



# CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS OF SMALL EUROPEAN STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Nicosia, Cyprus  
15 - 16 September 2025



## DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION

### 18th Conference of Presidents of Parliament of Small European States

Nicosia, Cyprus, 15 – 16 September 2025

The Presidents of Parliament and/or their representatives from the Principality of Andorra, the Republic of Cyprus, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Malta, the Principality of Monaco, Montenegro and the Republic of San Marino,

Having gathered in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 15 and 16 September 2025, at the invitation of the President of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, Ms Annita Demetriou, for the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States:

**Reaffirm** the value of exchanges between Parliaments of Small European States and, in particular regular meetings between their Presidents,

**Underline** the importance of these meetings for promoting mutual understanding and solidarity, as well as for highlighting the particularities and strengths of small European states,

**Welcome** the opportunity to inform each other on current affairs in their countries and parliaments, share experiences and best practices, exchange views on matters of common interest and jointly address common challenges,

**Reiterate** their commitment to the continuation of parliamentary meetings at the highest level and explore ways to further enhance cooperation between Parliaments of Small European States, aiming at tangible results to the benefit of citizens,

**Welcome** the proposal of the President of the National Council of Monaco for a Memorandum of Understanding on the Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States, aiming to institutionalize our cooperation, on which the Presidents present provisionally agreed and undertook to work jointly towards its finalization for signature at least at the next Conference in 2026 in Andorra.

**Reaffirm** their unequivocal commitment to the values and principles they share, namely the respect for democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and equality between women and men,

**Highlight** the high relevance to small states and their parliaments of matters discussed across three sessions, namely “small European states in turbulent times”, “Artificial Intelligence: challenges, opportunities and best practices for Parliaments of small states” and “Participatory democracy: bringing parliaments closer to the citizens”,

**Express** their sincere satisfaction with the quality of the exchanges related to all items of the Conference agenda and welcome all pertinent experiences and best practices shared;

They affirm their shared determination and common positions on the following:

#### **1. Participatory democracy: bringing parliaments closer to the citizens**

**Express** their commitment to uphold democratic principles, fundamental rights and freedoms, pluralism and open societies;

**Share** the view that citizens are a central pillar of democracy and should therefore participate in political and decision-making processes, as closely as possible;

**Acknowledge** that participatory democracies can especially flourish in Small States, due to the closer proximity of citizens and their representatives

**Welcome** all programs aiming at bringing citizens closer to Parliaments of Small European States, especially programs promoting civic education for students and youth;

**Agree** that such practices will contribute to regaining and further fostering citizens' trust in democratic systems and parliamentary institutions, which must endeavor to promote transparency and uphold the rule of law.

## **2. Artificial intelligence: challenges, opportunities and best practices for Parliaments of small states**

**Acknowledge** the value of modernizing parliaments with respect to Artificial Intelligence, technological advancements and innovation, in a way which makes parliamentary work more efficient and effective in order to support well-functioning democracies;

**Take note** of the common challenges small parliaments face in carrying out the multiple responsibilities and obligations linked to parliamentary work, as a result of their limited resources;

**Resolve** to seize the opportunities offered by Artificial Intelligence, whilst sharing best practices and existing tools where appropriate;

**Acknowledge** the risks that the lack of ethical and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence can pose to democracy and commit to join forces in protecting parliamentary institutions and citizens, in this respect;

**Emphasise** the need to support international efforts to secure ethical guidelines aimed to defend and support democracy, rule of law and human rights, principles in the use of Artificial Intelligence;

## **3. Small states in turbulent times of global instability**

**Express** their commitment to upholding international law as the only guarantee for peace, stability and security in the world;

**Note** with concern the growing instability and ongoing conflicts around the globe and condemn unequivocally all breaches of international law, including the violation of state sovereignty and territorial integrity;

**Underline** the significant role and value of diplomacy and dialogue, as effective tools for international relations and cooperation;

**Stress** the added value of parliamentary diplomacy and its role in supporting the foreign policy of states;

**Emphasise** the important role and value of small European states in international relations, as credible actors engaged, in particular, to fostering dialogue, building networks and participating actively in multilateral organisations;

**Underscore** the role of parliaments of small European States in promoting stability and cooperation in the Middle East and in building bridges between the region and Europe;

**Reiterate** their unequivocal support for the efforts towards a comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, and underline the importance of respect for international law, as well as Council of Europe and EU values and principles, in achieving this goal, for the benefit of all Cypriots.

Appreciating the hospitality extended by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, as the host Parliament of the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of Presidents of Parliament of Small European States;

Welcome the invitation by the Parliament of the Principality of Andorra to host the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States in 2026.

Nicosia, 16 September 2025