



INVITATION TO THE COMMON MODULE

8th Common Security and Defence Policy Olympiad Pafos, Cyprus, 15 - 19 June 2026 (Activity number 25-26/EMILYO/Olympiad/1)

The Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union is pleased to invite you to participate in the residential phase of the 8th Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Olympiad, which will take place in Pafos, Cyprus, from 15 to 19 June 2026.

The 8th CSDP Olympiad is organised by the Cyprus Security and Defence Academy (CSDA), within the framework of the European Initiative on the Exchange of Young Officers (inspired by Erasmus – EMILYO) and under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC).

The primary objective of the CSDP Olympiad is to provide cadets with fundamental knowledge of the CSDP, encouraging them to conduct in-depth research and draft a formal paper. These contributions will be published and circulated among relevant European Union institutions and stakeholders. During the residential phase, cadets will present their essays, undergo evaluation by a committee, and compete with peers from other Member States in a CSDP knowledge competition.

The CSDP Olympiad module consists of three main components: an Internet-based Distance Learning (IDL) course, the drafting and submission of a research paper on a CSDP-related topic, and the residential European Competition in Cyprus.

We look forward to welcoming the delegations of cadets who secured a position in the residential phase, along with the selected evaluators and specialists in Basic Officer Education, to the city of Pafos.

Please be informed that all expenses concerning the accommodation of the selected Cadets/Midshipman/Students and accompanying personnel during the residential phase will be covered by the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Cyprus Ministry of Defence. Travel costs will remain the responsibility of the sending institutions.

Please do not hesitate to contact the points of contact for this activity: Mr. Christoforos Christoforou (Christoforos.Christoforou@eeas.europa.eu) and Mr. Andreas Patsalides (apatsalides@mod.gov.cy).

Colonel Harald GELL

signed in the original

Chairman of the
Implementation Group of
EMILYO

Colonel (A) Symeon ZAMBAS

signed in the original

Director of the Cyprus Security
and Defence Academy
(CSDA)

Mr Fergal Ó REGAN

signed in the original

Head of the European Security
and Defence College
(ESDC)

Annexes

Annex A. Tentative Programme

Annex B. Administrative Information

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Sunday, 14 June 2026	
All Day	Arrivals – Transport to the Hotel (meeting point at Airport’s CY Presidency desk)
Monday, 15 June 2026	
Before 15:00	Arrivals – Transport to the Hotel (meeting point at Airport’s CY Presidency desk)
18:00-18:30	Transport from the Hotel to Ancient Roman Odeon
19:00-20:30	Opening Ceremony
20:30-22:30	Icebreaker
22:30	Transport to the Hotel
Tuesday, 16 June 2026	
07:00-09:00	Breakfast
09:00-13:00	Self-Rehearsals: Essay presentations & Knowledge Competition
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-17:00	Free time
17:00-18:00	Transport to the Cultural visit
18:00-20:00	Cultural visit
20:30-22:00	Hosted Dinner
22:00	Return to the Hotel
Wednesday, 17 June 2026	
07:00-09:00	Breakfast
09:00-13:00	Presentations of Essays - Pre-Final Round
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-17:00	Presentations of Essays - Final Round
17:00	Free afternoon
Thursday, 18 June 2026	
07:00-09:00	Breakfast
09:00-13:00	Knowledge Competition – Team Category
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	Knowledge Competition – Individual Category
16:00-17:00	Closing Ceremony
17:00-19:00	Free Time
19:00-19:30	Transfer to the Official Dinner
19:30-22:30	Official Dinner
22:30	Return to the Hotel
Friday, 19 June 2026	
All Day	Departures – Transport to the Airport

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*The present information is provided for preliminary briefing purposes. Following the selection of participants, a detailed Practical Information Note (PIN) will be circulated in due course, containing comprehensive guidance and instructions, **including the procedures required for registration in the Presidency-related systems, as the activity is organised under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union.***

The upcoming Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January – June 2026) is pleased to invite you to participate in the residential phase of the 8th Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Olympiad, which will take place in Pafos, Cyprus, from **15 to 19 June 2026**.

The 8th CSDP Olympiad is organised by the Cyprus Security and Defence Academy (CSDA), within the framework of the European Initiative on the Exchange of Young Officers (inspired by Erasmus – EMILYO) and under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC).

Participants: During the residential phase of the 8th CSDP Olympiad the following have the right to registered:

- Cadets (whose essay passed to the residential phase)
- Winner of the 8th CSDP Olympiad cover page
- Evaluators (up to one accompanying person from each participating institution)
- Guests/Evaluators (upon individual invitation)

Registration & Deadline: Participants are kindly requested to register by filling in the "Registration Form" received via email, before 01 April 2026.

This event is held under the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU. Following this registration, you will receive an email from the Presidency after 6 April. This email will include a Practical Information Note (PIN) and a link to the NOVENTO application, along with an access code. You will need these to provide your remaining administrative details, such as travel arrangements, transportation requests, and accommodation.

Note : **Please do not book flights and accommodation before receiving confirmation of registration.**

Language: Working language is English

Course Venue and Accommodation: The course will take place in the **Coral Beach Hotel**, Pafos. More details regarding the venue, the accommodation options and the transportation from the airport to the hotel, will be communicated at a later stage to the registered participants within the *Practical Information Note (PIN)* mentioned above.

Transportation: The Cyprus Presidency and the hosts will provide airport transfers and ground transportation during the event.

Arrival/departure: participants are expected to arrive in Pafos before Monday 15 16:00 June 2026. The 8th CSDP Olympiad will start with the Opening Ceremony on Monday 15 June 2026 at 19:00 and finish on Thursday 18 June 2026 at 16:00. The departure day is 19 June 2026.

Please be informed that **the only legal points of entry and exit** to and from the territory of the Republic are the international airports of Larnaca and Pafos and the ports of Larnaca, Limassol, Pafos and Latchi. Travelers entering the Republic of Cyprus via any illegally operating airport or port in the turkish occupied area of Cyprus that has been declared closed in accordance with International Law, will be in breach of national legislation of the Republic of Cyprus. You are therefore urged to travel via the legal points of entry to the Republic of Cyprus, so as to avoid the risk of facing the consequences of the law.

Costs: All expenses concerning the accommodation of Cadets/Midshipman/Students and accompanying personnel during the residential phase will be covered by the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Cyprus Ministry of Defence. Travel costs will remain the responsibility of the sending institutions.

Meals: Will be covered by the Organisers

Social events: An **icebreaker**, hosted by the Cyprus Presidency, will take place during the first day after the Opening Ceremony of the 8th CSDP Olympiad (Monday, 15 June 2026). A **dinner hosted** by the Cyprus Security and Defence Academy will take place on 16 June 2026, as well as an **Official Dinner** hosted by the Cyprus Presidency on 17 June 2026.

Dress Code: Opening/closing ceremony, Icebreaker: Best Uniform/Business Attire

Official Dinner: Smart casual

During the Presentation/Competitions: Service Uniform or equivalent for civilian participants. Sports outfit and swimming suit will be needed as well.

Liabilities and Insurance: In case of medical emergencies, the costs shall be covered by the participant's medical insurance provided by the sending country/organisation. The organisers do not provide health or accident insurance for participants taking part in the event.

Points of Contact:

Ministry of Defence/Cyprus Security & Defence Academy:

Captain Andreas PATSALIDES

(office: +357 22807512, email: apatsalides@mod.gov.cy)

European Security and Defence College:

Major Christoforos CHRISTOFOROU

(mobile: +32 460 84 2591, email: Christoforos.Christoforou@eeas.europa.eu)