

VOICE

MESSAGE

TEAM

CHAMBER COMMITTEES



AMERICAN-HELLENIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ONE TEAM, ONE VOICE, ONE MESSAGE

The Committees of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce help formulate the strategic roles of the Chamber. Sectoral experts—members of each Committee—organize events such as conferences, exhibitions, trade missions, seminars, and media briefs, as well as develop position papers, to advance the interests of member companies in a sector and/or to assist in policy formation, legislation, and government action.

Committees are the core interface of the Chamber vis-à-vis the government and societal stakeholders and play an essential role in the Chamber's overall development.

Chamber members gain a powerful platform via the Committees of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

Each Committee addresses sectoral issues and promotes industry perspectives to the government, political participants, policy makers, social partners, and the media.

Chamber Committees advocate for a streamlined public administration, less bureaucracy, a level playing field, and expanded opportunity.

Learn how you and your company can benefit from one of the strongest, most well-respected and professional business associations in Greece, speaking with one voice, presenting one united message.

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Key Issues

Economic development and increased employment through a stronger agrofood sector

Enhanced penetration of local agrofood products to world markets

Know-how transfer to ensure local producers are kept abreast of developments in the sector

Rational allocation of resources to ensure optimal effectiveness in production and marketing of products

Communication among stakeholders to ensure positions are part of the public dialogue

Key Messages

Greece must design and implement a coherent and up-to-date national strategy for promoting its food products internationally.

Greece can improve the effectiveness of the sector through a more efficient allocation of resources and EU grants.

Greece can reap further benefits from synergies between the agrofood sector and other industries, especially tourism.

Greece should delimit a large part of its agro productions according to the needs of the international market.

Key Events

Agrotechnology Conference | An annual event held at the American Farm School in Thessaloniki that provides a forum for high-level discussion among key stakeholders.

Meetings are held throughout the year with officials to discuss current issues, submit proposals and advocate on behalf of the agrofood industry.

Committee Members

Members of the Agrotechnology Committee are drawn from leading businesspeople throughout the industry as well as key contacts in educational and research institutions.

Agrotechnology Committee

Mission

To act as a catalyst among producers, industry and government; to assist in forming a national strategy and facilitate reforms across the agro-industry value chain; to enhance competitiveness and to develop a framework for local products to penetrate world markets, especially the U.S. market.

“DEVELOPING THE AGROFOOD SECTOR WITHIN A STRATEGIC PLAN CAN BOOST EMPLOYMENT, EXPORTS, GDP, AND MEANINGFUL CAREERS. IT SHOULD BE A NATIONAL PRIORITY.”

Corporate Governance Committee

Mission

To present, drawing from local and international experience, the principles of Corporate Governance for building highly effective boards and corporations by balancing power, performance and profits with integrity, transparency, accountability and reform, in the private and public sectors.

Key Issues

Corporate Governance from the perspective of institutional investors

Corporate Governance and the economic downturn

The legal and institutional framework of Corporate Governance

Risk management and protection of corporate interests

Transparency and control: the obligations of the BoD and the role of the committees

Fraud Risk Management and the role of the BoD

Fraudulent financial reporting: the role of the Audit Committee and internal auditors

Conflict of interest within the boardroom

Key Messages

Companies with rigorous corporate governance guidelines are able to perform at a higher level, with consistency and accountability.

Embodying strong corporate governance practices elevates companies and organizations to compete at a global level.

Good corporate governance practices instill ethical behaviors, responsible conduct and positive mindsets.

Key Events

Annual conferences bringing together Corporate Governance practitioners, regulators and representatives of the public and private sectors

Conduct surveys to document the significance of the application of the principles of Corporate Governance in companies, listed or not

Committee Members

Members of the Corporate Governance Committee are drawn from executives and members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce with a strong background in developing rigorous standards among boards and promoting global practices of governance in Greece.

“CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE SUSTAINABLE OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP.”

Key Issues

Promoting CSR practices within Greece, among large, medium and small organizations

Disseminating best practices that are scalable and transferrable

Safeguarding sustainability in CSR programs

Shifting mindsets so all stakeholders unite; the whole is greater than the sum of parts

Countering the notion that CSR is PR; CSR is a values-based concept

Fostering partnerships between the private sector, public sector and non-profit organizations for responsible and sustainable entrepreneurship

Key Messages

All businesses, regardless of size, can develop CSR programs and initiatives.

CSR is a values-based concept.

Stakeholder engagement is critical for success.

CSR builds stronger societies and communities.

Informed knowledge leads to effective action and innovation.

Key Events

Annual CSR Conference | Focuses on the marked change in business today that an effective CSR strategy is more vital than ever in developing natural capital, human capital management and employee engagement, community investment and win-win partnerships

Brainstorming sessions to update on CSR and sustainability trends while examining CSR practices and developing new methodologies to build CSR programs

Committee Members

Members of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee are drawn from businesses, organizations, and members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Members exhibit a desire to influence the course of CSR in Greece and create a positive impact on society and communities.

CSR

(Corporate Social Responsibility) Committee

Mission

To serve as a channel to transmit knowledge and CSR applications to Greek and multinational corporations and act as a catalyst toward the government and stakeholders so that CSR is seen as the necessary social capital of companies in their quest for success.

“CSR REFLECTS THE BEST TRAITS WE HAVE: TO CARE ABOUT A BETTER WORLD, NOT BECAUSE IT MAKES US LOOK BETTER BUT BECAUSE IT IS BETTER; NOT TO ENHANCE OUR IMAGE, BUT TO ENHANCE OUR SOCIETY; NOT TO GAIN A PROMOTIONAL EDGE, BUT TO PROMOTE A GAIN FOR ALL.”

Education, Innovation & Entrepreneurship (EIE) Committee

Mission

To advocate for radical reform within the education mindset and promote lifelong learning. To encourage innovation within all aspects of everyday life. To support entrepreneurship as a positive career choice.

Key Issues

Education as a catalyst of innovation and entrepreneurship

National strategy to build a new educational system

Connecting the educational system to the business world

Professional Development—Think Global, Act Local

Teaching critical thinking to the young generation

Encouraging the young generation to succeed through their creative ideas by developing an entrepreneurial spirit

Key Messages

Without innovation and entrepreneurship Greece will not be competitive enough to close the gap in its external trade.

Young people must create new firms that add significant value to the economy and employment.

Lifelong, vibrant education, both academic and personal, contributes in developing innovative and entrepreneurial people capable of critical thinking and self-motivation.

Entrepreneurs should be encouraged and supported to succeed by establishing a prize for innovative proposals.

Young entrepreneurs benefit by connecting and networking with business angels and venture capitalists.

Key Events & Activities

MIW (Make Innovation Work) Competition—Biannual

MIW Forums

EIE International Conferences

Business Plan Seminars

Committee Members

Members of the EIE Committee are drawn from leading multinational and Greek companies and members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

“CONNECTING THE EDUCATION AND BUSINESS ECOSYSTEMS CREATES SYNERGIES, ADDS VALUE, FOSTERS INSIGHT, AND MOTIVATES BOTH YOUNG START-UPS AND ESTABLISHED BUSINESSES.”

Key Issues

Assist and promote ideas and issues concerning energy to all relevant players

Promote solutions to different energy-related problems to involved parties

Cooperate with financial and government institutions in energy matters

Key Messages

Greece should reinforce its strategic energy position in the region and cooperate with neighboring countries.

Greece should explore to its maximum capacity its underground energy resources.

Green energy applications should be promoted, resulting in a better and cleaner environment and a healthier energy economy.

Key Events

Annual Greek Economy Conference—energy section

Preparation of International Energy Forum to be held in Athens, March 2015.

Committee Members

Members of the Energy Committee are strong, influential leaders in the energy business in Greece and members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

Energy Committee

Mission

To address, serve, and contribute to vital energy issues. The committee builds bridges of cooperation among companies involved in energy, primarily among members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and government officials.

“ENERGY MUST
BECOME ONE OF
THE KEY PILLARS OF
THE NEXT GREEK
ECONOMY.”

ITC

(Information Technology and Communications)

Committee

Mission Statement

To submit policy recommendations that will advance ITC; to support innovation and the adoption of best practices; to promote R&D collaboration between industry, academia, and research bodies.

Key Issues

Promoting innovation by using ITC throughout the public and private sectors

Adopting best practices by all stakeholders to upgrade ITC integration within every level of society

Developing knowledge transfer from abroad that will benefit the local ITC ecosystem

Advancing career opportunities for youth in ITC

Increasing Greece's competitiveness, outward-looking orientation, and international investment attractiveness

Key Messages

ITC is the most powerful tool available today to carry out change at almost every level of an organization.

Investment in ITC must be carried out with a thorough cost-benefit analysis—which shall most often justify an initial outlay and provide a valuable return.

R&D is at the heart of national security and growth.

R&D programs should be approached on a collaborative basis, with industry, academia, and institutes focusing on win-win relationships that deliver value added to all stakeholders.

Greece can develop a world-class ITC industry.

Key Events and Activities

Engaging with local stakeholders to consolidate a strategic plan for Greece in developing its ITC strength and capitalizing on local human resources

ITC Forum 2015 to examine the role of IT in Greece's economy, academic system, R&D environment, entrepreneurial ecosystem, and social milieu

Committee Members

Members of the ITC Committee are drawn from the leading ITC companies in Greece, members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, and have a strong interest in achieving the best results for Greece using ITC—a powerful and ubiquitous resource.

“TECHNOLOGY CAN, AND SHOULD, BE HARNESSSED TO INCREASE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT—PERSONAL, PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL.”

Key Issues

Nurturing a trustworthy entrepreneurial ecosystem, attracting and empowering talented human capital to generate the added value necessary for a sustainable economic future

Promoting an excellent investment framework, transparent processes, reduced bureaucracy, business-friendly infrastructure, and well-identified comparative advantages.

Assessing Greece's long-term structural reform process

Breaking silos among stakeholders and among government bodies—vital for dialogue and communication

Key Messages

Positive change for the common good is necessary.

Dialogue and collaboration are the keys to healthy, inclusive change.

Change and participation must be bottom up.

All stakeholders must agree to and be part of a national consensus.

Key Events and Activities

Research and dissemination of information, policy papers, public round table discussions, public debates.

A series of open discussions throughout Greece to review Greece's reform process and its impact on local economies.

Committee Members

Members of the Policy Institute are drawn from the Committees of the Chamber, leaders among business organizations, Chamber members, and members of Greek social, economic, and academic communities.

Institute on Economic Policy and Public Governance

Mission

To advance excellence in public governance, public administration, and economic policy in Greece. To strive for meaningful change through fresh ideas and productive solutions related to the economic and social development of Greece.

“DEVELOPMENT
EMERGES THROUGH
DIALOGUE,
SOLUTIONS
EMERGE THROUGH
SYNERGIES”

Intellectual Property Rights Committee

Mission

To present the measures and recent developments in IPR, share best practices and join forces for the protection of intellectual property rights. To bring together practitioners, policy makers and executives so as to encourage collaboration and create a platform of information and recommendations to each other and to governmental bodies.

Key Issues

Policy toward the infringement of intellectual property rights and its role in international economy protection

Measures and recent developments in intellectual property law enforcement

The effectiveness of the current legislative framework in combating on-line piracy

Negative implications of counterfeit products on smooth market operation

The design and implementation of measures to consolidate the intellectual property legislative framework

Key Messages

Increase awareness among law enforcement authorities and increase their commitment to ensure effective combat of current and emerging threats against IPR.

Communicate the negative implications of IPR infringement to the public to ensure high-level consumer protection.

Enhance creativity and innovation to develop cultural industries through the promotion of IP assets.

The need for partnerships across business sectors to facilitate a multi-disciplinary response to IPR protection

Key Events

Conference "Intellectual Property. Rights, Protection & Legal Frame"| This event focused on the measures and recent developments in enforcing Intellectual Property Law.

Committee Members

Members of the IPR Committee include lawyers and IPR practitioners, as well as members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, who desire to advance the IPR legal framework in Greece as a means to generate strong, fair, and equitable economic growth.

"PROTECTING ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE ASSETS OF YOUR BUSINESS: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS."

Key Issues

Addressing obstacles that Greek companies face in exporting to the U.S.

Sectoral evaluation of the U.S. market through research and studies

National branding and its reposition in the U.S. market

Drafting a generic promotional plan and support guideline that the Chamber can provide to companies

Creating and hosting events to inform and educate Greek companies on the details, procedures, and strategies to develop trade with U.S. partners

Key Messages

Greece should craft a competitive, sustainable and effective commercial/trade scheme that serves all commercial stakeholders: citizens, trade professionals, trade facilitator providers, and the trade industry.

Greece can become the Ambassador of the Mediterranean Diet, the host for the best all-year holiday experience, and a commercial logistics hub; it can increase its GDP while decreasing unemployment rates by engaging in global-class trade and becoming a significant player.

The Greek government should develop and implement a trade strategy that is long-term, aspirational and sustainable, while setting the ground for sustainable economic growth.

Key Events

How to Do Business in the USA | A series of seminars conducted throughout Greece, exploring the ins and outs of exporting to the United States

Committee Members

Members of the International Trade Committee are drawn from multi-national commercial companies in Greece that are leaders in F&B and FMCG markets and members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

International Trade Committee

Mission

To serve as a forum for pivotal issues regarding bilateral trade between the U.S. and Greece, to monitor developments, recommend actions and initiatives, and to develop export expertise within the Chamber.

“GREECE NEEDS A UNIFIED AND COORDINATED EFFORT IN OUR QUEST TO SUCCESSFULLY PENETRATE, DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH GREEK PRODUCTS IN THE U.S. MARKET AND MAKE THE CONSUMPTION OF GREEK PRODUCTS A HABIT.”

Labor and Insurance Committee

Mission

To serve as a think tank and business forum for employment and insurance issues. To identify and explore new ideas addressing the key challenges of the Greek labor market and social protection system and to inform social dialogue and policy decisions on labor and insurance issues.

“IN REBUILDING THE GREEK ECONOMY WE NEED TO DECIDE HOW WE WILL DEAL WITH THE STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS OF THE LABOR MARKET AND WHAT KIND OF SOCIAL WELFARE STATE WE WILL HAVE IN GREECE.”

Key Issues

Initiating a broad and honest dialogue in Greek society about the future of pensions and the welfare state in general

Safeguarding the long-term financial sustainability of the Greek pension system, while offering adequate retirement benefits to current and future generations of pensioners

Addressing effectively the demographic ageing of the Greek population and restoring confidence to the social security system

Supporting the development of the 2nd and 3rd pillars of pensions in order to provide reliable alternative options to the insured population

Increasing employment opportunities for all

Minimizing a typical form of work through systematic monitoring and change of mindsets

Healthy partnerships will speed up the transformation of mindsets and labor market mechanisms so that ALMP (Active Labor Market Policies) provide sustainable ROI.

Key Messages

The reform of the social security system is an example of the imperative changes which are a prerequisite for the success of the immense structural reforms that Greece needs.

We should build a new relationship of trust between social insurance funds and their insured citizens and businesses.

The reforms are doomed to fail without broad societal and political consensus on the challenges faced by our pensions system and without honest and open dialogue.

Improvement of labor market conditions will increase employability and reduce unemployment and grey labor.

Talent mismatch needs to be addressed to enhance economic competitiveness and growth.

Bridges from education to employment should be established and reinforced to counter youth unemployment and brain drain.

Key Events

Annual Labor and Insurance Conference

Meetings with representatives of social partners

Meetings with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security officials

Meetings with representatives of the insurance market, research institutes and public authorities

Committee Members

Members of the Labor and Insurance Committee are drawn from businesses, public authorities, universities and research organizations in Greece and members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

Key Issues

To exploit the best practices applied within international and Greek organizations

To provide valuable insight through leadership-related surveys and other knowledge-sharing initiatives

Key Messages

Bring real life management and leadership qualities, practices and case studies to younger generations.

Establish role models for the future leaders of Greek business organizations and society.

Create content and intellectual value through partnering with academic institutions (American School of Classical Studies at Athens and other universities).

Key Events

Conducted a survey on Talent and Executive Mobility, with a formal presentation of the results

Formed strategic alliances with the University of Athens and the University of Piraeus and initiated the second round of surveys on Talent and Mobility

Leadership Forum 2013 - Talent & Mobility: Redefining Leadership in Greece

Business Opportunities of the Future and the Development of Entrepreneurship | A series of events to engage the younger generation in leadership qualities

Committee Members

Members of the Leadership Committee include CEOs of Greece's most successful companies and members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, who have a strong desire to promote better management and leadership practices in the public and private sectors and who wish to inculcate leadership mindsets among young people.

Leadership Committee

Mission

To add value in developing the quality of leadership among Am-Cham members and throughout the Greek business community. To help young people become responsible business and social leaders within a foreseeable time frame.

“THE HEAVIEST PENALTY FOR DECLINING TO RULE IS TO BE RULED BY SOMEONE INFERIOR TO YOURSELF.”

—PLATO, THE REPUBLIC

Legislative Reform Committee

Mission

To serve as a forum for discussion and promote legislative reforms that will help build a better, faster, secure and more reliable judicial system.

Key Issues

To examine the issues related to legislative reforms in our country affecting our members

To submit proposals to governmental officials regarding the introduction of legislative reforms and/or the amendment of existing legislation, in an effort to render the Greek judicial system more effective and more reliable, shortening at the same time the length of time required to hear cases

To develop an effective network of individuals focusing on legislative expertise transfer between Greece and the United States

To promote mediation, arbitration and other ADR mechanisms

To convene events, meetings, business missions to/from the U.S.

Key Messages

An effective, modern and reliable judicial system is a key element in every developed country wishing to attract foreign investment. The Greek judicial system ranks low in the perception of Greek and foreign nationals and the main reason for this is the considerable delays encountered in the rendering of justice.

Key Events

Meetings are held throughout the year with Ministry officials to discuss current issues, submit proposals, and advocate on behalf of the business community.

Committee Members

Members are drawn from among the leading law firms that are also members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

“JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED. A MAJOR AND STRUCTURAL REFORM OF PERCEPTION OF OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS NOW MORE CRUCIAL THAN EVER.”

Key Issues

Procurement transparency through both price and quality evaluation to enhance quality care

Improvement of payment deficits and payment delays of hospitals toward healthcare providers to encourage investment and employment

Evaluation of health technology, innovation and advanced treatment, considering longer-term clinical and economic outcomes

Focus on diagnosis and prevention of disease to reduce longer-term costs

Revaluation of processes of the healthcare system to minimize bureaucracy and inefficiencies

Improvement of reimbursement methodologies to improve universal patient access and cost effectiveness

Introduction of measures to assess utilization of funding and allocation of resources to provide better patient care

Key Messages

Healthcare stakeholders are called to implement the necessary changes in the Greek healthcare system, which needs to be looking toward technology that can “do more with less” in a way that is sustainable and cost effective.

The future success of healthcare in Greece will be secured if all stakeholders work together improving funding and payments across the system.

Procurement decisions need to move away from looking at price only and evaluate the total cost of care.

The future success of the healthcare system will be secured if all stakeholders work together to ensure superior patient outcomes and cost savings by evaluating total costs.

Key Events

Presentations and round table discussions are held at key industry congresses, including the annual HealthWorld Conference of the Chamber, which gathers key healthcare stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health, health institutions, industry representatives and patient associations.

The committee engages in open dialogue with the Ministry of health and other healthcare authorities, sharing its position in an effort to assist in the improvement of the Greek healthcare system under heavy reform.

Meetings are conducted throughout the year with officials from the different health authorities, also in collaboration with AmCham, to discuss current issues, submit proposals, and advocate on behalf of the healthcare industry.

The MD&D Committee hosts industry meetings on current topics, to align on industry positions and draft policy recommendations.

Committee Members

The MD&D Committee is represented by multinational companies in Greece that are leaders in devices and diagnostics and members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

Medical Devices & Diagnostic Equipment Companies Committee

Mission

To create a proactive forum that appraises developments and quality standards in the modernization process of the healthcare system in Greece. Based on local expertise and in alignment with official, recognized European and U.S. accepted business practices, the Committee contributes and supports the reinforcement of the Greek healthcare system and its reform, for the betterment of citizens and the state.

“THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WILL BE SECURED IF ALL STAKEHOLDERS WORK TOGETHER FOCUSING ON SUPERIOR CLINICAL AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES.”

Northern Greece Committee

Mission

To set the Chamber agenda in Northern Greece and to counsel on all Chamber actions in the region, including high-level meetings, conferences and seminars that highlight business issues.

Key Issues

Identification of key business issues pertaining to local development and assumption of appropriate initiatives and actions

Promotion of Northern Greece as a commercial and investment location

Advance the opportunities of Chamber members in Northern Greece in trade and investment

Facilitate business and investment partnerships for Chamber members in Northern Greece

Plan, design and coordination of the Chamber's activities in Northern Greece

Key Messages

Greece must design and implement a modern and just regional development strategy that takes into account the competitive advantages of each geographical area.

To unleash the economy's full potential, further decentralization is needed.

Local businesspeople have developed considerable know-how of doing business in neighboring markets. This can be used to benefit the regional and national economy.

Key Events

A variety of successful business events, including seminars, conferences and business missions

Meetings throughout the year with officials to discuss current issues, submit proposals and advocate on behalf of the local business community

Committee Members

Members of the Committee are drawn from leading local businesspeople who represent the main areas of the region's economic activity.

“NORTHERN GREECE CONTINUES TO OFFER UNMATCHED ADVANTAGES AS A REGIONAL HUB AS WELL AS AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE IN GREECE.”

Key Issues

Universal access to healthcare products and services for all citizens

Rational allocation of resources to ensure optimal healthcare services

Communication among stakeholders to ensure positions are part of the public dialogue

Economic development and increased employment through a stronger healthcare sector

Key Messages

Greece should ensure a modern, sustainable, and predictable healthcare system that serves all stakeholders: citizens, healthcare professionals, healthcare providers, and the healthcare industry.

Greece can host clinical studies, increase pharmaceutical manufacturing, engage in global-class research and development,

Stakeholders should develop and implement a healthcare strategy that is long-term, benefits the Greek citizen, and is a key component to sustainable economic growth.

Key Events

Healthworld Conference | An annual event in Greece that provides a forum for high-level discussion among key stakeholders.

Meetings are held throughout the year with Ministry officials to discuss current issues, submit proposals, and advocate on behalf of the healthcare industry.

The Pharmaceutical Committee hosts industry meetings, holds discussions on current topics, and issues communication materials on behalf of its members that explain industry positions and make policy recommendations.

Committee Members

Members of the Pharmaceutical Committee are drawn from multinational pharmaceutical companies in Greece that are leaders in R&D and members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

Pharmaceutical Committee

Mission

To serve as a forum for important healthcare issues. The Committee aims to build bridges of cooperation and common understanding among all stakeholders as well as create beneficial synergies for the good of the patient.

“WHAT THE GREEK HEALTHCARE SYSTEM NEEDS IS A STRATEGY THAT BALANCES COST MANAGEMENT WITH HEALTHCARE QUALITY.”

Public Affairs Committee

Mission

To convene the Chamber and its members with the political leaders in Greece and abroad; to engage in a frank exchange of ideas; to inform political leaders of Chamber positions and concerns; to establish a line of open communication between the Chamber and political personalities.

Key Issues

Open and frank dialogue

The presentation of Chamber positions, especially vis-à-vis industry concerns and Chamber Committee topics

Creating a level playing field so that all businesses in Greece have equal access to opportunity

Key Messages

Political personalities must first be key listeners.

Candid discussion creates a framework and foundation for meaningful change.

The democratic process requires all voices be heard and respected.

Key Events

Meetings are held throughout the year with Ministers and government representatives, leaders and members of the Opposition, key personalities in Greece, and visiting dignitaries, conducive to an open, frank exchange of ideas.

Committee Members

Members of the Public Affairs Committee are drawn from the leadership of the Chamber. Meeting participants are drawn from sectors related to the expertise and responsibility of each guest.

“UNDERSTANDING, CHANGE, AND DEVELOPMENT BEGIN
WITH AN OPEN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS.”

Key Issues

Tax evasion and tax avoidance

The role of a restructured taxation system vis-à-vis entrepreneurship, sustainable growth, and investment

Significant reforms in tax procedures to have a positive impact on business activity

Key Messages

Convert taxation into a true business partner to the benefit of real economy and sustainable economic growth. Taxation should not be an obstacle to responsible entrepreneurial opportunity.

Modernizing the tax administration and transforming it into a reliable mechanism that protects the revenue base, drawing on a business model with integrity, based on early intervention and differentiation as well as on sustainable compliance by taxpayers, is a win-win approach.

The tax-paying capacity of responsible taxpayers is well beyond their limits. It is high time for inventive measures—leading to economic growth, more competitiveness and jobs.

Key Events & Activities

Annual Athens Tax Forum

Annual Thessaloniki Tax Forum

Contribution to ministerial tax law preparatory committees

Publication of taxation articles, studies, and research results

Participation in conferences and seminars, as expert speakers

Contribution to public deliberation for the monitoring of new tax laws

Cooperation with social bodies and organizations (U.S. Embassy, SEV, EEDE)

Cooperation with other EU AmChams on taxation issues across Europe

Committee Members

Members of the Taxation Committee are drawn from multinational and Greek companies that are leaders in numerous sectors and members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

Taxation Committee

Mission

To provide technical know-how and assistance to the political and administrative taxation leadership, so that good taxation policies and tax legislation is formed for a fair, efficient and transparent taxation system. To monitor the external support of Chamber member corporations, in their efforts to fulfill their taxation compliance and address high-risk tax issues.

“CONVERT TAXATION INTO A TRUE BUSINESS PARTNER.”

Tourism Committee

Mission

To act as a forum and ad hoc think tank to pursue product modernization and enrichment to widen the commercial scope of Greek tourism. To identify and support new ideas and initiatives focused on less developed and untapped potential. To bring together stakeholders, local and national authorities, and experts and to encourage synergies that can facilitate the progress of tourism in Greece.

“THE FUTURE OF GREEK TOURISM RELIES ON GREECE’S ABILITY TO EMERGE AS A TRULY MODERN TOURIST DESTINATION AND TO CAPITALIZE ON ITS ENORMOUS POTENTIAL TO CATER TO A MUCH WIDER MARKET SCOPE.”

Key Issues

Prevailing “one-track mindedness” of Greece’s tourism development: limited public and professional awareness, in various service sectors, on what conditions and flexibilities are needed to widen the scope of tourist market attraction

Legislative, systemic and infrastructural obstacles to new directions in tourism; lack of incentive and frequent regulatory rigidity hampering inventiveness and product originality in tourism

Necessity for national awareness campaigns to improve conditions and services provided for special interest groups, high-yielding upscale markets, physically challenged tourism and the like

Reduced economic yield in local economies due to a lack of awareness on demographic stratification, expectation diversity and overall profiling of modern tourism markets

Key Messages

Greece needs to overcome its rigid mentality and systemic resistance to change.

Greek authorities in both central and regional governments need to improve their understanding and knowledge on issues that directly impact tourism. They must be informed on the repercussions of their regulatory interventions, no matter how minor.

Service providers need to become more informed and more flexible in adopting both small and radical changes in their attitude, behavior and performance standard.

Key Events and Actions

Establish a conference dedicated to new ideas and initiatives in tourism, each year focusing on a new theme or a specific area or a relevant group of destinations.

Form a think tank to address current issues, examine strategies to promote solutions, organize actions.

Meet with central and local government authorities to provide helpful advice and solutions.

Committee Members

Tourism Committee membership is drawn from firms involved directly or indirectly with tourism that are also members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

Key Issues

Leadership development of professional women through disseminating learning on international and national best practices

Develop, encourage and elevate the status and public perception of women in the business world and society

Offer professional women a platform to exchange best practices, experiences and knowledge

Key Messages

Ensure a minimum percentage participation of women on boards.

Eliminate of barriers to the access by women to positions, particularly senior positions.

Create networks—inside and outside companies—to encourage participation by and the advancement of women and the regular exchange of best practices.

Enhance the perception of women in the workplace.

Initiate institutional measures to provide quality and affordable services, such as childcare, eldercare and the care of other dependents; tax incentives for businesses to support women in striking a balance between family and professional obligations.

Tackle wage disparities between men and women that have a negative impact on women's career development.

Introduce flexible working practices and use technology to maximize the participation of women in decisions of companies.

Key Events

Annual WIB Women Leader Luncheons, Forums and Seminars with prominent international and local speakers on issues affecting the business community, providing vision and practices to succeed in today's environment

Networking events to help women integrate and establish new collaborations

On-line networking platform through WIB LinkedIn Group, where women executives can discuss and elaborate their thoughts and opinions, swap business stories and share their concerns

Committee Members

Members of the Women in Business Committee are prominent executives from various sectors of the business community and members of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

WIB (Women in Business) Committee

Mission

To work with all sectors of the local economy to promote and enhance the development and influence of professional women in the business world.

“WOMEN IN BUSINESS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. WOMEN ADD PERSPECTIVE THAT COMPLETES A CIRCLE, VISION THAT OPENS BOTH EYES, POWER THAT BALANCES FORCE, AND INSIGHT THAT WIDENS THE VISTA.”

Learn More

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