

Declaration

Declaration by the Ministers of Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Italy responsible for Maritime Affairs

A Ministerial Meeting was held in Limassol, Cyprus, on the 9th of September 2026, attended by the Shipping Deputy Minister to the President of Cyprus, Ms. Marina Hadjimanolis, the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy of Greece, Mr. Vasilis Kikilias, the Minister for Sustainable Mobility of Malta, Dr. Chris Bonett, and the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport of Italy, Mr. Edoardo Rixi (hereafter "the Ministers").

WE, THE MINISTERS OF CYPRUS, GREECE, MALTA AND ITALY RESPONSIBLE FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS, meeting in Limassol, Cyprus, on the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting on 09 September 2026, as European Union (hereafter "EU") partners with strong maritime traditions and significant shipping interests,

HAVING REGARD THAT

During the meeting, we have exchanged views on the current challenges that international shipping faces, especially in light of recent geopolitical developments, giving particular attention to the need of safeguarding the competitiveness of EU shipping, as a strategic and economic pillar of Europe's prosperity, connectivity and resilience,

AND

We have also exchanged views on the ongoing developments at EU and International Maritime Organization (hereafter "IMO") level concerning the decarbonisation of shipping, including the EU Emissions Trading System and the IMO Net-Zero Framework and we have shared interest in continuing to follow these developments closely and in maintaining close cooperation and coordination in the relevant discussions, seeking, as we recently stated at IMO, the widest possible consensus in developing realistic, globally applicable and cost effective measures for the sector, consumers and businesses, ensuring a safe and sustainable energy transition for shipping,

AS WELL AS THAT

Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Italy share the same values and objectives in promoting a safe, secure, competitive and environmentally friendly maritime transport sector,

WE, THE MINISTERS HAVE AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING

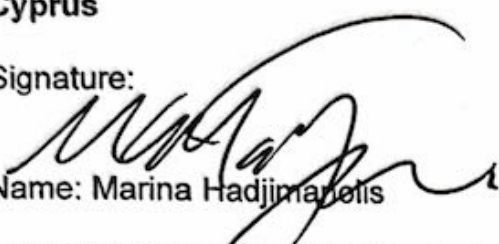
- **STRESS** the importance of safe and secure maritime routes, freedom of navigation and international cooperation;
- **REAFFIRM** that the safety, welfare and well-being of seafarers, should remain a key priority of the international maritime community;
- **COMMIT** to work on advancing decarbonisation of shipping, in a manner that is ambitious but yet pragmatic, taking into account the particularities of the sector and in close cooperation with the maritime industry;
- **STRESS** the need to support the work of the International Maritime Organization, in developing effective and globally applicable measures, ensuring a global level playing field for maritime transport;
- **CONTINUE** to work in close cooperation with the European Commission and other EU Member States in order to safeguard the competitiveness of European shipping and ensure that the regulatory framework supports a strong, competitive and resilient European maritime sector.

To this end, we have committed to continue and further enhance the dialogue, cooperation and coordination between Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Italy, particularly, in light of the forthcoming discussions within the EU and the IMO, on key maritime policy issues, including decarbonization, competitiveness and the long-term sustainability of the sector.

Limassol, Cyprus, on 09 September 2026

Cyprus

Signature:



Name: Marina Hadjimanolitis

Title: Shipping Deputy Minister to the President of Cyprus

Greece

Signature:



Name: Vasilis Kikilias

Title: Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy of Greece

Malta

Signature:



Name: Chris Bonett

Title: Minister for Sustainable Mobility of Malta

Italy

Signature:



Name: Edoardo Rixi

Title: Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport of Italy