

PRESS RELEASE

CMMI and the Marine Institute sign Statement of Intent to Strengthen Cyprus–Ireland Cooperation in Marine and Maritime Research and Innovation

11th May 2026, Ayia Napa (Ammochostos), Cyprus

The Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI) and the Marine Institute (Ireland) signed today a Statement of Intent on the sidelines of the high-level conference “Riding the Wave: Advancing the EU Ocean Pact through Science, Innovation and Cooperation”, organised in the framework of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Statement of Intent was signed by Mr. Zacharias Siokouros, CMMI’s Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Liam Lacey, Director of the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO) of the Marine Institute. Mr. Lacey also delivered the closing address of the conference, representing Ireland as the country holding the next Presidency of the Council of the European Union, following Cyprus.

The agreement reflects the shared commitment of both organisations to continue and further strengthen their collaboration beyond the duration of the CMMI MaRITeC-X project, an EU-funded Horizon 2020 Teaming project, launched in 2019 and concluding in September 2026.

Over the past years, CMMI and the Marine Institute have developed a strong collaboration through MaRITeC-X in areas including marine and maritime research and innovation, blue economy development, scientific exchange, maritime policy support, and international cooperation. Building on this successful partnership, the Statement of Intent establishes a framework for continued collaboration in marine science, ocean observation, maritime innovation, blue skills and careers, education and training, scientific diplomacy, and joint participation in European and international initiatives.

The agreement also highlights the shared perspectives of Cyprus and Ireland as island Member States of the European Union, both facing common opportunities and challenges related to ocean sustainability, maritime connectivity, coastal resilience, and the sustainable development of marine resources and coastal communities.

CMMI and the Marine Institute reaffirm their common commitment to strengthening European cooperation on ocean and maritime affairs and to advancing science-based solutions for a sustainable blue future.

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