

10 YEAR SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT

Message from the Chairman

On behalf of the whole team at CySEC, I'm pleased to share CySEC's 10-year journey of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Reflecting on a decade of noteworthy achievements and our responses to evolving challenges, it is evident that our commitment to responsible business practices has flourished.

The financial and investment landscape in Cyprus has transformed significantly in the past decade. Global regulators face increasingly complex issues, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has highlighted for many the importance of adaptability and resilience in business, and the social impacts of financial decisions. In navigating these challenges, CySEC has embraced the responsibility to drive positive change.

In line with EU action plans, CySEC is supporting sustainable finance standards, including the Benchmark Regulation (BMR) and the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR). We continue to work alongside our counterparts to promote sustainable investment practices across member states.

Our national efforts have aimed to safeguard and educate our local investors, ensuring they can make informed and sustainable financial decisions. Closer to home, our employees have been incorporating volunteerism practices into our strategy and workplace culture. From implementing eco-friendly practices to organising annual blood drives, the people of CySEC have sought to create a positive impact with personal and collective commitment, and a high sense of altruism towards society and the environment.

Having a resilient and progressive regulatory environment empowers us to address challenges and anticipate emerging trends. Beyond safeguarding investor interests and maintaining the financial sector's stability, our mission is to contribute to the sustainable development of Cyprus and the wider international community.

We look forward to continuing this journey and sharing our progress.



Dr. George Theocharides,
Chairman,
Cyprus Securities and
Exchange Commission

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DECADE

Contributed to the establishment of a

National Strategy to promote financial literacy and financial education

1,000

pints of blood donated to the Cyprus Emergency Blood Donation Centre

Adoption and integration of **EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation**

16

group blood donation drives

Launch of the

CySEC Innovation Hub

in 2018 to support entities innovating in the Green Fintech space

10+

years of continuous year-round CSR initiatives by CySEC employees

1 of 2 public authorities in Cyprus to be awarded the

Great Place to Work®

certificate

24

educational talks to schools and universities on financial education

20+

Fintech and RegTech companies have been helped with specific compliance needs through the Innovation Hub

Over

€15,000

in charitable contributions

Making a Difference

Sustainable Finance

Sustainability is a key consideration in our policy making and strategic planning. CySEC knows that responsible investments are paramount in alleviating environmental degradation and social inequality. Our approach on sustainable finance has three main pillars:

1

Authorisation and Supervision

We aim to protect the investor's interests by ensuring that firms falling under our supervision comply with the relevant legislation.

2

Education and encouragement of relevant innovation

We aim to help build market participants' understanding of sustainable finance to create a robust and compliant benchmark on data quality and green labelling.

3

Policy making at EU level

In collaboration with the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) and other authorities, we actively contribute to the development of technical standards, guidelines, Q&As and other tools.

CySEC Investor Campaigns

Over the past decade, CySEC has developed and launched various investor protection campaigns as part of the organisation's broader commitment to educate and empower investors. In more recent years, these initiatives have aimed to take CySEC's financial literacy campaign to a broader audience, especially the tech-savvy youth and young investors to support and encourage financial education.

- Development of Investor Guide and Smart Investor Booklets
- Regular lectures for students in Cyprus on the importance of investing in financial literacy to secure their futures
- Creation of educational and informational materials for all primary and secondary schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Cyprus
- Ongoing investor protection campaigns and guidance
- Participation in the annual awareness campaigns; Global Money Week and World Investor Week
- #ThinkBeforeYouInvest social media campaign
- Launch of CySEC Financial Literacy Facebook and Instagram accounts
- Countrywide survey to establish the level of financial literacy in Cyprus

“Awareness and prevention are key factors to mitigating investor exposure to risks, and so we channel our efforts into promoting financial education to investors and the public at large.”

- Dr. George Theocharides -



Sustainable Operations and Environmental Stewardship

CySEC has undertaken several impactful initiatives that embody our dedication to sustainability. Here are key highlights contributing to our social impact:

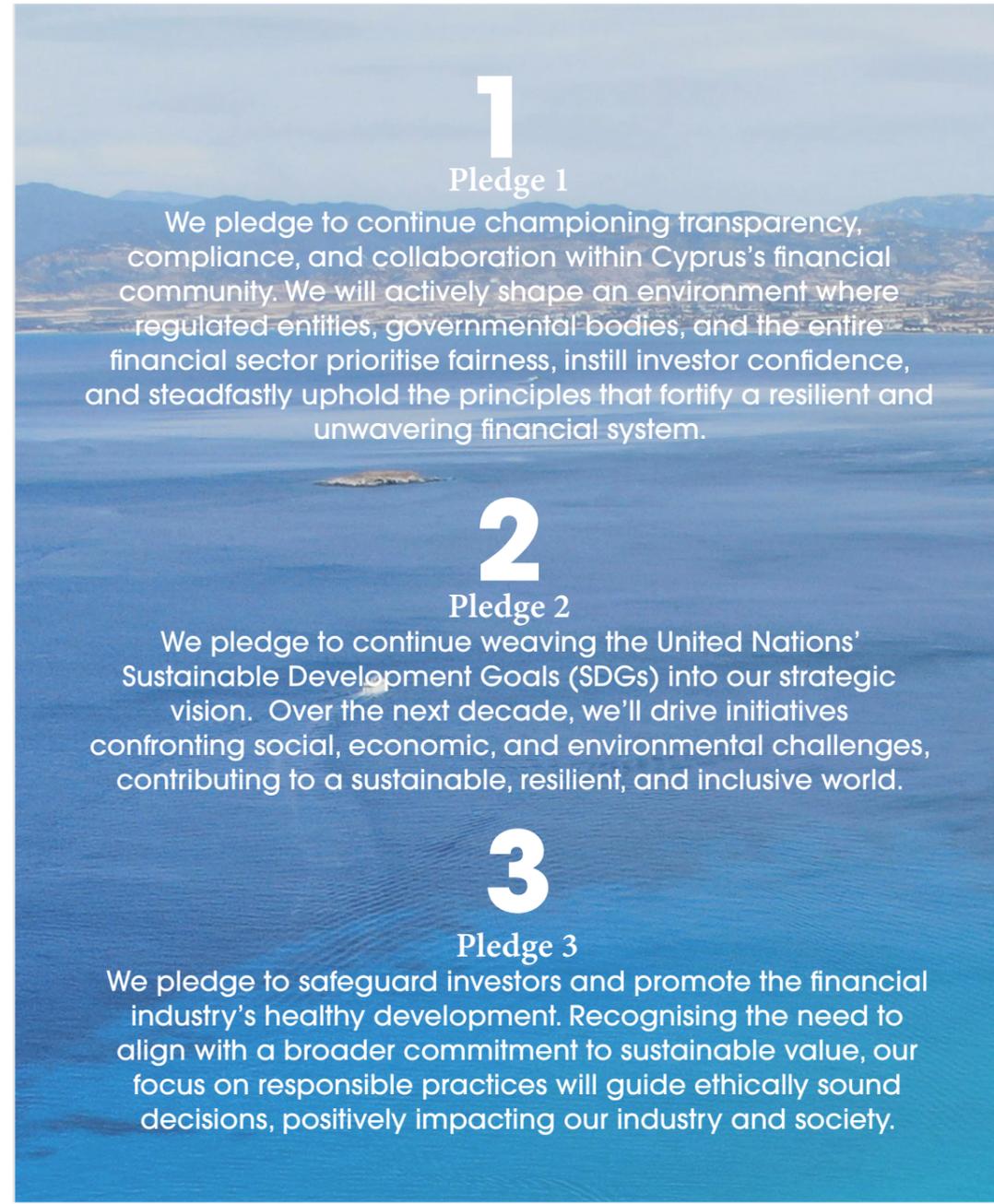
- Introduced an automated human resources management programme, Sofia HR. This initiative enhances organisational processes and marks our transition to a paperless work environment.
- CySEC appointed an Energy Conservation Officer in 2023 to monitor and enhance energy efficiency across our buildings and facilities.
- Our headquarters boasts an impressive energy efficiency rating of B+.
- Transitioned to energy-efficient mini PCs, and the promotion of paperless work significantly reduces our environmental footprint.
- Purchasing electronic devices with energy-saving applications and considering environmental factors, including fuel consumption in vehicle purchases.
- Initiatives such as selling outdated equipment to staff or donating to charitable institutions to reduce waste.



CYSEC PLEDGES

As Cyprus's financial regulator, it is our duty to protect and be inclusive of all stakeholders, investors and ensure the healthy development of the financial industry. We recognise however that the pursuit of financial success must align with a broader dedication to creating sustainable value for all stakeholders.

All these activities and achievements are just the beginning. Embarking on the next decade, our CSR pledges chart a course towards a future defined by sustainable impact and responsible business practices:



1
Pledge 1
We pledge to continue championing transparency, compliance, and collaboration within Cyprus's financial community. We will actively shape an environment where regulated entities, governmental bodies, and the entire financial sector prioritise fairness, instill investor confidence, and steadfastly uphold the principles that fortify a resilient and unwavering financial system.

2
Pledge 2
We pledge to continue weaving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into our strategic vision. Over the next decade, we'll drive initiatives confronting social, economic, and environmental challenges, contributing to a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive world.

3
Pledge 3
We pledge to safeguard investors and promote the financial industry's healthy development. Recognising the need to align with a broader commitment to sustainable value, our focus on responsible practices will guide ethically sound decisions, positively impacting our industry and society.



The Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (CySEC) is the independent public supervisory Authority responsible for the supervision of the investment services market, transactions in transferable securities carried out in the Republic of Cyprus and the collective investment and asset management sector. It also supervises the firms offering administrative services which do not fall under the supervision of ICPAC and the Cyprus Bar Association, as well as Crypto-Asset Services Providers. Our Mission is to exercise effective supervision to ensure investor protection and the healthy development of the securities market.



www.cysec.gov.cy