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Nikolaos Bakatselos
President
American-Hellenic
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Nikolaos Bakatselos is the Managing Director of Pyramis Metallourgia A.E. and Pyramis Deutschland GmbH. He was a 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. 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 the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and President of the Northern Greece Committee, and since June 2019 he was elected President of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. He is a founding member and member of the Board of the Council of Competitiveness of Greece. From October 2019 until February 2022, 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.

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Juan Bofill
Senior Water Engineer in the Water Management Division
European Investment Bank (EIB)

Juan Bofill is MSc Civil Engineer, obtained in the Polytechnic Engineering University of Madrid. He is also Master of Business Administration and Master in Project Management of projects financed by multilateral institutions. Currently, he is Senior Water Engineer in the Water Management Division in the European Investment Bank (EIB) and he is the technical responsible of the water sector portfolio in Latin America. During his professional experience of almost 25 years in the private and public sector, he has been in charge of business development and Project Management always in the water sector. In the EIB, he is also managing the The Clean Oceans Initiative (eib.org) intended to reduce the Plastics and microplastics discharge into the Oceans. As a recent publication, he has developed the article Development solutions: Building a better ocean (eib.org). He is currently acting as secretary of the group ST10 (Water and Waste activities) of the Platform on Sustainable Finance | European Commission (europa.eu) which currently develops the EU taxonomy.

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Ethan Edson
Co-Founder and
Chief Technology
Officer
Ocean Diagnostics

Ethan is the Co-Founder and CTO of Ocean Diagnostics, an environmental impact company based in Canada developing technologies and analytical services to quantify and monitor microplastic pollution and biodiversity loss in the world's oceans. Ethan holds a degree from Northeastern University and has spent his previous roles working for Northeastern's Field Robotics Laboratory and at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in underwater sensor development. Ethan is an innovative marine scientist, maker, and conservation technologist who now brings a multi-faceted set of engineering and scientific skills to lead the R&D team at Ocean Diagnostics towards the development and commercialization of novel ocean technologies.

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Judith G. Garber
US Ambassador to
the Republic of
Cyprus

Prior to her appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus, Judith Garber served as the Acting Assistant Secretary and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. In that capacity she led U.S. diplomacy on oceans, climate, space, health, wildlife trafficking, and fisheries, among other issues. A career Foreign Service Officer with the rank of Career Minister, she joined the Foreign Service in 1984. Her previous diplomatic assignments have included Ambassador to Latvia from 2009-2012, Deputy Assistant Secretary for North and Central Europe, Director for Overseas Development Finance as well as postings in Spain, the Czech Republic, Israel and Mexico. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, the Ambassador worked at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve and the U.S. Treasury. Married with two children, she has a degree from Georgetown University.

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**Georgios A.
Georgiou**

President
American Chamber
of Commerce in
Cyprus

Georgios is the Director for Digital & Innovation at Logicom. He is leading strategic digital and innovation initiatives at Logicom Group. Among these is the strategic planning and execution for Logicom's Cloud business build-up across 15 countries in the region with base in Cyprus, working with key US cloud vendors, and focusing on digital transformation and consumption-based IT business. He is also leading Logicom's Data Privacy program as the group's Data Protection Officer. Prior to joining Logicom, Georgios worked for IBM for 21 years. He led the creation and establishment of its business consulting services in Cyprus and held various senior positions including the General Manager of IBM Cyprus post until his departure in June 2014. Georgios holds a B.Sc. in Computer Engineering and M.Sc. in Computer Science from the University of Bridgeport (CT, USA). He also holds an MBA from the University of New Haven (CT, USA). Georgios is a member of AmCham BoD since 2011, currently serving as AmCham's President since September 2021. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Cyprus IT Enterprises Association for more than a decade. His volunteer work includes being a Scouts commissioner at the Cyprus Scouts Association and being a President/Secretary of the Cyprus Amateur Radio Society.

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Ilias Grampas

Deputy Director,
EBCD

Secretariat of the
European Parliament
Intergroup on
"Climate Change,
Biodiversity and
Sustainable
Development"

Ilias Grampas is currently managing the activities of the European Parliament Intergroup on "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development", while serving as Deputy Director at the Brussels-based NGO 'European Bureau for Conservation and Development' (EBCD). Prior to that, he was working in EU Affairs and Communication for a pharmaceutical association in Brussels, moreover as a Communications Executive in Greece. Well-experienced in developing and executing strategic advocacy & outreach, Ilias also holds an MSc in Crisis and Security Management from Leiden University, Netherlands, alongside a BA in International & EU Affairs from University of Macedonia, Greece. Throughout the years, he has received The Good Lobby 3rd place Award as 'Political Representative of the Year' (2019), CV Magazine 'Best Environmental NGO in Belgium' Award (2019), The Webby Awards 'People's Voice Award for Green Website' (2017), and International Public Relations Association Golden World Award for 'Crisis Management' (2016).

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Adonai Herrera-Martínez
Director
Environment and Sustainability
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Adonai Herrera-Martínez is the Director for Environment and Sustainability at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). He leads the team determining the Paris alignment and green finance attribution, monitoring and reporting for the Bank. From 2017 to 2019, Adonai was the EBRD President’s Adviser. Prior to this and since 2009, he was based in Istanbul, coordinating the sustainable energy activities for the Bank in Turkey. Adonai previously worked at UNDP in New York and Dakar, and at CERN in Geneva. He received his MBA degree from INSEAD in 2009 and his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2004, having worked at CERN with Professor Carlo Rubbia (Physics Nobel Laureate in 1984) in the topic of Elimination of Nuclear Waste in Accelerator-Driven Systems. You may find a bit more on his background and interests in LinkedIn and Twitter.

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Christos Ioakeimidis

Associate Programme

Management Officer, Marine Litter
MED II Project, Coordinating Unit
for the Mediterranean Action Plan,
United Nations Environment
Programme – Barcelona
Convention Secretariat
(UNEP/MAP) Mediterranean
Pollution Assessment and Control
Programme (MED POL)

Dr. Christos Ioakeimidis is a Marine Scientist with a multidisciplinary scientific background in the fields of Oceanology, Oceanography, Environmental Sciences and Marine Pollution. He holds a Ph.D. on Marine Litter and is an active scientist in the field. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and reports and contributed to drafting the marine litter chapter of the Second UN World Ocean Assessment. He has participated in international scientific meetings, conferences, and workshops, as well as technical working groups and several research and monitoring cruises in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. Dr. Ioakeimidis has more than 14 years of working experience in various sectors, including International Organizations (UNEP/MAP), Research/Academia, the public and private sectors. During the period from 2012 to 2016 he was affiliated as a Research Associate to the Institute of Oceanography of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) in Greece. Since 2016, he has been working for UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention Secretariat, as Project Manager and member of the Project Management Units (PMUs) of EU-funded projects in support of the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean as well as the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Mediterranean Sea and Coast (IMAP) devised under the Barcelona Convention. He has also been actively involved in UNEP's Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), supported the development of the Mediterranean Marine Litter Node, and the G7 portfolio of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat. He has represented UNEP/MAP at various international fora, marine litter expert meetings and working groups. Christos has contributed to collaborations in both the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions and has generated new knowledge in the field of marine litter management.

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**Dr. Pascalis
Kastanas**
Market Sustainable
Packaging Manager
Nestlé

He has an extensive management background in a range of Food & Beverage categories (Coffee, Milk, infant Nutrition, Confectionery, Food) in various European Countries. Pioneer in connecting competences of local Nestle Scientists and Engineers, initiated and led a number of innovative projects for new packaging designs in soluble coffee, new functional materials in R&G coffee, improved packaging safety in Infant Nutrition, innovative approaches in Packaging Environmental Sustainability and coach of Circular Economy for Waste Framework EU Directive in the region. Mentor & Executive Coach to experienced and High Potential technology managers and mentor of LEAN Early Management philosophy for new packaging and investment projects.

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Nicole Kazantzidou

Journalist
Athens -
Macedonian News
Agency

Nicole Kazantzidou is a journalist and works at the Athens-Macedonian News Agency specializing in tourism reporting. She has participated in many foreign missions for the development of the tourism product, as well as in major international tourism exhibitions. She was editor-in-chief and presenter of the daily news show "Kathimerina", at the radio station PRAKTOREIO 104.9 FM from 2015 to 2020. During her long career, she has coordinated and presented dozens of important specialized conferences, workshops and other events. She has worked in newspapers, magazines and television and holds a master's degree from the School of Journalism of AUTH. She speaks English, French and a little Italian.

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Simos Kedikoglou

Deputy Minister
Ministry of Rural
Development and
Food

Simos Kedikoglou was elected member of the Hellenic Parliament for the Prefecture of Evia with New Democracy Party in the elections of 2004, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2019. He served as Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister and Government Spokesman from 2012 to 2014. He was a member of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, of the Standing Committee on National Defense & Foreign Affairs, Special Standing Committee on European Affairs and of the Committee on Armaments Programs & Contracts. In addition, he served as head of the Greek Delegation and Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation. Simos Kedikoglou is a journalist. He has been a political, parliamentary and diplomatic editor in newspapers "Kathimerini", "Apogevmatini", "Apofasi" and "Chora". He also presented and participated in broadcasts of TV and radio stations (ERT, MEGA, FLASH etc.). For many years he was a contributor to CNN International's World Report show, and on CNN's "Q&A" show in Atlanta, USA. He speaks English, Russian, and French. He is married and the father of a son and a daughter.

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Alexandros Kontis
Journalist
Realnews

Alexandros Kontis has studied Political Science and History and has a Master's Degree in Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development. He is a journalist since 2002. He has worked for leading daily and weekly newspapers, in magazines and radio broadcasters. Today he is the Editor in Chief in Realnews and hosts a news radio show at RealFM 97,8.

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Loukas Kontogiannis
Head, Marine Pollution Section Subdivision for Protective Measures, Marine Environment Division International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Loukas Kontogiannis joined the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as a member of the Secretariat in April 2010. In his current position within the Marine Environment Division, Mr. Kontogiannis is the Secretary to the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response and also supports the work of the Marine Environment Protection on issues relating mainly to prevention of ship-source pollution from oil (MARPOL Annex I), noxious liquid substances in bulk (MARPOL Annex II), sewage (MARPOL Annex IV) and garbage (MARPOL Annex V). Prior to joining the Marine Environment Division in September 2017, Mr. Kontogiannis was a technical officer in the Maritime Safety Division (MSD) (December 2013 to September 2017). During his time in MSD, Mr. Kontogiannis was co-Secretary to the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC) and he supported the Maritime Safety Committee during the approval and adoption of several codes and sets of amendments to IMO instruments, including amendments to SOLAS chapter VI relating to the verification of the gross mass of containers, the IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for the Safe Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code), and the International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low-flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code).

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**Dr. Angeliki
Kosmopoulou**

Executive Director
Athanasios C.
Laskaridis Charitable
Foundation

Angeliki is the Executive Director of the A.C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation. She holds a PhD in Classical Archaeology from Bryn Mawr College (USA) and an MBA from Leicester University (UK). Following a career in archaeology and cultural management she worked in communications, as a consultant and content specialist. She is Vice President of the Greek National Tourism Organization and has been appointed National Coordinator for Greece's transition towards the ban of single-use plastics. She mentors women in public life and entrepreneurship and sits on the Board of Directors of The People's Trust and the Advisory Board of DIANEOSIS. A published scholar in classics and archaeology, she is a regular contributor to Greek media.

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Ifigenia Koutiva
Senior Manager at
Climate Change and
Sustainability
Services
EY Greece

Dr. Ifigenia Koutiva is a Senior Manager at Climate Change and Sustainability Services practice in EY Greece and has led interdisciplinary teams in numerous advisory services including water risk assessment and disclosures to CDP, complete θ carbon footprint inventory, decarbonization and ESG strategies, EU Taxonomy alignment and sustainability proofing studies. Her academic expertise lies in the field of adaptive urban water management and modelling and assessment of alternative water technologies performance. She holds a PhD in Civil Engineering (NTUA), a Postgraduate Diploma in Water Resources and Environmental Management (Un. of Belgrade - e-learning), an MSc in Environmental Technology (Imperial College London) and an MSc in Mining and Metallurgy Engineering (NTUA). She was awarded a three-year scholarship by the Greek Ministry of Education to pursue her PhD research (2012-2015) (through ESIF - Heracleitos II) and a 2-year scholarship from the Greek State Scholarship Foundation (IKY) to complete her post-doc research (2020-2021).

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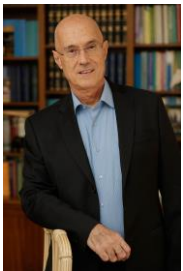


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George Kremlis
Chief Advisor to the
Prime Minister of
Greece for Energy
Climate, Environment
and Circular Economy
Chairman, Circular
Economy Committee,
American-Hellenic
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George Kremlis is currently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

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Emmanuelle Maire
Circular Economy,
Sustainable
Production &
Consumption Unit
European
Commission

Emmanuelle Maire works at the European Commission in Brussels, in the Directorate general for Environment (DG ENV). She heads the team responsible for Circular economy, Sustainable Production and Consumption. The core activity of the team is to support the transition to a circular and green economy in the European Union. The Circular economy action plan can be found there: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm
We promote stakeholders dialogue across the European Union through a dedicated platform: <http://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/>

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**Grammenos
Mastrojeni**

Senior Deputy
Secretary General,
Department of
Energy and Climate
Action, Union for the
Mediterranean

Grammenos Mastrojeni is an Italian diplomat, professor and writer who has focused for the past 25 years on the societal, geo-strategic and economic impacts of environmental degradation, as well as on topics related to environmental protection, human cohesion, peace and security. He has taught sustainability and conflict resolution in various universities in Italy and abroad, and in 2009, the Ottawa University in Canada entrusted him with the first class by a University on the issue of Environment, resources and geostrategy. Formerly, until August 2019, he was the Coordinator for the Environment and Head of the Science-Policy Interface at the Italian Development Cooperation, heading Italian delegations on lands, water and oceans and joining negotiations on climate and biodiversity. Chair of the UN Mountain Partnership, and Co Chair of the Global Islands Partnership, he is President of the largest Italian association for sustainable development education "Isola della Sostenibilità" and member of the Scientific Boards of numerous university courses and entities. Author of numerous articles and official reports on the environment, he published 8 books including "Greenhouse effect, war effect", written together with the climatologist Antonello Pasini (Chiarelettere, 2017), and "The Ark of Noah – Saving together our Common Home" that ranked as best-selling essays. Among his publications there are also "The indissoluble cycle. Peace, environment, development and freedom in the global balance" (Vita e Pensiero, 2002); "The necessary eco-revolution" (Italian Scientific Editions, 2008); "Now or never. A decade, and not beyond, to save ourselves and the Earth" (Amazon, 2016).

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Elia Nikitopoulou
External Affairs
Officer
Blue Cycle

Elia Nikitopoulou is an Archaeologist and Museologist (MA), with a keen interest in environmental issues and a year-long volunteer activity. She combined her passion for science with scuba diving, thus she participated as a field archaeologist in various maritime projects, in Greece and in Egypt. She has worked in digital projects as an archaeologist-researcher and digital application designer (Ephorate of Antiquities of Emathia, Acropolis Museum). Since May 2016 she is employed by the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, co-curating temporary exhibitions and managing the digital media as well as the press relations. As a strong supporter of taking action towards the great environmental problems of our times, she is involved in BlueCycle project as external affairs officer, carrying the message of the importance of synergies for achieving sustainable solutions.

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Maria dG Olson
Deputy Chief of Mission
U.S. Embassy in Athens, Greece

Maria Olson is Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Athens, Greece. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Maria joined the U.S. Department of State in 1998 and has served in Russia, Jordan, Syria, and Burundi. She has also served in several assignments in Washington, D.C., including as director of the State Department's Office of Southern European Affairs with responsibility for Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, and Malta and as press spokesperson for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. She holds undergraduate degrees in French and journalism and a graduate degree in journalism. She speaks French and some Arabic and Russian. She and her husband have four children.

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Gunter Pauli

Founder

Porrima Foundation

Gunter Pauli (1956) is an entrepreneur who has pioneered innovative business models throughout his professional career. In the 1980s, during a major economic crisis, he led a think tank to identify high-growth service companies in Europe. In the 1990s, he created a think tank to prepare for the Kyoto Protocol after building and operating the first green factory that applied the zero emissions concept. He has advised governments, entrepreneurs and business leaders on how to implement breakthrough innovations that enable society to better meet the basic needs of all, starting with water, food, shelter, health and energy. He works with what is locally available and focuses on creating value. In the 21st century, Gunter set out to accelerate the solutions he described in his landmark book "The Blue Economy," a Club of Rome report translated into more than 50 languages. He has published 23 books, which have been printed in 46 languages and 365 fables bringing a learning of the science and emotions to children. PUBLICATIONS 23 books and +200 articles in press and scientific journals, translated in 46 languages. Here are a few of them. **"The Blue Economy 3.0"** published in English by XLibris in Australia (2017) **"The Blue Economy 2.0"** published in English by Academic Press in India (2015) **"The Economy of Happiness"**, published in English and French (May 2020) **"Be As Intelligent as Nature"**, published in English by JJK Books, in Spanish by Tusquets, in Italian by Edizione Ambiente, in French by L'Observatoire (2017) **"The Plastic Solutions: the business models that work for the Oceans"**, with Marco Simeoni, published in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, Japanese and Chinese, (forthcoming in 2020).

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לשכת מסחר ישראל-אמריקה
ISRAEL-AMERICA
Chamber of Commerce



Elias Spirtounias
Executive Director
American-Hellenic
Chamber of
Commerce

After graduating from the School of Mathematics of the 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 co-operation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in the 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 until 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 cultural theme park 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, during the economic crisis, to increase significantly the number of activities, undertake important initiatives, retain in high level the memberships, foster the advocacy level, expand further the presence of the Chamber in 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.

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Despina Symons
Director
European Bureau for
Conservation &
Development (EBCD)

Despina Symons, of Greek origin has a degree in history and sociology but her professional life has been mainly focused on fisheries and marine policies. Despina is the Director and founding Member of the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD), a Brussels based NGO established in 1989, dedicated to the conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources, with special focus on marine/fisheries related issues. Working closely with all the EU institutions, Despina has been linking the conservation and the scientific communities as well the private sector to the EU policy makers providing them with expert strategic advice for over 30 years. Furthermore, Despina has been collaborating with several UN bodies such as FAO, CITES, CBD, UNFCCC where EBCD is an accredited member. In this regard she has been working closely with IUCN and particularly its Global Marine Program and its various Commissions. She is the founder and coordinator of the Fisheries Expert Group of IUCN Commission of Ecosystem Management, consisting of senior fisheries experts, which since 2008 has been working on the interface between fisheries management and marine biodiversity conservation and specifically linking the Fisheries Management Bodies and the Convention of Biological Diversity. Prior to joining EBCD, Despina worked in Madrid, Spain representing the Spanish coastal fisheries to the EU and before that she worked in Canada as a freelance translator for the Secretary of State of Canada.

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Dr. Petros Varelidis
Secretary General
Natural Environment
and Waters
Ministry of
Environment and
Energy

Dr. Petros Varelidis is Secretary General Natural Environment and Waters in the Ministry of Environment and Energy. He has studied Chemical Engineering in the National Technical University of Athens and has a PhD on composite materials and recycling. He has also graduated from the department of business administration of the Athens University of Economics and Business. Since 2009, he has served as a policy advisor of the political leadership in the ministry of Environment. Since December of 2019, is representing Greece on the Bureau of the European Environment Agency. From 2016 to 2021 he held the position of Director of the Organisation of Natural Environment and Climate Change (formerly named National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development). During 2005-2009 and 2013-2015 he served as an environment attaché in the Permanent representation of Greece in the EU. From 2012 to 2013, during the preparation of and the presidency of Cyprus of Council of the EU, he served as environment attaché in the Permanent representation of Cyprus in EU.

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Christina Zeri

Chemist-
Oceanographer
Institute of
Oceanograph
Hellenic Centre for
Marine Research
(HCMR)

Christina Zeri, Chemist Oceanographer, Research Director, Institute of Oceanography, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR). BSc in Chemistry and PhD in Chemical Oceanography from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). Member of the Advisory Board of the Institute of Oceanography (2015-2022). Her research interests span marine pollution by metals, plastics and microplastics; trace metals biogeochemistry; dissolved organic matter and its optical properties. She is active in research related to the MSFD and WFD Directives and she coordinates the national monitoring activities for D10 (Marine Litter). Member of the EU-Technical Group on Marine Litter (TGML) as national representative. She also collaborates with the UNEP/MAP as an independent marine pollution expert. During the period 2008- 2011, she has been appointed as a part time lecturer at the Dept of Chemistry (NKUA). Author of more than 50 scientific papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals – books –special editions, and more than 100 conference proceedings.