



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
DIRECTORATE GENERAL GROWTH
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
Permanent Secretary's Office

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13th January 2025

EUSAIR National Coordinator of Albania, Ms Antonela Dhimolea
EUSAIR National Coordinators of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Milos Prica
and Ms Amra Hadziosmanovic
EUSAIR National Coordinator of Croatia, Mr Lidija Pansegrau
EUSAIR National Coordinator of Greece, Mr Vassilios Tselios
EUSAIR National Coordinators of Italy, Mr Thomas Botzios and Ms
Christina Caputo
EUSAIR National Coordinator of Montenegro, Ms Nizaheta Kurpejovic-
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EUSAIR National Coordinators of North Macedonia, Mr Andrej Lepavcov
and Ms Tina Djepovska
EUSAIR National Coordinators of San Marino, Ms Elisabetta Bucci and Mr
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EUSAIR National Coordinators of Serbia, Mr Pavle Janković and Ms
Kristina Milosarljevic
EUSAIR National Coordinators of Slovenia, Ms Tanja Strnisa and Ms Nina
Seljak

**Subject: Re-submission of Cyprus' request to participate in the
EUSAIR**

I wish to refer to the above subject and to our previous request submitted on the 4th of February 2021 and hereby formally re-submit Cyprus' official request to participate in the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR).

2. Cyprus, being an island state in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, shares similar challenges, opportunities and development potentials with the EUSAIR participating countries and regions. This geographical and contextual alignment makes Cyprus a natural partner for inclusion in the EUSAIR framework. Notably, Cyprus is the only Member State in the Mediterranean that is not currently part of any Sea Strategy or Macro-Regional Strategy (MRS).
3. We firmly believe that Cyprus can contribute significantly to the Strategy, bringing added value and expertise. Over the years, Cyprus has closely followed the evolution and revision of the EUSAIR and remains keen to collaborate and share opportunities with its partners, particularly as our national priorities align with the Strategy's objectives.
4. Cyprus is particularly interested in the existing and revised Pillar 1, as it aligns with the priorities of our national Programme THALIA funded by the Cohesion Policy Funds, which emphasizes the Green and Digital Transition. As an island, Cyprus is advancing its Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and shares EUSAIR's focus on aquaculture, blue-green biotechnologies as well as maritime and marine governance.
5. Furthermore, Cyprus actively promotes the connectivity of ports and energy routes as part of the Western Balkan Eastern Mediterranean corridor, as provided in the framework of Pillar 2.
6. In addition to MSP, Cyprus prioritizes the protection of Natura 2000 areas and biodiversity conservation, aligning well with Pillar 3 objectives.
7. As a major tourist destination, Cyprus emphasises the development of East Mediterranean and South European touristic routes, linking tourism with culture and the Mediterranean diet. Eco-tourism, agrotourism, fishing tourism and the promotion of Origin Protected Products are also key priorities. Cyprus is an active participant in several cultural routes of the European Council, reflecting its historical and cultural ties with the broader Mediterranean and Balkans regions.
8. Concerning Pillar 5, Cyprus shares EUSAIR's concerns regarding brain drain, population ageing and demographic challenges. Our national programme Thalia and Recovery and Resilience Plan, prioritize upskilling, reskilling and empowering women and youth.
9. Besides the Pillars, Cyprus can significantly contribute to the Strategy's Cross-cutting and Horizontal topics, such as Innovation, Capacity Building, digitalisation, green and rural development, blue and green skills enhancement.

10. We sincerely hope the EUSAIR participating countries will favourably reconsider our proposal for Cyprus' inclusion in the Strategy's geographical area. Cyprus stands ready to contribute to achieving the Strategy's objectives and advancing European Integration, while offering its expertise and support to the enlargement process in the Western Balkans.

11. We would greatly appreciate your positive feedback on our aforementioned request. We remain at your disposal for any clarifications or additional information you may need.



(Penelope Papavassiliou)
Acting Permanent Secretary

Copy to:

- Director General- Directorate General 'Regional and Urban Policy', European Commission
- Head of Unit A.3- Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
- MA of Interreg Adrion Programme
- EUSAIR Pillar Coordinators
- Secretary General of European Affairs- Ministry of Foreign Affairs