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Cyprus Defence & Security Conference

2024

Nicosia · 12 November · Cyprus

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Conference Program

Tuesday 12 November 2024

09:45-10:15 Registration

10:15 – 11:30 Welcoming addresses

- Ms Anna Aristotelous, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Republic of Cyprus
On behalf of the Minister of Defence Mr. Vasilis Palmas
- Brig Gen Grigorios Gkoutzelis, Informatics Directorate Coordinator
On behalf of the Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, Gen. Dimitrios Choupis
- Lt Gen Nikolaos Kontopidis (Ret), Member Of Board and Deputy Director of Studies
Representative of the Hellenic Institute for Strategic Studies (HEL.I.S.S.)

KEYNOTE SPEECH

- Lt Gen Georgios Tsitsikostas, Chief of the National Guard of Cyprus

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“Security & Protection of the seas”

11: 30 -12:30

Coffee break, Networking, Visiting of Cypriot Officials and Military delegations to Sponsors Exhibition Area

12 : 30- 13:30

Session One – **“SPONSOR Session”**

- Eight Bells, Lt Gen Nikolaos Kontopidis (Ret), Senior Project Manager
“Presentation of Eight Bells Ltd and its EDF projects”
- Uvision Air, Gideon Landa, VP Strategy
“Loitering Munition Meeting Emerging Multi-Domain Challenges”
- Space Systems Solutions, Dr. Dionysios Tompros, Head of Space Systems Integration
“Counter-UAV systems and detecting threats missed by radars”
- Swarmly, Gary Rafalovsky, Director
“The changed nature of modern warfare. Lessons learned from Russia-Ukraine war”

13:30 – 14:15

Cocktail buffet and Networking

14:15 – 15:00

Session Two – **“SUPPORTER Session”**

- Hellenic Institute for Strategic Studies (HEL.I.S.S.), Lt Gen (Ret) Ippokratis Daskalakis, Director of Studies
“Military Applications of AI. - Benefits and Risks of AI in Defence”
- Cyprus Organization for Standardization (CYS), Joseph Karis, ICT Standards Officer
“Standardization in support of civil and defence synergies”
- Cyprus Space Exploration Organisation (CSEO), George A Danos, President
“Cubesats and their role in monitoring Cyprus and its environment”

15:00 – 16:15

Session Three - Panel Discussion **“The Geopolitical Role of Cyprus today - Strategies for advancement”**

Moderator :

- Dr. Petros Kareklas, Fmr Permanent Secretary, MoD of Cyprus, Fmr President of the Occupied Municipalities of Cyprus, Fmr Mayor of Kythrea

Panelists :

- Dr. Marios P. Efthymiopoulos, Assoc. Prof. of Int'l Security and Strategy and Head of Dept. of History, Politics and Int'l Studies, Neapolis University Pafos (NUP), CEO & Founder, Strategy International

- Petros Zarounas, Political analyst, Fmr Secretary-General, Geostrategic Council of Cyprus, President at NGO POLITEIA

- Lt Gen Demokritos Zervakis (Ret), Fmr Chief of the National Guard of Cyprus

- Dr. Vassilis (Bill) Kappis, International Security Scholar and Analyst

End of Conference – Conclusions



Welcome Address

Vasilis Zomenos - CYPSEC 2024 Director



Honorable Acting Permanent Secretary, representative of the Minister of Defence, Republic of Cyprus,
Your Excellency Ambassador of Israel,
Your Honorable VP of the Committee on Defence Affairs of the House of Representatives, Republic of Cyprus,
Honorable Chief of the National Guard of Cyprus,
Honorable representative of the Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff,
Honored guests, dear Executives, Officers, ladies & gentlemen.

I would like to welcome and thank you all for your participation at the **5th CYPSEC 2024**, Cyprus Defence & Security Int'l conference.

A primary pillar of our idea for CYPSEC was Dr. Petros Kareklas, who inspired us, paved the way and continues to assist us, always having in mind the strengthening of Cyprus' strategic approach to Defence and Security issues.

We are now convinced that the CYPRUS International Defense & Security Conference, **CYPSEC**, with its 5th edition, has already created a fertile environment for high-level meetings, exchanging views with all Defence & Security stakeholders in **Cyprus**, here in the **Eastern Mediterranean**.

I would like to express my gratitude to the **SUPREME Sponsor: DAMEN Shipyards**
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Also to our **Supporters**: the Hellenic Institute for Strategic Studies, the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, the Hellenic Manufacturers of Defense Materials Association-SEKPY, the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, , the Cyprus Organization for Standardisation-CYS, the Cyprus Space Exploration Organisation, the Strategy International for their valuable support in the preservation of this event.

Once again, welcome to **CYPSEC 2024** and I hope it will be a productive and beneficial Conference for everyone.

I call the Acting Permanent Secretary, of the Ministry of Defence , of the Republic of Cyprus, Mrs Anna Aristotelous, on behalf of Mr Vasilis Palmas, Minister of Defence, for the official opening of the Conference.
The Floor is yours.....



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Welcome Address

Ms Anna Aristotelous

Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Republic of Cyprus

On behalf of the

Minister of Defence, Mr. Vasilis Palmas

Your excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

Before delivering the address of the Minister of Defence, Mr. Vassilis Palmas, I would first like to express the Minister's sincere appreciation to the conference organizers for the invitation to attend the conference. Unfortunately, due to prior commitments Minister Palmas could not attend in person today.

On behalf of Minister Palmas and myself, I extend our sincerest wishes for a successful and impactful conference.

At the outset I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the organizers of this Conference for convening such an esteemed high - level forum, which promises to address some of the most complex and multifaceted regional and global challenges of our time, and provide valuable insights.

Let me also warmly welcome all participants who have travelled from abroad to be part of this important gathering.

This year's Cyprus Defence and Security Conference convenes at a pivotal moment in global geopolitics. Ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, coupled with widespread global security challenges and instability, have compelled the European Union to place renewed emphasis on defence and stability. This prioritization reflects a global shift toward strengthening security in response to evolving geopolitical threats. Today, we are confronting security challenges of growing complexity that demand collective response with a collaborative approach. The persistent threat of terrorism, arms proliferation and rising geopolitical tensions highlight the importance of international cooperation and solidarity.

Our region, faces significant political instability and military conflicts. Yet, the foundation for lasting peace lies in our ability to engage in constructive dialogue with our neighbours to seek out political solutions to our problems. However, lasting peace is achievable through constructive dialogue with our neighbours and commitment to pursue political solutions. Although differences may exist, we must stay focused on our shared objectives and common aspirations as only through mutual respect and understanding can we hope to achieve a peaceful and prosperous region.

The Republic of Cyprus remains committed to promoting and enhancing regional security and defence cooperation. We are focused on fostering partnerships among the EU, Middle East, and Gulf nations, viewing these partnerships as models for regional dialogue and collaboration that can further contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity.

In this context, Cyprus has actively promoted bilateral, trilateral, and quadrilateral cooperation with key regional partners. Our defence policy seeks to deepen our bilateral defence and military cooperation with EU member states and regional partners by strengthening military-to-military ties, establishing lasting staff connections, and enhancing interoperability through coordinated joint exercises.

We are immensely gratified by the expansion of our defence partnerships with longstanding allies, and the development of new ones, notably with the United States and other significant regional actors.

Our strategic focus also extends into research and innovation in defence. Cyprus, though small, has a dynamic defense ecosystem capable of making a meaningful contribution to international security frameworks by fostering cooperation and strengthening collective defence initiatives.

Through continued investment in advanced technologies and strategic partnerships, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Cyprus seeks to expand its role as an important and reliable EU and regional partner.

Our goal is to strengthen national defence technology and industrial capabilities, not only to meet our own security requirements and security of supply, but also to support a competitive national research and innovation ecosystem, particularly in dual-use technologies. This commitment reflects our vision of fostering technological advancement, encouraging collaboration, and enhancing the resilience of our defence sector in line with global standards while also promoting and supporting European strategic Defence Autonomy.

On the realm of Cyber defense domain, the Ministry of Defense is significantly engaged in various critical efforts. We actively participate in the National Cybersecurity Council and the Cybersecurity Steering Committee, contributing to policy development and overseeing the implementation of the National Cybersecurity Strategy. We have taken steps to improve the cyber defense capabilities of the National Guard, by coordinating the establishment of the Military Security Operation Center. The Ministry of Defense has actively participated in the design and organization of the first National Cybersecurity Exercise to strengthen cyber readiness across both public and private sectors.

At European level MOD is part of significant cybersecurity programs within the framework of the PESCO initiative and the CyDEF-X project led by the European Defense Agency. These programs, enable close coordination with partner nations, enhancing our response cybersecurity capabilities and contributing to the European Union's collective defense efforts.

In the domain of Artificial Intelligence, the Ministry of Defense closely monitors ongoing developments and evaluates both the positive contributions and the significant disruptive potential of Artificial Intelligence in the fields of defense and security.

Distinguished Colleagues,

As we work to strengthen our defence capabilities, we hold firm to our belief that peace is the most viable and optimal pathway for our region.

We hope that all countries will seize opportunities to engage in peacebuilding, respect international law, and uphold the principles of territorial integrity, sovereignty, and sovereign rights of their neighbours, laying the foundation for a robust security framework across the region.

In an increasingly interconnected world, peaceful coexistence is not merely desirable—it is essential. Our collective security is strengthened when we choose understanding over division.

Once again, congratulations to the organizers. I wish all participants a highly productive and insightful conference.

Thank you for your attention.

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ Άμυνας
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Mr Vasilis Palmas

**Minister of Defence
Republic of Cyprus**

Mr Vasilis Palmas was born in Lemesos in 1964. He studied Political Science and Public Administration. He worked as a manager at Pharmakas Quarries Group.

He served as a member of the Tenders Review Authority.

He was married to Angeliki Christodoulou and he has a son.

He served as President of the Youth of the Democratic Party (NEDHK) and then as General Secretary of the Democratic Party (DIKO). He served as Director of the Press Office of the President of the Republic and as Government Spokesman in the Government of Tassos Papadopoulos.

On May 8, 2017, he was appointed Deputy Minister to the President in the Government of Nicos Anastasiades, a position he held until February 2, 2022, when he resigned for personal reasons.

From 10 January 2024, he assumed the duties of Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus.



Ms Anna Aristotelous

**Acting Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Defence
Republic of Cyprus**

Ms Anna Aristotelous possesses a Bachelor of Laws in Law, a degree of Masters of Laws in International and European Law and a Master in Business Administration, from UK Universities.

She practised law, she worked as an associate to the Law Commissioner, and following that, she was employed by Cyprus Police as an expert in law; she contributed to the implementation of the *acquis communautaire* during the process for the accession of Cyprus to the European Union as regards police legal matters; she participated to the Management Board of Europol, as Official Representative of the Republic of Cyprus. She has offered her services to four different Chiefs of Police, performing the duties of legal counsel, as from 2004. As from 2013 she has been transferred in to the office of the Minister of Justice and Public Order as a director of the Office of the Minister and she was appointed by the Minister as responsible for the reorganisation of the Police and the Prisons at the Ministry.

She had active role in the drafting of the Strategic Plan of the Prisons Department, of Police and of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. She was also appointed as member of Europris (European Prisons).

As from 30 October, 2014 she was appointed as an Acting Director of Prisons and as from 4 April, 2016 she was appointed as the Director of Prisons.

On 3rd of June 2023 she was appointed by the President of the Republic of Cyprus as a counsel and Head of Humanitarian Affairs of Missing and Enclaved Persons.

As from 01 November, 2024, she has also been appointed as Acting Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Defence.



Welcome Address

Brigadier General Grigorios Gkoutzelis
On behalf of the
Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff
General Dimitrios Choupis

Honorable Acting Permanent Secretary, representing the Honorable Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus, Distinguished members of the National Guard of Cyprus, esteemed representatives of EU member states, honored guests, and colleagues,

It is a privilege and an honor to welcome you all to the 5th Cyprus Defence & Security International Conference, CYPSEC 2024.

Representing the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, I am here to affirm our unwavering commitment to regional stability, defense innovation, and cooperative security initiatives that support the Eastern Mediterranean as a pillar of peace and security.

In today's complex and fast-evolving security landscape, Europe's defense priorities are more defined than ever. The recent revision of the EU Capability Development Plan (CDP) has underscored the need to address both current and future threats with a unified, forward-thinking approach. Guided by insights from the EU's Strategic Compass and recent conflicts, critical priorities are highlighted that will shape our defense and security policies moving forward. These priorities underscore the importance of building next-generation capabilities that will enhance our collective strength across all domains (land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace).

Among the various focus areas of this conference, the need for robust cyber defense, precision in land-based engagements, and advancements in counter-drone technologies resonate deeply with our objectives within the Hellenic Armed Forces. Each of these areas represents a response to the growing spectrum of threats we face, from hybrid warfare to asymmetric challenges, requiring a strong, coordinated response.

Equally important, the role of strategic enablers is emphasized, such as resilient communication networks, integrated command structures, and effective intelligence-sharing frameworks. In alignment with the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, we continue to enhance our collaborative defense capabilities, in an environment of mutual support and strategic alignment. We recognize that the future of defense lies not only in standalone innovations but also in integrated, multi-domain operations. This approach is critical to strengthening our shared resilience and preparedness.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) will continue to be a cornerstone of modern military strategy, particularly in enhancing situational awareness, driving autonomous systems, and enabling faster, more informed decision-making. AI-driven advancements closely align with the priority to build qualitative and quantitative capabilities, transforming how we approach both immediate and long-term challenges. For the Hellenic Armed Forces, integrating AI into our systems is essential in maintaining a strategic edge and ensuring that we are prepared for the operational environments of tomorrow.

Recognizing the importance of AI for situational awareness, autonomous systems, and rapid decision-making, the Hellenic Armed Forces recently established a dedicated AI Section, as well as a separate Data Analytics Section within the newly formed Joint Informatics Corps, which together will enhance our ability to process vast amounts of information rapidly and derive actionable intelligence. The Corps, has been tasked with addressing the evolving landscape of information technology, cyber threats and digital warfare, integrating advanced AI algorithms, cyber defense mechanisms, and robust information systems across all military operations, ensuring our commitment to strong and reliable defense capabilities.

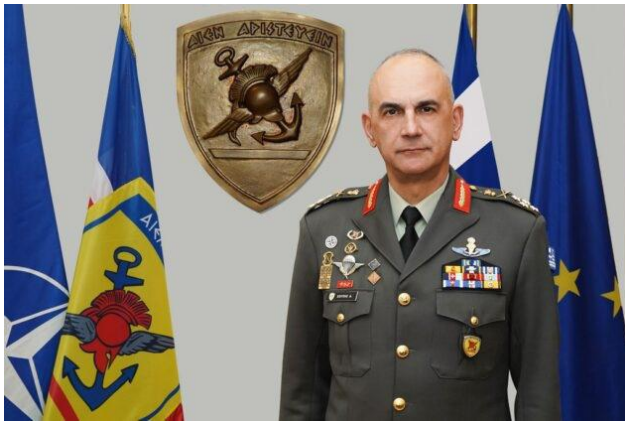
Furthermore, the aforementioned defense priorities are not merely aspirations; they are tangible goals designed to support the European Union as a capable and trustworthy security provider. With tools such as the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF), we can collaborate on projects that enhance our shared capabilities and strengthen our security infrastructure. The Hellenic Armed Forces fully support these initiatives and are committed to aligning our defense strategies with EU-wide goals.

In closing, I wish to thank our hosts and esteemed speakers for their invaluable insights and dedication to the shared goal of peace and security in our region. Let us take this opportunity to engage deeply in discussions, share our expertise, and work together to advance the EU's vision for a secure and resilient future.

Thank you all for being here, and I look forward to the collaborative advancements that will emerge from this Conference.

Let us begin.

Thank you!



General Dimitrios Choupis

Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff (H.N.D.G.S.)



General Dimitrios Choupis was born in 1965 at Nea Kerdyllia, Serres. He was admitted to the Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon) in 1983 and graduated in 1987 as Signals Second Lieutenant. As a fourth class cadet (1986-1987) he was First Captain of the Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon).

He graduated with honours from all schools and courses of his Branch, from the two-year long Signals Officers Telecommunications and Electronics School course (as an RF Electrical Engineer, A Class), as well as from the Army War College with distinction. He attended Signals and Special Forces Courses in Greece and respective NATO courses in Germany (Long Range Patrol, Communications – Cryptography, Electronic Warfare Operations Planning, Human Resources Management). He is an active freefall parachutist. In 2012, he was selected to attend the NATO Defence College (SC-121).

During his career as a junior and senior Officer, he served in Signals, Electronic Warfare, Electronic Surveillance, and Special Forces Units. He served for three years as Squad Leader in the Special Parachutist Unit. As a Staff Officer, he served in Formation and Major Formation staffs and the Hellenic Army General Staff. As a Commander, he served for two years in the EW Company of D Army Corps (Xanthi), as Commander of the Signals Company of the Hellenic Contingent in Cyprus, Signals Commander of the II Mechanised Infantry Division (Edessa), and Unit Commander of the 472nd Surveillance/Intelligence Battalion of the Higher Military Command of Interior and Islands (UAV). He served for three years in the International Staff of the Hellenic Military Delegation in NATO (Brussels, 2006-2009) as Allied Communications Planning Staff Officer in Afghanistan (ISAF) following his successful certification as Project Manager Practitioner by NATO, Chief of Staff of the 80th Higher National Guard Battalions Command (2013-2014), Section Chief for Current Operations (HAGS/A1) in the Hellenic Army General Staff (2014-2015), and Director of the Executive Office of the 1st Deputy Chief of HAGS (Operations – Defence Planning – Training) (2015-2016). As a General Officer (Brigadier General) as of 2016, he was assigned as Director of the Recruited Soldiers Division of HAGS (2016-2017), Commanding General of the 80th Higher National Guard Battalions Command (2017-2018), and Deputy Commandant of the Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon) (2018-2019). In 2019, he was promoted to Major General and assigned as Commandant of the Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon), in 2020 as Commanding General of the 95th Higher National Guard Battalions Command (Diagoridon), and in 2021 as Director of the E Staff Directorate (Military Intelligence – Security) of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff. On 9 April 2022, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and assigned as Commanding General of the Higher Military Command of Interior and Islands. On 17 January 2023, he was assigned as Commanding General of the Special Warfare Command.

On 12 January 2024, upon decision of the Governmental National Security Council, he was promoted to General and appointed as Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff (HNDGS).

He has been awarded all decorations, medals, and commendations provided for his rank, as well as the Parachutist badge of 5 NATO nations.

He holds a PhD with distinction from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens on Information Dissemination Systems. He holds Masters degrees on “Strategy and Diplomacy” and “Strategic Planning and Crisis Management” and has graduated from the postgraduate “lifelong learning” seminar of the Continuing Education Institute, under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence. He is a regular member of the Air Academy and has published numerous scientific papers, articles, studies, and articles for international journals and conferences on matters related to his PhD, cryptosecurity (chaotic cryptology – fractals), cyber warfare strategy, and special UAV matters.

He is fluent in English and French. He is married with 3 children (one daughter, a clinical dietician, and two sons, Special Forces Officers).



Brigadier General Grigorios Gkoutzelis

**Informatics Directorate Coordinator
Hellenic National Defence General Staff (H.N.D.G.S.)**



Brigadier General Grigorios GKOUTZELIS was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. He joined the Hellenic Military Academy in 1988 and graduated in 1992 as a Supply-Transportation Lieutenant. In 2003, he was transferred to the Research-Informatics Corps of the Greek Army.

He has attended and graduated from all mandatory Supply-Transportation and Research-Informatics courses, as well as from the Supreme Joint War College and the College of National Defense.

Brigadier General GKOUTZELIS has been honored with numerous national decorations, medals, and commendations, including the Commander's Resolute Support (Afghanistan) Commendation, the Non- Article 5 NATO Medal (RSM), the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal, and the U.S. Army Quartermaster Affiliation Badge.

He holds two Master of Science (MSc) degrees, one in Information Systems (MIS) and a second in Law and Informatics (MLI), both from the University of Macedonia, Greece. He is also Agile Project Management, ITIL v4 and MS Azure AI certified.

Throughout his career, he has served in various Supply-Transportation and Research-Informatics units. His notable positions include Deputy Commander of the 805 Supply-Transportation Company (Kyprinos), Deputy Commander of the 34 Supply-Transportation Company (Thessaloniki), Deputy Commander and Commander of the 31 Informatics Company (Thessaloniki), and Commander of the Greek Army Informatics Support Centre (Athens).

He has also served in key staff roles, including as Staff Officer at the HQ Force Command Madrid, J1 Director at Resolute Support HQ (Kabul), Logistics Staff Officer at the 884 Advanced Food Supply Base Warehouse (Thessaloniki), Director of the Research-Informatics Office of the XXV Armored Brigade (Xanthi), Director of the Research-Informatics Office at the 424 Military Hospital (Thessaloniki), DACOS G6 at NRDC-GR HQ (Thessaloniki), S2 and S3 Head in the Research-Informatics Directorate of the Hellenic Army General Staff (Athens). He has also served as the S2 Head in the Communications-Informatics Directorate of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff (Athens).

Promoted to Brigadier General in 2024, he was appointed as the Deputy Director of the Communications-Informatics Directorate of the Hellenic Army General Staff (Athens). He is currently serving as the Coordinator of the Informatics Directorate of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff (Athens).

Brigadier General GKOUTZELIS is fluent in English and also speaks Spanish and Italian. He is married and has two daughters, aged 23 (applied informatics) and 26 (legal).



H.N.D.G.S. - Γ.Ε.ΕΘ.Α.

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Welcome Address

Lieutenant General Nikolaos Kontopidis (Ret)
Member of the Board of Directors & Deputy Director of Studies
Representative of the
Hellenic Institute for Strategic Studies (HEL.I.S.S.)

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Institute for Strategic Studies (ELISME) based in Athens, we would like to thank you for your participation and presence at today's 5th Cyprus Defense and Security Conference, CYPSEC 2024 event in Nicosia.

We also thank Mr. Vasileios Zomenos, the organizer of these exceptional events, with whom our Institute has enjoyed a constructive collaboration over the past 10 years.

Our Institute is a non-profit organization founded, in 1994, by a core group of retired officers from the Greek Armed Forces, supported by diplomats and individuals from Greece's productive sectors. The purpose of the Institute is to function as a think tank, combining practical knowledge with theoretical training to responsibly inform and creatively contribute to public or targeted discussions and stances on geopolitical and geostrategic issues in our wider region.

Thus, our longstanding collaboration with Mr. Zomenos and our decision to be a steady sponsor of the Cyprus Defense and Security events align with our interests and areas of focus.

This is even more relevant today, as Cyprus's position proves highly significant for the interests of our countries and the broader organizations that have voluntarily come together in an effort to jointly uphold our values and safeguard peace and security in our region.

We are all undoubtedly aware of the vital position of Cyprus as a resupply base, a point for advancing all kinds of aid, a hub of stability, a haven for displaced persons, and a provider of support for various multinational operations.

It is this essential base of stability—the “unsinkable aircraft carrier” of the Eastern Mediterranean — that you and your distinguished companies, with your reliable products and innovative ideas, are called upon to make even more stable and resilient against today's challenges.

We are confident that this event, like the previous ones, will be mutually beneficial. Let us all use this time for a fruitful promotion of our achievements, exchange of ideas, expression of concerns, and creation of an atmosphere of trust and cooperation. Through fair competition and emulation, along with multifaceted collaborations, we are certain that the best possible outcomes will emerge for all of us.

Our Institute is always at your disposal for any similar effort and for further enhancement of our cooperation.

Once again, we wish success in today's proceedings, all the best to all participants, and a safe return to our homes.



HELLENIC INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

The Hellenic Institute for Strategic Studies (HEL.I.S.S.) is a nonprofit organization situated in Athens and founded in 1994. That Institute had come into being by a number of flag/General retired Officers coming from the Hellenic Armed Forces and it had been aggrandized after the participation of personalities coming from the Academic and Diplomatic communities as well as from the business sector, Journalism and other individuals specialized on International Affairs.

Aim of the Institute is to be employed with questions that bring up issues of strategic importance in a geopolitical-geostrategic environment. More particularly: To form a view over the Hellenic National Strategy, foreign policy, security and defense, technology and energy issues. Simultaneously to study, research and analyze issues of military strategy significance, of economic aspect, of human actions and further subjects concerning problems rising in the Hellenic sovereignty, the wider Balkan peninsula, European Union and North Atlantic Area, the general area of the Mediterranean and the Black Seas and/or any other area that may be deemed as necessary.

Main objective of the Institute, to hand in proposals to either government bodies or privates, that are based on studies-analyses on all those above mentioned issues and inform respectively key-leaders and the Greek public opinion.



*** KEYNOTE SPEECH ***

**Lieutenant General Georgios Tsitsikostas
Chief of the National Guard of Cyprus**

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

It is an honor for me to address the 'CYPRUS DEFENCE & SECURITY CONFERENCE'. I would like to thank the organizing committee for the kind invitation and for giving me this opportunity to be in contact with such an interesting audience.

I will elaborate on my perception and assessment about the geopolitical environment and military dynamics in Cyprus and its broader neighborhood and in particular the threat environment and how National Guard respond to it.

In our rapidly changing world, defense and security challenges have become increasingly complex, multidimensional, and fluid. The critical security situation in Europe, marked by the prolonged conflict in Ukraine, along with the deteriorating conditions in Israel, Lebanon, and the Red Sea, rising geopolitical tensions, asymmetric threats, and an undeclared yet pervasive 'Hybrid War' in various regions, are significantly impacting security and exacerbating an already unstable environment. The anonymous and cross-border nature of these threats, often directed and controlled by non-state actors, adds to their complexity. Addressing such threats effectively poses significant challenges, even for the most advanced countries and alliances equipped with state-of-the-art capabilities.

Regarding Cyprus and our immediate region, the volatile clashes and war in the Middle East have once again heightened geopolitical instability. This has reawakened dormant conflicts and wars, exacerbating both conventional and asymmetric threats and challenges. The direct consequences of these developments extend beyond regional stability and pose a significant threat to global peace.

Yet, beyond geography there are also other facts and realities that cannot dramatically change. Cyprus being a small sized country, does not have unlimited resources. Moreover, those means and capabilities available are primarily utilized for national missions in order to address the internal security situation. The occupation of

almost half of the island offers no other option but to have as first national priority the deterrence of the existing threat by Turkey, until the reunification of the Island. However, apart from its purely military mission, National Guard also plays an important role in the effective support of the state mechanism, such as contributing to the mission of the police by providing security at ports and airports, and dealing with the constant increase of migration flows from conflict zones to Cyprus. Furthermore, the National Guard is being ready to respond wherever and whenever required, with personnel and means, in natural disasters, especially in firefighting.

Nevertheless, we remain focused and consistent in availing as efficiently as possible our scarce resources and capabilities as well as our infrastructure, strategic facilities and services to the European and international peace efforts and initiatives. The situation in our region has led many friends, partners and allies to come to us and this is very beneficial for Cyprus. We have done it several times in the past, we repeated it since October 2023 for facilitating the effort to increase readiness for the evacuation of civilian population from the war zone in Gaza, and we are doing it now with Lebanon, while Cyprus is playing a vital role in supporting the evacuation operations and acting as a safe hub in the area. In addition, our role in the implementation of the AMALTHEIA Plan is also important, where together with other partners and the European Union we provide humanitarian aid to those in need.

We, the National Guard, alongside all relevant agencies of the Republic of Cyprus, are prepared and committed to working collaboratively with our friends and allies to address and assist in any future crises. In this complex and interconnected security environment, it is clearer than ever that no nation can act alone. Joint efforts make us stronger and more effective. And after being stronger allows us to face the current challenges with confidence and permits us to be more ready and prepared for the unpredictable and uncertain future. This is why, Cyprus will continue to implement its extrovert foreign and defence policy, acting as an enabler and facilitator of regional partnerships that will hopefully, at a certain point, transform the East-Med Region into an area of stability and prosperity. In this framework, the National Guard, will continue to build on the bilateral military partnerships established, as well as trilateral and multilateral schemes of cooperation with European, Middle East and Gulf countries, as well as the UK the USA and other like-minded partners. In addition, enormous opportunities and possibilities for co-training with these countries are also offered, promoting in this way the level of cooperation, interoperability and highlighting the excellent relations between our Armed Forces. These excellent relations are a great asset for the important role and the strategic value of Cyprus in the East-med and beyond.

The Republic of Cyprus, like all nations, seeks and values international support to tackle issues that require collective action. However, I must reiterate that the military environment in and around Cyprus continues to deteriorate. Therefore, the need for constant vigilance and for maintaining the National Guard as a reliable deterrent force to address any potential situation remains crucial and a top priority.

It is certain that the National Guard has to change, no one can deny this. Even though we are at a good level, we must become better. The changes around us are much faster than in the past and bring new demands and new challenges that compel us to embark and stay aligned with the rapidly shifting environment. October 7, 2023, stands as a pivotal date that reshaped our world, positioning Cyprus from the corner to the center of attention. While the tragic consequences of the conflicts bring difficulties, they also present opportunities to raise Cyprus's role on the international stage.

To respond effectively to the aforementioned challenges and opportunities, National Guard, must be strategically agile and adaptable to the rapidly evolving environment, taking advantage of the emerging defence technologies and innovations. At the same time, however, must be also characterized by resilience. Therefore, it is necessary, to identify the characteristics that will allow us to be durable, resilient and operate smoothly, in the difficult and uncertain environment of emerging crises. Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Unmanned Air Systems, electronic warfare and cyber defence systems and various other state-of-the-art systems, have now become a necessity in the military environment.

As the nature of conflict evolves, it is essential to recognize that the very rules of warfare have changed. Warfare has expanded into new domains, particularly space and cyber, where the integration of disruptive

information technologies have accelerated. This heralds a race to secure an advantage through the defining technologies of the future. Modernization and the strategic exploitation of these innovations are crucial to maintaining strategic superiority.

In response to these evolving threats, we must adopt a more integrated approach at both the national and international levels. By modernizing our forces and embracing a multi-domain strategy, we will remain resilient and capable. The future force will leverage pervasive sensors, resilient networks, and advanced capabilities such as cloud and edge computing. Machine Learning and AI will enable us to exploit data, support decision-making, and operate autonomous systems in complex environments. Already, drones and missiles, rather than manned platforms, define military capabilities.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning are central to this transformation. AI is already reshaping military capabilities, from autonomous systems to swarming tactics, particularly in cyber defence, decision support, and intelligence processing. Many experts in the field of military technology have emphasized that AI is the most profound technology mankind will ever develop...even more important than fire, electricity, or the internet.

However, it is obvious that Cyprus will never be at the top of technology. Nevertheless, the evolution of the National Guard, through the modernization of the existing weapons systems and the upgraded capabilities of the new means that we are going to acquire in the very near future, makes it a powerful tool for the implementation of the civil-military aspirations of the Republic of Cyprus. The ongoing reinforcement is not only about systems and means... our personnel have been and will continue to be the most important force multiplier and the most decisive guarantor of Victory and Success on the Battlefield.

Subsequently, it is critical to develop a skilled workforce capable of operating in this rapidly evolving landscape. While our personnel are resilient and resourceful, they must be equipped with the skills to pursue Multi-Domain Integration. We must cultivate a culture that embraces digital technologies to remain competitive and prepared for future challenges.

In conclusion, threats and challenges will not be reduced. In fact, security prospects are more dangerous than in the past. However, the Strongest and Most Adaptable in the Operational Fields will prevail. Undoubtedly, the maintenance of these characteristics by a modern army is a demanding and daring mission, the success of which will be facilitated by the proper utilization of dynamic power multipliers. Undoubtedly, the use of state-of-the-art equipment and innovative technologies in the Defence Sector, although requiring multiple resources, at the same time are included in our vision and planning for stronger, within a feasible budget, Armed Forces.

Ladies and gentlemen,

With these thoughts, I extend my best wishes for the conference's success and I am convinced that all goals set will be achieved. I would like to particularly thank and welcome all the distinguished speakers and participants that travelled from abroad to attend this event. I wish you to have a productive as well as a pleasant stay on our beautiful island.

Thank you.



Lieutenant General Georgios Tsitsikostas

Chief of the National Guard of Cyprus



Lieutenant General Georgios Tsitsikostas has been admitted to Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon) in 1982, graduated in 1986 and was commissioned as Infantry Second Lieutenant.

He was selected to serve in the Special Forces in 1987. As junior Officer, he has served in Special Forces Units such as the Delta Raider Squadron, Paratrooper Battalion, the Amphibious Raider Squadron and the Unconventional Warfare Training Center (UWTC).

He has successfully attended the Basic and Advanced Courses of the Hellenic Infantry School, and has successfully graduated from all Hellenic Special Forces schools, and also from the Underwater Demolition School of Hellenic Navy. He attended various international courses such as the International Special Training Centre (ISTC, Germany) as well as a number of NATO and European Union military courses. He is a graduate of the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS) at Fort Bragg, where he was honoured for his performance.

He successfully graduated from the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College (HSJWC) in 2002 as well as the NATO Defence College (NDC) in 2012, also honoured for his performance.

As a senior Officer, he served as Deputy Commander of UWTC, as Director of Military Training and Operations of the 1st Infantry Division, as staff officer in the Cabinet of Chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff and as staff officer of the Defence Policy and Planning Division at the Headquarters of NATO Land Forces.

He also served as Commander of the Regiment of the Hellenic Military Academy and Director of the Cabinet of the Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff from 2014 to 2015.

He has served, among others, as Commander of an Amphibious Raider Squadron from 2008 to 2010 and from 2012 onwards he served as Chief of Staff to the 96th Higher National Guard Command.

As Brigadier General, in 2015, he assumed the duties of the Director of the Cabinet of the Chairman of the EU Military Committee (Belgium), after of which he has served as Commander of the 13th Special Operations Command from 2017 to 2018.

After his promotion to a Major General in 2018, he was assigned as Deputy Commander at D' Army Corps and from 2019 to 2021 as Commander of the Joint Special Operations Command.

On 1st of March 2021, following his promotion to Lieutenant General he assumed the duties of the Army Reorganization Inspector and Coordinator for the establishment of the Special Warfare Command.

He was the 1st Commander of the Special Warfare Command from June 28, 2021, to January 27, 2023.

On September 8, 2023, following a decision taken by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus, he was appointed as Chief of the National Guard.

Lieutenant General Georgios Tsitsikostas has been awarded all the Hellenic commendations, medals and awards envisaged for his duties.

He is also a graduate of the Center d' Etudes Diplomatiques et Strategiques (CEDS, Paris) and holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) in Human Resource Management (Aegean University).

He speaks English and Spanish.



Wim Boerma

**Product Manager High Speed Craft
Damen Workboats**



For over 25 years, Wim Boerma has been working in the Maritime industry. Within Damen Shipyards he is responsible for all the High Speed Craft vessels within the Damen Portfolio, including the patrol boat vessels up to approx. 65 meters in length.

All these years, the focus of the Product Group High Speed Craft was always on innovation. This includes several topics, such as standardization, seakeeping characteristics, alternative fuels, or low-maintenance vessels.

"Seagoing Security and protection"

After the introduction of the Damen Shipyards Group and the vessels we are currently building, the presentation focuses on the versatile range of patrol vessels up to approx. 65 m in length.

This range will be accomplished by new ship designs for new missions within the Coastguards and Navies. Quick response for Boarding and interception operations needs balanced mother-and-daughter vessels, which complement each other. New developments in carrying defense material on "commercial of the shelf" vessels will also be presented.

The last part of the presentation gives an impression of a dedicated Search and Rescue operation.



360 degrees surveillance at sea.



Our smallest compact OPV offers high level capabilities. It features helicopter facilities for a 6 tons helicopter with optional hangar, two high speed RHIBs and offers 25-day endurance, all within an overall length of only 72 meters. The RHIB on board can be underway in less than 30 seconds thanks to launching slipways making the OPV 1400 ready for its tasks.

Pictured here:
Offshore Patrol Vessel 1400



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Lt Gen HE A (Ret) Nikolaos Kontopidis

Senior Project Manager

Eight Bells Ltd

&

**BoD member & Deputy Director of Studies
Hellenic Institute for Strategic Studies (HEL.I.S.S.).**



Lt General HE A (Rt) Nikolaos Kontopidis graduated from the Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon) in 1985 and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Artillery. He has successfully attended the Basic and Advanced Courses of the Hellenic Artillery School along with various other military schools including Special Forces Courses and the Basic Parachutist Course. He is also a graduate of the Hellenic Army War College and the Hellenic National Defence College. He holds a Master of Arts Degree in Applied Strategic and International Security (PLYMOUTH University, UK).

His service record includes assignments as a Battery Commander, Battalion Executive Officer and Deputy Battalion Commander in various Artillery Units. He has commanded the paratrooper-marine Battery in the 32nd Marine Field Artillery Battalion (as his first Commander achieving operational capability) and the 110 Self Propelled Battalion 155mm. He has also served from 1994 to 1997, in the Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers. From 1999 to 2001, he served as a staff officer and instructor in the Infantry School. After graduating from the Hellenic Army War College, he was assigned to the Rapid Reaction and Reserve Corps as a staff officer and Commander of Artillery Command (2002-2004) and then to the Artillery Directorate of the Hellenic Army General Staff, as Director of Operations (2004-2005). From 2005 to 2007 he has served for 2 years as Director of the Operational Center and Director of Joint Operations of the National Guard General Staff of the Republic of Cyprus. From 2009 to 2012 he assumed as Head of the Department of National Defense Policy and Head of the Department of International Organizations of the Defence Policy Directorate of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff. This was followed by his posting as Director of the Deputy Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff Office, from 2012 to 2016.

Lt General (Rt) Nikolaos Kontopidis, has been awarded with all the Hellenic commendations and medals provided for his duties. He has also been awarded with the United Nations medal and the medal of the National Guard of the Republic of Cyprus. He speaks English. He is a Member of the Board of Directors and Deputy Director of Studies at the Hellenic Institute for Strategic Studies (HEL.I.S.S.). Also, Lt General (Rt) Nikolaos Kontopidis works as a Senior Project Manager at Eight Bells Ltd and he is currently involved in various EU EDF Projects. Lt General (Rt) Nikolaos Kontopidis is married and has a daughter and a son.

"Presentation of Eight Bells Ltd and its EDF projects"

My presentation highlighted Eight Bells, a pioneering independent high-tech enterprise, and its 10 significant projects under the European Defence Fund (EDF). Eight Bells is dedicated to advancing Information and Communication Technology, with expertise spanning 5G/6G Telecommunications, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, and the design of high-performance thermal cameras for industrial and security applications.

The presentation also showcased the company's EDF projects, which emphasize innovation, technological advancements, and contributions to European security and defence capabilities. By aligning with the EDF's goals of fostering cooperation, innovation, and strategic autonomy, Eight Bells is driving progress in Europe's defence ecosystem while ensuring precise and reliable technological solutions.

b EIGHTBELLS



LINGUARISE-DC

FMBTech





Gideon Landa

**VP Strategy
Uvision Air**



Gideon Landa is Vice President Strategy, UVision Air Ltd., appointed to this position, effective September 6, 2023.

Uvision Air develops and produces State of Art world leading Loitering Munition Systems for Land, Air, Naval and Special Operation Forces on five continents.

Prior to that, Gideon Landa was Vice President and General Manager, ELTA Airborne Systems Division since February 2007, and Assistant General Manager & Head R&D, ELTA IMINT and Radar Division between 2004 and 2007.

From 1982 to 2004, Gideon conducted Military Service in Israel Defence Forces (IDF) (Israel Navy; DDR&D/IMOD), concluded at a rank of Navy Captain.

Since then he serves in IDF Active Reserve

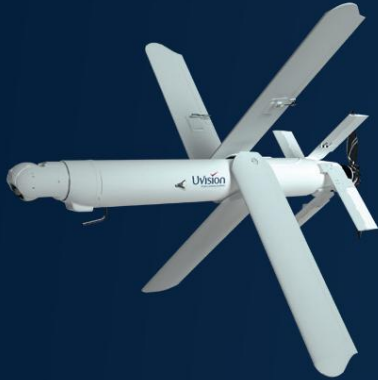
Gideon Landa has a wealth of experience in Large Scale Program Management; System of Systems Engineering; Specification and R&D of Multi-domain Radars; Missiles and Loitering Munition; Weapon & Fire Control Systems; Special Mission Aircraft and UAS; ISTAR Solutions and Integrated Combat Suites.

Gideon Landa holds Master's Degree in Political Sciences from Haifa University, Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Haifa Technion, and is Graduated National Defence Academy, Israel.

Gideon was borne 1/1/1960, lives in Ra'anana, is married to Einat and has two sons, Omri (25) and Ido (20).

"Loitering Munition Meeting Emerging Multi-Domain Challenges"

1. Current Battlefield Operational Challenges
2. About Uvision Air Ltd. Company
3. Uvision Hero family of Loitering Munitions
4. Loitering Munition – the Operational Concept
5. Hero Multi-Domain Weapon Systems
 - a. Land Domain
 - b. Air Domain
 - c. Naval Domain
6. Advanced Technologies, EW, ECCM, R&D



HERO 30
SHORT-RANGE

Anti Personnel & Anti-Material

3.9Kg
Weight

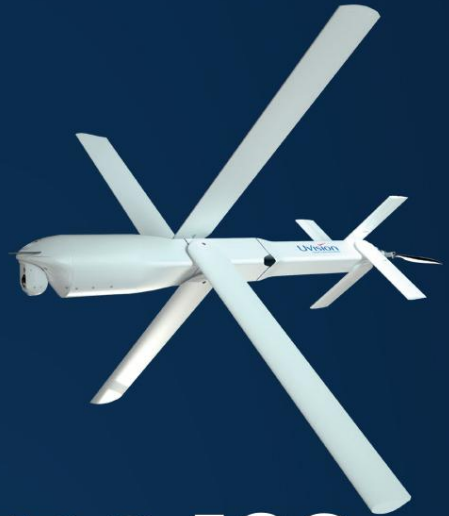
30Min
Endurance

Up to **40Km**
Range

Targets



Launch Platforms



HERO 120
MEDIUM-RANGE

Anti-Armor, Anti-Tank

14.5Kg
Weight

60Min
Endurance

60Km
Range

Targets



Launch Platforms





Dr. Dionysios Tompros

**Head of Space Systems Integration
Space Systems Solutions (S3)**



Dr. Dionysios Tompros is an electronic engineer and has a doctoral degree on the Geostrategic Importance of Satellite Networks for the Acquisition of Ground Military Intelligence in the Wider Middle East region.

Since 2019, he has been teaching the course "Military Topography- Geographical Information Systems-Satellite Remote Sensing" at the Hellenic Army Academy, as well as the postgraduate courses: "Introduction to Photogrammetry - Remote Sensing" and "Special Subjects on Remote Sensing (Visible and Thermal Spectrum)".

As of 2021, he has also been teaching at the Technical School of The Air Force as an electronic engineer, in courses such as analog electronics, digital electronics, and communication theory.

Also, he is the Cyprus Space Exploration Organisation's (CSEO) project manager for the construction of the first Cypriot nano-satellite, and actively involved with Space Systems Solutions (S3) Ltd.

"Counter-UAV systems and detecting threats missed by radars"

Counter-UAV systems often use radar to detect aerial threats. However, the low-altitude flight of aircraft and drones (nap-of-the-earth) can make them difficult to detect. This is particularly true for drones that threaten civilian targets, such as sensitive infrastructure like water and electricity facilities, or government buildings. In these cases, alternative Counter-UAV technology is required that can locate targets regardless of lighting or urban/rural, artificial or natural obstacles, without being detectable. This technology should also be modular, so that it can be deployed as needed and moved easily.

The ANDROS counter-drone system from Space Systems Solutions (S3) Ltd is one such solution. It relies on passive acoustic technology to remain hidden from drone detection, allowing it to detect a drone at a distance of 1.5 km and accurately find its position through beamforming when it approaches 500 m. Furthermore, ANDROS works even if the drone is behind obstacles such as trees or buildings and is modular. It is more cost-effective than radar and can be implemented more quickly.



LISTENING DEEPER FOR SAFER SKIES

DRONE DETECTION SYSTEM

REVOLUTIONIZING DRONE DETECTION

ANDROS is an innovative and first-of-its-kind drone detection system. ANDROS is based on a combination of SODAR (Sonic Detection and Ranging) and visual technologies supported by strong AI algorithms to identify and track unauthorized drones.



High precision and top detection performances



Cutting-edge acoustic and AI technology



Ensuring safety and security in critical environments

WHY CHOOSE ANDROS?

Long detection range
Up to 1.5km

Undetectable: Silent, non-emitting, ideal for stealth operations

COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY
Full spectrum of drone detection

COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION
More affordable than competing systems

MODULAR & SCALABLE
Scales effortlessly to meet your needs.

USER-FRIENDLY INTERFACE
Ensures quick deployment and easy operation

COMPETITIVE EDGE
Surpasses angle and obstacle limitations

Effective where **RADAR is blind** at lower altitudes and when hidden by objects

Autonomous: minimal maintenance, AI-driven control systems

Weatherproof
Construction with durable materials

Modular components and easy customization

STATIONARY SYSTEM

- Stable and high strength - made of metal, anchored in concrete or other hard substrates. Certified for category 3 hurricanes.
- Connection - suitable for both wired and wireless power connection, photovoltaics also available.

PORTABLE SYSTEM

- Quick installation - overall set-up takes less than a minute!
- Connection - Wi-Fi or GSM compliant, rechargeable power supply available.



COMPANY OVERVIEW

Space Systems Solutions (S3), founded in 2016 in Cyprus, is a leader in the development of cutting-edge hardware and software solutions, specializing in dual-use technologies.

With a commitment to innovation, S3 pioneers advancements in ground-based sensing systems and Earth Observation software, delivering high-impact solutions that serve both commercial and defence sectors.



10
EU contracts

100+
years of staff experience

30+
univ. and res. centres network international

30%+
of revenues invested in R&D

1000+
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Top 10
EU funding recipients in CY

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Cyprus tomorrow
RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN



Igor Rafalovsky

Director
SWARMLY



Gary is a Director at Swarmly, a Limassol company that specializes in Uncrewed Aerial and Surface systems, where he is leading all product and business development activities. Utilizing his extensive C4ISR background and entrepreneurial skills, Gary was instrumental in taking Swarmly from the initial concept to over \$10 million in revenue in five years. Prior to co-founding Swarmly, Gary served as a C4ISR advisor to the AFU CoGS from 2014 to 2018, where he spearheaded the development of the Delta SOSCOE and establishment of the first C4ISR unit within the AFU. Prior to his advisory role, Gary founded a company in the US that developed the first in the world flight control system for tactical UAVs and served in senior leadership roles at United Airlines and US Military. He graduated from NWU and Air Force ROTC in 1994.

"The changed nature of modern warfare. Lessons learned from Russia-Ukraine war"

He summarized the lessons learned from the analysis of the use of Unmanned Aerial and Surface Systems during the Russia-Ukraine war, the tectonic shift in modern asymmetric warfare, and the impact it may have on security.



Affordable turnkey VTOL UAS / USV for government, maritime and security operations

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Company

Swarmlly LTD is an aerospace company located in Limassol, Cyprus. Swarmlly is the full cycle manufacturer of tactical VTOL UAS and USV. Swarmlly VTOLs are field proven, low cost, robust, operate anywhere and have short lead time.

Products

All Swarmlly aircrafts are designed to operate in GNSS-denied environments, are equipped with anti-jamming and counter-EW measures, and require minimal training for pilots, payload operators, and technicians. All platforms have been field proven in extreme conditions, including mountainous, jungle, desert, high and low temperature environments. Poseidon VTOLs successfully completed thousands of missions under kinetic and SAM threats and received highest praise from operators and field commanders.



B5 Hydra is an Unmanned Surface Vehicle designed for long term maritime and coastal patrol and can be equipped with a gyro-stabilized remotely controlled turret with .50 machine gun, up to 500 kg of explosive charges, or other payloads. B5 is equipped with HD EO/IR gimbal and can be controlled remotely via an H6 or H12 Poseidon VTOL UAS for up to 200 km away from the ground base. B5 is designed for extended autonomous operations and can remain at sea virtually indefinitely with up to 10 hrs of cruising at 120 km/h.



H10 Poseidon VTOL is a midrange fully electric UAV that provides portability and covert operations capabilities. It can be transported in an SUV or a pickup truck and prepared for operations in less than 15 minutes. H10 Poseidon UAS has the longest track record of operating in medium to high intensity battle spaces in the world. H10 Poseidon has a very low acoustic signature in cruise flight, an extremely small radar cross-section, and no detectable thermal signature, which makes it a perfect tool for covert surveillance and combat operations from any unprepared location.



H12 Poseidon VTOL UAS is designed to serve as a universal aerial superiority platform with payload capacity up to 50 kg. H12 Poseidon is uniquely positioned for both land-based and maritime operations with low TCO, excellent mobility and survivability. H12 Poseidon is equipped with hybrid gasoline/electric propulsion. It has endurance up to 11 hours. H12 can operate at EVLOS distance of up to 150 km from GCS. It can operate from an unprepared land location or from onboard a marine vessel. H12 integrates a wide range of payload options, such as unguided mortar bombs, Black Scorpion torpedo, SAR and forward-looking radars, large format EO/IR gimbals, EW packages, etc.



T20 Kipseli C2/Transport Truck is manufactured by Swarmlly as a standoff mobile operating base for H6 and H12 Poseidon VTOL UAS and is based on a 4x4 truck fitted with a specialized 15' container. It is equipped with climate control, electric generator, telescoping antenna masts, GCS console, mortar storage, fuel and water tanks, and sliding airframe rack to carry up to two aircraft and provide up to 72 hrs of autonomy while operating the aircraft at any suitable location.

Contacts

info@swarmly.aero | +357 25 030233 | swarmly.aero
45/1 Panikou Papaioannou Street, Ypsonas, 4193, Limassol, Cyprus



Lt Gen HE A (Ret) Nikolaos Kontopidis

**BoD member & Deputy Director of Studies
Hellenic Institute for Strategic Studies (HEL.I.S.S.)**

On Behalf of

**Lt Gen (Ret) Ippokratis Daskalakis
Director of Studies**



Lieutenant General (ret) Ippokratis Daskalakis graduated from the Hellenic Military Academy (1983) and he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in Artillery. He was serving in different Field and Air-Defense Artillery Units and he was attending all Courses as provided to his rank. He trained in the Air Defense HAWK System in Fort Bliss, USA and in the Strategic Intelligence Course in Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, DC. His international tour includes 3 years in AFSOUTH, Section Chief in J2 and 3 years in SHAPE, Branch Director in Military Cooperation Division. In May 2011 he took over the Command of NATO MISSILE FIRING INSTALLATIONS (NAMFI) until April 2013 when he was retired. He graduated from the School of the Int'l and European Studies of "Panteio" University. He holds a "Master" Degree in the same University concerning Int'l Relations and Strategic Studies. In June 2020, he received PhD in the Int'l Relations. He is member of the Hellenic Institute for Strategic Studies holding the task of Director of Studies.

"Military Applications of AI. - Benefits and Risks of AI in Defence"

The role of the AI in the defence issues is indisputable. The ability to process large number volumes of data in real time and to learn autonomously makes AI very important in defence and security issues. However, its use also raises significant ethical and legal challenges, such as transparency in decision-making and liability in case of errors or collateral damage. The main core of our concerns always remains the limits of the AI concerning the human control.

The use of AI in military applications and software is becoming increasingly prevalent, with technologies such as drones, ground robots, electric combat vehicles, and sensors being developed to assist soldiers in battle. These systems are designed to process large amounts of data quickly and efficiently, providing soldiers with real-time information to make informed decisions in a timely manner. Using AI in advanced military software and technologies can provide safety to soldiers, reduce human labor, improving decision-making and increasing our effectiveness against our opponents. However, it also has potential risks and ethical concerns.

Despite the well known advantages of the use of AI, we should focus in the existing disadvantages of AI. Security threats are a major concern with AI. There is a potential for AI to be hacked or manipulated by adversaries, where sensitive information can be stolen and exploited to the opposing team's advantage.

The use of automated technology and AI, particularly in military robots, is a topic that sparks ethical concerns. With robots capable of performing tasks more efficiently and precisely than humans, there is a potential for one side to have an unfair advantage, leading to the replacement of human soldiers with machines. The result of this could be a future where wars are fought between robots, raising ethical questions about the morality of warfare.

Another issue arising from the use of AI is its unpredictability. If something goes wrong, it can be difficult to determine who is responsible. This concern becomes more significant as AI technologies become more advanced, with the potential to carry out tasks autonomously. If AI were to malfunction, innocent civilians could be harmed, and it is unclear who would be held accountable. Furthermore, granting machines a mind of their own may lead to unforeseen consequences; therefore, we must approach the development and deployment of these technologies with caution.

However, the reality is that AI is being implemented in military technologies worldwide and the winner will be the part that has the best well "trained" equipment -based on AI- effectively integrated into the way of fighting (operational doctrine).





Joseph Karis

**ICT Standards Officer
Cyprus Organization for Standardization (CYS)**



Joseph Karis works at Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation (CYS) as a Standards Officer since 2005 and manages the Standardization activities for the sector of Information Communication Technologies Space and Quantum.

Mr Joseph karis is actively following the standardization works of Technical Committees related to the ICT Technologies and especially to CEN/CLC JTC 21 'Artificial Intelligence, CEN/CLC JTC 13 Cybersecurity , and responsible for the maintenance of National Standardization System in Cyprus regarding ICT technologies including Space and Quantum.

He is also participating as the Head of National Delegation to the General Assemblies of the European Telecommunication Standards Institute (ETSI).

"Standardization in support of civil and defence synergies"

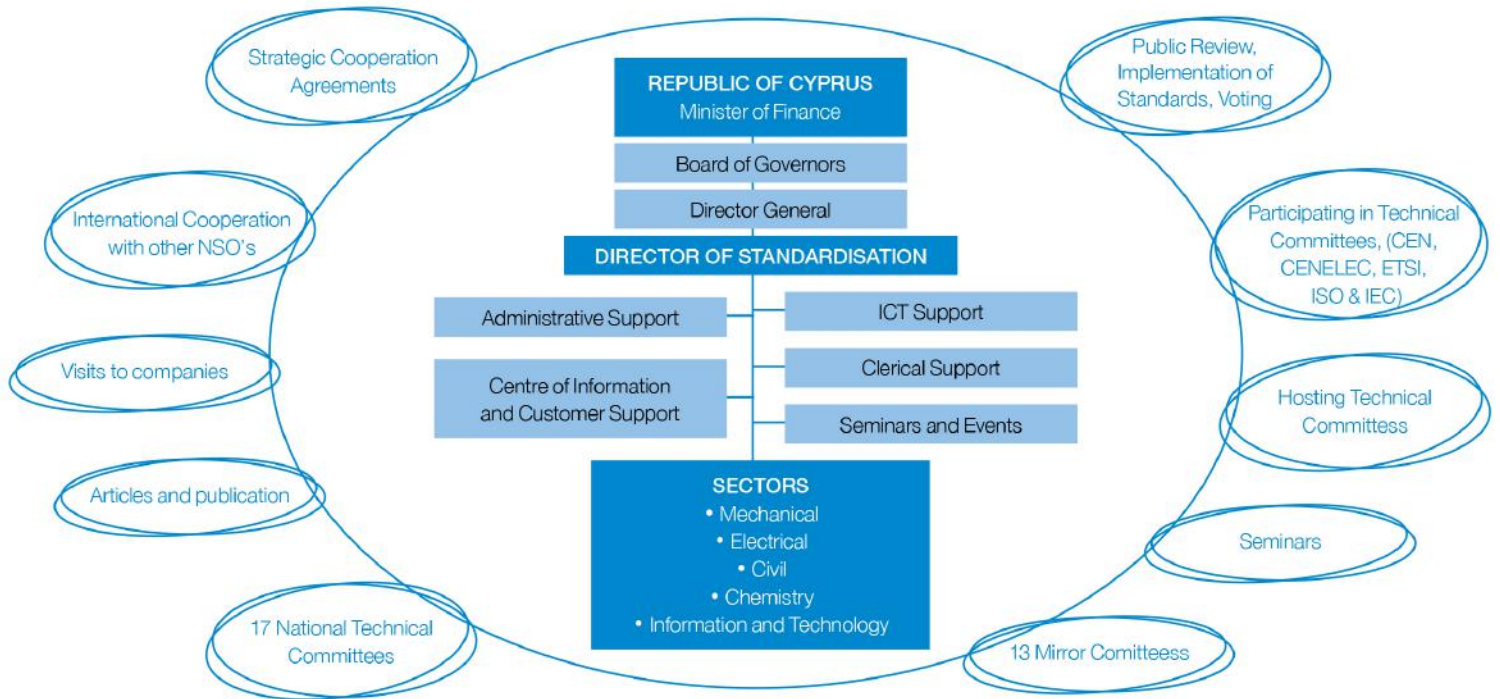
Standardization by EU Commission is mentioned as a building block towards the successful achievement of the overall objectives within the civil and defence industry. Indeed, the "promotion and application of common standards across sectors can contribute to cost savings, in terms of production runs and cost management, but also improve operational effectiveness, by enhancing interoperability, particularly in a multinational environment."

European Standards Organizations CEN and CENELEC welcome the Action Plan made by the European Commission to enhance synergies between security, defence and space sector and work together to enable these synergies. In this context, CEN and CENELEC wish to share its current and potential future contributions to solving the challenges outlined in the Action Plan especially for critical technologies like cybersecurity, cyberdefence, Artificial Intelligence, Transportation, Space. In the case of hybrid standards, CEN CENELEC and ETSI are cooperating with European Defence Agency (EDA) and the EDSTAR database to illustrate a successful civil-defence collaboration in standardization.

CYS Contribution to European and International Standardisation

The Organisation's staff are well educated and trained scientists in the fields of mechanical, electrical, civil and chemical engineering, information technology, and chemistry. With the support of a number of external technical experts from the Cyprus industry and businesses, the Organisation's staff keeps itself well-informed and actively participates in the International and European standardisation systems. CYS cooperates, on an equal basis, with the other national standardisation organisations in the preparation of the draft Standards, public reviews and in the procedures for approving and implementing Standards.

National Standardisation System



To cope with the work of numerous European and International technical committees and to maximize its effectiveness in the process of European and International Standardisation, CYS has set up 13 technical committees known as mirror committees. These mirror committees include representatives from all relevant stakeholders and from every sector of economic activity as well as technical experts. The role of these committees is to monitor standardisation at the international and European levels and to participate where necessary in the work of ISO, IEC, CEN, CENELEC and ETSI Committees. In a spirit of consensus, the CYS mirror technical committees decide and determine the national position during public reviews of draft standards and notify such positions to the appropriate European technical committees.

Strategic Partnerships

In order to promote the implementation of international and European standards in Cyprus and in the neighbouring countries, CYS enters into strategic partnerships. Nationally, CYS has signed memoranda of understanding and cooperation agreements with public and private stakeholders. Overseas CYS has signed cooperation agreements with national standards bodies from European and other neighbouring countries, with which Cyprus traditionally maintains excellent relations.

Such strategic partnerships widen and promote the activities of CYS and the implementation of the International and European standards within the economy, targeting the upgrading of quality of products and services within and outside Cyprus.

Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation: Limassol Ave. & 30 Kosta Anaxagora Str., 3rd Floor, 2014 Nicosia
P.O.Box 16197, 2086 Nicosia, Tel: +357 22 411 411, Fax: +357 22 411 511

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Opening hours: Monday | Tuesday | Thursday | Friday 07:30 - 15:00, Wednesday | 07:30 - 15:30



George A Danos

**President
Cyprus Space Exploration Organisation (CSEO)
&
VC, Panel on Innovative Solutions, Int'l Comt. on
Space Research (COSPAR)
Academician, Int'l Academy of Astronautics (IAA)
Hon. Member, Int'l Astronomical Union (IAU)
ExBo, European Assoc. of Space Technology
Research Organisations (EASTRO)**



George A. Danos is a researcher and entrepreneur, a Recognized Eminent Alumnus of Imperial College London, and an Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU). In October 2020, he was elected President of the Parallel Parliament for Entrepreneurship of the Republic of Cyprus, which stimulates entrepreneurship in the country and represents all sectors of the domestic commercial ecosystem. He is also President of the Cyprus Space Exploration Organisation (CSEO), Chair of the National Space & Astronomy Research Committee of Cyprus, and a Board Member of the Cyprus Astronautical Society. In his international role as Co-Chair of the Panel on Innovative Solutions of the International Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), he is responsible for the utilization of AI for the predictive modelling of Solar Weather impacting our planet. He is coordinating this global AI effort under the International Space Innovation Centre (C-SpaRC), bringing together scientists and engineers to solve a complex data analysis problem. Other notable positions include Council Member — the highest governing body — of COSPAR, and Cyprus NCP to COSPAR; Creator & Founder of Virgin BizNet, one of the most lucrative business ventures of Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group; Academician of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA); Board Member of the European Association of Space Technology Research Organisations (EASTRO) that advises the EU on space policy; and Member of several International Astronautical Federation (IAF) committees, notably the Entrepreneurship & Investment Committee for the commercialization of space.

"Cubesats and their role in monitoring Cyprus and its environment"

CSEO has been a driving force in establishing Cyprus as a key player in the international space sector. The organization's efforts have led to the creation of the Cyprus Space Research and Innovation Centre (C-SpaRC), a state-of-the-art facility with a full set of equipment for space assets design, integration, testing and qualification. C-SpaRC coordinates international space research, with the participation of NASA, on space weather, its impact on our planet and on human biology, space weather predictive modelling and space situational awareness (SSA).

A key area of focus for C-SpaRC is the development and use of Cubesats. These small but powerful devices can be equipped with various sensors and instruments to collect data on different aspects of the Earth's environment, including climate change, early wildfire detection, maritime activity, and illegal migration.

The center also serves as a hub for international cooperation, fostering partnerships with leading space agencies and research institutions from around the world, as it has been established under the auspices of the international space research organisation - COSPAR - as an International Space Innovation Centre, the first of its kind worldwide.

Cyprus's commitment to space exploration is further underscored by its signing of the Artemis Accords. This signals Cyprus's dedication to peaceful and collaborative space exploration, further strengthening its growing cooperation with the US and opening doors for greater involvement in NASA's flagship space program.

C-SpaRC

International Space Innovation Centre
a COSPAR Centre of Excellence



International Coordination: Space Weather vs Human Biology for Lunar Exploration

Strategic Partners:



- Research:**
- Organs-on-chip to study & protect astronauts' health
 - Infrastructure for production of micro-satellites & deep space biological missions
 - Space Weather predictive modelling with AI



Microsatellite Data Acquisition



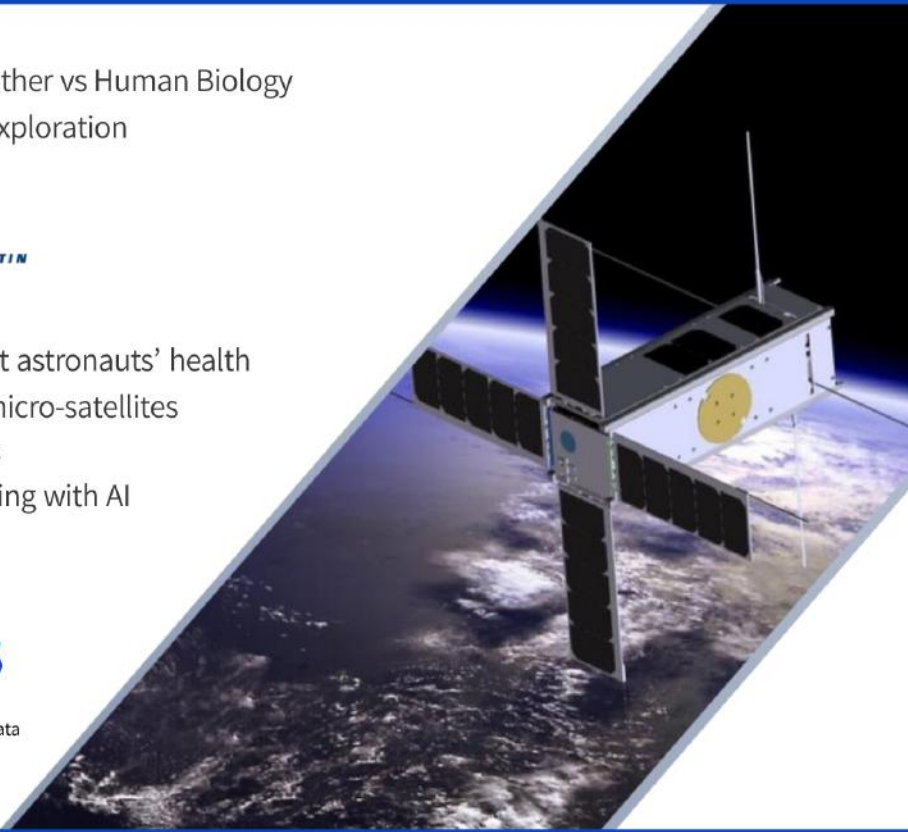
AI Computational Analysis



NASA TRISH Organs-on-Chip



Hospital Admission Data



Partners:



Supported by:



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PANEL DISCUSSION

The Geopolitical Role of Cyprus today - Strategies for advancement

MODERATOR



Dr. Petros Kareklas
Fmr Permanent Secretary, MoD of Cyprus
Fmr Mayor of Kythrea
Fmr President of the Occupied Municipalities of Cyprus

PANELISTS



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Neapolis University of Pafos (NUP)
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Geostrategic Council of Cyprus
President at NGO POLITEIA



Lt Gen Demokritos Zervakis (Ret)
Fmr Chief of the National Guard of Cyprus



Dr. Vassilis (Bill) Kappis
Int'l Security Scholar and Analyst





Dr. Petros Kareklas

Former Permanent Secretary, MoD of Cyprus
Former President of the Occupied Municipalities of Cyprus
Former Mayor of Kythrea

Dr. Petros Kareklas was born in Kythrea-Cyprus in 1949. He studied Economics at the University of Freiburg in Germany and got his Ph.D in the same field at the University of S. Carolina in Columbia, USA. In October 2021 he was awarded an honorary Ph.D. from the "Cyprus Institute".

Dr. Kareklas served for many years in the Public sector of the Republic of Cyprus and especially as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defense, of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Sport and Youth, and of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. He has also held a top managerial position in the Employers and Industrialists Federation of Cyprus and he has been admitted in esteemed foundations and was bestowed prestigious awards, like the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit (First Class) of the F.R. of Germany (1989) and the Grade "De Chevalier dans l' Ordre de la Légion d' Honneur" of France (2011).

Since 2012 he served as the elected Mayor of his hometown Kythrea and since September 2019 as the elected President of the Committee of Occupied Municipalities of Cyprus, until end of June 2024.

Generally, Dr. Kareklas is acknowledged for his significant and influential contributions to the economic, social, security and political development, education and research in Cyprus and for his outstanding contribution and tireless efforts in building international collaborations and respect for human rights and international law worldwide.



Dr. Marios P. Efthymiopoulos

Assoc. Prof. of Int'l Security and Strategy
Head of the Department of History, Politics and International Studies
Neapolis University Pafos (NUP)
&
CEO & Founder, Strategy International



He is former Dean of the College of Security and Global Studies and now a board member of the advisory board of the College at the American University in the Emirates.

Former professional positions include among others, the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR) in Abu Dhabi, where he worked as an expert in both analysis and research in military affairs, but also operational training on research in the Federal level.

He has been a member of the Geostrategic Council of Cyprus, as Advisory to the former President of Cyprus.

Other former professional and scientific/academic positions include the :

- Harriman Institute, of Columbia University in New York,
- Johns Hopkins University Center for Transatlantic Relations,
- George Washington University Business School and European Center,
- the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, in Washington DC USA.
- An Affiliation with South Florida University in the USA and
- Senior visiting fellow at University of Central Lancashire, Law School, Cyprus.

Dr. Efthymiopoulos has authored numerous books, 7 in English and Greek, co-edited books, scientific articles (English/Greek), Opinion pieces, and academic chapter analyses, which are also SCOPUS-based, among other things.

His upcoming book is titled: "Falkon's Maze on Cyber-Security", with an expected date of publication within 2025-26, by Springer USA.

He is currently leading Editor of a new book (Efthymiopoulos & Masouras) Security and Strategy Models for Key-Solving Institutional Frameworks. To Be published in 2025.

He is a Subject Editor of the newly started Encyclopedia of European Studies by Thomas Hoerber (Et.all), by Routledge on Theories and Concepts of European Integration section.

Dr. Marios has been awarded his PhD from the University of Crete, Political Science Department, Greece. Being an Alexander S. Onassis Scholar. specializing on NATO issues and NATO-Russia Relations. He obtained, NATO's Defense College Diploma (Senior Course 105), including the Integrated PfP/OSCE Course 04/02 in Rome Italy (2005), specializing in international security, military and strategic affairs. He holds a Masters in Advanced International Studies (M.A.I.S) from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Austria (2003) and BA(Hons) in International Relations and Politics, from the University of Lincolnshire and Humberside (today University of Lincoln), from Lincoln, UK (2001).

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Petros Zarounas

Political analyst
Former Secretary-General, Geostrategic Council of Cyprus
&
President
NGO POLITEIA

Education:

- B.A in Business Administration (Athens Economic University)
- M.A in International Relations (University of Nicosia)

Research:

- Research Associate at Athens ELIAMEP
- Research Associate at Athens Jean Monet Research Center

Lecturing and teaching experience:

- Lecturer at Frederick Institute on Eastern Mediterranean issues
- Lecturer at the Academy of Public Administration on EU integration

Media:

- Columnist for Haravgi and Kathimerini newspapers
- Articles and comments in Cyprus, Greece and Israel media on security, energy and international affairs

Political Activities:

- Advisor to various presidential candidates
- Special Advisor to the Greek Deputy Foreign Minister on EU affairs (2008-9)
- Special Advisor to the Speaker of the House of Representatives (2010 -2011)
- Director of DIKO President's Diplomatic Office (2012 – 2014)
- Member of National Council's working group on Security (2013 -2018)
- Secretary at the Geostrategic Council (2014 -2018)



Lieutenant General Demokritos Zervakis (Ret)

Former Chief of the National Guard of Cyprus

Lt. Gen. (Ret) Dimokritos Zervakis is the Former Chief of the National Guard of the Republic of Cyprus and Honorary Commander of the 1st Army/European Union Operations Headquarter, Hellenic Army. Having assigned, among other, as Director of the Defence Policy Directorate of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff as Commander of 96th National Guard Brigade Level Command (CHIOS), as Chief of Staff of the National Guard General Staff of the Republic of Cyprus, his international service record includes Staff Officer in United Nation Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission and in the Hellenic Military Representation to the European Union Military Committee. Educated in Greece, the United States and the UK, he is among other, a graduate of the Hellenic Army War College, the Hellenic National Defence College, the United States Army Command and General Staff College and he holds an International and European Studies Degree (Panteion University GREECE) and a Master of Arts Degree in Strategic Studies (HULL University, UK). He has been awarded medals by the Hellenic, Cypriot and French Republics and by the United Nations.



Dr. Vassilis (Bill) Kappis

International Security Scholar and Analyst

Dr. Vassilis (Bill) Kappis is an International Security scholar and analyst based in the Republic of Cyprus. Bill was previously a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) at the Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies in the University of Buckingham (2016-2024), as well as a visiting Professor for the two highest ranking military education institutions in Poland and Greece, the War Studies University (Akademii Sztuki Wojennej) and the Hellenic School of National Defence (Σχολή Εθνικής Άμυνας), respectively. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in International Relations from the University of Sydney and Master's degrees in Strategic Studies and European Integration from the Australian National University and the London School of Economics, respectively. In 2015, Bill undertook post-doc research at the University of Tel-Aviv in Israel. His scholarly interests lie in the strategic and psychological dimensions of interstate security crises and foreign policy decision-making, as well as security dilemmas and great power rivalries in the Eastern Mediterranean and Europe. He has considerable experience designing bespoke training programs for academic and practitioner audiences in the UK and the EU and has, finally, presented his work in numerous high-profile conferences and workshops (Princeton, Oxford, the Israeli Institute for National Security Studies etc.).



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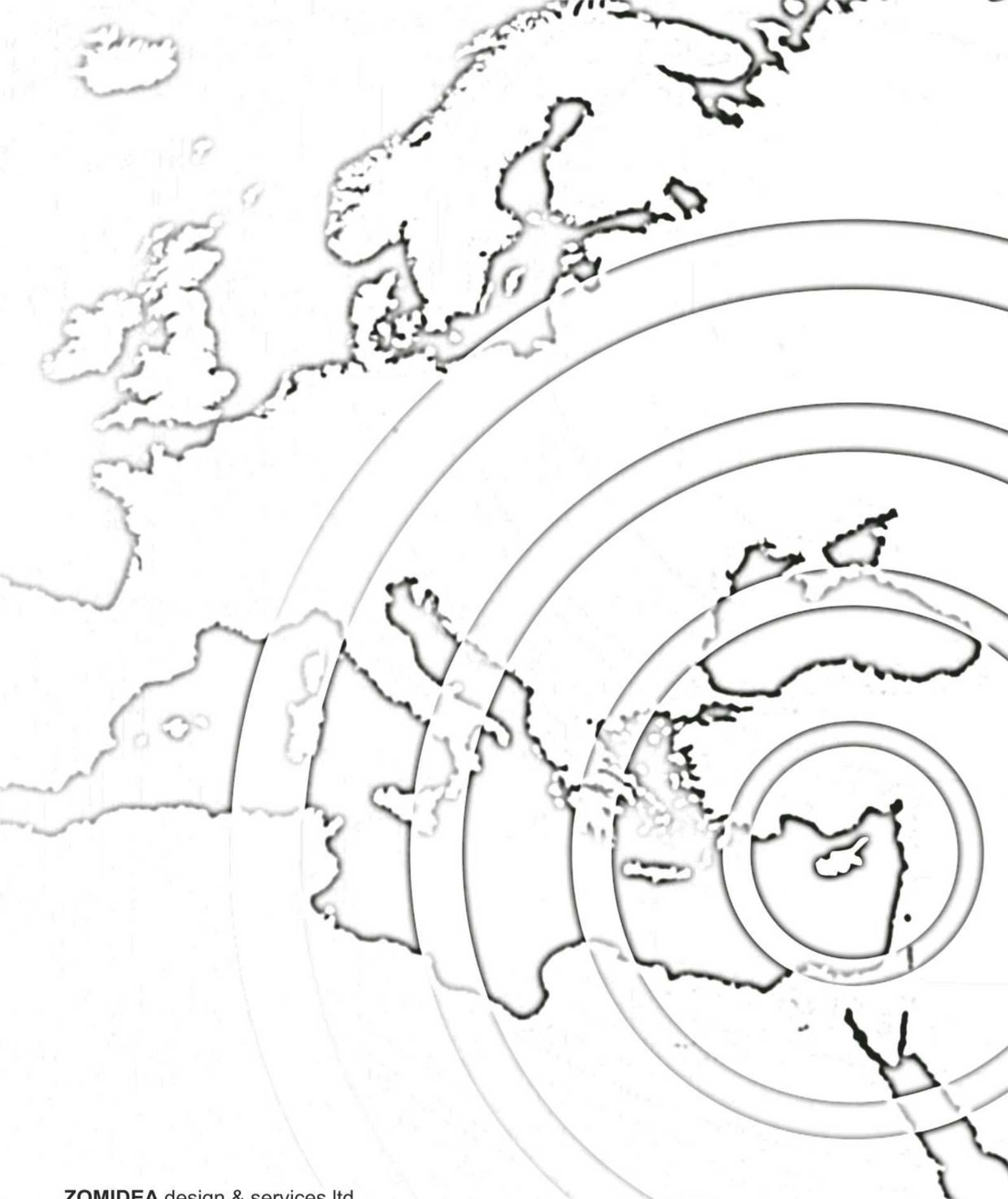
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