



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

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#### **WORKING DOCUMENT**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Working Party for Schengen Matters

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Subject: Presentation of priorities of the incoming Cyprus Presidency - Presentation by Cyprus

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Delegations will find enclosed a presentation on the abovementioned subject made by Cyprus at the Schengen Matters WP on 17 November 2025 (cf. CM 5023/1/25, item 10).

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WP FOR SCHENGEN MATTERS

# Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU

17 NOVEMBER 2025

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# CY team

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## CY Presidency Priorities - Horizontal perspective

01. Development of the SOM: To serve as a platform for presenting current and impactful topics that reflect the evolving priorities of the MS
02. Schengen Cycle priorities: To reflect common goals, allowing for meaningful discussions to take place at the SOM, with subsequent opportunities for follow-up debates and decision-making within SCHEVAL WP
03. Enhancement of the Governance of the Schengen area at national level, through the promotion of adoption of Council Conclusions by June 2026

# CY Presidency Priorities – Schengen Council cycle 2025-2026 priorities and actions

Ensure continuity in the implementation of the Schengen Cycle, with a focus on the following priority areas:

- 01.** Accelerate the digitalization of processes and systems and enhance the readiness of large-scale IT systems – Ensure the implementation of the overall interoperability  
→ **lessons learned from the progressive rollout and its outcome; preparedness for the rollout of next systems**

# CY Presidency Priorities – Schengen Council cycle 2025-2026 priorities and actions

02. Strengthening the resilience of our external borders and the effectiveness of returns:

i. ensure preparedness for crisis, by updating contingency plans and national capability development plans for border management and return in all the MS

→ **follow-up on the relevant components of the thematic evaluations on EIBM and returns**

ii. Incentive voluntary return through enhanced return and reintegration counselling, as early in the return process as possible

→ **further explored on the basis of CY best practices**

# CY Presidency Priorities – Schengen Council cycle 2025-2026 priorities and actions

03. Increase internal security – ensure fully functioning Single points of Contact (SPOC) in all MS, connected to an interoperable case management system fully integrated with Europol’s SIENA, and increase operational information sharing with Europol
- **follow-up as part of the monitoring of the implementation of the Schengen cycle priorities**

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# WP Meetings during CY PCY

01. 19 February, 2026
02. 16 April, 2026
03. 21 May, 2026



# Other key meetings in Cyprus

1. Schengen Senior Officials Meeting,  
Famagusta, 27-28 April, 2026
2. JHA Counsellors Schengen Matters,  
Nicosia, 21 January, 2026



# Ministerial meetings

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1. Informal Justice and Home Affairs Council,  
Nicosia, 22-23 January, 2026
  
2. JHA Councils:
  - i. Brussels, 5-6 March, 2026
  - ii. Luxemburg, 4-5 June, 2026

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# Message from the team

Transparency, Collaboration,  
Honest Brokers

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Thank you!

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# Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union

January - December 2026

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