

Circular Economy:

The new economic model ensuring sustainability and climate neutrality



Thursday, June 3
17.30-20.30 hours

AmChamGR
Digital 2021
Talks & Events

**Circular
Economy**



Organized by
**AMERICAN-HELLENIC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



creative CODE

Speakers Bios



Elias Spirtounias
Executive Director
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

After graduating from the School of Mathematics, 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 cooperation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in 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-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 theme parks 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 memberships, foster advocacy, expand further the presence of the Chamber in the 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.



Nikolaos Bakatselos
President
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the Managing Director of Pyramis Metallourgia A.E. and Pyramis Deutschland GmbH. He 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 AEEEX, 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. He 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 and Member of the Steering Committee of SVE 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 was elected President of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. In October 2019 he was elected as President of HEDNO by the General Assembly of HEDNO. Nikolaos Bakatselos holds a B.A. in Sociology from University of Reading and a MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University Business School.



George Kremlis
Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Greece for Energy Climate, Environment and Circular Economy
Chairman, Circular Economy Committee, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

George Kremlis is currently Principal Advisor to the Greek Prime Minister on energy, climate, environment and circular economy issues. He is a member of the Board of the European Public Law Organisation. He is also a member of the environmental and social advisory council of the EBRD. George Kremlis is Honorary Director of the European Commission and Active Senior responsible for circular economy in the islands. He started his career therein 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 is also currently the Chair of the Bureau of the Espoo Convention and the SEA Protocol, Chair of the MOP in 2019 and elected Chair for the upcoming MOP in December 2020. 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.



Shardul Agrawala
Head of Division, Environment and Economy Integration
OECD

Dr. Shardul Agrawala is Head of the Environment and Economy Integration Division at the OECD Environment Directorate. In this capacity since 2013, he leads the Directorate's work on economic-environmental modelling, empirical analysis of environmental policies, trade and environment, and on resource productivity and waste. Dr. Agrawala received his PhD from Princeton University and has previously held research positions at Princeton University, Harvard University, Columbia University and at the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).



Stéphane Arditi
Director of Policy Integration and Circular Economy
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Stéphane works as the Director for Policy Integration and Circular Economy at the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), a federation of over 160 ENGO's from across Europe. Before joining EEB, Stéphane worked as a Quality/Lean consultant within the automotive and aeronautics industry in France and the UK. He has also collaborated with academic research programs concerning energy efficiency in buildings and the evaluation of sustainable development policy in France. Stéphane has a dual education background in Philosophy and Environmental Management. In his everyday work, Stéphane attempts to promote circular economy policy instruments, business models and innovative practices, focussing on resource and energy conservation and the prevention of waste. He is now investigating how to bridge circular economy with other policy areas, such as Climate, Bio-economy, Industry, Chemicals and SDGs, as well as how to best adapt sound circular economy practices outside Europe.



Kostas Skrekas
Minister
Ministry of the Environment and Energy

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 6 May 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 17th June 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 elections on 7th July 2019 he was elected Member of the Greek Parliament for the Constituency of Trikala. During his terms of office in the Hellenic Parliament he has been a member of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, the Standing Committee on Production and Trade, the Special Permanent Committee on Research and Technology and the Special Permanent Committee on Environmental Protection. He was also Shadow Minister for the Environment and Energy Sector for the New Democracy Party from January 2016 – June 2019. He was appointed Minister of Development and Competitiveness from October 2014 until February 2015. On 9th July 2019 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Food, being specifically responsible for the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). On 5th January 2021 he was appointed Minister of the Environment and Energy. He speaks English and French.



Dr. Alistair Clark
Managing Director, Environment and Sustainability Department
EBRD

Dr. Alistair Clark has an environmental engineering background and significant practical experience in both research and implementation of environmental investments. Dr. Clark joined the EBRD in 2001 and is the Managing Director of the Environment and Sustainability Department. The Department plays a critical role on identification of new areas of Bank's environmental engagement and liaises with relevant external counterparts on topics related to blue economy, circular economy, pollution prevention, environmental remediation, protection of biodiversity and others. Dr. Clark's role includes ensuring that all investments are consistent with the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy and Performance Requirements. He is also responsible for providing strategic direction to the EBRD with respect to the implementation of the Bank's Sustainability mandate and the incorporation of environmental and social aspects in all sector and country policies and strategies. In addition, Dr Clark is Chair of the UK Export Guarantee Advisory Council. He also actively contributes to the Multilateral Financial Institutions Working Group on Environmental and Social Standards and represents the Bank at many international agency meetings in relation to environment and sustainability as well as social development.



Andrea Pinna
Senior Climate Action Advisor
European Investment Bank (EIB)

Since June 2019, Andrea Pinna is senior advisor on climate matters to the Investment Task Force for Greece of the European Investment Bank (EIB), based in Athens. Established in 1958, the EIB is the long-term financial institution and climate bank of the European Union (EU). Owned by the EU member states, the EIB is the world's largest supranational IFI. From May 2016 to June 2019, Andrea Pinna was Head of the Regional Representation of the EIB for Central Africa – based at Yaoundé, Cameroon. From 2008-2016, Mr. Pinna was senior investment officer and relations manager in charge of EIB's public lending operations in South-East Asia. From 2002-2008, Mr. Pinna was a staff member of the World Bank based at its Headquarters in Washington D.C. Mr. Pinna helped establish and managed a number of environmental trust funds which were part of the Bank's \$2.1 billion climate change programme. He was coordinator of the program's technical assistance facility and acted as executive secretary of its advisory group. In 1994-2002, Mr. Pinna was a staff member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat. At the time of leaving the secretariat, Mr. Pinna held the positions of Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary and Manager, Emissions Trading Program. Mr. Pinna started his professional career in 1989 as an associate expert of the United Nations Development Programme – based in Bangkok, Thailand. A lawyer by training (1987, Università di Sassari, Italy), Mr. Pinna holds Masters degrees in International Relations (1993, Columbia University, New York) and Business Administration (1989, FORMEZ/Columbia University, Italy). Mr. Pinna is married with three children and is a national of Italy.



Thanos Vlachopoulos
General Manager, Corporate & Investment Banking
Piraeus Bank

Thanos F. Vlachopoulos, serves as General Manager within Corporate & Investment Banking at Piraeus Bank. In this position, he leads the Business Lines of Large Corporate Banking, Development and Sustainable Banking, Transaction Banking (Trade Finance, Supply Chain Solutions, Payments & Cash Management), Syndicated Loans and Piraeus Factoring SA. With more than 23 years of diverse experience, he combines extensive management and product expertise. In the past, he held managerial positions within Barclays, HSBC plc, BNP Paribas and ATEBank within the Corporate and Investment Banking. Being one of the founding members of the NED club, has served as Non- Executive Director in several BoD's.



Ioanna Sapountzi
Head of Group CSR and Sustainability Division
National Bank of Greece

Ioanna Sapountzi is Head of the Group Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Division of National Bank of Greece. She is member of the Boards of Directors of CSR Hellas, Ethniki Factors and of “Panagiotis and Aglaia Kyriakou” Children’s Hospital. She is also member of the Circular Economy Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and of the Sustainable Development Committee of the Hellenic Bank

Association. Ioanna has an extensive experience in banking industry having served in the past as Head of Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility Division (2017-2021) and Head of Compliance and Corporate Governance Division (2014-2017) of the National Bank of Greece. Her expertise lies in the areas of Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development, Corporate Governance, Regulatory Compliance and Capital Market Law, Personal Data Protection and Consumers/ Investors Protection. She holds an Executive MBA from International Hellenic University and a BA in Law from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She is also a certified Chartered Compliance Officer from International Academy of Financial Management (IAFM) and the Hellenic Banking Institute of the Hellenic Bank Association.



Theodora Antonakaki
Climate and Sustainability Advisor, Bank of Greece

Theodora Antonakaki is an Advisor to the Governor of the Bank of Greece (BoG). Since 2009 she has been coordinating BoG’s work on climate, sustainability and research at the Climate Change Impacts Study Committee (CCISC) and is currently representing the BoG at the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).



Dimitris Sakipis
Head of ESG, Sustainability and Climate Change services
PwC Greece

Dimitris is the Head of ESG, Sustainability and Climate Change services in PwC Greece. He joined PwC in 2012 and since then he has been involved in multiple consulting engagements, including ESG and sustainability, governance, risk and compliance projects, business process reengineering and operational excellence, systems implementation, internal audits and due diligence. Dimitris has extensive experience in providing ESG and sustainability services in clients across various sectors, including financial institutions,

private equities, energy, oil and gas, shipping, telecommunications and healthcare. Indicatively, his experience includes the provision of the following services: Design and implementation of ESG and sustainability strategies, including the identification and prioritization of critical issues, in order to manage stakeholders concerns and the establishment of quantifiable targets in order to measure ESG, Sustainability and CSR performance-Due diligence services in environmental or other sustainability related areas-Climate risks identification and integration-Corporate sustainability and ESG reporting and assurance-Environmental Performance monitoring and compliance. Dimitris holds a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering from University of Patras, a MSc in Environmental Design and Engineering from University College London (UCL) and is Certified Charter Accountant (ACCA).



Sissy Iliopoulou
Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability Director North Europe
The Coca-Cola Company

Sissy Iliopoulou is Head of Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability for North Europe at The Coca-Cola Company using London as primary location. She is leading for more than 20 years corporate reputation, integrated communications, corporate affairs, crisis management, and sustainability - including strategy,

reporting, ESG, development of environmental & social multi-stakeholder programs. Sissy has worked for national & international roles in Greek multinational, American multinational & European companies of different sectors. Over the course of all these years, she has helped organizations shape their business operation into a more Purpose-driven orientation, integrating Sustainability into business operations, designing & implementing relevant strategies and initiatives with positive impact on companies’ growth plans, as well as, positive impact on societies. As far as Sustainability is concerned, she has taken active part in many institutional initiatives whereas many of the Sustainability programs she has developed have been recognized from 3d parties nationally & internationally. She is a firm believer of the value of partnerships & co-creation as well “Doing Good by Doing Well”. Sissy is a member of the Circular Economy Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and founding member of the Corporate Affairs Association. She holds a diploma of Philosophy, Pedagogy & Psychology from the National University of Athens (Kapodistriakon) and an MBA from the Wales University (Aberystwyth).



Kiara Konti
Director, Climate Change and Sustainability Services
EY Greece

Kiara Konti is the Climate Change and Sustainability Services (CCaSS) practice Director of EY Greece, with subject-matter knowledge and 17 years of experience in sustainability strategy, management, impact measurement, stakeholder engagement, reporting, training and assurance services, across a series of ESG aspects, including decarbonization, the circular economy, and sustainable finance. She played a pivotal role in the development of the CCaSS practice in EY Greece since 2008, and is actively supporting CCaSS CESA leadership, as well as CCaSS teams in the South and Central clusters. She has worked in over 200 CCaSS engagements, with more than 70 clients, across 25 sectors. She is BoD Member of the UNGC Network in Greece, a CSR Committee member at the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, a GRI and <IR> certified trainer, and an AccountAbility Certified Sustainability Assurance Practitioner (CSAP). Kiara has published over 30 articles on sustainability, has contributed to 2 international book publications, and has participated as speaker/panelist in more than 50 sustainability conferences/events in Greece, Brussels, Malta, Cyprus, and Romania.



Apostolos Mourgos
Chairman
TEXAN ENVIPCO HELLAS

Apostolos Mourgos has studies in Economics, Marketing & Management from the Universities of Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne, France, Rouen, France, Grenoble 2, France. He has been dealing with the recycling sector for over 25 years, introducing the “recycling houses”, using ENVIPCO’S high-tech automated recycling machines, in Greece, Cyprus and other countries. Envipco (Environmental Products Corporation Inc.) , a Connecticut based company in U.S.A., is a recognized leader in the development and operation of high-tech recycling systems for the recovery and recycling of used beverage containers (referred to as Reverse Vending Machines- RVMs). Known for its innovative American technology and market leadership, Envipco provides the best solutions for consumers participating in the recycling process and promoting an efficient reuse of the limited resources on the planet TEXAN & ENVIPCO together, invest in the environmental protection creating in December 2019 in Greece the FIRST manufacturing plant outside U.S.A. for the production of ENVIPCO’S high-tech recycling machines (ULTRA-48 RVM’S), making Greece the recycling hub of Europe.



George Pechlivanoglou
Vice President
Eunice Energy Group

George Pechlivanoglou studied mechanical engineering (BSc) and completed the MSc in renewable energy technology at the University of Oldenburg, Germany. He completed his doctoral dissertation (PhD) in the field of wind turbine aeroservoelasticity at TU Berlin, Germany and post-doctoral work at the same institute. Has published more than 90 scientific papers and holds more than 13 national and international patents. George Pechlivanoglou has 18 years of industrial experience in the wind energy market and 10 years’ experience as a wind energy expert designer and wind turbine technical inspector with international collaborations and global project portfolio. He held the position of the technical director of SMART BLADE GmbH for 8 years and has established several global collaborations with corporations like 3M, Vestas, Nordex etc. He is the former Wind Energy Committee Chair at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and a member at the German Chamber of Engineers (VDI) as well as the former representative of the Technical University of Berlin at the European Academy of Wind Energy (EAWE). Mr. Pechlivanoglou is currently holding the position of Vice President for the EUNICE ENERGY GROUP (EEG).



Elias Palialexis
Journalist
Athens News Agency

Elias Palialexis is Environment and Climate Change Journalist in Athens -Macedonian News Agency. He is editor in euractiv.gr and chief editor - founder of onecon.eu. In the past, he has worked in a number of online media and also in the press office for the Prime Minister of Greece (2004-2009). Mr. Palialexis has studied BSc Sociology and Media Studies in City University London, gained a scholarship from SNF for additional training in Columbia Journalism School in New York and currently attending the M.A. Institutions, Communication and European Integration, in European Communication Institute. He has received the Journalist’s Environmental Awareness Award from the Environmental Organisation “Ecocity”.

