



SECURING ENERGY, DEFENDING EUROPE: CYPRUS PRESIDENCY IN HIGH WATER

Monday, 25 May 2026
15:30 – 17:00

Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)
Via dei Montecatini, 17
Rome

Working Language: English

Cyprus holds the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The programme of the rotating Presidency, framed under the motto "An Autonomous Union, Open to the World," establishes strategic autonomy as its core directive, with a specific focus on the close relationship between security and energy resilience. Central to Nicosia's agenda is the advancement of the EU's Strategic Compass and the reinforcement of maritime security in the Eastern Mediterranean, both issues having deep implications for the European resilience. The priorities of the Presidency will be debated in this conference jointly organized by the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Rome. The dialogue will bring together a high-level panel including representatives from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, leading think-tank analysts and private sector stakeholders to synchronize Italian and Cypriot strategic responses.

In cooperation with



PROGRAMME

15:00-15:30 Registration and welcome coffee

15:30-15:45 Welcome remarks

MICHELE VALENSISE
President, IAI

YIORGOS CHRISTOFIDES
Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Italy

15:45-16.50 Roundtable: (Em)Powering Europe: Energy and Security under turmoil

CECILIA PICCIONI
Director General for Political Affairs and International Security and Deputy Secretary General, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

LAPO PISTELLI
Public Affairs Director, ENI

KAROLINA MUTI
Senior Researcher, IAI

Chair
FEDERICO CASTIGLIONI
Researcher, IAI

Q&A

16:50-17:00 Closing remarks

YIORGOS CHRISTOFIDES
Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Italy