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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations
Subject: Presidency events
- Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find attached information on the events organised by the Presidency, with a view to the EPSCO Council of 29 June 2026 (Any Other Business item)

**INFORMATION ON THE EVENTS ORGANISED BY
THE CYPRUS PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The Cyprus Presidency has worked under the headline ‘*An Autonomous Union. Open to the World*’. On 9 March, it informed the EPSCO Council of its activities in January and February (doc. No 6678/26). These included: an Informal Meeting of Employment and Social Affairs Ministers; an Informal Meeting of the Employment Committee (EMCO); and an Informal meeting of the Social Protection Committee (SPC).

Since the last EPSCO Council, the Presidency has hosted the following events:

Employment:

1. Euroguidance Network Working Group Meeting, 5-7 May 2026, Larnaca, Cyprus

From 5 to 7 May, the Euroguidance Network Meeting was held in Larnaca. The three-day meeting brought together representatives from across Europe to coordinate actions in the field of career guidance and to exchange good practices among Member States.

Participants were introduced to the new Euroguidance website and discussed both the challenges and opportunities associated with the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in career guidance services. The meeting also included a presentation and discussion of the results of the Network’s evaluation for the 2024–2025 period. Furthermore, representatives of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion provided an update on current EU policies related to career guidance and counselling services. Participants were also presented with the new Lifelong Guidance Policy Guidelines Framework, published by Cedefop in April 2026.

2. European Labour Authority (ELA) Annual Conference on Declared Work, 12 May 2026, Larnaca, Cyprus

The European Labour Authority (ELA) and the Cyprus Presidency organised the Annual Conference on Tackling Undeclared Work on 12 May in Larnaca, marking the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the European Platform Tackling Undeclared Work.

The conference highlighted the need to strengthen European cooperation in addressing undeclared work and underscored the importance of safeguarding workers’ dignity.

Discussions focused on combating undeclared work, emphasising the need for zero tolerance towards the exploitation of workers and the protection of their rights and dignity.

The importance of fair labour mobility within the European Union was also highlighted. Particular reference was made to the significant achievement, during the Cyprus Presidency, of reaching an agreement on the revision of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems, following ten years of deadlock in the negotiations.

3. EURES European Coordination Group (ECG) Meeting, 19-21 May 2026, Larnaca, Cyprus

From 19 - 21 May, the EURES Coordination Group meeting was held in Larnaca with the participation of the Heads of the National Coordination Offices from 31 European countries.

The meeting served as an important platform for dialogue and cooperation aimed at strengthening the EURES Network and promoting fair labour mobility across Europe.

During the proceedings, participants discussed the priorities of the EURES 2030 Strategy, new initiatives of the European Commission and the European Labour Authority (ELA), as well as developments concerning the EURES Portal and the services provided to workers and employers at the European level.

In addition, participants exchanged views on issues of strategic importance, including synergies with Europass, the development of the EU Talent Pool, training activities for EURES Advisers, and policies promoting more inclusive mobility for persons with disabilities.

4. Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) Meeting, 20 May 2026 and Thematic Day of the European Union Senior Labour Inspectors' Committee, 21 May 2026, Lefkosia (Nicosia), Cyprus

On 21 May, the Cyprus Presidency hosted the Thematic Day, followed by the 89th Meeting of the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) on 20 May, in Nicosia. In the presence of senior officials of the European Commission, the importance of European cooperation in protecting workers and promoting decent and safe working conditions throughout the Union was highlighted. On the occasion of the Committee's 30th anniversary, its crucial role in shaping common European policies that strengthen occupational safety and health and protect workers from emerging challenges, such as climate change and its impact on the world of work was emphasised.

Discussions underlined the common objective that the European Union shares of achieving a working environment with zero workplace accidents and zero occupational diseases, stressing that the attainment of this vision requires political commitment, coordination and continuous investment in the protection of workers.

5. High-level Conference on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), 11 June 2026, Lefkosia (Nicosia), Cyprus

On 11 June 2026, the Cyprus Presidency organised a High-Level Conference on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in Nicosia entitled “Positive Safety Culture towards Vision Zero”. The conference highlighted the importance of fostering a positive occupational safety and health culture as a key pillar in achieving the Vision Zero objective of eliminating workplace accidents. The event brought together representatives of European institutions, committees and relevant authorities, reaffirming their shared commitment to promoting the safety, health and well-being of workers across Europe.

Experts and academics addressed key issues, including positive safety culture, climate change, mental health, workplace accidents and occupational diseases, presenting research findings and good practices from both national and European perspectives. Discussions underscored that, despite the significant progress achieved at EU level, workplace accidents and occupational diseases continue to impose considerable social and economic costs, highlighting the need for continued and strengthened preventive action.

6. 25th Board Meeting of The European Network of Public Employment Services, 18-19 June 2026, Lefkosia (Nicosia), Cyprus

On 18–19 June, the Cyprus Presidency successfully convened the 25th Board Meeting of the European Network of Public Employment Services (PES) in Nicosia. Held under the theme “Strengthening Enterprise Competitiveness through a Union of Skills”, the meeting brought together participants to discuss the contribution of Public Employment Services to the implementation of the EU’s Union of Skills initiative.

Discussions focused on ways to better align labour market needs with education, training and employment policies, with particular attention to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Participants also explored how Public Employment Services can assist businesses in anticipating skills needs, attracting talent and promoting workforce development and upskilling. The Cyprus Presidency underlined the importance of a coordinated approach to skills policies, highlighting the need to foster enterprise competitiveness while ensuring quality employment, social inclusion and sustainable workforce growth across the European Union.

Social Policy:

7. High-Level Conference “Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities: Empowerment and Support in a Community for All”, 7 May 2026, Lemesos (Limassol), Cyprus

The High-Level Conference entitled “Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities: Empowerment and Support in a Community for All”, organised under the Cyprus Presidency, brought together policymakers, organisations of persons with disabilities, experts and persons with lived experience, to discuss the advancement of disability rights, the provision of high quality social support services and the promotion of supported decision-making in accordance with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Discussions focused on strengthening autonomy, empowerment, social inclusion and access to high-quality community-based services, while showcasing legislative reforms and good practices from several Member States.

It also reaffirmed a strong commitment to advancing the implementation of the enhanced European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities up to 2030 and the UNCRPD across the European Union.

8. Disability Platform Meeting, 8 May 2026, Lemesos (Limassol), Cyprus

The Disability Platform meeting – held for the first time outside of Brussels - brought together representatives from Member States, EU institutions, civil society organisations, including organisations of persons with disabilities, to exchange views on key developments in EU disability policy. Discussions focused in particular on the new Enhanced Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities up to 2030 and its implementation, including supported decision-making, accessibility, independent living and the use of assistive technologies.

Participants welcomed the strategy's emphasis on implementation of existing rights and the development of new initiatives, while also highlighting the need for stronger ambition, improved funding alignment and more effective implementation mechanisms. The Commission underlined ongoing and future work on legislative initiatives, data collection, funding guidance and cooperation with Member States to ensure effective delivery of disability rights in practice.

9. Child Guarantee Coordinators, 19 May 2026, Lefkosia (Nicosia), Cyprus

The Cyprus Presidency hosted the Child Guarantee Coordinators meeting, during which experiences and best practices regarding the implementation of the European Child Guarantee were discussed. During the meeting, the Social Package Communication on strengthening the European Child Guarantee was presented.

Discussions focused on enhancing social support for children, improving access to quality services, strengthening governance and monitoring mechanisms, and reinforcing efforts to combat child poverty and social exclusion across the European Union.

10. High-Level Conference “No Child is Left Behind: Promoting Child Well-Being and Combating Child Poverty”, 20–21 May 2026, Lefkosia (Nicosia), Cyprus

The High-Level Conference titled “No Child is Left Behind: Promoting Child Well-Being and Combating Child Poverty”, organized under the Cyprus Presidency and co-funded by the European Commission, brought together high-level representatives from Member States and EU institutions, organizations, academia, experts and children themselves.

During the High-Level Conference child well-being, combating child poverty, strengthening the European Child Guarantee, early childhood investment, family support systems and child participation in decision making were discussed.

Participants highlighted the importance of access to quality and person-centered services, strong governance, sustainable investment and cross-sectoral cooperation to address the structural drivers of child poverty.

The Conference reaffirmed the collective commitment to safeguarding children's rights, promoting social inclusion and ensuring that every child can thrive and reach their full potential, ensuring a better future for all.

11. COSP19 Cyprus Presidency Side Event on “Supported decision-making of persons with disabilities – Best practices of legislative reforms and delivery of support services at international level” 9 June 2026, UN Headquarters, New York, USA

The Cyprus Presidency’s side event titled “Supported decision-making of persons with disabilities – Best practices of legislative reforms and delivery of support services at international level”, organised under the Cyprus Presidency in the framework of the 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP19), brought together representatives of European Union institutions, governments, international organisations, civil society, and persons with disabilities with lived experience to advance discussions on supported decision-making in line with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The event highlighted supported decision-making as a fundamental human right and also showcased international best practices in legislative reform and the delivery of support services.

Participants highlighted the importance of accessible information, tailored support, safeguards and continuous monitoring to enable persons with disabilities to make free and informed decisions.

Personal testimonies illustrated the transformative impact of effective support systems. The discussions reaffirmed a shared commitment to implementing the UNCRPD.

12. COSP19 High-Level Breakfast, co-organised by the Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the UN and the Delegation of the European Union to the UN on “Advancing the Enhanced EU Disability Strategy: Promoting Inclusion, Autonomy and Supported Decision-Making” 9 June 2026, UN Headquarters, New York, USA

The Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the UN and the Delegation of the European Union to the UN co-organised and hosted a High-Level Breakfast for Heads of Delegations entitled “Advancing the Enhanced EU Disability Strategy: Promoting Inclusion, Autonomy and Supported Decision-Making.”

The High-Level Breakfast brought together Heads of Delegations of the EU Member States, representatives of the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee, as well as organisations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organisations. Participants shared views on the recently adopted enhanced Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities up to 2030, with particular emphasis on strengthening access to services that foster inclusion and autonomy through supported decision-making services.

Equality:

13. High level Conference in Cyprus on Preventing and Combating Cyber Violence against girls, Lefkosia (Nicosia), Cyprus, 18-19 May 2026

The High-Level Conference “Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Online Violence against Girls”, organised under the Cyprus Presidency, brought together high-level representatives from EU institutions, international organisations, governments, academia and civil society to address the growing phenomenon of cyber violence against girls. Discussions highlighted the multidimensional and intersectional nature of online violence, including cyberbullying, sexual harassment, hate speech, privacy violations and the non-consensual sharing of images, while emphasising its strong links with offline forms of gender-based violence. Participants explored educational approaches involving boys and young men, emerging technological challenges, victim support and protection mechanisms, and the need for stronger European cooperation and coordinated action. A key highlight was the presentation by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) of the study “From Lived Reality to Policy Action: Combating Cyber Violence against Girls in the EU”, developed in cooperation with the Cyprus Presidency, which provided important evidence and policy recommendations and served as the basis for the Council Conclusions on the same topic. The Conference reaffirmed a shared commitment to strengthening digital safety, promoting gender equality and enhancing the protection of girls from online violence across Europe.

Housing:

14. Informal Ministerial Meeting on Housing "Unlocking Housing Potential: Simplification, Innovation and Mobilising Investments" 11-12 May 2026, Lefkosia (Nicosia), Cyprus

The Informal Ministerial Meeting on Housing, entitled “Unlocking Housing Potential: Simplification, Innovation and Mobilising Investments”, organised under the Cyprus Presidency, brought together Ministers, representatives of European institutions and financial institutions, local authorities, civil society organisations and housing stakeholders to address Europe’s growing housing challenges and explore solutions to increase the availability of affordable, sustainable and decent housing, underscoring housing as a social right.

Discussions focused on reducing administrative burdens, accelerating housing supply, mobilising public and private investment, and promoting innovative approaches to housing delivery.

Participants highlighted the importance of regulatory simplification, digitalisation, stable investment frameworks, energy-efficient construction, and the uptake of innovative construction methods, to enhance productivity, reduce costs and shorten delivery times.

Housing was recognised as a strategic investment that contributes to social cohesion, competitiveness, labour and educational mobility as well as the green transition. The Meeting reaffirmed a shared commitment to addressing housing shortages and affordability challenges through a comprehensive approach combining simplification, innovation and investment, while ensuring access to affordable, sustainable and decent housing for all.