



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
**SHIPPING DEPUTY MINISTRY**

Circular No. 27/2020

16 December 2020

SDM File No. 5.13.09

To all Registered owners, Registered bareboat charterers  
Managers and Representatives of Ro-Pax vessels flying the Cyprus flag

To all Members of the Cyprus Shipping Chamber (c/o Cyprus Shipping Chamber)

To all Members of the Cyprus Union of Shipowners (c/o Cyprus Union of Shipowners)

To all Members of the Cyprus Shipping Association (c/o Cyprus Shipping Association)

**Subject: Launch of a European Open Tender Procedure for the Establishment of a Passenger Maritime Link between Cyprus and Greece**

On 11 December 2020 the Shipping Deputy Ministry launched the **European Open Tender Procedure No. SDM 13/2020** for the Establishment of a Passenger Maritime Link between Cyprus and Greece. **Tender documents** are **obtainable** from the website of the Procurement Directorate of the Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus <https://www.eprocurement.gov.cy>. The **deadline** for tender submissions is on **29<sup>th</sup> January 2021**, at 12:00. Tender No. SDM 13/2020 has been launched in accordance with the provisions of *the Coordination of Procedures on the Public Procurement and on Related Matters Law of 2016 (Law 73(I)/2016)* which is the national law transposing Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement.

**2.** Tender SDM No. 13/2020 was launched by the Shipping Deputy Ministry following relevant approval by the Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission in July 2020, which gave the green light on provision of national funds on the basis that passenger maritime transport services between Cyprus and Greece constitutes a **Service of General Economic Interest (SGEI)**. The venture will be subsidised, by national funds, to the value of **up to €5 million per year**, for the **36 month contract**. The Tender Documents have been drafted taking into account the EU Rules governing the granting of a subsidy by a Member State for a service of a General Economic Interest (“SGEI Framework”).

**3.** Operating between a port of Cyprus - either Limassol or Larnaca - and the port of Piraeus (Keratsini Terminal) in Greece, tenderers must provide, within the annual subsidy cycle, a total of **31 return sailings each year** by a **Ro-Pax vessel** as follows: for the months May to September one return sailing per week, for the months October and April one return sailing every two weeks and for the months November to March one return sailing per month.



4. The eligibility criteria, technical specifications as well as the awarding criteria are analysed in the Tender Documents.



Dr. Neophytos Papadopoulos  
Acting Permanent Secretary  
Shipping Deputy Ministry

**Cc.**

- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Commissioner for State Aid Control of the Republic of Cyprus
- Maritime Offices of the Shipping Deputy Ministry abroad
- Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
- General Manager, Cyprus Ports Authorities
- Cyprus Bar Association
- Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus