



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Practical information for the participants

Maritime Security Conference

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

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Maritime Security Conference

(12-13 November 2015, Nicosia, Cyprus)

The Challenges, Benefits and Opportunities of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy

The conference is co-organised by the
Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus,
&
the European Defence Agency

Practical information for the participants

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Republic of Cyprus

The Island of Cyprus is the third largest of the Mediterranean islands and officially known as the Republic of Cyprus. Strategically placed at the crossroads of Africa, Asia and Europe, the island has had a very turbulent history which is reflected in the architectural ruins, abandoned villages, ghost-towns and Nicosia, Europe's last remaining 'Divided City'. In the island one encounters an exotic and exciting mix of east and west which is reflected in the cultural traditions and lifestyle. Cyprus has been a full member of the EU since the 1st of May 2004 and adopted the Euro on the 1st of January 2008.

Nicosia (Lefkosia) is the capital of Cyprus and is located roughly in the center of the island. Instead of the sea breeze, here one can feel an air of sophistication and cultural diversity that reinforces its capacity as a European capital. With a rich history that can be traced back to the Bronze Age, Lefkosia only became the capital in the 11th century AD, and it was the Lusignans who transformed it into a magnificent city with a royal palace and over fifty churches. Later in the 16th century the Venetians gave it its trademark city walls, which completely encircle the Old City. The massive and architecturally impressive walls have a circumference of 4.5 Km, with 11 heart-shaped bastions and 3 gates to the city. The walls divide Lefkosia into the Old City within, and modern and continuously developing city outside the walls. Sadly, Lefkosia is still divided, with the demarcation Green Line running right across the Old City from east to west. Crossing over from one side to the other is now possible upon presentation of ID card or passport.

The **Northern Part of Cyprus** has been under Turkish Military Occupation, since the invasion of the island in 1974. Although the whole of the Republic of Cyprus has joined the EU, according to the Treaty of Accession application of European Law has been temporarily suspended in these territories, over which the government of Cyprus cannot exercise any control. As a consequence, visitors to the occupied part of Cyprus, do so at their own risk. Incidentally, the territory of the British Military Bases in Cyprus has also been excluded from accession to the EU.

Cyprus Key Facts Quick View

Geographic Location: Eastern Mediterranean Island

Climate: Mediterranean

Local Time: GMT time +2 (winter time)

Area: 9,251 sq km (3,572 sq miles)

Population: 838,897

Capital city: Nicosia (Lefkosia/Lefkosa) (population: 230,000)

People: Greek Cypriot (78%), Turkish Cypriot (18%), Maronites, Latins (4%)

Languages: Greek, Turkish, English

Religions: Greek Orthodox (78%), Muslim (18%), Maronite, Armenian Apostolic, and other (4%)

Currency: Euro

Government: Republic (Presidential System) since 1960

Head of State: President Nicos Anastasiades

Minister of Defence: Christoforos Fokaides

Registration

Registration will remain open from 10 September to 27 October 2015. You are kindly requested to complete the registration form and submit it attached to the following email address: seminar@mod.gov.cy. A confirmation email will be send back by the organizers.

Should you have any questions or requests concerning registration please send an email to Mrs. Maria SENTOUKARI: msentoukari@mod.gov.cy or to the general address of the Conference seminar@mod.gov.cy.

Conference Venue

The Conference will take place at the Filoxenia Conference Center which is located in Nicosia. The entrance for all participants will be via Thrakis Street. Parking for 70 cars is available next to the entrance.

FILOXENIA CONFERENCE CENTER

17 Thrakis Street,

1311 Nicosia, Cyprus

Tel: +357 22395000 - Fax: +357 22335653

See more at: <http://www.fcc.com.cy>

Cyprus Airports

Cyprus Airports are based in **Larnaca** and **Paphos**.

Email address: info@hermesairports.com Website: www.hermesairports.com

LARNACA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (LCA) (Tel. No. 77 77 88 33)

Larnaca International Airport is Cyprus's main international airport and is situated 5KM south of the town of LARNACA. A new terminal building opened in November 2009, serving 9 million passengers a year.

Larnaca is 45 Km from Nicosia, the host city of the Maritime Security Conference. LCA can be accessed from Nicosia by the A1 followed by the A3 motorways at the RIZOELIA exit.

PAPHOS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PFO) (Tel. No. 77 77 88 33)

Paphos International Airport is located on the west coast of the island just 9 miles east of the town of PAPHOS.

Paphos is 152 Km from Nicosia, the host city of the Maritime Security Conference. PFO can be accessed from Nicosia by the A1 followed by the A2 and then the A4 motorways.

Tourist Information

Information to tourists is provided by a tourist information office located in Departures, as well as by various airline information desks, which are located on the public concourse. Please visit the official site of Cyprus Tourism Organization: www.visitcyprus.com

Accommodation

The venue of the conference is easily accessible by both public and private transport from the Nicosia center as well as from the seaside city of Larnaca (only 47 Km away), should you choose to stay in either (not suggested). There are no hotels within walking distance of the venue of the Conference. Although a couple of hotels in Nicosia are suggested, feel free to choose any other. In all cases please make your booking directly with the hotel or through any booking agent.

Please note that the organizers have been pre-booked a certain number of rooms in the Hilton Hotel in special rate. To book a room in the suggested hotel, please follow the link below:

http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/N/NICHITW-GAKAR-20151111/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

The Capital city

Nicosia, with a population of more than 230,000, is the island's largest city. Although Nicosia is a modern city with high-rises, shopping centers, theatres and restaurants, it has retained its historical character in the preserved and renovated "Old City" center, located within the Venetian walls. These city walls, which separate the old town from the new, testify to Cyprus's long history of domination by foreign rulers.

The ceasefire line (also known as the "Green Line") alerts visitors to Nicosia's status as the last divided capital in Europe. Despite that, Nicosia is a modern commercial center, with a rich cultural, social and athletic life. A selection of theatres, cinemas, night clubs, restaurants and athletic centers enrich the visitor's stay. Nicosia is the administrative, cultural, educational and religious center of the country, and is also geographically at the center of the island.

In Nicosia you can choose to stay in any of a number of hotels offering good facilities and service at affordable prices. We recommend the following hotels, however you can find more hotels through the site of Nicosia Tourism Board <http://www.visitnicosia.com.cy/> .

HILTON CYPRUS (5 stars): http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/N/NICHITW-GAKAR-20151111/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

CLEOPATRA (4 stars): <http://www.cleopatra.com.cy/cleopatra/>

HILTON PARC CYPRUS (4 stars): http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/NICLEHI-Hilton-Park-Nicosia-/index.do

HOLIDAY INN (4 stars): <http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/gb/en/nicosia/niccy/hoteldetail>

EUROPLAZA (3 stars) : <http://www.europaplazahotel.com/>

Transport in Cyprus

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Buses are the only means of public transport in Cyprus. There are no metros or trains.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE

KAPNOS Airport Shuttle provides “Shuttle” service between Nicosia and Larnaca International Airport at 8€ per person and between Nicosia and Paphos Airport at 15€ per person.

KAPNOS AIRPORT SHUTTLE: <http://www.kapnosairportshuttle.com/>

Tel.: +357 24 00 87 18

URBAN BUSES

Urban buses link different areas within the respective cities and operate frequently during the day. Each city has its own bus company. For timetables, please contact the corresponding company.

LEFKOSIA: OSEL BUSES, Tel.: +357 22 46 80 88, www.osel.com.cy

TRANSURBAN/INTERCITY BUSES

Public bus transport between towns is provided by Intercity Buses Co Ltd. For exact timetables contact:

INTERCITY BUSES Co Ltd., Tel.: 23 81 90 90, www.intercity.buses.com

URBAN TAXIS

Urban taxis are available 24 hours a day in all towns. They can be booked by phone or hired on the street. Taximeters are installed in all urban taxis and charging starts as soon as you get into the car.

TRANSURBAN (SHARED) TAXIS

This service offers the opportunity to share a taxi with 4-8 other passengers. It provides transportation between all major towns every half hour. Seats can be booked by phone and passengers can be collected from and dropped off at any place they wish, within the municipal boundaries. For more information contact Travel Express: Tel.: 77 77 74 74, 22730888. The one way fare from Larnaca to Nicosia is 8.20 euro.

HIRED CARS

Self-drive car rental firms have offices in all towns, as well as at Larnaca International Airport.

To be permitted to drive in Cyprus, you must hold either a valid national or international driving licence provided it is valid for the class of vehicle you wish to drive. CAUTION: Traffic moves on the LEFT-hand side of the road, NOT on the right. Due to the sometimes intense brightness of the clear Mediterranean sky, drivers are advised to wear sunglasses.

General Information

Languages

Greek and Turkish are the official languages of the Republic of Cyprus. English is widely spoken.

Local Time

Cyprus Time is GMT +2.

Climate & Weather

The island's climate is characterized by hot summers and mild winters. On **November**, the **mean** daily temperature is **16°C** while the **mean** daily minimum at 10°C and the **mean** daily maximum at 22°C. You can find more details about the weather on the official website of the Cyprus Meteorological Service.

http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/ms/ms.nsf/DMLindex_en/DMLindex_en?opendocument.

Currency

The currency of Cyprus is the Euro.

Currency Exchange

All banks operating in Cyprus offer foreign currency exchange services and quote the exchange rates of the Euro against all major foreign currencies daily. Foreign currency can also be exchanged at hotels.

ATMs and Credit Cards

All major banks in Cyprus have automatic teller machines (ATMs) in most towns and in the majority of the large villages. All major credit cards are accepted almost everywhere.

Electricity supply

The electricity supply in Cyprus is 230 volts, AC. 50 Hz. Sockets are usually 13 amp, **with 3-point plugs, square pin (UK Type)**. Many hotels provide adaptors upon request from the reception.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in all indoor public places and night clubs.

Opening hours

Shops normally open around 09.00 and close around 21.00 every day.

Banks are open on workdays (Monday to Friday) between 08.30 and 13.30. From October to April they are also open on Monday afternoon between 15.15 and 16.45. Banks are closed on weekends and public holidays.

Restaurants and cafes have varying opening hours, but lunch is most often served between 12.00 and 15.00. Dinner is served from 19.00 until late in the evening.

Driving Side

Driving is on the **left-hand side of the road**. All the international road traffic signs are in use and placed on the left-hand side of roads and highways. On roundabouts, priority is given to the right side.

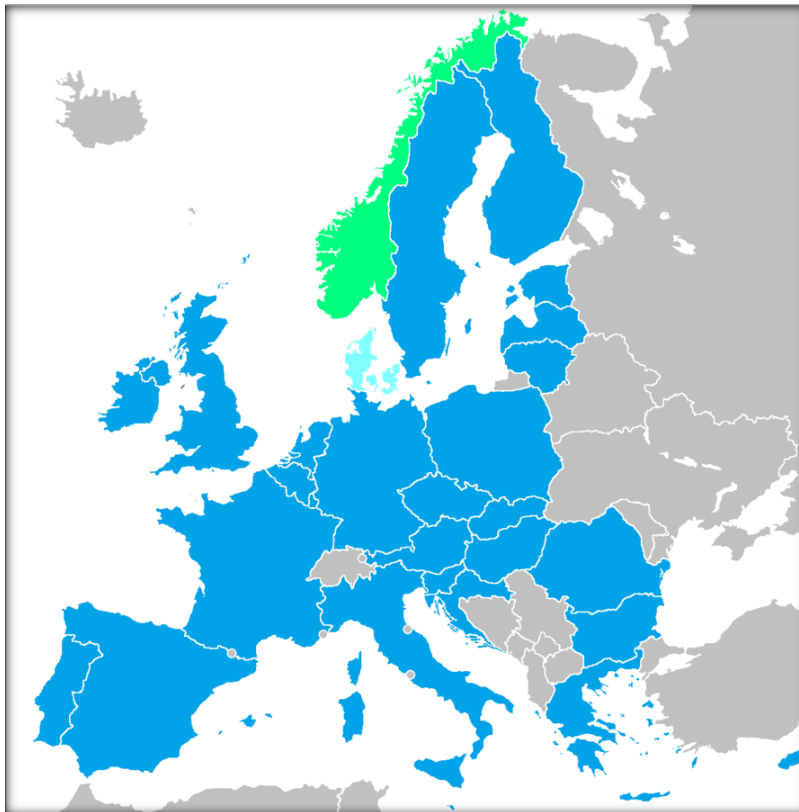
Emergency Number

Call 112, the EU-wide emergency number for police, fire department and ambulance.

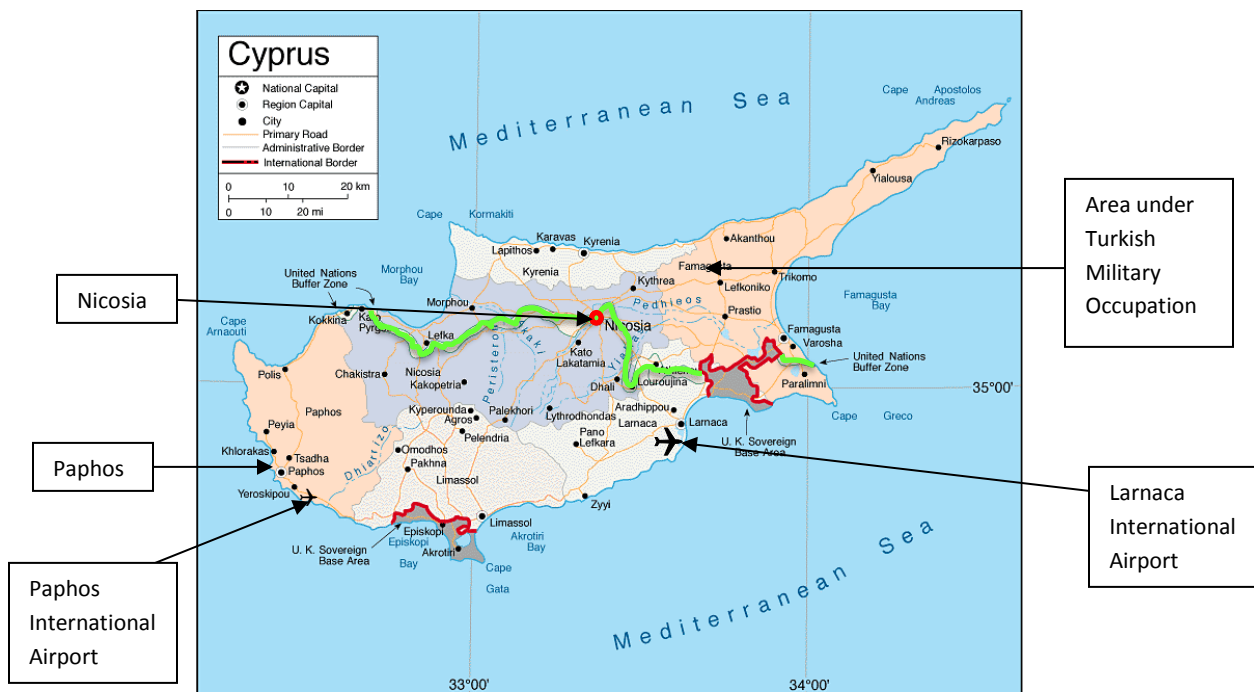
Dial Code for Cyprus: +357

Telephone Directory Assistance: 11892, 11822, 11800, 11833, 11811.

MAP OF EDA's MS



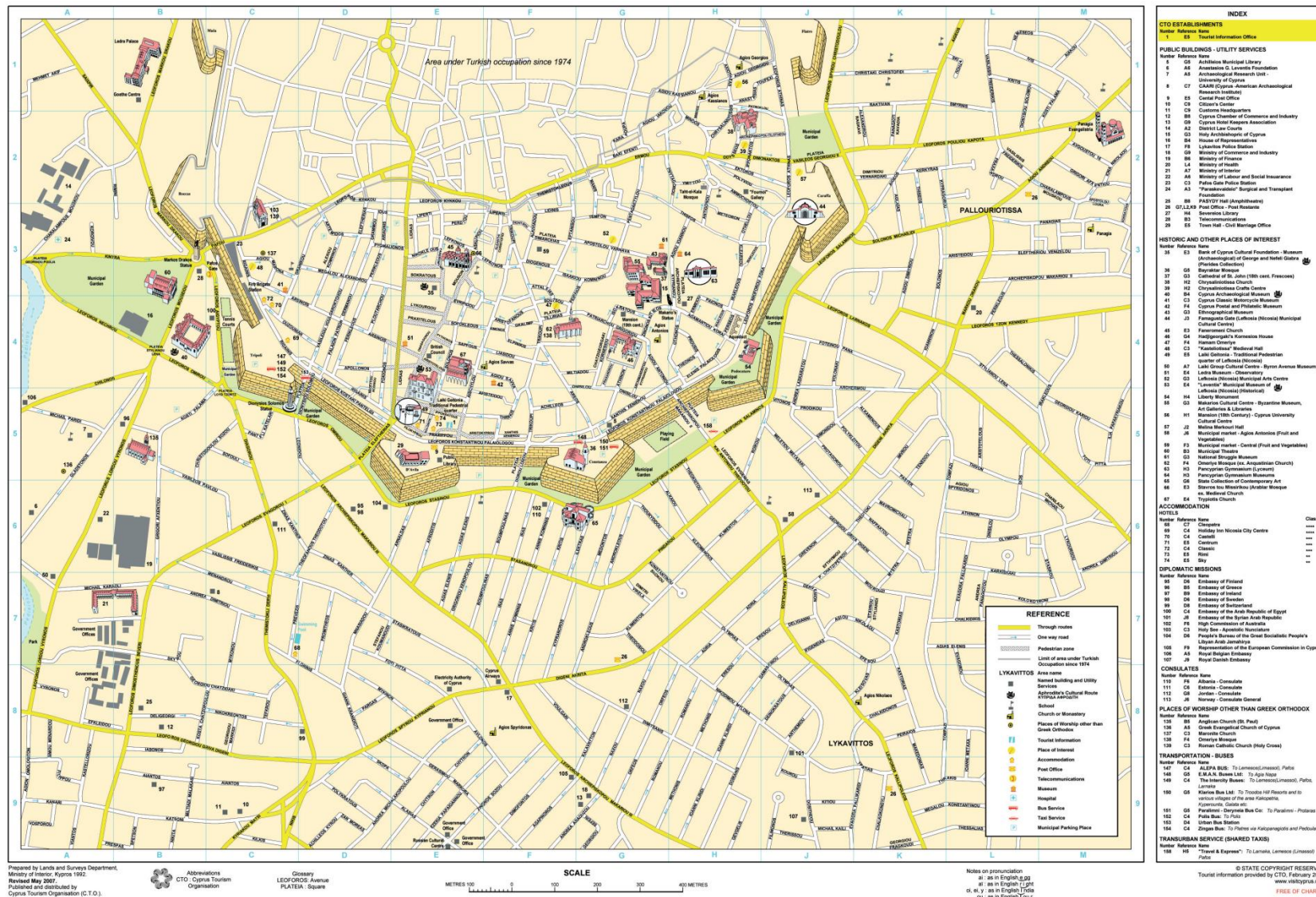
MAP OF CYPRUS



Visitor's Map of Cyprus



Map of Nicosia City Center



For more maps of Cyprus, please follow the link below:

<http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/DLS/dls.nsf/All/98609FDF7BB587B4C22570E5003570EA?OpenDocument>

