



Cyclades
Chamber
of Commerce
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A major two-day event amplifying the voice of the islands

INSULEUR General Assembly, Annual Forum, and Aegean Cuisine Symposium Cyclades 2025 Ermoupoli, Syros

The **General Assembly and Annual Forum of the Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Union (INSULEUR)**, together with the **Aegean Cuisine Cyclades Symposium**, were held with great success in **Ermoupoli, Syros, on 17-18 October 2025**, offering a strong and united voice for Europe's islands.

The two-day event, hosted by the **Chamber of Commerce of the Cyclades**, brought together European, national, and local stakeholders to highlight that the **resilience of the islands also depends on the strength of their primary sector** — agriculture, fisheries, and local production.

"We organized the most important event hosted in Syros in recent years to ensure that the voice of the islands is heard across Europe," said **Giannis Roussos**, President of the **Chamber of Commerce of the Cyclades** and **INSULEUR**.

INSULEUR General Assembly 2025 – Setting the Roadmap for the Islands of Europe

During the **INSULEUR General Assembly**, representatives from **island chambers across Greece, Spain, Italy, Malta, Portugal** gathered to discuss institutional priorities, strategic orientations, and ongoing EU cooperation projects — including **I-STARS, MED-Routes, MESA, and CAROUSEL** — that promote sustainability, digital transition, and innovation in island economies.

President **Giannis Roussos** presented an overview of INSULEUR's growing institutional role at the European level, highlighting recent advocacy milestones to which INSULEUR participated including the **REGI Committee mission in Corfu**, the **first meeting of INSULEUR's new Executive Committee in Mallorca**, the **MEDA City Forum in Cagliari** while the institutional session concluded with President Roussos stressing that **the island dimension must be embedded in all EU policies**, from cohesion and agriculture to energy and transport and that as discussions on the **forthcoming Strategy for the Islands of Europe** progress within EU institutions, **INSULEUR members will commit to adopting a shared roadmap** that will align the network's priorities with the upcoming European framework, ensuring that islands remain central in Europe's long-term strategy for sustainable and inclusive growth.

INSULEUR Annual Forum – "Building Resilience in Island Economies through Sustainable Agriculture"

Immediately following the General Assembly, the Annual Forum opened with high-level messages of support from European dignitaries, President **Metsola**, Commissioner **Kadis**, EESC President-designate **Boland**, and DG **Christophidou**. **Filip Reinhag**, the president of the CPMR, took part in the Forum's proceedings. The event also included interventions from **Dionysios-Fredis Beleris**, Member of the European Parliament, and former MEP **Petros Kokkalis**.

Discussions focused on the pivotal role of the **primary sector in ensuring the resilience and self-sufficiency of island regions**, with three thematic sessions exploring innovation, sustainability, and EU policy alignment with renowned speakers discussed integrating renewable energy and digital tools into agriculture, protecting traditional varieties, and linking research to small-scale production, underlined that islands can lead Europe's green transition by applying circular economy models, advancing the **Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus**, empowering women farmers, and coupling tourism with sustainable agriculture.

Speakers called for a **permanent Island Clause in EU legislation**, better policy coordination between DG REGIO and DG AGRI, and enhanced funding access for island SMEs and cooperatives.

Taking advantage of the presence of important institutional representatives, following a proposal by the General Secretariat for Aegean and Island Policy, a **high-level technical meeting** was held to establish a common approach between national and European bodies for the promotion and support of island entrepreneurship at European level.

Aegean Cuisine Symposium – “The Taste of Authenticity”

The following day, the **Aegean Cuisine Symposium Cyclades 2025** celebrated the connection between island gastronomy, identity, and sustainable development. Producers, chefs, and restaurateurs from across the Cyclades shared experiences and showcased how local food systems preserve culture, biodiversity, and community spirit.

Minister of Development Takis Theodorikakos, representing the Prime Minister, congratulated the organizers and acknowledged the **institutional and financial importance of the Aegean Cuisine Network**, which unites local producers and the hospitality sector.

The event featured heartfelt testimonies from producers, including beekeepers and cheesemakers, who spoke about resilience, authenticity, and the shared values that define island life:

“Bees teach us organization, cooperation, and focus — they are the true symbols of resilience and sustainability.”

The Symposium offered participants an exceptional gastronomic and cultural experience, showcasing Cycladic hospitality and the creativity of **Aegean Cuisine chefs** who highlighted the richness of local products in iconic venues such as the **Apollon Theatre**, the **Prasakaki, Valma and Kyveli Mansions**, the **Syros Art Gallery**, and the **Labour Centre**.

A Collective Commitment

The General Assembly, Forum, and Symposium collectively reaffirmed INSULEUR's mission: to make sure Europe's islands are no longer seen as peripheries but as **engines of innovation, sustainability, and resilience**.

Through coordinated advocacy, cooperation projects, and cultural initiatives, **INSULEUR continues to strengthen the European island voice**, ensuring that **when Europe invests in its islands, it invests in its future**.

Under the auspices of the General Secretariat for Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, with the support of the Central Union of Hellenic Chambers and the European Parliament Office in Greece.

Organised by: Chamber of Commerce of the Cyclades and INSULEUR – Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Union