



**TRADE U.S.A.**  
Exploring Opportunities



Organizer  
**AMERICAN-HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

## 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 AEX, 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.



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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.



**Dina Athanasiou**  
Head of International Trade Dept. “TradeUSA”  
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Dina Athanasiou is Head of the International Trade Department “TradeUSA” of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, as of November 2018. Within her role, she assists and provides guidance to Greek companies interested in exporting to the U.S. market. Prior to entering the international trade sector by joining AmCham in May 2017, she was engaged in projects focused on marketing, communications, and sales, having worked with agencies including V+O and Hill+Knowlton Strategies. She is a business development professional holding a Bachelor’s Degree in Marketing, a Diploma in Graphic Design and a Master’s Degree in Design Management with the specialization in Marketing and Branding from the University of Southampton (UK). She speaks Greek, English and Spanish.



**Dimitris Karavasilis**  
International Trade Advisor, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce  
CEO, DK Marketing and Idea Monkeys LLC

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 “The DK Marketing Agency” with offices in Athens and Thessaloniki and “The IDEA MONKEYS Marketing Agency” with offices in New York and London. In 2018, he started a new collaboration with “All pack Hellas”, a two-month printed packaging issue. In the beginning of 2019, he launched a new project, the “exportnews.gr” magazine. He has studied Business Administration and International Marketing at “The University of Sheffield”. Prior to the foundation of DK Marketing, 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 been undertaking major projects on behalf of big multinational consulting firms in the UK, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Turkey and China; he has also participated as an invited speaker in many local and international conferences.

He is a member of the Administrative Committee and of the Board of Directors of the Greek International Business Association (SEVE) and an Executive Consultant on international trade issues at the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce in Athens. He also participated in the core team of the Dutch experts of Task Force, contributing in establishing the Trade and Promotion Roadmap as the key source for reforming the Greek Export Strategy; he is also member of the Hellenic Institute of Marketing and an active member of various International Organizations.



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## **Dr. Anastasia Xenias**

Senior International Trade Specialist and Global Team Leader (Europe),  
U.S. Commercial Service New York  
International Trade Administration - U.S. Department of Commerce

Dr. Xenias joined the U.S. Department of Commerce in 1994 as a Presidential Management Fellow. She is currently a senior international trade specialist and Global Team Leader in the New York office of the U.S. Commercial Service of the Department. Dr. Xenias is the recipient of multiple awards from the Department's highest-ranking officials for leadership and innovation including The Lawrence Payne Memorial Award, The Bronze Honor Award, the Director General's Excellence Award, the Charles Meisner Award, and both the ITA Bronze Medal and the Timothy Hauser Award for Outstanding Performance in Support of the United States Historic Partner Country Status and President Obama's Visit to the 2016 Hannover Fair.

She holds a doctorate in political science with a minor in economics from Columbia University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences where Kenneth Waltz chaired her dissertation defense committee. Dr. Xenias' dissertation, A Structural Theory of Currency Unions and Monetary Alliances, analyzes the conditions under which nations may join currency unions and has been published by Columbia University.

Dr. Xenias also holds a Master of Philosophy from Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs specializing in international economic policy, a Certificate from Columbia's Institute on Europe, and a Bachelor's Degree cum laude from Barnard College of Columbia University.



## **Margo Markopoulos**

Director, Office of Trade & Investment  
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Margo Markopoulos has served as the Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce, Office of Trade and Investment since 2015, and as Export Program Director since 2012. Bringing over 20 years of international experience to her position, Margo leads the Department's strategies to increase Illinois' exports and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the State. In her capacity as Office Director, Margo manages Illinois' regional foreign offices, located in six countries and the Illinois State Trade and Export Promotion (ISTEP) program, which assists hundreds of companies annually to expand globally through exports.

Prior to joining the Department of Commerce, Margo worked in the Governor's Office of Consular Affairs, where she worked closely with the Chicago Diplomatic Corps and planned gubernatorial trade missions for several Illinois Governors, including the State of Illinois' historic humanitarian mission to Cuba in 1999, which brought the first sitting U.S. Governor to the island in over four decades.

Margo also previously worked as an Expatriate-Repatriate Policy Consultant for Fortune 500 corporations, and she managed foreign business delegations to encourage bilateral trade.

Margo received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois in Chicago and is a certified International Protocol consultant. Since 2003, Margo has been a member of Children's Service Board of

# State-by-State Insights:

New York, Illinois, Florida

Wednesday, **September 22**  
17:00 hours

AmChamGR  
**Digital**  
Talks & Events 2021



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CODE

the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago and is active in several international trade organizations. Margo is a native of Illinois and resides in Chicago with her husband.



## **Nikos Papachryssanthopoulos**

Commercial Specialist

U.S. Commercial Service, U.S. Embassy Athens, Greece

Nikos joined CS Athens in 2013. He is leading the SelectUSA program that provides the information, tools, and connections that business investors need to succeed in the United States. He is also responsible for the ICT, Safety and Security, Defense and Agribusiness sectors.

Nikos holds an MBA degree from St. John's University, New York and a B.Sc. from the State University of New York on Computer Science & Applied Mathematics. He worked for 22 years with American companies in Greece on various sectors including ICT, consumer goods, Health Care and apparel.