October 2026
Issue #27

The Bridge

CGBA's latest news, views and announcements







New Member Welcome

Extend a warm welcome to our newest members as they join our community

Member Appreciation

Special benefits await our members. Find out what's in store for you!

Putting Cyprus on the World Stage
By Farah Shammas

Meet The Board
Dive into our interviews introducing you to our new members of the board

THANK YOU
Our current annual and event sponsors

The Cultural Corner
Connection Edition

Upcoming Events
Mark your calendars and join us at the next in-person event

Connecting Ideas, Shaping Tomorrow
Συνδέοντας Ιδέες, Διαμορφώνοντας το Αύριο

October finds us after an exceptionally busy and varied few weeks here at the Cyprus Germany Business Association. From Cyprus' first SAP Community Meetup and Workshop, to our insightful "Meet the Ambassador – Cyprus & Germany in a Changing World" morning (a big thank you once more to Mr Mirko Kruppa, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the German Embassy Nicosia for his excellent presentation and for sharing his valuable insights with the business community), and the engaging AI Spotlight and Networking Event with Grant Thornton two weeks ago, our recent programme has brought together business, technology, diplomacy and innovation.

These are all very different events, yet all with the same purpose: bringing people together, exchanging ideas and exploring the developments shaping the future of business.

With AI and digital transformation moving at remarkable speed, human connection and curiosity are more important than ever. As the CGBA we love building bridges between people and businesses, so we are already looking forward to our upcoming Business Breakfast on November 3, which will be another opportunity to meet, exchange perspectives and start the day with inspiring conversations.

See you there!

p.s. have you booked your ticket to our much anticipated Christmas Gala yet? Corporate tables are available, too. **Click here** to reserve your seat(s).

Putting Cyprus on the World Stage: A Love Letter to My Island



by Farah Shammas, Managing Director
St. Raphael Resort & Marina

There are some things you do because they make obvious business sense, and then there are things you do because you believe in them, because you love them, and because you want to see them grow.

For me, Cyprus has always been the latter. I was born into a family that has spent generations believing in this island and in its potential. My grandfather, Shukri Hanna Shammas, saw opportunities in Cyprus at a time when others perhaps did not. In 1986, he established St Raphael Marina, Cyprus's first private marina and port of entry, followed by the development of what became St Raphael Resort, then Sheraton Limassol. These were significant investments at the time, but more importantly, they reflected a belief in what Cyprus could become.

Today, as Managing Director of the family business, I often think about what it means to continue that legacy. For me, it is not simply about building a successful business. It is about contributing, in whatever small way I can, to making Cyprus a place people want to discover, return to and feel connected to.

We sometimes underestimate what we have here.
Cyprus is, of course, blessed with sunshine and beautiful beaches but there is so much more beyond that: our history and culture, our food, our mountains and villages, our extraordinary natural environment, and above all, the warmth and hospitality of our people.

I have always felt that one of the greatest strengths of Cyprus is our ability to make people feel at home.

Perhaps that is why I have increasingly become interested in bringing experiences to the island that connect Cyprus with the wider world.

This autumn, for example, I have organized two very different international events. In October, The Jacksons will perform in Limassol, bringing Michael Jackson's brother, Marlon Jackson and the original band to Cyprus. In November, St Raphael will host SUM IT UP, an international summit exploring health, happiness and balance, bringing together people and perspectives from different parts of the world.

The events themselves are very different, but for me they represent the same idea: that Cyprus does not have to simply be a destination where people come to relax. It can be a place where people come to experience something memorable, to meet interesting people, to exchange ideas and to create connections.

I particularly love the fact that these experiences can encourage people who may never have considered Cyprus to put our island on their map. When they come, I hope they discover everything else that makes this place special.

There is also something wonderful about experiencing Cyprus outside the traditional summer season. In the quieter months, the island changes. The landscape becomes greener, the pace slows down and the weather can be wonderfully gentle. It is a side of Cyprus that I wish more people had the opportunity to experience.

For me, this is ultimately about more than tourism. It is about pride.

I want to see Cyprus recognised not only for what we have, but for what we can create. I want our young people to see opportunity here. I want visitors to leave with memories that go far beyond a beautiful beach or a sunny holiday. I want those of us who live here to continue discovering and appreciating our own island.

Perhaps that is the most meaningful kind of sustainable tourism: not simply bringing more people to Cyprus, but giving them a reason to care about it.

My grandfather believed in Cyprus. My parents continued that belief, and I feel privileged to carry it forward in my own way.

I don't think loving a place means believing it is perfect. It means seeing its potential, being proud of what it has achieved, and wanting to contribute to what it can become.

I believe Cyprus has an extraordinary future ahead of it, and that every single one of us can contribute in our own way, to ensuring a sustainable and beautiful future for our island gem in the east of the Mediterranean.

ST RAPHAEL
RESORT & MARINA
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

New Member Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new members.

It's a pleasure to have you with us!

About: NISCHE DESIGN CYPRUS LTD. is an international planning and development partner bridging Cyprus and Germany. As part of the NISCHE DESIGN GROUP, we combine high-end architectural and interior design expertise with established networks across both markets.

We support investors, property developers, family offices, and hotel operators throughout every stage of sophisticated real estate projects: from initial feasibility studies and site assessments to concept design, interior architecture, and cross-border coordination.

Our core focus spans hospitality, serviced apartments, commercial spaces, and premium residential developments. Rather than operating as a conventional architectural firm, we act as a strategic partner aligning design quality with commercial viability. With established structures in both Germany and Cyprus, we provide the ideal bilateral interface for cross-border investments.

The company will be represented by **Neda Vakili.**

› More info: **Nische Design Cyprus**

About: Jörg Haupt is Founder and Managing Director of SMART-F-SOLUTIONS Ltd., a Cyprus-based management consultancy supporting SMEs in sustainable business development and performance improvement. With decades of entrepreneurial and management experience, Jörg works with business owners and executives as a strategic advisor, sparring partner and mentor.

His focus is on strengthening organisational effectiveness, profitability and long-term development capability – combining strategic clarity with practical implementation.

SMART-F-SOLUTIONS operates primarily across the DACH region and Cyprus, building bridges between entrepreneurial thinking, organisational development and measurable business results."

The company will be represented by **Jörg Haupt.**

› More info: **https://smart-f.solutions/**

Celebrating 100 Years of Bauhaus

To mark the centenary of the inauguration of the Bauhaus building in Dessau, designed by Walter Gropius, the Cyprus German Cultural Association invites you to an evening of lectures as part of the Weeks of the German Language.

Architect Karin Georgiades will provide a brief introduction to the Bauhaus and its lasting influence, followed by a lecture by Prof. Dr. Marios C. Phocas of the University of Cyprus, entitled ***"From the Bauhaus Workshop to Today's Digital Workshop"***. The lecture will explore how Bauhaus principles of collaboration between craftsmanship, materials and technology continue to evolve through digital design and automated fabrication.

Date: 19 November 2026, 19:00–21:30

Venue: CYENS, Nicosia Plateia Dimarchou Lellou Demetriades 1 Nicosia, Nicosia 1016 Cyprus

Language: English

Admission: Free of charge

The evening will conclude with a reception hosted by the German Embassy.

CGBA Member Appreciation

As part of our Member Appreciation initiative, we are delighted to share two exclusive offers kindly provided by Farah Shammas, organiser of both events. CGBA members can enjoy special discounts on tickets to the following events:

The Jacksons Live in Cyprus

25% Off!

When
23 October 2026 | 8:00 PM

Where
Monte Caputo, Limassol
Enjoy an unforgettable night with the legendary Jacksons and receive **25% off your tickets** using **promo code ABC25** at checkout.

Book your tickets:
Sold Out Ticketbox
Platinumlist

SUM IT UP 2026

10% Off!

When
12–13 November 2026

Where
St Raphael Resort & Marina, Limassol
The International Summit on Health, Happiness & Balance brings together inspiring international speakers and thought leaders from business, wellness, media, and personal development for two days of insights, meaningful connections, and inspiration.

The preliminary speaker lineup includes **Karen Millen OBE, Tessy Antony de Nassau, Nicole Buffett, Princess Katarina of Yugoslavia, Sophia Hadjipanteli,** and other distinguished personalities.

CGBA members can enjoy **10% off** General Admission tickets using **promo code EMPOWER10** at checkout.

Book your tickets:
Discover SUM IT UP 2026

We thank Farah for generously extending these exclusive offers to our members and supporting our CGBA community!

Contact details: reservations@straphael.com
Tel: 25834200

Meet The New Board Of The CGBA



For our Bridge Issue #27, we sit down with Anna Charalambous, CSO of Emilianides Katsaros LLC and CEO of Robura Limited to ask her our 7 Questions.

1) How long have you lived in Cyprus and where were you before moving here?
I was born and raised in Cyprus and have lived here for most of my life. The main period I spent abroad was during my law studies in Greece, from which I graduated in 2009. I returned home, was admitted to the Cyprus Bar in 2010, and have built my career here ever since — first in legal practice and now also in a more entrepreneurial role in real estate.

2) What do you enjoy most about Cyprus?
The combination of quality of life and real opportunity. You have the sea and the mountains close together, a market that is still personal enough that you can sit down with people and move things forward, and a growing ecosystem of professionals who want to modernise sectors that used to run on habit. I also value how accessible people remain.

3) What do you miss about Greece?
I miss Thessaloniki — the energy of a proper student city, the late dinners, the walks, and that particular urban rhythm. I also miss Greece itself: the way culture lives in everyday life, not only in museums. Long conversations around the table, hospitality that feels natural rather than formal, music, history that is still part of the street, and that sense that time belongs to people first. Those years in Greece stayed with me.

4) Which is the biggest challenge in your job?
Resistance to change, especially when it is justified in the name of short-term convenience rather than transparency. You still often need many different sources to answer one simple question. Markets like Germany show how much smoother work becomes when organisation and transparency are treated as standard practice. As CSO of Emilianides Katsaros LLC and Director of Robura, my challenge is to build faster, clearer and more organised services.

5) If you had not chosen this career path, what would you have become instead?
I studied music for many years, and I still love it. But I would not change my path. I grew up through this work. I am grateful for the good moments and the hard ones, because both showed me the way forward. I would choose the same road again.

6) What are your interests outside of work?
Spending time with friends and meeting people who share the same interests. Good relationships are built through conversation and common ground. That is also why I am involved in the Cyprus Germany Business Association: it brings together people who want to connect, exchange ideas and strengthen the relationship between these two countries.

7) Your favourite quote is?
"The quality of your life is the quality of your relationships."
We live and grow through our relationships.»

robura
https://robura.eu/
Robura Asset Management

EK
Emilianides Katsaros
https://ekllc.eu/
Emilianides Katsaros

Cultural Corner

Connection Edition

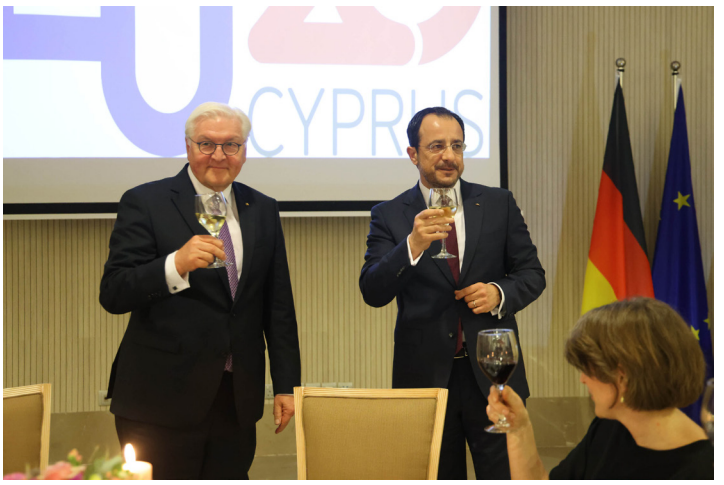


Photo Source

Germany and Cyprus have been officially connected for over 60 years!

Germany established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cyprus on 20 August 1960, just four days after Cyprus gained its independence from British rule. The two countries have since developed close political, economic and cultural ties characterised by mutual trust.



Photo Source

A little piece of Germany has been in Nicosia since 1961.

The Goethe-Institut Nicosia was founded in 1961, making it one of the oldest German cultural institutes abroad. It is located next to the Ledra Palace Hotel, directly on the UN-controlled buffer zone, enabling it to successfully fulfil its mission to conduct a cultural dialogue and bring people together.

THANK YOU!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generous support of our current annual and event sponsors. Their contribution plays a vital role in helping us offer varied networking opportunities, as well as an array of interesting events that benefit our members.

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Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars! More information on our forthcoming events can be found **here**

03 NOVEMBER 2026

Business Breakfast Networking Event

09:00 am - 11:00 am Alasia Boutique Hotel Limassol

26 NOVEMBER 2026

Annual CGBA Christmas Gala Dinner 2026

7:00 pm - 11:30 pm Columbia Plaza Venue Centre

For all our 'Get Connected' Networking events we offer the use of nametags to enhance interaction among our guests. Registered participants can collect their personal tag from the registration desk. As part of our sustainability initiatives, kindly return your name tag to the designated box before leaving the venue, ensuring it is available again when you join us the next time! Thank you.

Step into the Spotlight

Our innovative **'CGBA Spotlight & Networking'** series enables you to showcase your company, putting you and your industry on stage.

There is no fee from the CGBA for hosting such an event. However, we highly recommend that after your presentation, you offer light refreshments for guests to enjoy during the networking part. We kindly ask that you cover the cost of this catering, as we aim to avoid charging our members.

This approach allows your company to gain valuable exposure to your target audience in a friendly and mutually beneficial setting, as we work together to share these objectives and opportunities:

- **Knowledge sharing and exchange:** each event covers a different theme and topic and each speaker will have the opportunity to share their knowledge on a specific sector, or present the dynamic of their company and services offered.
- **Connecting and networking:** facilitating connections among members, industry experts and stakeholders.
- **Community Building:** fostering a community that collaborates and supports each other.
- **Visibility:** enhancing the CGBA's visibility and awareness.
- **Membership Growth:** attracting non-members and showcasing the benefits of becoming part of our association.

To host your CGBA Spotlight & Networking event, please contact us **here**

This newsletter is brought to you by the editorial team **Uta Steffen** and **Carine Khoury Niemann**, design by CGBA's Media Partner **HOB**