation	5
Further information	5
Programme with press opportunities.....	6
Background information	6
Presidency channels	7
Website.....	7
Social media.....	7
Photos and Videos	8
Practical information.....	8
Travelling to Cyprus	8
Legal points of entry	8
General information	9
Press contacts.....	9

General information

The Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union has the pleasure of welcoming you to Lefkosia for the **Opening Ceremony of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026 on 7 January 2026**.

This media guide contains all the necessary information for preparing your coverage.

Please note that all information may be subject to change.

Accreditation and facilities

Media accreditation

To access the event venue, all media representatives must be accredited and have obtained verified badges. Accreditation is available exclusively through the Cyprus EU Presidency [accreditation platform](#). Please follow the instructions outlined in the **media user guide**.

Important: The accreditation period closes on 29 December 2025. Late applications will not be accepted after this deadline.

For further information regarding accreditation, please visit the Presidency website [cy2026.eu] or contact accreditation@cyprus2026eu.gov.cy

Badges are collected only at:

1. The Cyprus Presidency Second InfoPoint (Media only) – Larnaka International Airport or
2. The Accreditation Centre, located opposite the entrance of the Conference Centre in Lefkosia.

Collection times:

- Monday, 5 January 2026: 08:00–14:00
- Wednesday, 7 January 2026: 08:00–14:00

Badges will not be issued at the temporary Press Centre.

Temporary Press Centre (adjacent to the venue)

A temporary Press Centre will be set up next to the venue of the Opening Ceremony. The facility can accommodate the operational needs of accredited media representatives.

Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/QwJ1AwVN1kqAaMPL8>

Opening hours: 14:00–22:00.

Please note that access to the Press Centre will be restricted after 15:45.

Transport to the venue

Media representatives covering the event must be present at the Press Centre no later than 15:00. The final shuttle bus to the Cyprus Theatre Organisation departs at 15:00.

Useful information

- Access to the Opening Ceremony venue will be strictly limited to the Host Broadcaster (CyBC) and the Host Photographer (Press & Information Office).

- Media representatives wishing to cover the arrivals of officials will be escorted to a designated platform opposite the venue entrance and must be in position by 16:50.
- After the completion of arrivals, media representatives will be escorted back to the temporary Press Centre.
- The Opening Ceremony may be followed and covered from the temporary Press Centre facilities.
- Following the officials' departures, a cocktail reception will take place. Shuttle buses returning to the main Press Centre (next to the Conference Centre) will depart approximately 1–2 hours later.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation during the Opening Ceremony at the Cyprus Theatre Organisation will be provided by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Interpretation (DG SCIC) in a 4/4 language regime (EN, EL, AR, TR/EN, EL, AR, TR).

Further information

For additional details, please check the events page of the Presidency website [<https://cyprus-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/events/>] and/or contact the following email address: media@cyprus2026eu.gov.cy.

Programme with press opportunities

Wednesday, 7 January 2026

15:55–18:25 Arrival of guests and officials at the Cyprus Theatre Organisation

Media representatives wishing to cover the arrivals of officials will be escorted to a designated platform opposite the venue entrance and must be in position by 16:50.

After the completion of arrivals, media representatives will be escorted back to the temporary Press Centre.

18:25–18:40 Opening Remarks & Addresses

18:40–19:50 Cultural Programme

The Opening Ceremony may be followed and covered from the temporary Press Centre facilities.

19:50–20:10 Departure of Presidents of EU Institutions, Heads of State or Government and Heads of International Organisations

19:50 Cocktail reception at the Old GSP Stadium for the official guests

Following the officials' departures, a cocktail reception will take place. Shuttle buses returning to the main Press Centre (next to the Conference Centre) will depart approximately 1–2 hours later.

Background information

Lefkosia is honoured to host the Opening Ceremony of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Opening Ceremony will be held at the Main Stage of the **Cyprus Theatre Organisation** (Grigori Afxentiou 9, 1096 Lefkosia, Cyprus).

The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Nikos Chistodoulides, the President of the European Council, Mr António Luís Santos da Costa, and the Deputy Minister for European Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, Ms Marilena Raouna, will address the event.

The opening ceremony will feature a cultural programme directed by Mr Kostas Silvestros, Creative Director of the Cyprus Theatre Organisation.

The Cyprus Theatre Organisation is a semi-governmental theatre organisation with a long-standing tradition of staging both classical and contemporary productions, supporting Cypriot playwrights and fostering cultural exchange through partnerships

across Europe and beyond. Its modern building, completed in 2012, regularly hosts performances, workshops and international gatherings.

It actively participates in European and international theatre networks, including the European Theatre Convention. These collaborations foster artistic exchange, staff training and innovative theatre practices.

A cocktail reception will be held at the **old GSP Stadium** (Evagorou 31b, 1066 Lefkosia, Cyprus).

Located in the heart of Lefkosia, the old GSP Stadium has been transformed into a modern, multifunctional public space that blends culture, recreation and urban greenery to become one of the city's most historic sites. Once the home of major football clubs and the Cyprus national team, the site has been reimagined to serve as a central gathering place for residents and visitors alike, while preserving its historical significance.

The design draws inspiration from the form of the old stadium, with terraces reflecting the original stands and their roofs now covered with greenery, while the historic GSP clock has been preserved in the square as a reminder of the site's history. The redevelopment provides a welcoming space for cultural, social and recreational activities, reconnecting and revitalising the surrounding city centre, while celebrating Lefkosia's heritage and supporting sustainable urban mobility.

Presidency channels

Website

The Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU website [cy2026.eu] is the Presidency's main communication channel, where events, news and other official material will be published.

For all matters concerning the content of the website, contact the editorial team at webcy2026eu@pio.moi.gov.cy.

Social media

- Instagram: [@cy2026eu](https://www.instagram.com/cy2026eu)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/CY2026EU](https://www.facebook.com/CY2026EU)
- LinkedIn: [Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU 2026](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cyprus-presidency-of-the-council-of-the-eu-2026)
- YouTube: [@cy2026eu](https://www.youtube.com/cy2026eu)
- X: [@cy2026eu](https://twitter.com/cy2026eu)
- BlueSky: [@cy2026eu.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/cy2026eu.bsky.social)
- Flickr: [Cy2026.EU](https://www.flickr.com/photos/Cy2026.EU)

Photos and Videos

The Press and Information Office (PIO) of the Republic of Cyprus has been designated as the Host Photographer of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Footage and photos of the event can be found here:

YouTube of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU:

<https://www.youtube.com/@Cyprus2026eu>

Flickr of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU:

<https://www.flickr.com/people/203754422@N03/>

Any inquiries about the Host Photographer services should be addressed to:

hostphotographer@pio.moi.gov.cy

The Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC) has been designated as the Host Broadcaster of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The Host Broadcaster will make the material available live via the European Broadcasting Service (EBS) [<https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/>] and via the Presidency website.

Any inquiries about the Host Broadcaster services should be addressed to:

host.broadcaster2026cy@cybc.com.cy or pantelitsa.lambrinou@cybc.com.cy

For additional details, please visit the Presidency website [<https://cyprus-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/media/photos-and-videos/>]

Practical information

Travelling to Cyprus

Media representatives covering the meeting are kindly requested to make their own travel arrangements.

Legal points of entry

The legal points of entry by air into the Republic of Cyprus are the International Airports of Larnaka and Pafos. No legal point of entry is recognised in the occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus, where the Government of the Republic of Cyprus cannot exercise effective control due to the Turkish occupation. Entering through any airport or port in the occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus is illegal.

For further information about the legal points of entry into the Republic of Cyprus, follow the link to the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus:

<https://www.gov.cy/mfa/en/documents/important-information-concerning-travel-to-the-turkish-occupied-area-of-cyprus/>

General information

Emergency number: 112 (fire service, ambulance, police)

Electricity: In Cyprus, power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type G (UK-style with three rectangular pins) are used. The standard voltage is 230 V.

Local time: Eastern European Time (EET) GMT+2

Country code: Cyprus +357

Currency: The official currency in the Republic of Cyprus is the euro (€).

Weather in Cyprus: [Department of Meteorology](#)

Tap water: You cannot drink the tap water in Cyprus.

Smoking: Smoking is only allowed outdoors in the designated areas of the official meeting venues.

Press contacts

Deputy Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Cyprus

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Spokesperson in Lefkosia for the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU

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General media enquiries

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Accreditation

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Host Broadcaster

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