

Official Meeting between the Minister of Defence Vasilis Palmas and his Serbian Counterpart



As part of his official visit to Serbia on 23 September 2025, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Vasilis Palmas, met with his Serbian counterpart, Mr. Bratislav Gašić. During the meeting, the excellent relations between Cyprus and Serbia were reaffirmed, along with the historical ties between the two peoples and the mutual respect and trust that characterize the bilateral cooperation in the fields of defence and security.

The two Ministers exchanged views on further strengthening military and technical cooperation, including issues related to defence, security, and armaments. They confirmed the shared intention of both countries to deepen cooperation and explore new opportunities within the framework of their bilateral mechanism. The discussion also included Serbia–European Union relations, with Cyprus reiterating its support for Serbia's European path, especially in view of the upcoming Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Minister Palmas thanked Minister Gašić for the open discussion, emphasizing that today's meeting marks an important step in further strengthening the friendly relations between Serbia and Cyprus, as well as advancing bilateral defence cooperation. He added that the Partner 2025 international defence exhibition offers a valuable opportunity to learn more about the latest developments in the Serbian Defence Industry and to explore potential avenues for expanding cooperation in this area.

The Ministers also exchanged views on developments in the Middle East and the role of the Republic of Cyprus as a humanitarian hub. In parallel, Mr. Palmas briefed his counterpart on the latest developments in the Cyprus issue and the challenges posed by Turkey's ongoing intransigence and provocative actions.

For his part, the Serbian Minister of Defence, Mr. Gašić, presented Serbia's positions on the security situation in the region, with particular reference to the situation in Kosovo, as well as broader regional developments. During the meeting, Minister Gašić highlighted the importance of defence cooperation and the potential for strengthening it further in all areas of mutual interest. He noted that while Serbia is committed to military neutrality, it will continue to develop and advance its relations with other countries and military-political alliances, in line with its national interests and with the goal of strengthening global, regional and national security.

Minister Gašić expressed hope that the coming period would see an expansion of cooperation in the field of military industry, with the aim of enhancing the operational capabilities of both countries' armed forces. He emphasized that members of the Serbian Armed Forces and the National Guard of Cyprus have held constructive talks recently, with the aim of deepening future cooperation, and concrete proposals have been put forward for the period ahead. Minister Gašić also said that members of the Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces are currently serving with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). He noted that the Serbian personnel remain committed to justifying the trust placed in them through professionalism, dedication, and hard work, contributing to the fulfilment of the mission's mandate.

During his stay in Serbia, Mr. Palmas also visited the 12th International Arms and Military Equipment Exhibition "PARTNER-2025."

