

# 33rd Annual Greek Economic Summit



## GREEK ECONOMIC SUMMIT

December 5 – 6, 2022

### Big bets in challenging times



Broadening Horizons

## Speakers Bios by Alphabetical Order

Organized by



AMERICAN-HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In cooperation with



**ATHEXGROUP**  
Athens Exchange Group

Strategic Partners

U.S. Chamber of Commerce



**Atlantic Council**

# Big bets in challenging times



**Seena Amidi**

Managing Director and Co-head EMEA  
Plug & Play Tech Center

Organizer

Seena started his career at the successful startup Baarzo. Baarzo automatically creates video tags for any digital video. Baarzo exited to Google in 2014 to help power the world's second biggest search engine Youtube. After helping integrate the Baarzo team into Google, Seena joined his family business: Plug and Play. At Plug and Play, Seena has founded the New Materials and Packaging program as well as the Food & Beverage program. As the Director of the Food & Beverage vertical, he helps corporations such as Tyson Foods and Pepsico innovate through collaborations with technology startups.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Dimosthenis Anagnostopoulos**

Secretary General for Information Systems of  
Public Administration  
Ministry of Digital Governance

Organizer

Dimosthenis Anagnostopoulos is a Professor in the Department of Informatics and Telematics in the area of Information Systems and Simulation. From August 2019, he serves as Secretary General for Information Systems of Public Administration of the Ministry of Digital Governance. He served as a Rector of Harokopio University (9/2011 - 1/2016). Since 1/2016 he is elected as a Dean of Faculty of Digital Technology. He was elected Co-Chair of the Greek Rectors' Conference (2013-2014). He was representative of the Greek Rectors' Conference in the joint committee with the German Rectors' Conference (GRK). He is a visiting Professor at Sussex University, UK. He is an Associate Editor of Requirements Engineering (Springer). He served as the National Representative of Greece for ICT in Horizon 2020 (2014-2015). He has also served as Secretary General for Information Systems of the Greek Ministry of Finance and Economics (2004 - 2009). During his service, the following Information systems were developed: Real Estate Data Base and ETAK systems, ELENXIS, new TAXISnet, ICISnet, State General Laboratory Information System, Pensioners' E-Services system and M-TAXIS (mobile TAXIS). From 2008 to 2009, he was member of the Board of Directors of Athens Water Supply and Sewage Company (EYDAP SA). His research interests include eGovernment, Information Systems, Semantic Web and Web Services, Modelling and Simulation Methodologies and Applications (networks, transportation systems) and Business Process Modelling.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Tim Ananiadis**

Tourism Committee Chair  
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce  
(AmChamGR)

Organizer

With over 40 years of international experience in the hospitality industry, Tim Ananiadis started his career at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, followed by assignments as Director of Food and Beverage at the Hyatt Regency(s) New Orleans, Hilton Head, Nashville, Buffalo, and Columbus. In 1988 he held the position of Corporate Director of Food and Beverage for Hyatt Hotels with main responsibilities of menu engineering, product development, recruitment, development and implementation of service standards and training, concept development and pre-opening new hotel support. Tim's career as General Manager includes positions in the USA at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh, Hyatt Regency Coral Gables and Hyatt Regency Miami. In 1999 he joined Hyatt International as the General Manager of the Hyatt Regency Thessaloniki in Greece and later moved to India as the General Manager of the Grand Hyatt Mumbai. In 2003 Tim joined Starwood Hotels and Resorts returning to Greece as the General Manager/Managing Director of the Hotel Grande Bretagne. In 2006 through 2012 he was given the additional responsibility of Area Manager for Greece, Turkey & Cyprus overseeing 18 Starwood affiliated hotels. From 2013 the area responsibility included the Balkans until Marriott International merged with Starwood when he took over the responsibility of Marriott Business Council for Greece and Cyprus while remaining the Complex Managing Director of the Hotel Grande Bretagne and King George until October 2020. Presently, he is the Senior Hospitality Advisor to the Laskaridis family and on the board of Directors for Lampsa Hellenic Hotels and Luckman Park Estate, both part of the Laskaridis family. Active in a number of business and non-profit organizations, Tim serves as Vice Chairman of The American Community Schools (ACS) of Athens, Vice President of the Athens Hotel Association, Board Member of the Greek Health Tourism Organization, member of the Board of Directors for the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), and Tourism Committee President of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM). Tim's business philosophy of an ideal hotel is one that provides a comfortable, friendly and efficient environment for guests and associates while maximizing financial results through constant innovation, proactive management, and intuitive service. His personal guiding principal is "be kind and treat your associates the way you expect them to treat your guests and they will definitely reward you". Both Greek and American, Tim was born and raised in Greece and educated at Ryerson University Toronto, Canada. His career was equally divided between the USA and Greece, employed for more than 20 years in each country. Tim and his wife, Jennifer, currently split their time between Athens and Miami, and they have three grown boys residing in Athens, Miami and Dallas.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Eleni Andreadis**

Director of Sustainability and CSR  
Sani/Ikos Group

Organizer

Eleni Andreadis was born in London. She earned her Masters at Harvard University, focusing there on environmental policy and media, and has consulted on sustainability issues for various companies and media organisations in the UK, US and Greece. She is the Director of Sustainability and CSR at Sani/Ikos Group and the creator of the award-winning Sani Green and Ikos Green programmes. Sani Resort is the first carbon neutral resort in Greece, powered by 100% renewable electricity, and was awarded the World's Leading Luxury Green Resort at the World Travel Awards 2020, 2021 and 2022, while Ikos Resorts has won international praise for its sustainability initiatives, including its zero-waste programme at Ikos Dassia in Corfu. Eleni is also the author of nine environmental children's books, including the best-selling Planet Agents book series, which has won the State Award for Children's Knowledge Book in Greece. The rights to her books have been sold in numerous countries around the world, such as the US, China, Korea, Turkey, Egypt and the Middle East. Eleni is the founder of the non-profit organisation Planet Agents, which aims to empower children to take action on environmental issues, and a member of the Greek Leadership Council of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. For her work in the intersection of sustainability and tourism, she received the Sustainability Hero of the Year award at the London 2021 TTG Awards.



# Big bets in challenging times



## Kostas Andriosopoulos

Energy Committee Chair  
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce  
(AmChamGR)

Organizer

Professor Dr. Kostas Andriosopoulos is the Executive Director of the Research Centre for Energy Transition & Sustainability Center at Audencia Business School where he holds the position of full Professor in Finance and Energy Economics. Kostas holds a PhD in Finance (Cass Business School, City University London), where he has been the recipient of the prestigious Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation's scholarship. He also holds an MBA and MSc in Finance (Northeastern University, Boston, USA), and a bachelor's degree in Production Engineering and Management (Technical University of Crete, Greece).

Kostas is a member in various professional and academic associations.

- President of the Energy Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.
- President of the Decarbonization Fund of the Greek islands for the Hellenic Ministry of Environment & Energy.
- Founder and former Chairman of the Hellenic Association for Energy Economics
- Board member of the Global Gas Center - World Energy Council as a Gas and LNG markets expert.

Since August 2018 he is Country Manager of Akuo Energy in Greece, a multinational company based in France that develops RES projects in 17 countries around the world. His work has been published in international finance and commodity-related Journals and has participated as speaker in recognized conferences world-wide.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Pascal Apostolides**

Managing Director  
AbbVie Pharmaceuticals

Organizer

Pascal Apostolides President, Pharmaceutical Companies Committee, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce Managing Director, AbbVie Pharmaceuticals S.A Born in 1955 in Thessaloniki, Pascal holds a BSc degree in Chemistry, a BA in Economic Geography and a post graduate degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from the University of Manitoba in Canada, while he concluded his studies by receiving a MSc in Environmental Chemistry from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. His professional career began in September 1986 in the diagnostics department of Abbott in Thessaloniki and after a short period in Athens he worked for 7 years in the German affiliate and 4 years at the Abbott Park in Chicago. In 2001 he returned to Greece as Managing Director of Abbott Laboratories Hellas and from January 2013 Pascal holds the position of the Managing Director of AbbVie, a new, independent, global biopharmaceutical company which retains in its portfolio innovative medicines for serious and chronic diseases, following Abbott's separation in two individual companies. From 2015 to 2018 he was President of the Hellenic Association of Pharmaceutical Companies (SfEE) in which he is currently member of the Board of Directors. He is also member of the Board of Directors of the Pharma Innovation Forum (PIF), President of the Pharmaceutical Committee of Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham), member of the Board of Directors of Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) and member of the Executive Board of Trustees of the American Community School of Athens (ACS).



# Big bets in challenging times



**Nikolaos Bakatselos**

President

American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce  
(AmChamGR)

Organizer

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the President & CEO of “Pyramis Metallourgia A.E.” and “Pyramis Deutschland GmbH”. Nikolaos Bakatselos was Member of the Board of Directors, and Deputy Managing Director, of “Northern Greece Publishing S.A.”. He has held the position of Managing Director of “Imperium AEEX”, and Member of the Board of Directors of “Egnatia Bank Securities S.A.”. He was a Member of the Board of Directors of Attica Bank from February 2014 until June 2016. Nikolaos Bakatselos was a Member of the Steering Committee of the “International Hellenic University” from 2006 until January 2014 and Member of the Board and President of the Northern Greece Committee of EEDE. He is Member of the Committee Support CERTH, Trustee of Anatolia College, Member of the Board of Directors of SVE, Member of the Board of Directors of IOBE and Honorary Consul of Belgium for Northern Greece. After being a Member of the Board of Directors of the American – Hellenic Chamber of Commerce for several years, in June 2010 he was elected Vice President of AmChamGR and President of the Northern Greece Committee and since June 2019 he is the President of AmChamGR. Nikolaos Bakatselos is Founding Member and Member of the Board of Council of Competitiveness of Greece. From October 2019 until February 2022 he was elected as President of HEDNO by the General Assembly of HEDNO. He holds a B.A. in Sociology from University of Reading and a MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University Business School.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Sophia Bantanidis**

Future of Finance Analyst  
Citi Global Insights

Organizer

Sophia Bantanidis is an Analyst in the Future of Finance team within Citi Global Insights covering digital assets, FinTech and how they will shape the future of financial services. She joined Citi in 2016 as the Head of Regulatory Strategy and Policy for Innovation and has held various positions at two financial services regulators in the U.K. and France, numerous banks and an asset management firm. In April 2021, she was awarded Greek International Woman of the Year in Finance and is on the Women in FinTech Powerlist for 5 consecutive years. She enjoys mentoring start-ups and is an Advisory Board member at an NFT business and at a fashion technology company (both female led).

# Big bets in challenging times



**Ferrante Benvenuti**

Partner  
BCG Milan

Organizer

Ferrante is a Partner in BCG Milan office and a core member of the BCG Energy practice and Climate and Sustainability practice. He is BCG topic leader on CCUS for Europe, the Middle East, South America, and Africa. He joined BCG in 2016 and focuses on work in Energy with particular expertise in Hard to Abate Sectors decarbonization, CCUS technologies, CCUS projects development, O&G upstream operations and digital drilling. He has led many projects on these topics in US, South America, West Africa, Europe and Middle East working with private sector companies and Governments. Prior to BCG, Ferrante worked in an E&P company (Tecpetrol) as the planning and continuous improvement manager of a business unit comprising of several oil and gas fields in Argentina. Ferrante holds a MA in International Business & Energy Policy from The Fletcher School -Tufts University (Boston) and BA in Ancient History from University College London.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Gus Bilirakis**

Congressman  
U.S. House of Representatives

Organizer

Congressman Gus M. Bilirakis is a Republican representing Florida's 12th Congressional District, which includes all of Pasco and northern parts of Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. He was first elected to Congress on November 7, 2006. Gus serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee. He is the Ranking Member of Consumer Protection & Commerce Subcommittee and a Member of the Health Subcommittee and Communications and Technology Subcommittee. With 38 bills he authored signed into law since 2015, Congressman Bilirakis was recently designated as the Most Effective Republican Lawmaker in the State of Florida by the Center for Effective Lawmaking at Vanderbilt University. Working in a bipartisan manner, his main priorities include controlling government spending, creating jobs for middle class Americans, finding ways for government to operate smaller and smarter, and lowering taxes. He is also committed to strengthening homeland security, improving education, increasing access to quality health care, lowering the cost of prescription drugs, protecting Veterans' benefits, ensuring the long-term viability of Social Security and Medicare, and improving emergency preparedness and response.

# Big bets in challenging times



## Myron Brilliant

Executive Vice President and  
Head of International Affairs  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Organizer

Myron Brilliant is executive vice president and head of the International Affairs Division at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business association. He provides strategic direction to over 80 regional and industry experts working to advance transparent, rules-based trade and investment policies around the globe. Previously, he served as the Chamber's vice president for Asia. Under Brilliant's leadership, the Chamber developed the largest international government relations program of any U.S. trade association, conducting programming in over 50 markets. During the past decade, Brilliant has strengthened the organization's ties to the global network of American Chambers of Commerce and foreign business associations and deepened engagement with multilateral and regional organizations, including the G20, IDB, IMF, World Bank, and WTO. The division manages 20 bilateral business councils and bilateral strategic dialogues with leaders in Africa, China, Egypt, India, and Mexico. In 2020, the Chamber expanded its global reach with the launch of new bilateral business councils for Bangladesh, Israel, and Kazakhstan. The Chamber also deepened its international policy work in cross-cutting areas like defense, sustainability, global health, and data governance. Brilliant is a recognized authority and sought-after participant in engagements with foreign heads of state and meetings with the White House and legislators on Capitol Hill. He successfully directed and led advocacy campaigns to support passage of trade agreements with Australia, Colombia, Panama, Singapore, and South Korea and played a leading role in encouraging U.S.-China trade negotiators to establish a level playing field for U.S. companies. Brilliant is a frequent commentator for national media outlets, covering international business and trade policy. He serves on the boards of the Atlantic Council, the U.S. Council for International Business, the Center for International Private Enterprise, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, and the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid for USAID. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the National Committee on United States-China Relations and an economic development adviser to the governor of China's Guangdong Province. In 2021, he made Washingtonian's inaugural Most Influential List, which highlights people who work tirelessly as advocates to change and improve the federal policies that have large impacts on people, states, businesses, foreign affairs, safety and security. Before joining the Chamber in 1994, Brilliant was an attorney with Stewart and Stewart in Washington, D.C. He received his J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law and his B.A. in government and politics from the University of Maryland.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Frances G. Burwell**

Distinguished Fellow, Europe Center, Atlantic  
Council; and Senior Director, McLarty  
Associates

Organizer



AMERICAN-HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Broadening Horizons®

Frances G. Burwell is a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council and a senior director at McLarty Associates. She previously served as vice president, European Union and Special Initiatives, at the Council, and currently leads the Transatlantic Digital Marketplace Initiative. Her work focuses on the European Union and US-EU relations, including in the digital arena. Her most recent publications include: [\*Time for an EU Data & Technology Agency\*](#); [\*Digital Sovereignty in Practice: The EU's Push to Shape the New Global Economy\*](#) (co-authored); [\*Proposal for a US-EU Digital Council: Building a Comprehensive Conversation\*](#); [\*Engaging Europe: A Transatlantic Digital Agenda for the Biden Administration\*](#); and [\*The European Union and the Search for Digital Sovereignty\*](#) (co-authored).

# Big bets in challenging times



**Athina Chatzipetrou**

CEO

Hellenic Development Bank

Organizer



AMERICAN-HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Broadening Horizons®

Athina Chatzipetrou is the CEO of the Hellenic Development Bank SA, which promotes fair, sustainable, and holistic economic development at regional and national level by facilitating SMEs' access to finance. Since March 2020 and during her leadership, the Hellenic Development Bank has been restructured. Moreover, it has handled in excess of 8,5 billion euros in loans, while starting with only 280 million euros. More than 41,000 new loans have been granted during the same period, contributing to the creation of more than 18,600 new jobs. With almost 30 years' experience in the corporate sector of leading positions and successes in diverse assignments and sectors, she carries a long and deep experience in financial management, including highest-level interactions with counterparties internationally. Among her previous roles, she has served as Regional Finance Manager at Coca-Cola Hellas, Finance Director at Beiersdorf Hellas, and Group CFO of Toyota Group in Greece. Ms. Chatzipetrou has also served as Finance Advisor at the Ministry of Development and Competitiveness, Resident Advisor both at the Netherlands enterprise agency (RVO) as well as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and as President of the BoD and CEO of the Archaeological Resources Fund. Ms. Chatzipetrou holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the Athens University of Economics and Business, a Master of Science degree in Operational Research from the University of Athens and a Master's degree in Heritage Management from the University of Kent. Ms. Chatzipetrou, a Greek national, speaks English, French and German.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Nikos Christodoulou**

Partner  
Consulting Leader  
Deloitte

Organizer

Nikos Christodoulou is a Partner, Leader of Consulting practice at Deloitte Greece since 2018. He has significant experience in designing and delivering large transformational projects, managing business cases in new technologies, designing new organizational models and post-merger integration. From 2011 to 2018, he worked at National Bank of Greece as Group COO and CIO, responsible for managing the Group's Operations and IT, including digitization, IT operations, back-office operations, treasury operations, real estate and technical services. From 1997 to 2011, he worked as Strategy Partner, Head of Management Consulting for another international consulting company in Greece. Nikos holds a BSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens, an MBA from Warwick Business School and a PhD in Decision Management Systems from National Technical University of Greece. He has also worked as a research fellow at INSEAD, France.

# Big bets in challenging times



## Alexandros Costopoulos

Secretary General, Executive Committee  
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce  
(AmChamGR)

Organizer

Alexandros Costopoulos is a communications strategist, renowned speaker and seasoned contributor to leading international and Greek media on communications, credibility, soft skills and U.S. relations. Founder and CEO of FORESIGHT, Alex has collaborated with distinguished individuals and prominent organizations from the political, academic and business spheres in the United States, Greece and the broader southeast European region, providing critical insight and developing bespoke results driven strategies and tactics related to public affairs, reputation management, public diplomacy, civil society engagement and American affairs. He is the Secretary General, an elected member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, Director for Greece of American Citizens Abroad and Co-Founder of the Institute for Regional Dialogue and Strategy. He has written various social and political opinion editorials for top newspapers and magazines in Greece and has spoken extensively on the importance of cooperation and smart power, while he published two books, “Bridges of Cooperation-Marshall Plan and Greece” in 2008 and “Bridges of Liberty- American Philhellenism in the 18th and 19th Centuries” in 2009. In December 2011 he founded RepowerGreece, an international grassroots public diplomacy initiative that seeks to empower a new way of thinking in facing emerging challenges and redefine Greece by investing in a renewed entrepreneurship and talentbased movement.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Susan Danger**

CEO

American Chamber of Commerce to the EU  
(AmCham EU)

Organizer

Susan Danger is CEO of the American Chamber of Commerce to the EU (AmCham EU), which speaks for American companies committed to Europe on trade, investment and competitiveness issues. AmCham EU is a membership organisation supporting over 150 US corporate companies, international business, and law and consultancy firms in the area of public affairs. Susan has dedicated her entire career to advancing transatlantic cooperation. She was named by POLITICO as one of the top 20 women influencers in Brussels in 2016 and 2020. Susan was elected as Chair of AmChams in Europe (ACE) for the period 2020-2022. AmChams in Europe (ACE) serves as the umbrella organisation for 45 American Chambers of Commerce (AmChams) in 43 countries throughout Europe and Eurasia. She has also served as Vice-Chair (2009 -2014) and was a Member of its Executive Committee (2005-2008). Susan has been a member of the Governing Board of the European Policy Center since March 2021. Susan is a dual UK and Belgian citizen and has worked in the UK, Germany, Austria, Spain and Australia.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Christos Dimas**

Deputy Minister for Research and Technology  
Ministry of Development and Investments

Organizer

Dr Christos Dimas is the Deputy Minister for Development and Investments in charge of Research and Innovation. He is a lawyer and Member of the Hellenic Parliament representing New Democracy in the district of Korinthia. Before entering politics, he worked in the private sector as a business consultant for The Boston Consulting Group (BCG). He was born on the 29th of May 1980. He graduated from the Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Queen Mary University in London. He completed his Master Degree in Comparative Politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He then finished his PhD in European Political Economy from the LSE, with a scholarship from the Alexander Onassis Foundation. Parallel to his studies, he worked as a correspondent in London for Apogevmatini newspaper while also practicing journalism at the BBC. At the age of 25 he was a teaching assistant at the LSE while teaching at ICON College in the University of Leicester and was a research fellow at the Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence. He was elected as an MP in the district of Korinthia, with New Democracy in the May 2012 elections and has been re-elected ever since. In his spare time he enjoys playing football and basketball and reading history books. He is married to the lawyer Nicoleta Syrengela and they have one daughter and a son.



# Big bets in challenging times



## Wendy Edelberg

Director, The Hamilton Project;  
Senior Fellow, Economic Studies  
The Brookings Institution

Organizer

Wendy Edelberg is the director of The Hamilton Project and a senior fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution. Edelberg joined Brookings in 2020, after more than fifteen years in the public sector. She is also a Principal at WestExec Advisors. Most recently, she was Chief Economist at the Congressional Budget Office. Prior to working at CBO, Edelberg was the executive director of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, which released its report on the causes of the financial crisis in January 2011. Previously, she worked on issues related to macroeconomics, housing, and consumer spending at the President's Council of Economic Advisers during two administrations. Before that, she worked on those same issues at the Federal Reserve Board. Edelberg is a macroeconomist whose research has spanned a wide range of topics, from household spending and saving decisions, to the economic effects of fiscal policy, to systemic risks in the financial system. In addition, at CBO and the Federal Reserve Board, she worked on forecasting the macroeconomy. Edelberg received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago, an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago, and a B.A. from Columbia University.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Dimitra Efthimiadou**

General Manager, healthreport.gr;  
Health Editor, ethnos.gr

Organizer

Dimitra Efthimiadou is an experienced Greek journalist with superior knowledge of the health sector, health policy and pharma industry. Being a Member of the Athens Daily Newspaper Editors Association since 1998, she has extensive experience of more than 20 years working for key print and online media and TV. Currently, she is the General Manager of healthreport.gr – a top tier health portal- as well as the Health Editor at ethnos.gr. Dimitra Efthimiadou was born in Germany and grew up in Duesseldorf and Athens. She studied European Culture attending EAP University and she majored in journalism at the Journalism Workshop. Dimitra Efthimiadou, apart from being a health editor, provides media and crisis training for executives in the health sector and politicians. Moreover, she executes personal and professional development programs to leaders in order to meet their business goals turning them into communication objectives. Dimitra has an accumulated experience in creating, improving and developing websites specialized in the field of Health. She regularly coordinates scientific medical conferences and other events to raise awareness and support prevention initiatives on medical issues. Dimitra speaks Greek, English and German.



# Big bets in challenging times



## Konstantinos Eleftheriadis

Partner, Financial Advisory  
Energy Industry Leader  
Deloitte

Organizer

Konstantinos Eleftheriadis is a Financial Advisory Partner and the Energy Industry Leader at Deloitte Greece. He specializes in Financial Advisory, M&A Transactions and Forensic Services. With over 18 years of professional experience, Konstantinos' expertise has been instrumental in a range of sectors with special focus in the Energy & Resources market, both locally and internationally. Konstantinos specializes in services like transactions, M&A assistance, feasibility studies, independent business reviews, liquidity, business and e-mobility plans and advice on Power Purchase Agreements, for many Greek and international clients that are operating in Power generation, Renewables, Oil & Gas, Mining & Metals, Waste treatment, etc.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Jose W. Fernandez**

Under Secretary for Economic Growth,  
Energy, and the Environment  
U.S. Department of State

Organizer

Jose W. Fernandez was confirmed by the Senate as Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment on August 6, 2021. He leads the State Department's bureaus and offices that stand at the center of the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts on climate change, clean energy, health, supply chain security, and other economic priorities. Under Secretary Fernandez is also the United States Alternate Governor to the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Inter-American Development Bank. From 2009 to 2013, he served as the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs, one of the bureaus he now oversees. Prior to his most recent appointment at the Department of State, Under Secretary Fernandez was a partner at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP in New York. His practice focused on mergers, acquisitions, and finance in Europe and emerging markets, advising U.S. and foreign clients in the telecommunications, energy, water, banking, and consumer industries. He was named one of the "World's Leading Lawyers" by Chambers Global for his M&A and corporate work, a "Highly Regarded" practitioner by the International Financial Law Review, and one of the "World's Leading Privatization Lawyers" by Euromoney Publications. He has been chair of the Inter-American law committees of both the American Bar Association and The Association of the Bar of the City of New York, as well as of the Cross-Border M&A and Joint Venture Committee of the New York State Bar Association. Most recently, Fernandez was an adjunct professor at Rutgers Law School, where he taught the course on international business transactions. A life-long supporter of the arts and education, Under Secretary Fernandez has served as a trustee of Dartmouth College and NPR-station WBGO-FM, and on the Board of Directors of Acción International, the Council of the Americas, Ballet Hispanico of New York, the Middle East Institute, and the Partnership for Inner City Education. The Under Secretary graduated from Dartmouth College and received an honorary degree from the College. He earned a Juris Doctor from Columbia University School of Law, where he was awarded the Charles Evans Hughes Prize and a Parker School Certificate of International Law with honors.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Jörn Fleck**

Acting Director with the Europe Center  
Atlantic Council

Organizer

Jörn Fleck serves as acting director with the Europe Center at the Atlantic Council with primary responsibility for the center's European Union (EU) efforts, programming related to Western Europe, Brexit, and US-EU trade relations. Jörn also leads outreach to US and European legislators as well as the Council's Transatlantic Digital Project which seeks to promote closer US-EU cooperation on digital policy matters. Jörn previously was director at the Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN) and helped to launch TPN's annual signature event Transatlantic Week which has become a major event in the transatlantic calendar. He continues to support TPN programming and promotes cooperation between both organizations. Prior to joining TPN, Jörn was chief of staff for a British member of the European Parliament (MEP). In this role, he worked extensively on US-EU relations, trade policy, and EU foreign and security policy. Jörn further served as the staff lead for the MEP's rapporteurship for the 2007 EU general budget. Jörn holds an MA in international commerce and policy from the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University and a BA in politics and international relations with first class honors from the University of Kent at Canterbury in the United Kingdom. Jörn is a German national.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Michel Fredeau**

Senior MDP, BCG & Global Head  
COP Advisory Team

Organizer

Michel Fredeau is a senior member and global leader of the Climate and Social Impact practice area, in charge of the global partnerships. He has over 30 years of experience across topics related to vision, strategy governance and large global transformation programs. His work also includes focus on sustainability, leadership development culture and change management.

In addition, Michel leads several flagship programs related to climate and sustainability:

- BCG's collaboration with World Economic Forum on the state of global climate action and the net-zero challenge
- BCG's strategic support for the COP26 and COP27 units
- Support to Standard setting NGO's such as SBTi, CDP and GRI
- Engagement with a climate action initiative to help companies understand how to overcome barrier to decarbonizing their operations and value chains
- Strategic support for the South Africa Industry Association to define Net Zero roadmap

Michel is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique and holds MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Daniel Fried**

Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow  
Atlantic Council;  
Former US Ambassador to Poland

Organizer

Ambassador Fried had a forty-year career in the Foreign Service and served as (among others): Special Assistant and NSC Senior Director for Presidents Clinton and Bush, Ambassador to Poland, and Assistant Secretary of State for Europe (2005-09). He is currently a Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow at the Atlantic Council.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Adonis Georgiadis**

Minister

Ministry of Development and Investments

Organizer

Adonis Georgiadis was born on November 6th, 1972, in Athens. He graduated from the Faculty of History & Archaeology of the School of Philosophy of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. In 1993, he took over the management of publications 'GEORGIADIS-LIBRARY OF GREEK'. In 1994, he founded the Liberal Studies Center "GREEK EDUCATION". Elected MP in Athens B region in the elections of 2007 and 2009 with the LAOS political party. In February 2012, he joined the Nea Demokratia political party, having resigned from the parliamentary office. Elected with Nea Demokratia in Athens B in the national elections of 2012 and 2015. In 2011, he was Vice Minister of Shipping in the Government of Lucas Papademos and in 2013 he was appointed Minister of Health in the Government of Antonis Samaras. On January 18th, 2016, he was appointed one of the two Vice-Presidents of the Nea Demokratia by decision of Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the President of Nea Demokratia. On July 9th, Adonis Georgiadis was appointed as Minister of Development and Investments after the 2019 Greek elections. He is married to Eugenia Manolidou and they have two children, Perseus and Alcaeus.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Marinos Giannopoulos**

CEO  
Enterprise Greece

Organizer

Marinos Giannopoulos is an experienced finance and academic professional with a Doctorate in Strategic Management. For several years he lived and was active in the UK where he worked in the City of London as a banking executive and business consultant. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the Management School, University of Liverpool, a master's degree in international business economics from City University London, and a PhD from Brunel University London, with the thesis title: "Divesting assets and redeploying resources as predictors of the performance of acquisitions: The case of Greece." Prior to assuming his current duties as CEO of Enterprise Greece, he worked for more than a decade in the banking industry, both in Greece and abroad. He has extensive experience in managing credit risk in investment banking portfolios and participated in the management and consolidation of credit risk portfolios at financial institutions and companies in emerging Europe. Upon returning to Greece, he led the team at one of Greece's leading banks responsible for facilitating in the implementation of Greece's National Recovery and Resilience Fund – Greece 2.0 – while also liaising with European development bodies and Greek government agencies. He served as advisor to New Democracy's Secretariat for International Relations & European Union from 2013 to 2019. He has been a member of various academic and professional committees and has been actively engaged in research and writing with numerous articles published in leading international journals, such as the Journal for Global Business Advancement and the International Journal of Business and Economic Sciences. At the same time, he also taught at Brunel University and the Hellenic Open University in the fields of Strategic Management and Business Economics.

# Big bets in challenging times



## Spyros Gkikas-Panousis

President and General Manager  
GE Healthcare Greece-Cyprus

Organizer

He was born in 1969. He graduated from the Electrical and Computer Engineering School at the Democritus University of Thrace and he received his M.Sc. in Biomedical Engineering in 1996 from the University of Patras and National Technical University of Athens. In 2008 he received his MBA Executive from the University of Piraeus. He worked at the University of Patras and the Institute of Biomedical Technology (INBIT) in European and national R&D projects in Health Sector as well as Clinical Engineering and Biomedical Technology Management projects. From 2001 up to 2010 he has worked as Project Manager in Inso SpA for the project development and management of turn-key hospital projects in Greece and abroad. He joined GE Healthcare in 2011, where in 2012 he was appointed as Strategic Projects Sales Director, Eastern Europe, leading the development of technology-enabled solutions and strategy for large healthcare equipment projects. Since May 2018, he is the President BoD and General Manager, GE Healthcare for Greece and Cyprus.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Nana Goula**

Product Supply Senior Director  
P&G Southeast Europe

Organizer

Nana studied in the Polytechnic school of Patras, Greece. She holds a Master's in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering department. In 2000 she started her professional career in the Product Supply department of Procter & Gamble Hellas. Throughout her career in Greece, she has worked in various assignments in Customer Service and Logistics as well as Market Planning supporting the entire Brand Portfolio of P&G. Nana has had a rich International career spending almost one third of her career outside Greece. She has undertaken two international assignments in P&G's European Headquarters in Geneva Switzerland, first as Initiatives' manager for Hair Care Regional Business Unit (2004-2006) and later on, overseeing Customer Logistics for all international and domestic customers in the Western and Eastern European region (2013-2019). In 2019 she was appointed Leader Product Supply Leader for P&G Southeast Europe overseeing a region which entails 12 countries. She is married and has two children.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Paulina Dejmek Hack**

Director for General Affairs  
DG FISMA  
European Commission

Organizer

Paulina Dejmek Hack is Director for General Affairs at the European Commission's DG FISMA. Paulina has worked on financial services matters in the European Commission in different positions since she joined in 2004, including in the private office of then Commissioner Michel Barnier, subsequently Vice-President of the European Commission, between 2010 and 2014 and as Financial Adviser in the private office of the then European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, between 2014 and 2019. In 2019/20, Paulina was Director of the Commission's Task Force for relations with the United Kingdom and was directly involved in the negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom.



# Big bets in challenging times



## Christos Harpantidis

Chairman and Managing Director,  
Papastratos; Head, EU SE Cluster,  
Philip Morris International

Organizer

Christos Harpantidis is the Chairman and Managing Director of Papastratos and Head of the EU South East Cluster (Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Cyprus, Malta) of Philip Morris International. Born in Thessaloniki in 1970, Christos studied Physics at the Aristotle University while he continued his studies in the United Kingdom getting his Master's degree in Economics (MA) and Business Administration (MBA) from Kent University. Christos has also completed executive education programs at Stanford and Duke Universities. He started his career in 1997 as Marketing & Sales Trainee at Coca-Cola Hellenic. In 2003, Christos became a member of Papastratos' family, taking on responsibility of key positions in the company's commercial department in Greece and abroad. From 2012 to 2015, he was based at the Philip Morris International Operations Center in Lausanne, Switzerland, holding senior management positions in the Sales Strategy department and then in the Commercialization of New Generation Products. In August 2015, Christos was assigned to the position of Chairman and Managing Director of Papastratos and Head of the EU South East Cluster. In 2017, with a vision of a smoke-free future, he led a € 300 million investment that turned Papastratos' facilities into one of the few production and export centers of PMI's innovative tobacco products achieving to transform Greece's leading tobacco industry to a world-leading technology company.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Kostis Hatzidakis**

Minister  
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

Organizer

Kostis Hatzidakis is the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, a Member of the Greek Parliament and the Vice President of the New Democracy Party. He was born in Rethymno, Crete, in 1965. He studied at the Law School of the University of Athens and he holds a Master's Degree in Political Communication from the University of Kent. He speaks English and French. He is a Member of the Greek Parliament since 2007, representing Athens B' northern sector constituency. He has served as President of the Youth Organization of the New Democracy (1992-1994), Member of the European Parliament (1994-2007), Minister of Transport (2007-2009), Minister of Development (2012-2014) and Minister of Environment and Energy (2019-5/1/2021).



# Big bets in challenging times



**Egbert Holthius**

Head, DG Employment  
Social Affairs and Inclusion  
European Commission

Organizer

Egbert HOLTHUIS holds Dutch nationality and a master's degree in business administration and geography. Before joining the European Commission in 1993, he worked at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Dutch Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO). He started his career for the European Commission as an economic adviser in the Delegation in Chad. In DG Enterprise, he worked respectively in the Steel and Chemicals Unit in the latter he was concerned with the development of new rules on the use of chemicals (REACH). Since 2004, he has been working in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and has been involved in monitoring the employment and social situation of the European Union (e.g. in the field of employment analysis), as well as coordinating and monitoring national employment policies in the context of the Lisbon and European Employment Strategies (with a particular focus on enlargement, migration and crisis assessment). In 2011, Egbert headed the unit responsible for social policy, innovation and governance, which coordinates EU Member States' policies in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart sustainable and inclusive growth. In 2015, he was given responsibility for the department responsible for the programming and implementation of the European Social Fund and the Europe 2020 Strategy in Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania. Egbert currently manages the geographical unit for Germany, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia and is deputy to the Director in the Directorate responsible for Jobs and Skills.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Stavros Ioannidis**

Journalist  
Skai, cnn.gr

Organizer

Multimedia journalist reporting for Greek and foreign media. Ministry of National Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs accredited journalist in the leading News TV station "SKAI TV", "SKAI 100,3" radio and CNN.gr. Flexible and self-motivated, he has been traveling in Greece and abroad delivering international affairs, diplomacy, defense industry and military stories, videos and live broadcasts. Since February 2022, he has been covering the Russian invasion in Ukraine as a war correspondent in Mariupol, Kiev and Lviv. He has worked for the Hellenic Public TV & Radio, Political.gr, Reader.gr and foreign media. Stavros Ioannidis holds a BA in Journalism and Mass Media from the Aristotles' University of Thessaloniki and is fluent in English.

# Big bets in challenging times



## Tassos Iossiphides

Partner and Head, Strategy & Transaction Services in Greece and Strategy & Transaction Practice for the South Cluster of Central, Southeast Europe & Central Asia (CESA), EY

Organizer

Mr. Tassos Iossiphides has been a Partner in EY since 2005 and Head of the Strategy & Transaction Services in Greece. He also leads the Strategy & Transaction Practice for the South Cluster of Central, Southeast Europe & Central Asia (CESA). Tassos has more than 27 years of experience of providing Financial and Transaction Advisory services in various industries and he has led very important projects and corporate transactions in Greece and Central Southeast Europe countries, including Valuations & Business Planning, Mergers & Acquisitions, Privatizations, PPPs, as well as Investment Advisory Assignments related to raising Corporate & Project Finance including EU funding. Mr. Iossiphides has also served as an Advisor to organizations and associations that support entrepreneurship, such as ACCI and SEV, on issues related to SMEs, including the need of scale up, financing & exports related initiatives, as well as a consultant to Endeavor and THEA, advising newly established and dynamically growing businesses. He is an elected member of the Board of Directors of ACCI, he holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Patras, and an MBA from the University of Stirling, United Kingdom. He has also received professional training in Corporate Strategy at Harvard Business School, Corporate Finance Training from INSEAD, Paris and a Mergers & Acquisitions at the Andersen Training Center of Chicago.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Vassilis Kafatos**

Vice President  
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce  
(AmChamGR)

Organizer

Vassilis Kafatos (Equity Partner) is Deloitte Greece Clients & Industries Leader and President of the Deloitte Alexander Competence Center. He specializes in corporate & digital strategy, innovation, business model transformation, financial restructuring and mergers & acquisitions. Vassilis has over 20 years of advisory experience in various sectors including travel, hospitality, investment management, consumer business and manufacturing. He serves as Trustee of the Board of Anatolia College, as Vice President of the American - Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, as President of the Advisory Board of the Council on Competitiveness of Greece, as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Industries of Greece and as member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for the Museum of Macedonian Struggle. He holds a degree in Economic Science from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, an MBA in Corporate Strategy from the University of Texas at Austin and postgraduate diplomas in Business Leadership from IMD, Lausanne.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Viktoria Kalfaki**

Head of Public Sector  
Google Cloud

Organizer

Viktoria is leading the Public Sector Sales in Google Cloud for Greece and Cyprus. She started her career from Vodafone Greece and then moved to the UK in telecom and technologies companies like Pegasystems and Dell. She has more than 17 years experience in technology and has been involved in many digital transformation projects in Public sector and Enterprise across Europe. She is enthusiastic about helping clients with new technologies and cloud computing to bring innovation and value by enabling all areas in the enterprise ecosystem to be faster, more efficient and more flexible. She is passionate about empowering women and other underrepresented groups as facilitator and member of the IamRemarkable Google initiative and active contributor of diversity, inclusion & LGBTQ+ community. She holds an MBA from University of Derby specialised in Innovation and Leadership. She is married and she has a 3 year old daughter.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Elenos Karaindros**

General Manager of Strategy,  
Mergers and Acquisitions  
Mytilineos

Organizer

Elenos graduated from German School of ATHENS (Dorpfeld Gymnasium) in 1989. He studied Economics at the Athens University of Economics and Business and then received his MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from Cass Business School. Upon completion of his studies, he worked for eleven years in Investment Banking for HSBC Bank (London / Athens), Piraeus Prime Bank (JV with Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi) and Arrow Finance (merchant banking boutique) with particular emphasis on Corporate & Project Finance, Mergers & Acquisitions, privatizations and capital fund raising. Since 2006 Elenos is part of MYTILINEOS senior management, currently holding the position of General Manager of Strategy, Mergers and Acquisitions, with an overall responsibility for: (a) development of the Company's strategy and (b) assessment of investment proposals and execution of transactions. He is member of Mytilineos' ExCom and several other internal committees. He has two children, Katerina and Amalia.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Dimitris Karavasilis**

International Trade Advisor  
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce  
(AmChamGR)

Organizer

Dimitris Karavasilis is a highly motivated, visionary and performance driven international marketing professional, with an advanced know-how and significant expertise in a wide range of economic and industrial sectors; since 1999 he has been providing significant Greek and foreign firms with marketing services. He is founder and CEO of MI-MALL HOLDING P.C. (i-mall Micro Market, #1 Robotic Micro Market Worldwide). He is also Founder and CEO of "DK CONSULTANTS GROUP" which owns the brands DK MARKETING, OLWINN, IDEA MONKEYS, EXPORTNEWS, EXPORTANGELS with offices in Athens, New York, London, Shanghai. Dimitris Karavasilis has studied Business Administration and International Marketing at "The University of Sheffield". Prior to DK CONSULTANTS GROUP, he had been working as a senior executive in industrial and commercial enterprises in Greece and abroad, such as SATO, Toshiba, Sunair, Premierotel, Pointgroup, Axon Inc., and D&B group. During his career, he has undertaken major projects on behalf of big multinational consulting firms in the UK, Luxembourg, Germany, Hungary, USA, Romania, Turkey, and China; he has also participated as an invited speaker in many local and international conferences. He operates as an international trade expert for organizations such as the European Commission, the International Trade Center, the World Bank, GIZ, UK International Trade, and the American Marketing Association. Dimitris Karavasilis is an Executive Consultant on international trade issues at the American - Hellenic Chamber of Commerce in Athens. He also participated in the core team of European Task Force, contributing to establishing the Trade and Promotion Roadmap as the key source for reforming the Greek Export Strategy. Since 2016 he has been a member of the National Committee for Extroversion.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Eftichia Kasselaki**

Partner  
Consulting & People Advisory Services  
EY

Organizer

Eftichia Kasselaki is part of EY's leadership team as Partner, People Advisory Services Leader and Transformation services, as well as EY Private. She advises Leaders across various sectors on matters such organizational transformation, change management, culture, leadership, and people transformation, performance management, as well as board governance, transactions/integrations, family business growth and succession planning. Eftichia has more than 29 years of experience in consulting and senior line management roles in financial services, with more than 10 years in C-level roles. Before joining E&Y Eftichia Kasselaki was Executive General Manager at Piraeus Bank, supervising Retail Banking, Branch Network, Deposits and Digital Banking. She was member of the Group Executive Committee and other key strategic committees of the Group. Over her professional career in financial services, she led in terms of people & supported business in over 19 acquisitions in Greece and Southeastern Europe having as a journey Group Human Resources & Organizational Learning, Branch Network and Retail Banking. Eftichia began her career as an Organizational Psychologist and Management consultant, providing services in various industries. She holds a Master's degree in Organizational Analysis & Behaviour at Lancaster Business School, and a B.A. in Philosophy & Psychology at Athens Kapodestrian University. She has been trained in Executive Coaching, Transformational Leadership Series, ESG Leadership Academy by top Business Schools professors.



# Big bets in challenging times



## Michalis Kassimiotis

Managing Director  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise  
Hellas & Cyprus

Organizer

Michalis is the Managing Director for HPE Greece and Cyprus since January 2018. Michalis joined HP in 1994 as a Presales Manager in the Enterprise Systems Group. After 2002 he spent five years as the Enterprise Servers Storage and Networking manager leading Industry Standard Servers and UNIX Lines of Business in the first market share position in Greece and Cyprus. From 2007 until 2013 Michalis was assigned to the positions of Sales Manager for the Enterprise Group and then to the Technology Services Group of HP in Greece and Cyprus. In 2013 he assumed a regional role as a Technology Services Support Manager in the regions of Greece, Cyprus and Africa. Michalis holds a Degree in Mathematics from the University of Athens and a master's degree in Information Technology from the University of Glasgow. He is based in Athens, Greece. Michalis favors challenges & welcome innovative and creative ideas that would inspire and take himself, his company and his customers and partners further ahead. He is a strong believer of PURPOSE and CULTURE as key drivers for performance, but he also believes that no vision can be met without exhaustive EXECUTION of the daily targets that define the path.



# Big bets in challenging times



## Chryssos Kavounides

Managing Director & Partner  
Head of BCG Athens

Organizer

Chryssos is a BCG Partner & Managing Director and Head of the BCG Athens office. He joined BCG in 2011 and focuses on work in Financial Institutions with particular expertise in Transformation. He has extensive international experience in strategy development, operational transformation, cost optimization, as well as customer journey design and implementation. Prior to BCG, Chryssos' consultancy experience was focused on Project Management best practice for Blue Chip companies such as Airbus, Vodafone, Visa Europe. Chryssos is a Mechanical Engineer and holds an MEng and a PhD from Imperial College, London.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Vassilis Kikilias**

Minister  
Ministry of Tourism

Organizer

Vassilis Kikilias is the Minister of Tourism of Greece. Prior to his post he served as Minister of Health (2019-2021) and Minister of Public Order and Citizen Protection (2014-2015). He is an elected member of the Greek Parliament since 2012. Vassilis was born in Athens in 1974 and is an orthopedic surgeon with a PhD from the Medical School of the University of Athens. As a professional basketball player he has played for Panionios BC, AEK BC and the Greek National Team. He is married and has one son.

# Big bets in challenging times



## Kiara Konti

Partner and Sustainability Services Leader  
EY Greece; Sustainability Services Leader  
EY Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe  
and Central Asia (CESA)  
Organizer

Kiara Konti is a Partner at EY Greece, leading EY's Climate Change and Sustainability Services (CCaSS) practice in Greece and the CESA (Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe & Central Asia) region. She has subject-matter knowledge and 18 years of experience in sustainability consulting and assurance services, across a series of ESG aspects, including decarbonization, the circular economy, and sustainable finance. Kiara has led more than 200 engagements on climate change and sustainability services, for more than 100 companies, across 25 sectors/subsectors, in Greece, Central and Southeastern Europe. She is a BoD Member of the UNGC Network in Greece, a committee member of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce's (AmCham) Sustainability Committee, as well as a committee member of AmCham's Circular Economy Committee, a GRI certified trainer, and an AccountAbility Certified Sustainability Assurance Practitioner. She has deep knowledge and consulting experience in sustainability strategy and target setting, sustainability governance and management systems, ESG risk and opportunities identification and assessment (including impact analysis/double materiality methodologies), stakeholder engagement, community investment, measurement of non-financial KPIs, socioeconomic outcomes measurement, measurement of social return on investment (SROI), climate/green and sustainability linked bond/loan frameworks, ESG reporting, ESG training and non-financial assurance services. She has been involved in EY global teams for the development of methodologies and solutions on ESG strategy, reporting, materiality analysis (including double materiality) and impact measurement. She is a subject matter expert on ESG standards and frameworks, including GRI, SASB, <IR>, TCFD, UNGC, UN SDGs, SROI, CDP, SBTi, ECOVADIS, SEDEX, ISO 26000, ISAE3000, AA1000AS & APS, AA1000SES, UNEPFI PRB, PRI etc. She has been involved in ESG strategy and compliance engagements for the financial sector, including ECB's climate and environmental risk expectations, ECB climate stress testing, and the implementation of the UNEP FI Principles for Responsible Banking. She has gained experience in the field of the Circular Economy, having worked on relevant studies, which included legislation overview and assessment, sectorial current state assessment and a gap assessment against leading practices. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVOogYPivuo>) Since 2006, Kiara has published a number of articles on ESG in Greek magazines and newspapers, has contributed to international book publications on sustainability, is a regular speaker in sustainability conferences and events (indicatively <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVOogYPivuo>, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEfGJt0\\_Ai0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEfGJt0_Ai0)), and has provided a series of open and in-house training courses on the subject.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Alexis Kontis**

Director  
Clients & Industries  
Deloitte

Organizer

Alexis Kontis is a Clients & Industries Director at Deloitte Greece, specializing in strategy and operations with over 25 years of work experience. Since 2015 within Deloitte Greece he is actively involved amongst others, in the business development effort both at client and industry level, the support of all Innovation initiatives and the coordination of the Next Gen EU service offerings in the Greek market. He specializes in Corporate Strategy and Business Planning, Innovation, Digital Transformation, Operational Excellence, Change Management as well as Internal Audit. He possesses significant consulting experience in various sectors of the economy, namely banking, tourism, consumer products, retail trade and construction, having served numerous enterprises in Greece and abroad.

# Big bets in challenging times



## Thanasis Kontogeorgis

Secretary General for the Coordination  
of the Government  
Presidency of the Government

Organizer

Thanasis Kontogeorgis has been the Secretary General for the Coordination of the Government since July 2019, having as main responsibilities the planning and coordination of the government actions for the implementation of key policies, the European Enhanced Surveillance Program, the reform part of the National Resilience and Recovery Plan “Greece 2.0”, the National Reform Plan, policies for dealing with the pandemic crisis, national horizontal plans for the economic and social development as well as the annual preparation of the Consolidated Government Plan. The General Secretariat for Coordination is, among others, the national coordinating authority for the technical assistance provided to the country by the EU DG Reform as well as for the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and is responsible for the preparation of the Strategic Projects Pipeline. He has served as Legal Adviser to the Greek Government until 2014, providing support to the Office of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Ministry of Culture and the General Secretariat of the Government. At the same time, he was a member of the Government Council for Private Debt Management and vice-chairman of the Hellenic Accounting and Auditing Standards Oversight Board (HAASOB) while actively participating in negotiations with the European Commission, the IMF and the ECB, as well as drafting a number of bills on tax and accounting legislation, businesses and the banking system. He graduated from Athens College and the Law School of the University of Athens, with a postgraduate degree in Public Policy and Administration from Harvard University (Master in Public Policy-Harvard Kennedy School of Government). He is a lawyer at the Supreme Court and the Council of State, founder-lawyer of KTA Legal, with many years of experience in representing companies and public bodies. He is married and has two children.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Yianos Kontopoulos**

CEO

Athens Exchange Group

Organizer

Mr. Kontopoulos has a long and successful international experience in global capital markets. He was a Partner, Chief Macro Strategist at CQS Fund in London, with previous service at UBS and Merrill Lynch, and he was CEO at Eurobank Asset Management. He has worked in senior management positions in capital markets in New York, London and Athens. He started his career on Wall Street at Salomon Brothers. He was Managing Director at two of the largest international investment banks, UBS and Merrill Lynch, where he created and led large teams of leading analysts, building an extensive international network of contacts with major and significant investment firms around the world. In Greece, he was Chief Investment Officer of Eurobank as well as CEO of Eurobank Asset Management, the largest mutual fund management company in the country. He has also worked in key positions in hedge funds abroad with billions in investments in global markets. Mr. Kontopoulos holds a Ph.D., M.Phil., and M.A. in Economics from Columbia University and an A.B., also in Economics, from Harvard University. He was born and raised in Thessaloniki.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Nikos Kostaras**

Managing Director  
IQVIA Hellas

Organizer

Nikos joined IQVIA (IMS at that time) in 2009 as Head of Sales and Marketing, to lead the strengthening and transformation of its commercial team. After assuming the role of GM in 2014 and MD in 2015, he successfully implemented, at local level, the acquisition of Cegedim and the merger with the global leader in clinical trials Quintiles. IQVIA offers various solutions in: a) Data, for Pharmacy Retail sell-out, E-Prescription, and RWD drug consumption, b) Consulting, with Advanced Analytics, Management Consulting, HTA, RWE, Market Research, c) Technology, with CRM, BI solutions and Multi-Channel Marketing and d) Clinical Trials. Under Nikos leadership, IQVIA Hellas was appointed to establish 2 international hubs in Athens for: a) Technology and b) Health Economics. The expansion of the local office and of the 2 hubs allowed the hire of 100 top professionals in the years 2020-21. Even more important, 30 of these hires were Greeks that returned to their home country from abroad, materializing in practice the brain-gain. Nikos working experience covers multinational companies in various industries such as fast-moving consumer goods, pharmaceuticals & OTC, financials as well as services. Since 1994 he held neuralgic positions as Marketing and Sales Manager, in Greece and Italy, at top, global organizations such as Mars, Procter & Gamble and Novartis OTC, with a history of successful and award-winning launches. His main areas of expertise relate to strategy, innovation, business development, commercial effectiveness, product management and people leadership. Nikos is a graduate of the University of Piraeus and holds an MBA from ALBA. His native language is Greek, and he is fluent in English and Italian.

# Big bets in challenging times



**George Kostoulas**  
Journalist

Organizer

George Kostoulas is an independent journalist based in Athens, with two decades experience covering the energy and the environmental sectors, as also fiscal & monetary policy and financial markets. In recent years he has been working on political communication and public relations.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Ioannis Kotsiopoulos**

General Secretary of Health Services  
Ministry of Health

Organizer

Dr Ioannis Kotsiopoulos was born in Athens and studied Mathematics at the University of Athens. He continued his postgraduate studies in Manchester where he graduated with an MSc in Decision Technologies. He continued his research in decision support systems, optimisation techniques and data science problems, participated in several UK and EU funded research projects and published several papers in esteemed international conferences and academic journals. His PhD discusses semantic interoperability challenges in large scale data integration problems in the healthcare sector. Ioannis has worked in senior management roles both in Greece and the UK and has led many digital transformation initiatives. He was a founding member of the Greek DRG Institute, Deputy Chief Executive of Nea Ionia Hospital, Chief Information Officer in Dorset County Hospital, member of the NHS Digital Academy and most recently Secretary General for Health Services in Greece. Ioannis has coordinated the response of the Greek Healthcare System against the pandemic and at the same time he designed an ambitious eHealth Programme which will be funded by the Recovery and Resilience Fund. Ioannis is particularly interested in healthcare quality and learning health systems and he played a key role in the establishment of the new Organisation for Healthcare Quality in Greece (ODIPY) and the Regional Office for Healthcare Quality of the World Health Organisation in Athens.



# Big bets in challenging times



## Minas Koulisianis

Data & Technology Transformation Leader  
IBM Consulting  
Greece and Cyprus

Organizer

Minas Koulisianis is the Data & Technology Transformation Leader of IBM Consulting for Greece and Cyprus. He is working across industries implementing Data & AI solutions, with a special expertise in Insurance and Banking sector. Minas holds a PhD degree in Computational Finance.

# Big bets in challenging times



Mrs. Sophia Kounenaki-Efraimoglou is the President of the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Elected President of the National Chamber Network of Greek Women Entrepreneurs (EEDGE), Executive Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the Hellenic World and Head of “Hellenic Cosmos” Cultural Centre, as well as Treasurer of the BoD at ALBA Graduate Business School and Member of the General Council of SEV (Hellenic Federation of Enterprises). She is the Chairman & Managing Director of Ardittos Holdings SA and Board Member of TERNA ENERGY GROUP and Lavipharm S.A.

**Sophia Kounenaki-Efraimoglou**

President

Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Organizer

# Big bets in challenging times



## Venetia Koussia

Employment Committee Chair  
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce  
(AmChamGR)

Organizer

During her longstanding career, Dr. Venetia Koussia has acquired senior management positions in companies of various sectors, leading them successfully through highly volatile market conditions by designing and implementing socially responsible growth strategies. Having an active role in the world of work issues on a national, European, and international level and through her dynamic engagement in esteemed institutions, she participates in the design and implementation of initiatives aiming to improve the national competitiveness. These efforts are based on the following axes: The strengthening of an innovation ecosystem capable to nurture dynamic business. The enhancement of Boards' effectiveness to assist organizational resilience. The rethinking of the labor laws and social protection for the new economy and the new needs of the workforce. The emphasis needed on skills for jobs and "markets of tomorrow" rather than on jobs and occupations. Since November 2018 she has been appointed as the executive director of the Council on Competitiveness of Greece – CompeteGR. Since 2013 she serves at the Board of Directors of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (elected member for the last three terms). Through her Chair of the Employment Committee of AmCham has created several initiatives concerning skills and future world of work. Believing in the power of "actions" she devotes some dozens of hours annually from her personal time in assisting people to unleash their potential. Since Spring 2016 she is the owner and founder of VenetiaKoussia.net and acts as a trusted advisor to Boards and CEOs for People-ProcessesPartnerships issues. Advocate of Lifelong Learning in February 2017 she acquired the Financial Times Postgraduate Diploma for NonExecutive Directors (NED) being among the first certified NEDs in Greece. She holds a Ph.D. in Corporate Strategic Planning for Banking Services and an M. Phil. in Agricultural Marketing and Market Research, both from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom. Her first degree (B.Sc.) is in Business Administration from the Deree College, American College of Greece.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Afroditi Koutsopoulou**

Vice President Supply Chain  
AB Vassilopoulos

Organizer

Afroditi joined AB in June 2019 as Distribution Director, at Supply Chain department. In August 2022, she was promoted to VP SUPPLY CHAIN. Afroditi holds a BA in Combined International Business, and a MBA in Business Administration from Plymouth University in UK.



# Big bets in challenging times



**George Kremlis**

AmChamGR Circular Economy  
Committee Chair; Honorary Director  
European Commission

Organizer

George Kremlis is a member of the Board of the European Public Law Organisation and chairs its climate and circular economy Institute. He is also a member of the environmental and social advisory council of the EBRD and also currently the Chair of the Bureau of the Espoo Convention, Chair of the MOPs in 2019, elected Chair for the MOPs in December 2020 and re-elected Chair for the period 2021-2023. George Kremlis is Honorary Director of the European Commission (EC) and has acted in this capacity as Active Senior responsible for circular economy in the islands. He was until recently special Advisor to the Greek Prime Minister on energy, climate, environment and circular economy issues. He started his career in the EC in 1981. He was a Legal advisor (from January 1981) in the European Commission's Legal Service, with an interruption of three years (1990-1993) in Greece where he exercised the functions of Advisor to the Greek Minister of National Economy (1990), National Co-ordinator for the EEC internal market (1990-1992), Head of the EEC Committee under the Greek Prime Minister (1993), and Secretary General for European Affairs in the Ministry of National Economy (1993). During this period he was also a Member of the Greek Competition authority. In 1995 he joined DGENV. From 1995 to 2004 he served as Head of the Legal Unit, responsible for all legal issues in the DG. From 2004 to 2005 he was the Head of the "Legal affairs and Governance" Unit, and from June 2005 to May 2013 Head of the Unit "Cohesion Policy and Environmental Impact assessments". From June 2013 till 30 March 2018 he has served as Head of the "Mainstreaming and Environmental Assessments" Unit (former "Enforcement, Cohesion Policy & European Semester, Cluster 1" Unit); in-between, from March to August 2011, he served as Acting Director of the Directorate "Legal Affairs and Cohesion" and from June 2013 to January 2014 as Director ad interim of the Directorate "Implementation, Governance and Semester". In his last position he was also the Chairman of the ENEA-MA (European Network of Environmental and Managing Authorities), and the EIA/SEA (Environmental Impact Assessment / Strategic Environmental Assessment) Experts Groups. He has also served as a member of the Board of the National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development in Greece, and as a member of the Greek Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE). He is Founding and Honorary President of the Hellenic Environmental Law Association. He was a lawyer of the Greek Supreme Court and at the beginning of his career he has been a Research fellow at the Centre of International Economic and European Law (1979-80), in Thessaloniki. Visiting Professor in a number of universities, in Greece and abroad, especially on post-graduate studies. He is the co-author of a four volumes Commentary, Article by Article, of the EU Treaties (in Greek). He is also the author of a very large number of various publications, in English, French and Greek, including books and articles, on EU Policy and Law, in particular institutional law, business law, private international law, environmental law, and comparative law.



# Big bets in challenging times



**John Kyriakides**  
Managing Partner  
Kyriakides Georgopoulos Law Firm

Organizer

John Kyriakides serves as the Managing Partner of the firm and heads the Dispute Resolution department. He is eligible to plead before the Greek Supreme Court. He studied law in the UK and obtained his post-graduate degree (LLM) at UCL, University of London in 1999. He regularly advises foreign clients and handles litigation with respect to cases involving defective products, acting mainly for international producers or manufacturers. He is particularly experienced in product liability in the pharmaceutical and automotive sector, often representing clients in cases involving breach of the law of obligations and torts, intellectual property, as well as agency and distribution disputes. Before the criminal courts and investigating authorities he regularly represents corporate clients acting as civil party (plaintiff) in white collar crime cases; he also acts as an attorney for the defense in cases involving criminal liability of corporate executives. He has developed the gaming & betting practice of the firm which provides regulatory, compliance and corporate advice. Additionally, he has led several internal audits and investigations.

Representative matters include:

- Acting for a leading aircraft and train manufacturer which faced a 'defence offset' claim totalling over €25m.
- Defending a €1bn claim against a world leading Telecoms Company arising out of alleged breach of competition filed by one major franchisee in the territory.
- Oil & Gas: Drafted and supported an Arbitration Recourse against the Greek State (competency of the Greek Supreme Court), acting on behalf of a US Oil & Gas Exploration Company for a claim in excess of €100bn (alleged nationalization of oil and gas wells).
- Acted for the private banking sector of a major foreign bank in relation to civil and criminal lawsuits initiated following the embezzlement of funds in excess of €8m by a director.
- Represented a major UK consulting, transformation and digital services company in relation to a civil and criminal dispute initiated by a Greek investor seeking damages in excess of €75m.
- In the pharma industry he has handled several lawsuits filed against pharmaceuticals for the circulation of allegedly defective drugs.
- Acted for one of the world's leading technology companies focused on industry infrastructure and mobility in a €100m dispute with the Greek State concerning alleged defective rolling stock and breach of contract.
- Advised a major beverages company in defending a €5m claim filed by the ex- local exclusive distributor for goodwill compensation further to the termination of its distributorship agreement.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Christina Leimoni**

Chief Operating Officer  
Microsoft Greece, Cyprus and Malta

Organizer

Christina Leimoni is leading the Marketing and Operations team for Microsoft Greece, Cyprus and Malta (acting Chief Operating Officer). She joined Microsoft in June 2021. Prior to Microsoft, Christina has held several leadership positions across sales and marketing in technology companies in Europe such as Google, Canon EMEA and Vodafone Group, with the last 3.5 years helping Google build the scale required to support fast-growing demand for its Cloud services in EMEA and compete in the cloud hyper growth market, based in the UK. Throughout her 15+ years of experience she has gained deep expertise in sales strategy, marketing and organizational excellence and holds an MBA from Nottingham Trent University. Christina is passionate about diversity, people development and customer success and in her free time she enjoys spending time with her family and three-year old daughter.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Nicole Malliotakis**

Congresswoman  
U.S. House of Representatives

Organizer

Congresswoman Malliotakis represents the 11th Congressional District of New York, encompassing Staten Island and Southern Brooklyn. The daughter of immigrants, her father is from Greece and her mother is a Cuban exile of the Castro dictatorship. Prior to serving in Congress, Malliotakis served in the New York State Assembly for five terms. She was the first Greek American woman elected to the State Legislature and the first Hispanic elected on Staten Island. Currently, Malliotakis is the only Republican representing New York City on the federal level. In Congress, Malliotakis sits on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs where she is the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations and Global Corporate Social Impact, along with the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Malliotakis has worked across party lines to strengthen the U.S.-Greek relationship and push back on the Biden Administration's potential sale of U.S. F-16 fighter jets to Turkey.

# Big bets in challenging times



## Thanos Mavros

Partner, Business Consulting Services  
EY Greece; Supply Chain & Operations Leader,  
EY Greece and Central Eastern & Southern  
Europe & Central Asia  
Organizer

He is an Economist and holds a M.Sc. in Industrial Engineering from the Engineering School of N.Y.U. (USA). He has 33 years of strategy & management consulting experience, leading transformational supply chain & logistics projects at major corporates and public organizations in numerous C.E. European countries including Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, North Macedonia, Albania, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, Turkey and at major international markets including U.S.A, Russian Federation, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Nigeria, Dubai, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and U.A.E.



AMERICAN-HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Broadening Horizons®



# Big bets in challenging times



## Theologos Mintzas

Partner, Real Estate  
PotamitisVekris Law Firm

Organizer

Theologos is a real estate expert advising domestic and foreign investors and international funds on a wide range of transactions, including acquisitions, disposals and leases of portfolios and individual assets and other real estate investments, as well as on property management, construction, and development. He leverages his expertise in environmental, building, planning, and zoning law and relevant regulatory matters to help clients successfully conclude all types of real estate transactions. Theologos has been involved in numerous landmark real estate transactions and has significant experience in privatizations of public assets as well as mergers & acquisitions and other corporate arrangements in multiple industries, including hospitality. He holds an LLB from the University of Athens Law School, an LLM on Environmental Law from the University of Athens Law School, and an LLM on Corporate Law from Carey Law School, University of Pennsylvania.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Stelios Morfidis**

Journalist  
Proto Thema

Organizer

Stelios Morfidis is an experienced Journalist working for newspapers, news digital platforms and TV stations for almost 20 years, covering mostly business and financial topics. From 2018 works at Proto Thema Publishing SA as Business Editor and story teller.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Panagiotis Mourgos**

Managing Director  
TEXAN Envipco Hellas Group

Organizer

Dr. Panagiotis Mourgos is the Managing Director of “TEXAN ENVIPCO HELLAS Group”. He is also the Founder of the company “FORTELER”. Dr. Mourgos has been dealing with the recycling sector for over 25 years, introducing the “recycling houses”, using high-tech automated recycling machines, in Greece, Cyprus and other countries.

Education:

- Studies in Electrical Engineering, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
- Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral Engineer of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)



# Big bets in challenging times



**Sotiris Nikas**

Athens Bureau Chief  
Bloomberg News

Organizer

Sotiris Nikas is Athens Bureau Chief for Bloomberg News since 2017. Before joining Bloomberg he was a financial reporter writing about macroeconomic developments and the whole bailout saga for Kathimerini newspaper. He has also worked for Skai TV, while he started his career as a journalist at To Vima newspaper in 2002. He has a bachelor's degree in economics.

# Big bets in challenging times



**George Pagoulatos**

Director General

Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign  
Policy (ELIAMEP)

Organizer

George Pagoulatos is Director General of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Professor of European Politics and Economy at the Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB) and Visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges. He is an advisor on European affairs to the President of the Hellenic Republic, and in 2011-12 he served as senior advisor and director of strategy at the PM Office under Greece's two non-political prime ministers and coalition governments. He has been a member of the Governing Board of the Brussels-based European Policy Centre (EPC) (2015-20), a member of the High Council of the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence (2010-13), and President of ECSA-Greece (2013-14). Author of several books and many articles, he is a regular columnist in the Sunday edition of the main Greek.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos**

Minister

Ministry of National Defense

Organizer

Born in 1965 in Kavala. Graduated with Honors from Athens College in 1984. Studied Economics and International Relations at the University of Pennsylvania (1984-1988) and Law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (1988- 1992). Attended courses at the Université de Technologie de Compiègne in France, working on his dissertation on the Economics of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU (summer 1988). Mandatory military service in the Hellenic Air Force (1990-1992). Employed in the private sector as International Marketing Director at “Marmara Kavalas SA” (marble quarrying, manufacturing and exporting company in Kavala, Northern Greece) (1992- 1999). Practiced Criminal Law in Kavala (1999-2007). Elected as a Member of the Hellenic Parliament with “N.D.” in the district of Kavala at 2007, 2009, May 2012, June 2012, January 2015, September 2015 and July 2019. Member of the Parliamentary Committees of Commerce (2007-2009), Greek Diaspora (2007- 2012), Defense and Foreign Affairs (2009-2012 and 2013-2015), Social Affairs (2015-2017), Justice, Public Order and Public Administration (2017-present). Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity (2012-2013). Appointed “N.D.” Party Coordinator/Shadow Minister for Defense (2012), Social Affairs (2015- 2016) and Justice (2016-present). Appointed “N.D.” member of the Special Parliamentary Committees investigating the affair of the Hellenic Navy submarines purchase (2011) and the “Novartis” pharmaceuticals investigation of the involvement of government officials (2018). Appointed “N.D.” member of the Parliamentary Committee for the Revision of the Constitution (Jan-Apr 2018). Speaks fluently English and French, working knowledge of Italian and Spanish. Married to Anastasia Angelidou. An avid sportsman, represented Greece with the Junior National Water Polo Team in 1981-1982. Enjoys reading, basketball, skiing and swimming in his spare time.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Vasileios Panagoulas**

Principal  
BCG Athens

Organizer

Vassilis is a Principal in BCG Athens office and a core member of the BCG Industrial Goods & Energy teams. He has more than 10yrs of international experience in strategy, shipping and finance. He joined BCG in 2017 and over the last years he has led large strategy, digital transformation and venture building projects for shipping and energy players in Europe, Middle East and Southeast Asia. Vassilis holds a MSc in Finance from ESADE Business School, Spain and a BA in Maritime Studies from the University of Piraeus, Greece.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Litsa Panayotopoulos**

AmChamGR Innovation-Education and  
Entrepreneurship Committee Chair

Organizer

Litsa Panayotopoulos is a business strategy advisor who regularly participates in international events as a key-note speaker, judge and moderator. A committed advocate of innovation, Litsa creates opportunities for entrepreneurship and managerial strategy as among others, CEO of E.V.I.A Intelligent Performance, President of Intale S.A. Retail Solutions, V.P. of Papapostolou S.A. Medical Technologies, Treasurer of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (Former Secretary General and first female in this role) and Founder and Chair of its Innovation, Education and Entrepreneurship Committee. Litsa is Vice President of the Citizens Movement (Kinisi Politon), Board Member of SAEE (Association of A.E & Entrepreneurship) and the Greek-Serbian Chamber of Commerce. She is also a member of the Business Advisory Council of Athens University International MBA. Her extensive career has been built in major systems and projects all over the world, amongst others, Control Data, ORACLE Greece SE Europe & Cyprus, founding subsidiaries in 16 countries. She developed and managed: Geranos SA, OTE Academy (Greek Telecommunications Academy) amongst others. She is Honorary President of SEN/Junior Achievement Greece (founding member) and honorary member of the Greek Management Association (EASE), ex-member of the IOBE and former President A.L.B.A Business University. She holds a BSc and MSc in Computer Science and Management- London University.

# Big bets in challenging times



## George Papadimitriou

Partner, EY Greece; Markets and Accounts  
Leader, EY Central, Eastern, Southeastern  
Europe and Central Asia

Organizer

Georgios Papadimitriou is a Partner in EY and the Regional Accounts and Markets Leader of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe & Central Asia (CESA). In this role he is responsible for leading the EY's integrated go to market approach for the region, leveraging the power of sectoral expertise, alliances and innovation in executing client service strategies. Before his appointment as CESA Regional Markets Leader, he has been the Financial Services Industry leader in the CESA region and Advisory Leader for EY in Greece and Southeast Europe. George has a strong background in Financial Services having 20 years of respective professional experience, focusing for many years on Risk Management. He has worked extensively on advising clients at C suite level across all Dimensions of Risk and Business transformation. He holds an MSc in Accounting and Finance from the London School of Economics (LSE) and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Athens University of Economics and Business. He also holds a number of professional certifications in the areas of Risk and Finance such as Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Professional Risk Manager (PRM), Certified Financial Risk Manager (FRM) and Certified Financial Services Auditor (CFSA). He is a regular speaker at EY's events, and he is also a frequent trainer in EY specialized internal Trainings. George will be from the 1st January 2023 the new Country Managing Partner in EY Greece.



# Big bets in challenging times



## Stratos Papadimitriou

Professor, Department of Maritime Studies;  
Director, Transportation Systems Laboratory  
University of Piraeus

Organizer

Stratos Papadimitriou is a Professor at the Department of Maritime Studies of the University of Piraeus teaching transport planning and logistic courses and is the Director of the Transportation Systems Laboratory. He has been the Chairman BoD of the Athens International Airport from 2010 to 2012 and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Athens Urban Transport Organization (OASA) from 1997 to 2002 among past assignments. During his five-year tenure at OASA, the public transportation companies under the OASA umbrella including the Athens METRO and Light Rail systems were reorganized and restructured financially, a major investment plan was implemented, and a variety of innovative programs were introduced which modernized public transport in greater Athens and improved mobility. He has also served as an advisor to Ministers of Transport for national and European affairs and has acted as a consultant in various entities. Currently he is an advisor to the founder of a NYSE listed major ship owning company. He has been involved in managing and participating more than 20 European Union funded research projects regarding transport planning, logistics, maritime and urban transport. He serves regularly as an evaluator in DG MOVE / REA (CeF) Research Framework programs and for the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA). He has published more than 55 research papers and his work has been cited more than 4100 times.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Theodore Papakonstantinou**

Partner, Consulting  
Deloitte

Organizer

Theodore is a Consulting Partner in the Strategy, Analytics and M&A practice of Deloitte Greece. Based in the office of Thessaloniki, he is responsible for the development of Deloitte's services in Northern Greece. He possesses more than 20 years of professional experience, with the last 16 in Deloitte. He has extensive expertise in the areas of strategy development, business analysis and planning, financial and operational restructuring, business and operational model optimization and M&A advisory. Theodore has led a wide range of projects for small and medium companies, large corporations, the public sector and non-profit institutions in a variety of sectors, such as tourism and hospitality, real estate, transportation and logistics, consumer products, agrofood, manufacturing and technology.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Dimitri Papalexopoulos**

Chairman of the Board  
Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV)

Organizer

Dimitri Papalexopoulos was elected Chairman of the Board of SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises in June 2020. Dimitri Papalexopoulos is Chairman of Titan Cement International (TCI), a cement and building materials producer active since 1902. TCI directly employs about 5.500 people, operates cement plants in 10 countries and is active in many more. Mr. Papalexopoulos is Vice-Chair of the European Round Table for Industry (ERT) and chairs the ERT's Energy Transition & Climate Change Committee. He is a member of the Board of the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE), the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) and of "Endeavor Greece". He holds an MSc in Electrical Engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETHZ) and an MBA from Harvard Business School. Prior to joining TITAN, he was a consultant for McKinsey & Company in New York and Munich. He speaks Greek, English, French and German. He is married and has three children.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Nikolaos Papatsas**

Senior Partner  
EFA Group

Organizer

Nikolaos Papatsas graduated from the College of Wooster (Ohio, USA) with a degree in Computer Science (1982) and received an M.B.A. (1984) from Clark University (Massachusetts, USA). From 1984-89 he was Director of Information Technology (IT) Systems for Aspen Square Management, a National Real Estate and Property Management firm, located in Springfield (MA). In 1990-93 he served as Vice President of Operations and IT for Asahi/America, a manufacturer and international distributor of industrial products, based in Boston. During the same period, he worked as a technical consultant offering his services to telecommunication and financial organizations. In 1993, Mr. Papatsas joined EFA VENTURES, ([www.efaventures.com](http://www.efaventures.com)) based in Athens, Greece, and shortly after became a partner. Today, EFA VENTURES, part of EFA GROUP (an ecosystem of A&D companies with physical presence in 6 countries), is an International Industrial Development Services Provider with experience in more than 40 countries, offering a range of specialized services in industrial participation, logistics and systems integration for the Aerospace & Defense, Security and High Technology markets. Mr. Papatsas has extensive experience in Aerospace and Defense technologies as well as industrial cooperation programs. From May 2021, he is also the President of the Hellenic Aerospace Security & Defense Industries Group ([www.hasdig.com.gr](http://www.hasdig.com.gr)).

# Big bets in challenging times



**Chris Pappas**

Congressman  
U.S. House of Representatives

Organizer

For Congressman Chris Pappas, public service has always been about finding ways to give back to the community that has given him so much. A lifelong resident of Manchester, New Hampshire, Chris was born into a proud Greek-American family. After graduating from Harvard, Chris returned home where he began a career in public service while helping run the 105 year-old family restaurant where he started scooping ice cream and bussing tables at age 14. In Congress, Chris focuses on the issues that matter most to Granite Staters, including improving access to health care, lowering the high cost of prescription drugs, combating the addiction epidemic, and protecting our environment and drinking water. As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Chris is committed to holding VA leadership accountable while serving our veterans who have sacrificed so much. He is working to protect whistleblowers who come forward to report waste, fraud, and abuse and to ensure that more veterans can access quality care in their communities. Chris also serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where he is fighting to modernize our nation's infrastructure and invest in projects that will create jobs and improve quality of life in New Hampshire. Before entering the U.S. House of Representatives, Chris served as a member of the state's Executive Council. In this role he worked with governors of both parties to implement Medicaid expansion, expand treatment and recovery services, approve funding for family planning providers, and support renewable energy and infrastructure projects.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Ioannis Pappas**

Director Mediterranean Region  
Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC)

Organizer

Dr Ioannis PAPPAS, CEO & Co-Founder of GREEN EVOLUTION SA, is Director for Mediterranean Region of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). He is a Mechanical Engineer, with PhD in Applied Mechanics, with over 30 years' experience in several fields of science, focusing on Sustainability for Tourism, Energy and Environmental Efficiency in Infrastructure and Buildings, Advising in standardization of companies and technological implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation methodologies. Dr Pappas is the head expert of GSTC team on the Collaboration Contracts between GSTC & Ministries of Tourism on the implementation of Sustainability into new National Tourism Strategies, head trainer in several seminars and webinars, and head assessor in destinations assessments.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Alex Patelis**

Chief Economic Advisor  
to the Prime Minister of Greece

Organizer

Alex Patelis is chief economic adviser to Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. He has over three decades of experience as an economist, analyst and strategist, working in a variety of positions in New York, London and Athens. Alex started his career with the US economics research team at Goldman, Sachs & Co. in New York, where he worked under Bill Dudley, Chief US economist as well as a proprietary FICC trader in the same firm. In London, he joined Citigroup Asset Management as a quantitative economist. At Merrill Lynch, he held a variety of positions, including Global head of FX & Debt strategy, as well as Managing Director of Global Research, Head of International Economics. In this capacity, Alex managed the research teams responsible for the firm's outlook on all economies outside North America, including developed and emerging countries in EMEA, the Pacific Rim region and Latin America, as well as foreign exchange, local currency and external debt bonds. For their research, Alex and his team won a variety of awards, including from Extel and Institutional Investor. He was also Chief Economist at PSQR, a global discretionary macro hedge fund. More recently, Alex was President of Patelis Macro, an independent research boutique he launched in 2010, which focused on global macroeconomic analysis to select clients around the world. Alex earned a Ph.D. in Economics in 1997 from Princeton University, USA, where his thesis advisor was Professor Ben Bernanke. Titled "Asset returns and monetary policy", part of his thesis was published in the Journal of Finance. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Mathematics from Sussex University, UK.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Theodore Pelagidis**

Deputy Governor  
Bank of Greece

Organizer

Theodore Pelagidis is the Deputy Governor of Bank of Greece, with responsibilities pertaining to the implementation of monetary policy, investment portfolio management, global capital markets, payment and settlement systems, and bank resolution. He is also Chairman of the Financial Asset Management Committee, which directs the Bank's international investment portfolio and Chairman of Resolution Measures Committee. He is Professor of Economics at the University of Piraeus, Greece. He has been a NATO scholar at the CES Harvard University (1995-6); an NBG fellow at the HO, LSE (2010); and a Fulbright fellow at Columbia University (2008). He is the co-author of *Understanding the Crisis in Greece. From Boom to Bust*, Palgrave 2011 & 2012 (2nd ed.), Greece. *From Exit to Recovery?* (Brookings Institution 2014). *Who's to Blame for Greece?* (Palgrave 2016); *Who's to Blame for Greece? How Austerity and Populism is Destroying a Country with High Potential*, (Palgrave 2018, 2nd ed.) & *Who's to Blame for Greece? Life after bankruptcy. Between Recovery and Substandard Growth* (Springer/Palgrave 2021, 3rd ed.). He has published extensively in professional journals such as, *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Policy Modelling*, *Journal of Economic Studies*, *International Review of Law & Economics*, *Managerial and Decision Economics*, *Economists' Voice*, *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*, *European Journal of Law and Economics*, *Review of International Studies*, *Journal of Post-Keynesian Economics*, *Asian Journal of Shipping and Logistics*, etc. He has given interviews and published opinion articles in the international press (The Guardian, NYT, FT, etc). He has served as an expert to the International Monetary Fund (IEO, 2015) and to the EC (Horizon 2020, 2018). He has also been a NR Senior Fellow at Brookings Institution, USA (9/2012-19/9/20) and a regular Brookings/Global webpage Op-Ed contributor.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Oriol Peña**

Senior Director Asset Management  
Hotel Investment Partners (HIP)

Organizer

Oriol Peña is Senior Director Asset Management at Hotel Investment Partners (HIP). With more than 11 years of experience in corporate finance, he began his career at Deloitte Netherlands, where he worked on several due diligence projects for hotel groups such as AccorHotels. He later moved into the FMCG sector, taking part in the acquisition and sales process of different branches among companies including Sara Lee, Procter & Gamble and Unilever. Moreover, between 2012 and 2014, he helped create and launch Next Urban Hotels, a company which focuses on hotel management and provides consulting services for urban hotels. Oriol holds a degree in International Business Management from the University of Applied Sciences in Utrecht (HU International) and a Master's in Finance from the London Business School.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Kyriakos Pierrakakis**

Minister

Ministry of Digital Governance

Organizer

Kyriakos Pierrakakis is the Minister of Digital Governance in the Cabinet of Kyriakos Mitsotakis. He is a Greek computer and political scientist and politician. In 2007 he earned a Master in Public Policy from John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and in 2009 he earned a Master of Science in Technology and Policy from MIT. He also holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Athens University of Economics and Business. He served as Director of Research at Dianeosis, an independent non-profit think tank. He produced an array of research papers with a strong focus on economic growth and understanding the prevailing perceptions and beliefs among Greeks. He has also worked on technology policy for various research institutes in Greece and abroad and headed Youth Foundation as president. He was born on 1983 in Athens. He is married with three children. He speaks English and French.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Dimitris Primpas**

Manager of Consulting  
IBM Greece and Cyprus

Organizer

Dimitris Primpas joined IBM in 2008 and since 2018 is leading the IBM Consulting business unit for Greece & Cyprus. He has extensive experience providing consulting services and has led several Transformation Programs in the Greek and Cypriot market (mainly in Financial Services and Energy & Utilities sectors). Prior to this role, he was working in various roles in the Technology Services division of IBM for Greece and Cyprus. Dimitris holds a PhD in Computer Science from University of Patras (Computer Engineering & Informatics Department).

# Big bets in challenging times



## Spiros Protopsaltis

Governor and Chairman of the Board of  
Directors  
DYPA Public Employment Service

Organizer



AMERICAN-HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Broadening Horizons®

Dr. Spiros Protopsaltis is Governor and Chairman of the Board of Directors of DYPA Public Employment Service and First Vice-Chair of the European Network of Public Employment Services. Previously, he was an Associate Professor at George Mason University and director of Ed Policy Forward. During the Obama Administration, he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education and Student Financial Aid for the US Department of Education, Senior Higher Education Advisor to the Chairman of the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman Polis of Colorado. He holds a PhD from the University of Colorado Denver, an MS from the New School University, and a BA summa cum laude from Northeastern University.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Yannis Retsas**

General Director  
Strategic Trade Development  
Enterprise Greece

Organizer

Yannis Retsas was born in Athens in 1966. He has studied Chemical Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens and holds an M.B.A. from Cardiff Business School in UK, as a Scholar of the "Alexander S. Onassis" Public Benefit Foundation. He speaks English and French. During the last twenty-two years he has been a member of the Enterprise Greece (former Invest In Greece Agency) management team, a State controlled company with the mandate to attract and support foreign investments into Greece and promote exports. In 2022 he was appointed General Director of Strategic Trade Development, with a wide range of tasks for promoting Greek exports as well as securing and managing EU funds of over 20 million euros. Before that, he was Director of Investor Support and Ombudsman Unit, providing assistance and guidance to investors during all stages of the investment process. From 2012 to summer 2014 he was, in parallel, Director of cabinet of the General Secretary for Strategic and Private Investments, in the Ministry of Development. Then, until January 2015, he was Director of cabinet of the Deputy Minister of Development. Yannis Retsas also carries with him many years of experience from the private sector. He started his career in 1990 with a short, one-year, assignment as a chemical engineer in Motor Oil Hellas oil refinery. Then he joined GLOBE Group of Companies, as an operation manager in the Food Sector, soon getting promoted to Assistant General Manager. In Feb. 95 he was appointed Member of The Board of Directors of one of the Group's companies. In the period 1995 to 1997 he worked in the marketing department of Procter & Gamble Hellas, holding Brand Management positions in Bleach and Hard Surface Cleaners Sectors. Next to that, he worked for Bell Atlantic Hellas, as Head of the Market Analysis and Control department.

# Big bets in challenging times



**John D. Saracakis**

Chairman  
Saracakis Group of Companies

Organizer

John Saracakis is the Chairman of Saracakis Group of Companies. He is also Vice President of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce since 2019 and Member of the Executive Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce since 2013. Mr. Saracakis holds a BSc in Business Administration from Babson College, USA and has graduated from the Advanced Management Program of Harvard Business School. After his studies at Babson College he joined the Saracakis Group of Companies where he has taken up various responsibilities. Since 2013 he is Chairman of the Board of Directors. From 2013 to 2019 he was elected for two terms as Chairman of the Hellenic-Swedish Chamber of Commerce. He is also Secretary General of the Association of Motor Vehicle Importers-Representatives and member of the Board of Directors of various business associations and charity organisations. John is married and father of two boys.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Loukia Saranti**

President

Federation of Industries of Greece (SBE)

Organizer

Loukia Saranti is the President and CEO of the wood-processing industry AKRITAS S.A., a family-owned company based in Alexandroupoli and listed in the Athens Stock Exchange. She started her career in 1985, mainly involved in the Commercial and Business Development divisions of the company. Mrs. Saranti is the Trustee of Anatolia College in Thessaloniki, member of the Executive Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce of Northern Greece, as well as member of the Executive Committee of the Cultural Society of Entrepreneurs of Northern Greece. She is also an independent member of the Board of Directors of Alumil S.A. In the past, she has also served as a President of AHTIDA, an association for autistic people in Thessaloniki. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and Marketing.



# Big bets in challenging times



**John Sarbanes**

Congressman  
U.S. House of Representatives

Organizer

Congressman John Sarbanes has represented Maryland's Third Congressional District in the U.S. Congress since 2007. He currently serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change. He serves as Vice Chair of the House Subcommittee on Health. Congressman Sarbanes also serves on the House Oversight and Reform Committee and its Subcommittee on Government Operations. He chairs the Democracy Reform Task Force, which has assembled HR1, the For The People Act, to reform and strengthen our democracy. Born and raised in Baltimore, Congressman Sarbanes has experience working in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. He and his family live in Maryland, giving him the opportunity to drive home every night and hear from the people he serves in Congress. Listening to their concerns allows him to better represent Maryland and has shaped his work in the House of Representatives.

# Big bets in challenging times



## Evangelos-Maximos Scopelitis

Brand, Marketing and Communications  
Director  
EY Greece and CESA South Cluster

Organizer

Evangelos leads EY Brand, Marketing and Communications for Greece and Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe & Central Asia (CESA) South Cluster. In this role, he focuses on building and strengthening the EY brand in the Greek market. This portfolio includes the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year program in Greece, family businesses, entrepreneurship, Women. Fast forward and thought leadership. Having joined EY in 2005, he led Business Development for Greece and (until the creation of the Europe, Middle East, India and Africa Area) Southeast Europe, before moving to Brand, Marketing and Communications in 2014, in order to lead the transformation of this function. Evangelos has a bachelor's degree in Politics and International Relations from the University of Kent, a master's degree on European Studies from the University of Reading and a Ph.D. in Diplomacy from Lancaster University. Before university, he went to French schools in several countries, because of his father's diplomatic career.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Kostis Sifnaios**

Vice President and Managing Director  
Gastrade

Organizer

## Education:

Mr. Sifnaios graduated from the school of Mathematics and Applied Sciences of the University of Athens having completed a special program on studies, methods and applications of Linear Programming and Network Flows. He went on to work as a research and faculty assistant at Columbia University, New York, U.S. where he received a Master of Science (MSc) in Operational Research and Applied Business Administration.

## Professional Experience:

Mr. Sifnaios started his professional career at Mobil Oil Hellas in 1987 as a Strategic Planning analyst. He continued in a number of positions within Sales and Marketing reaching the post of Sales Manager for South & Western Greece. He was then transferred to Mobil Oil International in London and Madrid where he assumed posts in supply and trading. In 1997 he moved to BP International, based in Brussels to work on the European restructuring of the company. He returned in Greece as General Commercial Sales Director for BP Greece (2000 – 2002) to then once more resume his international career within BP's European supply chain till 2007. From June 2007 to the end of 2021, he worked in Copelouzos Group initially as New Projects Manager and then as Group Energy Director in the sector of Gas. He also managed the development of the Alexandroupolis LNG Terminal Project to its Final Investment Decision. Since January 2022, when FID was taken on the Alexandroupolis LNG Project, he was appointed Managing Director of Gastrade, the owner and operator of the Terminal.

## Personal Info:

Mr. Sifnaios was born in Athens in 1960 and originates from the island of Lesbos.

He speaks English, French and Spanish.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Lefteris Sikalidis**

Founder & CEO  
[sikalidis.com](http://sikalidis.com)

Organizer

Left Sikalidis, MRICS has worked for the past 28 years in vital positions for top international real estate consulting firms (such as CBRE, C&W, BNP Paribas RE), real estate funds and banks, before becoming an enthusiastic entrepreneur in the real estate field. His area of expertise involves planning & execution of real estate strategy for investment and development companies. His latest accomplishments include the optimization process of a 4,500-property portfolio, the restructuring of management and sales teams, acting as the Head of Repossessed Assets for a top 4 Greek bank and the formulation of a real estate investment portfolio of significant value in Athens in less than one year. Furthermore, his company, [sikalidis.com](http://sikalidis.com), is associated with other vital business elements besides Real Estate, namely in energy, new technologies, and food. He holds degrees from Stanford, CA, US, the University of Reading, UK, and the University of Piraeus in strategy, real estate, statistics, and other business-related affairs. Amongst others, he is a qualified member of [RICS](#), an active member of [ULI](#) and the President of the Real Estate & Development Committee of the [American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce](#).

# Big bets in challenging times



**Akis Skertsos**  
Minister of State

Organizer

Akis Skertsos is Minister of State-responsible for the coordination of Government Policies (August 2021), following his position as a Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister responsible for the coordination of the Government work (from July 2019 till August 2021). Prior to his current position, he has been the Director General of SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (June 2014 till June 2019). Before joining SEV he worked in politics and held various positions in the Greek public administration between 2009-2014. His previous engagement was Chief of Staff in the offices of the Minister of Finance, Mr. Yannis Stournaras and of the Caretaker Prime -Minister, Mr. Panagiotis Pikrammenos, from 2012 to 2014. He holds a Master of Arts in Political Management and Lobbying from George Washington University of USA (2000-2001), a BA in Journalism and Communications from Aristoteleion Panepistimion Thessalonikis (1995–1999). He is fluent in English and French. He is married and has one child.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Konstantinos Skrekas**

Minister

Ministry of Environment and Energy

Organizer

Konstantinos Skrekas comes from Megarhi, Trikala. He is married to Eirini Karagouni and has two daughters, Alexandra and Sophia. He holds a Degree in Civil Engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Technology), and an M.Sc. in Construction Management from the University of Birmingham, UK. After completing his studies, he worked in the Fast Moving Consumer Goods sector in managerial positions. He is the co-founder of a company operating in the FMCG sector and held the position of CEO for 15 years. In the general election of May 6, 2012 he was elected Member of the Greek Parliament (MP) for the Constituency of Trikala with the New Democracy Party. He was re-elected on June 17 of the same year. On the 25th of January 2015 he was elected Member of the Greek Parliament (MP), receiving the largest number of electoral votes among candidates from all political parties in the Constituency of Trikala. He was re-elected in the elections on 20th September of the same year. In the general election on July 7, 2019 he was elected Member of the Greek Parliament for the Constituency of Trikala. He was appointed Minister of Development and Competitiveness from October 2014 until February 2015. On the July 9, 2019 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Food, being specifically responsible for the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). On the 5th of January 2021 he was appointed Minister of Environment and Energy. He speaks English and French.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Theodoros Skylakakis**

Alternate Minister of Finance for Fiscal Policy  
Ministry of Finance

Organizer

He is an economist born in Athens 1959. He is a former MEP (2009-2014), member of the Committees on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, on Budgetary Control and also of the Special Committee on Organized Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering. Substitute member of the Committees on Industry, Research and Energy, on Economic and Monetary Affairs as well as of the Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis. In 2006-2009 he was appointed General Secretary of International Economic Relations and Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2003 to 2006 he was Deputy of the Athens Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Finance and responsible for the preparation of Athens for the Olympic Games 2004. He also served as Chairman of the Organization of Tourism and Economic Development Company in 2005-2006. From 1990 to 1993 he served as Advisor to the Prime Minister Constantinos Mitsotakis and Head of the Office of Planning and Communication of the Prime Minister. He was also President and General Director of the Research Center E21 (1994-2001). From 2014 he is elected President of Drassi Party which has suspended operations in order to support New Democracy. He has worked in advertising and communication since 1985 and has founded and managed four companies in the fields of communication (1994-1999), crisis management (2000-2006), agriculture and processing (2014-2019). He has studied economics at the University of Athens and Management (MBA Degree) at the City University of London. He holds a Diploma from the British Market Research Society in Marketing Research as well as a PhD from the Dept of History and Philosophy of Science of the University of Athens on the matter of social tolerance to corruption. He is married to the lawyer Helen Papapanou and they have two daughters, Marianna and Irene.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Elias Spirtounias**

Executive Director  
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce  
(AmChamGR)

Organizer

After graduating from the School of Mathematics of the University of Athens, Elias Spirtounias completed his graduate studies at the School of Electrical Engineering (M.Sc. degree and pre-Ph.D. studies) at Boston University. During his residence in the United States, he participated as a Research Engineer in several research programs in co-operation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in the fields of analog and digital electronics, circuits design and applications. He returned to Greece in 1992 and after completing his military service in 1994, he held the position of Technical Director for the subsidiary of the Italian company Citec SpA., a company specialized in the design, production and application of voice and image processing systems. From 1997 until February 2009, he worked for the Foundation of the Hellenic World, a major Greek private non-profit cultural organization, starting as a Construction Supervisor and continuing as a Managing Director of the brand new then Cultural Center, Hellenic Cosmos an innovative, based on new technologies, theme park. During his tenure, he contributed significantly to the expansion, development and operation of the Center and its establishment as one of the most known technology-driven cultural theme park in Greece and abroad. From March 2009, he holds the position of Executive Director of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Along with his colleagues and in cooperation with the Board have managed, in the midst of the economic crisis, to increase significantly the number of activities, undertake important initiatives, retain in high level the memberships, foster the advocacy level, expand further the presence of the Chamber in US and contribute to the evolution of the Chamber into one of the leading dynamic and reliable business organization in Greece. He serves as Treasurer of the American Chambers in Europe (ACE) Executive Committee.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Ioannis Stavropoulos**  
Managing Partner and Founder  
Stavropoulos & Partners Law Office

Organizer

Admitted to Athens Bar, 1986. Admitted to Supreme Court of Greece, 1997. Managing Partner and founder of the law firm "STAVROPOULOS & PARTNERS". The client base of the firm consists mainly of multinational companies including a number with American origin such as Coca-Cola, Philip Morris, Pfizer and Du Pont. Ioannis studied at the Law School of the University of Athens (LL.B., 1983) and the University of Kent, U.K. (LL.M., 1985). As a tax consultant or tax attorney with great experience and expertise in tax law matters, he has dealt with numerous cases concerning application of double taxation treaties, transfer pricing and the EU direct taxation and VAT legislation. A number of his cases constitute leading jurisprudence published in Greek and international legal and tax journals. He has participated in legislative and scientific committees either as an expert or representing various organizations. In 2012-2013 he actively participated, as an expert, in the tax reform committee under the chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of Finance and was appointed as a member in the Advisory Board to the first Governor of the Tax Administration. As a business lawyer, he has taken part in major merger and acquisition projects, domestic and international share and asset transactions as well as anti-trust cases. He has published articles on various tax issues and has participated as speaker in numerous seminars including all tax conferences organized by AmCham. He has been elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and he serves as the Chairman of AmCham Taxation Committee as well while he participates in tax and legal committees of various Federations and Chambers. Ioannis has been awarded by the world's leading legal directory Legal 500 with the "Hall of Fame" distinction in tax law.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Julie Linn Teigland**

Area Managing Partner

EY Europe, Middle East, India and Africa  
(EMEIA); Member of the EY Global Executive

Organizer

Julie is a member of the EY Global Executive and Area Managing Partner for Europe, Middle East, India and Africa (EMEIA). As EY EMEIA Area Managing Partner, Julie leads a geographic area comprising member firms with more than 140,000 people across 97 countries. In her role she is responsible for all four business units, including assurance, tax, strategy and transactions as well as consulting. Julie continues to serve clients as senior advisor, contributing to large scale transformations and change programs. Julie was recently named one of Fortune magazine's Most Powerful Women International. With three decades of experience in professional services for international clients, her focus is on transformation processes, in particular on the challenges of rebuilding purposeful growth, including the need to leverage digital, drive sustainability, navigate the volatility in tax and trade and replenish trust with stakeholders, all while addressing the human element of professional services, with talent at the center. Julie joined EY in 2001, has served as lead partner for several Fortune 500 clients and previously held numerous leadership roles within the international practice. Julie is also the Global Leader for the EY Women. Fast forward initiative and is a key player in progressing gender equality with a focus on digital parity. She regularly comments on transatlantic and geo-economic issues and serves on several boards across Europe and the US. Born in the US, Julie has spent over 30 years in Germany and is now living in the UK with her family. She studied business in Heidelberg, Frankfurt and Paris and qualified as a US Certified Public Accountant.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Christos Theocharopoulos**

Consulting Principal  
Deloitte

Organizer

Christos Theocharopoulos is a Consulting Principal and the Deputy Public Policy Leader of Deloitte in Greece. He has over 25 years of experience in management consulting, banking and project management, and held senior management positions in major Greek private and public organizations from the transportation, sports and banking sectors. Since 2015 when he rejoined Deloitte he specializes in M&A transaction readiness, post-merger integrations and PMO projects. As a member of Deloitte's European Public Policy Group he participates in initiatives aiming to increase awareness and facilitate dialogue on signature public issues, such as Rethink Education Playbook for Deloitte practitioners and the 2022 STEM Observatory.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Christina Theofilidi**

General Manager Retail Banking and  
Executive Board Member  
National Bank of Greece

Organizer

Christina Theofilidi is the General Manager of Retail Banking for National Bank of Greece and serves as an Executive Member in its Board of Directors. She is also member of Ethniki Asfalistiki (National Insurance) Board of Directors. Mrs. Theofilidi started her career in the banking sector working for Societe Generale. Following her MBA, she joined Citibank for six years, holding positions in Product Development, Marketing and Branch Network. In 1997, she joined Eurobank and held various senior positions in Retail Banking, including Assistant General Manager International Activities and Managing Director of Eurobank Household Lending. In 2014, she joined the newly founded Troubled Assets Group and held the position of Retail Remedial General Manager. Between September 2016 and December 2018 she served as Retail Products General Manager and Individual Banking General Division General Manager. Mrs. Theofilidi holds an MBA Degree from INSEAD (European Institute of Business Management) and a Bachelor's Degree with a double major in Economics and Psychology from Swarthmore College of Pennsylvania, USA.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Kostas Tsiaras**

Minister  
Ministry of Justice

Organizer

Kostas Tsiaras was born in Karditsa in 1966. He is a Medical Doctor, Microbiologist-Biopathologist with a PhD from Athens University Medical School, with post-graduate studies in in-vitro fertilization at Swedish university centers. In 2004 he was elected for the first time as a New Democracy Member of Parliament for Karditsa. He was re-elected in 2007, 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2019. From July 2012 to June 2013 he was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister. In July 2013 he was elected Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament. In January 2016 he was elected General Secretary of the Parliamentary Group of New Democracy. In July 2019 he was appointed Minister of Justice. He is married to Aggeliki Stergiouli, molecular biologist, and they have a son and two daughters.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Alexis Tsipras**

Opposition Leader and President  
SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance

Organizer

Alexis Tsipras was born in 1974. He entered into a civil partnership with Betty Baziana, and together, they have two sons. He studied Civil Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens, from which he later received a graduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning. He was Secretary of the youth wing of the “Coalition of the Left — Movements and Ecology”, from 1999 to 2003. In 2006, he was elected Councilman of Athens. In 2008, he was elected party President at the 5th Congress of the “Coalition of the Left”, and then re-elected during the 6th Congress in June 2010. He has served as President of SYRIZA since the founding party congress in July 2013. In December 2010, he was elected Vice President of the “European Left” party (EL). In December 2013, he was nominated EL’s candidate for President of the European Commission. He was elected MP and head of the Parliamentary Group of SYRIZA at the national elections of 2009. He was re-elected MP during the national elections in May and June 2012 and has served as Leader of the Opposition until January 2015. On January 26, 2015, he was sworn in as Prime Minister of Greece, a position he held until August 2015. After elections, he was sworn in again as Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, on September 21st 2015, a position he held until June 2019.



# Big bets in challenging times



**George J. Tsunis**

U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic

Organizer

George James Tsunis presented his credentials to the President of the Hellenic Republic on May 10, 2022. He was nominated by President Biden and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 10, 2022. Ambassador Tsunis is the proud Greek-American son of immigrants to the United States, with deep roots in the village of Platanos in the beautiful mountainous region of Nafpaktia. Growing up, his parents instilled in him the Hellenic ideals of καλοσύνη (goodness), αγάπη (love), and above all, φιλότιμο (the love of honor). He learned Greek as his first language. Deeply engaged with the Greek-American community, Ambassador Tsunis was a founding trustee of the Hellenic American Leadership Council and is a trustee of the Hellenic Initiative among other roles. Prior to his nomination, Ambassador Tsunis was the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Chartwell Hotels, LLC. He served as Chairman of Battery Park City Authority. He was also a Trustee for the New York City Convention Development Corporation and the New York City Convention Operating Corporation and helped manage a 1.5 million square foot expansion of the New York Convention Center, transforming it into one of the world's most modern and beautiful convention centers. Ambassador Tsunis served as the chairman of the Nassau University Medical Center, a large public safety net hospital with a focus on providing care to vulnerable communities. Previously, Ambassador Tsunis was a Counsel and Partner (Attorney of Law), at Rivkin Radler LLP, Uniondale, NY, and Legislative Attorney, New York City Council. He served as Counsel for Dix Hills Water District, Dix Hills, NY and Town of Huntington Committee on Open Space Preservation, Huntington, NY. Ambassador Tsunis earned a B.A. from the New York University, New York, NY and a J.D. from St John's University of Law, Queens, NY. He was an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Order of Saint Andrew), the highest ecclesiastical honor that can be bestowed upon a layman by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and he is the recipient of numerous awards including the Harry Chapin Humanitarian Award for Long Island Cares and the lifetime achievement award for civic engagement for Long Island Business News. Ambassador Tsunis is married and has three children.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Gerasimos Tzeis**

Managing Director  
Atradius Greece

Organizer

He was born in 1970 in Athens. He studied Mathematics at the University of Ioannina (B.Sc. in Mathematics) and he then completed his post-graduate studies in Actuarial Science at the Cass Business School of London / former City University (Diploma & M.Sc. in Actuarial Science). From 1998 to 2003 he worked in various positions at the Hellenic branch of Gerling Konzern Speziale. In 2004 he took over the position of the Managing Director at the Hellenic branch of Atradius, Atradius Crédito y Caución S.A., which he holds until now.

#### Memberships:

- Member of the CEO Clubs
- Member of the Association of Chief Executive Officers of Greece
- Member of the Association of Representatives and Executives of Hellenic Insurance Companies
- Other professional fora

# Big bets in challenging times



**Rania Tzima**

Journalist  
MEGA TV

Organizer

Rania Tzima has been a journalist and anchor of the Mega TV evening news and has covered the 2020 US presidential elections from Washington, DC. Before that, she had been a political correspondent, covering government affairs, but also financial and labor affairs. She had also worked for Alpha TV, Mega Channel and Skai TV. She started her career in journalism in 2005 for ERT 3 in Thessaloniki, where she was born and raised. She has studied Journalism in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and holds a Master's degree in Journalism and Communication from the University of Westminster (UK).

# Big bets in challenging times



**Petros Varelidis**

Secretary General  
Natural Environment and Water  
Ministry of Environment and Energy

Organizer

Dr Petros Varelidis is Secretary General Natural Environment and Water in the Ministry of Environment and Energy. He has studied Chemical Engineering in the National Technical University of Athens, and has a PhD on composite materials and recycling. He has also graduated from the department of business administration of the Athens University of Economics and Business. Since 2009, he has served as a policy advisor of the political leadership in the ministry of Environment. Since December of 2019, is representing Greece on the Bureau of the European Environment Agency. From 2016 to 2021 he held the position of Director of the Organisation of Natural Environment and Climate Change (formerly named National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development). During 2005-2009 and 2013-2015 he served as an environment attache in the Permanent representation of Greece in the EU. From 2012 to 2013, during the preparation of and the presidency of Cyprus of Council of the EU, he served as environment attache in the Permanent representation of Cyprus in EU.



# Big bets in challenging times



## Arun Venkataraman

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global  
Markets and Director General of the U.S. and  
Foreign Commercial Service Global Markets  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Organizer

Arun Venkataraman is the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service. He was appointed by President Joseph R. Biden and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 7, 2022, to lead the federal government's efforts to promote exports abroad and attract inward investment. He was officially sworn in on April 25, 2022. Venkataraman has over 20 years of experience advising companies, international organizations and the U.S. government on international trade issues. Most recently, he served as Counselor to the Secretary of Commerce, advising the Department of Commerce on trade and other international economic matters. Before joining the Biden-Harris Administration, Arun was a Senior Director at Visa, leading global government engagement strategy on a range of international policy issues including digital economy, trade, tax and sanctions. He also served as Trade & Investment Policy Advisor at Steptoe & Johnson LLP, where he counseled multinational firms and other organizations on e-commerce, intellectual property rights and U.S. and foreign trade policies. During the Obama Administration, Venkataraman served as ITA's first-ever Director of Policy, where he helped shape the U.S. government's responses to critical challenges faced by firms in the U.S. and in markets around the world, including China and India. He also served in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) where he led the development and implementation of U.S.-India trade policy, for which he received the agency's Kelly Award for outstanding performance and extraordinary leadership. He also served as USTR's Associate General Counsel, representing the United States in litigation before the World Trade Organization and in negotiations on international trade agreements. Prior to USTR, Arun was a Legal Officer at the World Trade Organization, and served as Law Clerk for Judge Jane A. Restani at the U.S. Court of International Trade. Born in Coimbatore, India, and raised in Houston, Venkataraman holds a juris doctorate from Columbia Law School, a Master of Arts in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a Bachelor of Arts from Tufts University.



AMERICAN-HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Broadening Horizons®

# Big bets in challenging times



**Nikos Vettas**

General Director, Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research - IOBE and Professor,  
Athens University of Economic and Business

Organizer

Nikos Vettas is the General Director of the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research since 2013 and Professor of Economics at the Athens University of Economics and Business since 2003, where he has also served as Chairman of the Economics Department and member of the University Council. He holds a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and has been an Associate Professor at Duke University and a visiting Professor at INSEAD. He serves as Associate Editor of the International Journal of Industrial Organization, a Research Fellow at CEPR, UK, and a member of the Executive Committee of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics. He has served as an Associate Editor of the Journal of the European Economic Association and the Journal of Industrial Economics, a member of the Hellenic Competition Commission and the Economic Advisory Group for Competition Policy at the European Commission. He is a co-organizer of the annual Conference for Research on Economic Theory and Econometrics. His research has been published in leading journals such as the International Economic Review, European Economic Review, Rand Journal of Economics, and the Review of Economic Studies. He is a co-editor of Beyond Austerity: Reforming the Greek Economy (MIT Press, 2017) and the Vice-Chairman of the Growth Plan Committee of the Hellenic Republic for the Greek Economy, 2020.



# Big bets in challenging times



## Tassos Vlassopoulos

General Director, Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research - IOBE and Professor,  
Athens University of Economic and Business

Organizer

Tassos Vlassopoulos is the CEO of Helpe Upstream SA [HelleniQ Energy's Upstream Business Unit], managing six exploration licenses as well as leading the establishment of a CCS business (transportation & storage) in the Group. Prior to this role, he has held senior management positions at GE and has 32 years of global experience, mainly acquired in oil & gas, power generation, strategy consulting (BCG), M&A and product management. Furthermore, he has served as a non – Executive Board Member at PPC. He has published an influential SPE paper on “Standardisation - Learnings from Industrial Sectors”, leading discussions with major Oil & Gas companies and several UK industry stakeholders. He holds a MSc in Operations Research from the London School of Economics and a BSc in Economics from the University of Piraeus. In addition, he has worked as a Research Officer at the London Business School, where he became the co-author of a book and academic articles on industrial and business strategy.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Andrew Walker**

Vice President  
LNG Strategy and Communication  
Cheniere

Organizer

Dr. Andrew Walker is the Vice President for LNG Strategy and Communication for Cheniere. He is located in London and is responsible for the LNG Strategy and Market Outlook of Cheniere, reporting into the Chief Commercial Officer. Until October 2015 he was Vice President for Global LNG - and prior to that Head of LNG Strategy - at BG Group where he worked for over 20 years before joining Cheniere. During his career in LNG, he has been located in Singapore, Egypt, the USA and UK and has worked on numerous LNG projects including Atlantic LNG in Trinidad and Tobago, Egyptian LNG, and Dragon LNG in the UK. Dr. Walker has a Doctorate in Geology from Imperial College, University of London.

# Big bets in challenging times



## Garrett Workman

Executive Director, Europe &  
the U.S.-UK Business Council  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Organizer

Garrett Workman joined the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in June 2015. His work focuses on promoting transatlantic trade and investment, European digital and health policy, and U.S.-EU regulatory cooperation. Workman also actively supports the work of the Chamber's U.S.-UK Business Council, which is dedicated to resolving challenges related to the UK's exit from the European Union and strengthening the close economic relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom. Previously, Workman spent four years as associate director of the Global Business and Economics program at the Atlantic Council. There he concentrated on a range of issues including the eurozone crisis, workforce development, and international trade. Workman played a leadership role in the Council's advocacy efforts for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). He was managing editor of the TTIP Action email newsletter and the social media campaign. Workman authored a number of Council publications including TTIP and the Fifty States: Jobs and Growth from Coast to Coast and TTIP: Big Opportunities for Small Business, as well as numerous blogs and op-eds. He was also involved in the Council's efforts to raise awareness of the economic and geopolitical importance of both Trade Promotion Authority and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Before joining the Atlantic Council, Workman served in the office of former Sen. Jon Kyl (AZ), advising the senator on economic policy and international issues. He also worked at Atlantic Partnership, a think tank dedicated to strengthening U.S.-U.K. ties. Originally from Phoenix, Workman earned a bachelor's degree summa cum laude in political science from the University of Arizona and a master's in transatlantic relations and political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Sciences Po in Paris. He speaks fluent French and has a limited proficiency in Spanish.

# Big bets in challenging times



**Endy Zemenides**

Executive Director

Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC)

Organizer

Endy D. Zemenides is the Executive Director of HALC. Prior to joining HALC, Endy spent over a decade at the intersection of policy and politics. He practiced law in Chicago, specializing in municipal law and government relations. He served as Senior Advisor for Illinois State Treasurer and Democratic candidate for Senate Alexi Giannoulias. Endy serves as a Nonresident Fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, where he had previously been an Emerging Leaders Fellow. Endy's policy experience also includes participation in the Aspen Institute's Socrates program, service on the editorial board and board of advisors of the National Strategy Forum and lecturing in international relations and American foreign policy in DePaul University's political science department. Endy presently serves on the Board of Directors for College Year in Athens, and on the University of Chicago Booth School of Business' Civic Scholars Program Advisory Committee. He received a BA from DePaul University, an MA from the University of Essex (UK), and his JD from the Georgetown University Law Center, where he was also a fellow in the Harrison Institute for Public Law and an editor of the Georgetown Journal of International Law.



# Big bets in challenging times



**Frank Zervos**

Sales Consulting Director  
Oracle Greece

Organizer

Frank Zervos is Sales Consulting Director at Oracle Greece. He has held many executive positions in both sales and service delivery and has more than 28 years of experience in Oracle technology and Information Technology. Over the past 15 years, he has worked with numerous clients from a variety of industry sectors and nations, managing several sales consulting teams in Central-Eastern Europe. He coordinated the presales, architectural, and bid management teams to design and propose technology solutions that address clients' business needs and produce business value. He is currently in charge of leading the Technology Solution Engineering teams for Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, and Malta, supporting Oracle License sales. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with specialization in information technology and applied mathematics.