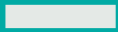


AMCHAM SUSTAINABLE TALKS



AMERICAN-HELLENIC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sustainable Talks 101

Pakis Papademetriou

CR COMMITTEE CHAIR

Sustainable Talks started as an idea for a more effective and engaging networking event. We introduced a focused, single-subject dialogue on sustainability issues among stakeholders, aiming for constructive knowledge exchange and to support the integration of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the Greek business reality. Sustainability presents great opportunities for collaboration among companies, even those in commercial competition with each other. When businesses talk to each other and interact with civil society, there is real opportunity for positive change.

Our generation enjoys unprecedented access to technological, scientific and financial resources, which should support a course towards a more sustainable, equitable and inclusive future. Yet this is perhaps the first generation to take the world to the brink of a systems breakdown. There are many signs of progress and reasons for hope, but we still lack the momentum and the necessary depth of collaboration to deliver change on the scale required. Just as global risks are increasingly complex, systemic and cascading, so our responses must be increasingly interconnected across the numerous global systems that make up our world.¹

There are significant business risks and opportunities associated with sustainability. Climate change, for example, is the most pressing sustainability issue of our time. Evidence from the most recent scientific findings by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms the profound negative effects of climate change,² despite any rhetoric, political or other origin, that supports otherwise. Climate change is business critical, and there is a tremendous business case for building climate-resilient companies while helping to build climate-resilient communities. Companies that rigorously assess climate change risks and opportunities and implement creative solutions for long-term resilience will create business value while making important contributions to sustainable development and equitable growth.³

Introduced in 2015, the 17 UN SDGs address the most pressing global challenges in areas including climate, poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, prosperity, and justice, setting specific measurable targets to be attained by 2030. Businesses that want to be part of the solution need to first make sure that they are not part of the problem, and they must do so by upholding internationally recognized standards and principles.⁴

Today's commercial imperative calls for businesses to align core business with sustainable outcomes and to challenge current perceptions and business models.⁵ Companies need to develop new services whose simplicity, affordability and sustainability make them attractive to today's consumers. It is not about a different way of innovating; it is about fundamentally shifting the corporate mindset.

Business today is faced with a simple choice: Refuse to commit to more sustainable ways of doing business and face the risks *or* pursue innovative and sustainable means of operating while maintaining the ability to generate profit and make a positive impact on society. We at AmCham choose the latter. We keep an ear to the ground for new developments in sustainability, and Sustainability Talks is our way of making a direct impact. Join us!

¹ World Economic Forum – “The Global Risks Report 2018” (2019)

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – “Global Warming of 1.50C” (2018)

³ United Nations Environment Program – “Business and Climate Adaptation” (2012)

⁴ UN Global Compact – Accelerating National SDG Implementation (2018)

⁵ University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainable leadership - “Towards a sustainable economy” (2017)

Corporate Responsibility Committee

Mission Statement

The CR Committee's mission is to serve as an agent for change toward sustainable business, transmitting knowledge on CSR applications to corporations operating in Greece and acting as an influencer for government and stakeholders to recognize corporate sustainability as a key element of business and societal growth.

Committee Chair

Pakis Papademetriou
Manager, Corporate Quality,
Athens International Airport

Committee Members

Chryssa Eleftheriou
Corporate Relations and CSR Supervisor, Interamerican

Manos Iatrelis
CSR Manager, Athenian Brewery

Nicole Ioannidi
Head of Corporate Affairs, Vodafone Greece

Martha Kesisoglou
Division Manager, Marketing and Communications Wholesale
Banking, CSR Sponsorships and Public Relations, Eurobank

Kiara Konti
Director, Climate Change and Sustainability Services, EY

Marilena Kouidou
New Development Manager, Coteco Consulting

Siana Kyriacou
Partner and COO, KPMG

Alexia Macheras
Communication and Sustainability Manager, AB Vassilopoulos

Olga Manou
CSR and Communication Director, Loulis Mills

Manina Menidiati
Public Affairs Officer, Citi Greece

Angeliki Papadopoulou
Corporate Affairs Director, Stoiximan

Sevi Sfakianaki
Communications and CSR Manager, MSD

Rania Soulaki
Group CSR Director, Hellenic Petroleum

Ioannis Vrachatis
Corporate Communications and Public Relations Manager,
Club Hotel Casino Loutraki

Committee Calendar of events

NOVEMBER 7, 2019

BENAKI MUSEUM

17th annual CSR Conference – We Are the Change
Generation

MAY 17, 2019

STEVIA HELLAS COOPERATIVE, LAMIA

4th Sustainable Talks – The Growth Collaborative

APRIL 17, 2019

VODAFONE GREECE

3rd Sustainable Talks – The Big Stem Theory

NOVEMBER 22, 2018

LOULIS MILLS

2nd Sustainable Talks – As Food as It Gets

OCTOBER 31, 2018

BENAKI MUSEUM

16th annual CSR Conference – The World of
a Better Tomorrow: Sustainability & the New
Disruptive Era

JUNE 14, 2018

ATHINEO, ATHENIAN BREWERY

1st Sustainable Talks – Plastic Dreams and
Nightmares

1st Sustainable Talks – Plastic Dreams and Nightmares

The 1st Sustainable Talks initiative was launched on June 14, 2018, at Athineo, Athenian Brewery's creative brewing space in Athens. Plastic Dreams and Nightmares addressed how plastic products can be designed, produced, used and recycled to generate a positive environmental, financial and social impact. Plastics make up the majority of marine litter in seas and coasts around Greece, negatively impacting ecosystems, biodiversity and potentially human health. The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce supports a new plastics economy vision.

Christina Kontaxi

FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR,
MEDITERRANEAN SOS

Plastic Dreams and Nightmares stressed upon the need to shift to a circular economy because plastic is not fantastic. The very idea of disposability suggests that we and the planet have become victims of its success. Through a constructive platform for dialogue, we discussed actions that can be taken within the Greek business reality, following the European way, with the aim to avoid plastic nightmares. The further participation of AmCham's members in environmental actions targeting plastic and the development of long-term strategies with clear objectives and results signal the success of the Talks.

Manos Iatrelis

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY
MANAGER, ATHENIAN BREWERY

Being part of the very first session of Sustainable Talks was an inspiring experience. First of all, the concept of focusing on a single issue per session was a fresh approach to showcasing sustainable development matters. Additionally, the decision to focus on plastics could not be in better timing, and the event attracted a great audience from across industries. Last but certainly not least, Ms. Kontaxi presented an insightful overview of the issue, giving everyone in the room a clear idea of the complexity of the upcoming challenge.

2nd Sustainable Talks – As Food as It Gets

The 2nd Sustainable Talks, As Food as It Gets, took place on November 22, 2018, at Loulis Mills, and focused on food waste management and its impact on society, economy and environment. The Talks brought together representatives from a broad range of stakeholders to address the pressing issue of food waste and discuss real-world actions that can make a difference. The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce supports a new food waste management vision in which all stakeholders in the food chain can actively address this phenomenon.

Alexander Theodoridis

CO-FOUNDER, BOROUME

In the seven years of presenting Boroume to all sorts of fora, rarely has there been a more suitable, interested and involved group of people than that at the As Food As It Gets event. The event resulted to numerous new collaborations on saving and offering food as well as to concrete financial support for our educational program.

Dimitris Nentas

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
FOOD BANK GREECE

Food waste has tragic environmental consequences, using resources, human capital and energy for food that will never be consumed. Food Bank was founded in 1995 to distribute free food that the market cannot absorb to needy people: Last year, we shipped more than 1,300 tons of products and supported more than 38,000 people in Attica alone. It has been an honor to participate in Sustainable Talks to highlight the issue and our actions.

Olga Manou

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
MANAGER, LOULIS MILLS

Loulis Mills supports a full educational program aimed at raising awareness of food waste and promoting solutions to this issue. Our goal in jointly organizing the 2nd Sustainable Talks with AmCham's CR Committee is to unite our forces and bring people from the food industry together to fight this scourge more effectively in our country.

3rd Sustainable Talks – The Big STEM Theory

The 3rd Sustainable Talks, The Big Stem Theory, which took place on April 17, 2019 at Vodafone's premises in Athens, focused on highlighting opportunities for enhancing education and digital skills for young people, examining which skills in science, tech, critical thinking and problem solving will be essential in the years ahead and discussing the importance of empowering young Greeks by providing effective STEM training and enhancing student literacy and innovation. The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce believes that engaging the interest of young people in science is the sustainable way to address the challenges of the future.

Dr. Theo Anagnostopoulos
CO-FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, SCICO

It was my great pleasure to be invited to AmCham's Sustainable Talks event and give a talk entitled "The Big STEM theory." Throughout the talk, I tried to identify key pain-points in the education system and highlight the importance of an interactive, project-based way of teaching science and technology in and out of school. I also presented the way that so called "exponential technologies" are shaping our future. Finally, I presented the work that we at SciCo are performing in the above field both in Greece and internationally.

Nicole Ioannidi
HEAD OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS,
VODAFONE GREECE

Digital skills for youth are at the center of Vodafone's purpose to connect people for a better future. Last April, we were happy to host AmCham's 3rd Sustainable Talks and welcome Theo Anagnostopoulos, Co-Founder and Director of SciCo, to lead a discussion on the value of STEM education. Vodafone believes that the opportunities and promise of a better digital future should be accessible to everyone and undertakes initiatives to help upskill youth and prepare them for tomorrow's digital economy. The Big STEM Theory successfully raised issues like the need to cultivate tech and digital skills, critical thinking and problem solving among youth in our country, through the experiential learning of STEM subjects.

4th Sustainable Talks - The Growth Cooperative

The 4th Sustainable Talks, The Growth Collaborative, took place on May 17, 2019, at Stevia Hellas Cooperative facility in Lamia. Innovative business thinking, solid partnerships, diligent R&D and commitment for the region and its people are the elements of a business model that generates value across the board, serving as a model for a sustainable future in the region and beyond. The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce supports a new collaborative economy in which stakeholders are joining forces in a fresh, innovative and truly sustainable vision for the future of a country that needs to revisit its roots.

Christos L. Stamatis

CEO, STEVIA HELLAS COOPERATIVE

We are very fortunate to live in a country that can give you abundance in the production of raw agricultural materials and products. However, luck alone is not enough. We must act together, work together, promote this asset and make it a business endeavor. Let's follow successful examples that have involved research and innovation in production, making positive use of the results to their advantage. Cooperation can overcome obstacles, as hundreds of cooperative initiatives across Europe and the world have already done. Cooperation, research, sustainability, and quality; this is what is required in order for Greece to become the fruit and vegetable garden of Europe.

Stelios Theodoulidis

GENERAL MANAGER, VENUS GROWERS

It was a great experience and a real pleasure for me to understand that there are initiatives parallel to ours at Venus Growers focusing on the sustainable growth of all sectors in agricultural business. The principles are the same and very clear at all management levels of the business, from farming and environmental protection to various operations and marketing in the world markets. The winners—in the short and long term—are not only the involved farmers but society as well. In many cases, the vision of the cooperative model of business is lost, so it is really important to present models like Stevia Hellas!



**AMERICAN-HELLENIC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

 twitter.com/AmChamGr

 www.linkedin.com/in/amchamgr

 www.facebook.com/amcham.daily

HEAD OFFICE:

109-111 Messoghion Ave., Politia Business Center, GR 115 26 Athens, GREECE

PHONE: +30 210 699 3559, FAX: +30 210 698 5686

E-mail: info@amcham.gr | www.amcham.gr

BRANCH OFFICE:

123 Tsimiski Str., GR 546 21 Thessaloniki, GREECE

PHONE: +30 2310 286453, FAX: +30 210 225162

Member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington D.C., Member of the European Council of American Chambers of Commerce