
Speakers Bios



Elias Spirtoonias
Executive Director
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

After graduating from the School of Mathematics, University of Athens, Elias Spirtoonias 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.



Nikolaos Bakatselos
President
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the President & CEO 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 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. 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 AMCHAM and President of the Northern Greece Committee and since June 2019 he is the President of AMCHAM. 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.



Dr. Venetia Koussia
Employment Committee Chair
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

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-Processes-Partnerships issues. Advocate of Lifelong Learning in February 2017 she acquired the Financial Times Postgraduate Diploma for Non-Executive 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.



Andreas Athanasopoulos
Deputy CEO & Group Chief
Transformation Officer,
Digital & Retail, Eurobank SA

Andreas Athanasopoulos is Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and Group Chief Transformation Officer, Digital & Retail, Eurobank SA. He has served as Group Chief Customer Officer & CEO financial services, DixonsCarphone, UK (2018-2020), as CEO and Vice President, DixonsCarphone, Greece (Kotsovolos) (2013-2018), as General Manager Retail Banking, National Bank of Greece (2008-2013), as Deputy General Manager Small Business Banking, Eurobank (Greece & New Europe) (2003-2008), as Consumer Credit Director, Piraeus Bank (Greece) (2000-2003), as a Professor in Financial Services, Athens Graduate School of Business (ALBA) (1997-2001) and as a Senior Lecturer, Warwick Business School, UK (1992-1996). The primary research, teaching and consulting activities of Mr Andreas Athanasopoulos focus on the areas of financial services, strategic management, performance measurement and optimisation as well as on econometrics, with papers in recognised academic journals. He obtains a Postdoc, Decision Sciences, London Business School, UK, a PhD, Doctor of Philosophy in Industrial and Business Studies, University of Warwick, UK, an MSc, Statistics and Operational Research, University of Essex, UK and a BSc, Applied Mathematics, University of Patras, Greece.



Alice Gregoriadi
Management Consultant &
Independent Non-Executive
Director
Eurobank Holdings and Eurobank
SA

Alice Gregoriadi is a non-Executive Board Member on corporate boards in Greece and abroad, management consultant and startup advisor for companies operating in the financial, insurance, legal and retail technology sectors. She has over 20 years of experience in European and American credit and investment institutions (Citi, ABN Amro, RBS, JPMorgan) holding international Managing Director roles. Keen advocate of new technologies and mentor in innovation, has co-founded the Hellenic Blockchain Hub and is mentoring at several incubators/accelerators in Greece and the UK. She obtained her MBA at Manchester Business School, UK and her BSc at Deree, the American College of Greece, with specialisation in Marketing and Corporate Finance. She has completed executive education in eCommerce at Darden, University of Virginia, USA and in Blockchain for Business at UCL, UK.

Has lived and worked in five countries and speaks several languages.



Maria Mavridaki
Lead for International
Organizations
Greek Diaspora Secretariat of
New Democracy

Maria Mavridaki has studied Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Athens and holds two Master degrees from the ULB University of Brussels, Belgium, in International Politics and in International Public Law. She has worked for several years in Brussels, as an advisor at the European Parliament and as a legal officer at the Directorate-General for Justice of the Council of the EU and at the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission. In Greece, she has worked as an advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at ELIAMEP, while she has offered volunteer work at the Secretariat of International Relations of New Democracy and at the Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy. She currently works as an advisor for International Affairs at the Ministry of Digital Governance of Greece and she is a Lead for International Organizations at the Greek Diaspora Secretariat of New Democracy. She speaks English, French and Spanish.



Marina Niforos
Chair, Candidates Committee
Non-Executive Member of the
BoD, Hellenic Corporation of
Assets and Participations

Marina Niforos is President of Logos Global Advisors, a strategy and innovation advisory boutique firm. She is Affiliate Professor at HEC Business School and an experienced Board member and C-suite advisor. She is a global expert on deep tech, digital transformation talent management, working with private companies and multilaterals. She has advised with the International Finance Corporation and the EU Blockchain Observatory and is lead author of their report Blockchain: Opportunities for Private Enterprises in Emerging Markets (2018, 2020). Marina is serving a second NED mandate with the Hellenic Corporation of Assets and Participations Management Board, the sovereign fund of the Hellenic Republic. She has held a board mandates with S  ch   Environnement, the European Network of Women in Leadership and the US National Commission for UNESCO, appointed in 2012 by Secretary of State H. Clinton. In the past, Marina served as CEO of the American Chamber of Commerce of France, Director for the Diversity Center of Excellence at INSEAD and held senior posts in the Pechiney Group, in corporate venturing and corporate strategy. From 1993 to 1998, she was with the

World Bank Group, managing the country strategy and investment portfolio for Latin American countries. She received the World Bank Award for Excellence by President Wolfensohn for her service in Colombia, assisting the borrower with sovereign debt conversion.

Ms. Niforos earned an IDP-C and an MBA from INSEAD, a Masters in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania and a Diploma in International Relations from SAIS-The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (Johns Hopkins University). She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell University, with a B.A. in Government and International Relations. She is fluent in Spanish, French, Greek and proficient in Italian. She is the mother of three daughters.

Elections Campaign team of New Democracy's President, Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

He is a co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer at FlexCar, Business Development consultant at Ernst & Young Greece and the Head for Hellenic Diaspora Affairs for New Democracy, governing party in Greece.



Manos Panorios
Managing Director | Global Practice
Leader Financial Services
Stanton Chase Athens

Manos Panorios is the Managing Director of the Stanton Chase Athens Office.

Manos joined Stanton Chase in 1998 bearing extensive experience as a Financier in the consumer, services, and construction sectors, holding positions of Senior Accountant, Auditor, and Finance Manager. In parallel with his consulting role, he was holding the position of Finance Director in the company.

He practically built the Financial Services Practice, handling numerous demanding projects within the banking, insurance, investment, and NPE servicing sectors, as well as high-profile Financial Assignments through all industries.

Since September 2019 he also undertook the position of Global Financial Services Practice Leader in Stanton Chase International coordinating a specialized team of Partners and Consultants worldwide.

Manos studied Finance at Athens University of Economics and Business and also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Leicester (UK).

He is a member of the Employment Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.



Nikos Theodoropoulos
Secretary of Hellenic Diaspora
Affairs
New Democracy

Nikos Theodoropoulos was born in Athens in 1993.

He attended Athens University of Economics and Business and earned a bachelor's degree with

high distinction in International and European Economics. He holds a Msc Degree in Comparative Political Economy from London School of Economics and Political Science.

He worked in Brussels in a large consulting company that cooperates with government agencies, NGO's ,credit institutions and businesses . He has also worked in the European Parliament on behalf of the European's People Party. From September 2018 onwards he was in the