



CYPRUS: EUROPE'S LAST AIRSOFT FRONTIER



By Anastasios Georgiou

For almost two decades, Cyprus' airsoft community has grown from small circles of friends into an organized Association of hundreds — yet to this day, it is still fighting for the full legal recognition that airsofters across much of Europe take for granted.

Before the first BB is fired, there is coffee. Someone is still rubbing sleep from their eyes. Another is checking batteries, radios and equipment for the third time. The roads are almost empty, the windows are down and the music is playing quietly. There is something strangely peaceful about that early-morning drive. Every airsofter knows it.

Of course, five minutes before leaving the house, the feeling might have been slightly different. "Ah hell... we have airsoft today." It's become something of an inside joke among us. We're tired. We've worked all week. It's far too early. Half the equipment packed the night before probably isn't going to leave the safe zone anyway.

But there was never really a question of whether we were going. Airsoft on the weekend is simply where we're supposed to be. Across Europe, scenes like this play out every weekend.

But this particular road leads somewhere different.

It leads to Cyprus.

Airsoft activity on the island can be traced back to approximately 2007–2008, when small groups operated cautiously and word spread almost entirely by mouth. By 2013, the active player base was estimated at around 100 people across Cyprus. Then the community began to change.

The COVID-19 period brought rapid growth, with more than 300 new participants joining existing and newly formed groups. But that growth also exposed fragmentation: different teams, different standards and, crucially, no unified voice to represent the community in the pursuit of legal recognition. Something had to change.

On 13 October 2022, the Cyprus Airsoft Association (CAA) was established — bringing the community under a more organized structure, setting common standards and, above all, giving Cypriot airsoft a unified voice in the fight for legal recognition. Today, what began with small, scattered groups has grown into an Association of approximately 700 members.

Yet there is something remarkable about that number. The community grew before the law caught up with it.

To this day, airsoft in Cyprus has not achieved full legal recognition under a dedicated regulatory framework. The community remains in an unresolved legal position while the CAA continues working with the country's institutions toward a framework that would clearly regulate the activity and its equipment. And while that fight continued, the community chose not to wait for recognition before demonstrating responsibility.

First-aid training was organized. An AED was purchased. Blood donations took place. Safety standards became increasingly structured. When devastating wildfires struck the Limassol district in 2025, members mobilized during the crisis and its aftermath.

There were no objectives to capture.

No opposing team.

No points.

Just people who needed help.

Meanwhile, the legal journey continued. Meetings with government officials followed. A detailed legal memorandum was prepared. Discussions with Police examined issues including registration, transport, safety and how airsoft could ultimately operate within a responsible legal framework.

Then, on 11 February 2026, representatives of the CAA walked into the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs. A community whose earliest games had once spread quietly by word of mouth was now being discussed inside Parliament.

But the story did not end there.

As of today, the community is still waiting for the legislative process to deliver full legal recognition. There has been progress. There has been dialogue. But the finish line has not yet been crossed.

After years documenting this community — and experiencing it as a player myself — I've realized that the most important stories often happen when nobody is shooting.



They're in the carpools. They're around the barbecue. They're in the ridiculous early mornings. They're in somebody showing up when another person needs help.

Airsoft taught me that it's easy to become obsessed with winning or being the best player on the field. But maybe the best airsoft player is simply the one who makes everybody else's day better. Because, to me, airsoft in Cyprus isn't really about replicas.

It's about community.

After nearly two decades in the shadows, that community isn't asking for special treatment.

It's asking for a clear, responsible legal future.



About the Author

Anastasios Georgiou is the founder of Spectre Observations Media Group, a Cyprus-based tactical media and content production team. He is also an active member of Airsoft Team Ronin (R7) and has experienced Cyprus airsoft from both sides of the lens — as a player within the community and as a content creator documenting its people, games and stories.

Cyprus Airsoft Association (CAA) website: <https://www.caa.cy>

CAA Instagram: [@cyprusairsoftassociation](https://www.instagram.com/cyprusairsoftassociation) SOG Instagram: [@spectre_observations](https://www.instagram.com/spectre_observations)

