

High-Level Ministerial and Stakeholders Conference

Investing in Seafarers:

SECURING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL SHIPPING

28 APRIL
2026

📍 Four Seasons Hotel, Limassol, Cyprus

PROGRAMME

10:00 - 10:30	Registration and welcome coffee
10:30 - 11:00	Opening Session – Welcome & Keynote Addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome by Master of Ceremony and CEO and Founder of Oceans Arena, Ms. Gina Panayiotou Welcome by Shipping Deputy Minister to the President of Cyprus, Ms. Marina Hadjimanolis Keynote 1: EU Commissioner of Sustainable Transport and Tourism, Mr. Apostolos Tzitzikostas Keynote 2: Chair of the Transport and Tourism Committee of the European Parliament, Ms. Elisavet Vozemberg-Vrionidis
11:00 - 11:15	Addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President of the Cyprus Union of Shipowners, Mr. Polys Hadjioannou President of the Cyprus Shipping Chamber, Mr. Andreas Neophytou
11:15 - 12:00	Ministerial High-Level Roundtable Seafarers: Investing in the Foundation of Global Shipping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Mr. Andreas Chrysostomou, CEO Pivotal Step Limited
12:00 - 12:30	Special Recognition Ceremony Honouring Captain Panagiotis N. Tsakos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction and Presentation by Dr. Ilias Bissias, Assistant Professor of Shipping and Transport Management of the University of the Aegean / Editorial Advisor of Naftika Chronika
1230 - 14:00	Networking Lunch
14:00 - 14:05	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Ismail Abdel Ghaffar Ismail Farag, President of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport
14:05 - 14:20	Introductory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Andreas Hadjipetrou, Managing Director of Columbia Shipmanagement Ltd in conversation with Captain Iro Gidakou, Fleet Operations Manager of Maran Gas Maritime Inc.
14:20 - 15:05	Session 2 A New Era of Seafaring: Raising Awareness and Promoting Maritime Careers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Chairman of the Cyprus Foundation for the SEA, Captain Eugen-Henning Adami Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITF – General Secretary, Mr. Stephen Cotton European Commission – Director General of DG MOVE, Ms. Magda Kopczykńska ICS – General Secretary, Mr. Thomas Kazakos MSC Shipmanagement Limited – Group Managing Director & CEO, Mr. Prabhat Jha OSM Thome - Group Chief Crew Management Officer, Mrs. Julia Anastasiou
15:05 - 15:20	Coffee Break
15:20 - 15:35	Introductory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-CEO of Tototheo Global, Mrs. Despina Panayiotou – Theodosiou in conversation with President of WISTA International, Operations, Chartering & Business Development Manager of ENEA Management and Secretary General of Hellenic Shortsea Shipowners Association, Ms. Elpi Petraki
15:35 - 16:20	Session 3 Attracting and Retaining Talent: Ensuring a Just Transition and Advancing Equal Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Naftika Chronika/University of the Aegean – Editorial Advisor/Assistant Professor of Shipping and Transport Management, Dr. Ilias G. Bissias Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETF – General Secretary, Ms. Livia Spera Commissioner of Gender Equality of Cyprus – Mrs. Josie Christodoulou TSAKOS Group of Companies – Commander of the Hellenic Coast Guard (Retired), Cross-Departmental HR and Training Manager, Ms. Venetia Kallipollitou ECSA – Secretary General, Mr. Sotiris Raptis Hellenic Shortsea Shipowners Association – President, Mr. Charalambos Simantonis
16:20 - 16:30	Closing Session Key Messages & Concluding Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered by: Master of Ceremony, Ms. Gina Panayiotou