



**December 4 & 5** | Athenaeum InterContinental Hotel

# 34th Annual Greek Economic Summit

Fostering a sustainable economic future  
amidst global challenges

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**Speakers Bios** by Alphabetical Order

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**Nikolaos Bakatselos**

President

American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce  
(AmChamGR)

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the President & CEO of “Pyramis Metallourgia A.E.” and “Pyramis Deutschland GmbH”. Nikolaos Bakatselos 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. Nikolaos Bakatselos 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 CETH, 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.

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## Daniel Castro

Vice President  
Information Technology & Innovation  
Foundation  
(ITIF)

Director  
Center for Data Innovation, US

Daniel Castro is vice president at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) and director of ITIF's Center for Data Innovation.

Castro writes and speaks on a variety of issues related to information technology and internet policy, including privacy, security, intellectual property, Internet governance, e-government, and accessibility for people with disabilities. His work has been quoted and cited in numerous media outlets, including The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, NPR, USA Today, Bloomberg News, and Bloomberg Businessweek. In 2013, Castro was named to FedScoop's list of the "top 25 most influential people under 40 in government and tech." In 2015, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker appointed Castro to the Commerce Data Advisory Council.

Castro previously worked as an IT analyst at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) where he audited IT security and management controls at various government agencies. He contributed to GAO reports on the state of information security at a variety of federal agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. In addition, Castro was a visiting scientist at the Software Engineering Institute in Pittsburgh, PA, where he developed virtual training simulations to provide clients with hands-on training of the latest information security tools.

He has a B.S. in foreign service from Georgetown University and an M.S. in information security technology and management from Carnegie Mellon University.





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**Maria Demertzis**

Senior Fellow  
Bruegel

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Maria Demertzis is a Senior fellow at Bruegel and part-time Professor of Economic Policy at the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute in Florence. She was the Deputy director of Bruegel until December 2022.

She has previously worked at the European Commission and the research department of the Dutch Central Bank. She has also held academic positions at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in the USA and the University of Strathclyde in the UK, from where she holds a PhD in economics.

She has published extensively in international academic journals and contributed regular policy inputs to both the European Commission's and the Dutch Central Bank's policy outlets. She contributes regularly to national and international press.

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Paul Donovan is Chief Economist of UBS Global Wealth Management. He joined UBS back in 1992 as an intern economist working in the investment bank. As Chief Economist he sits on the House View Investment Forum, and is a UBS Opinion Leader and a member of UBS Pride and the UBS Art Board. He is also a Fellow of the UBS Sustainability and Impact Institute. Paul has been actively involved in the UBS Nobel Perspectives program and is a supporter of the UBS Women in Economics program.

Paul has an MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford university and an MSc in Financial Economics from the University of London. He is also an Honorary Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford and sits on their investment committee and development board. He is a member of the research advisory board of Open for Business, a commissioner on the Institute of Directors' diversity commission, and a member of the World Economic Forum's Chief Economists' Community and Global Future Council on growth.



**Paul Donovan**

Chief Economist  
UBS Global Wealth Management

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## Michalis Kassimiotis

Managing Director  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise Hellas & Cyprus

Michalis is the Managing Director for HPE Greece and Cyprus since January 2018.

Michalis joined HP in 1994 as a Presales Manager in the Enterprise Systems Group. After 2002 he spent five years as the Enterprise Servers Storage and Networking manager leading Industry Standard Servers and UNIX Lines of Business in the first market share position in Greece and Cyprus.

From 2007 until 2013 Michalis was assigned to the positions of Sales Manager for the Enterprise Group and then to the Technology Services Group of HP in Greece and Cyprus.

In 2013 he assumed a regional role as a Technology Services Support Manager in the regions of Greece, Cyprus and Africa.

Michalis holds a Degree in Mathematics from the University of Athens and a master's degree in Information Technology from the University of Glasgow. He is based in Athens, Greece

Michalis favors challenges & welcome innovative and creative ideas that would inspire and take himself, his company and his customers and partners further ahead. He is a strong believer of PURPOSE and CULTURE as key drivers for performance, but he also believes that no vision can be met without exhaustive EXECUTION of the daily targets that define the path.



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Chryssos is a BCG Partner & Managing Director and Head of the BCG Athens office. He joined BCG in 2011 and focuses on work in Financial Institutions with particular expertise in Transformation.

He has extensive international experience in strategy development, operational transformation, cost optimization, as well as customer journey design and implementation. Prior to BCG, Chryssos' consultancy experience was focused on Project Management best practice for Blue Chip companies such as Airbus, Vodafone, Visa Europe.

Chryssos is a Mechanical Engineer and holds an MEng and a PhD from Imperial College, London.



**Chryssos Kavounides**

Managing Director & Partner  
BCG

Head  
BCG Athens

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**Yianos Kontopoulos**

CEO

Athens Exchange Group

Mr. Kontopoulos has a long and successful international experience in global capital markets. He was a Partner, Chief Macro Strategist at CQS Fund in London, with previous service at UBS and Merrill Lynch, and he was CEO at Eurobank Asset Management.

He has worked in senior management positions in capital markets in New York, London and Athens. He started his career on Wall Street at Salomon Brothers. He was Managing Director at two of the largest international investment banks, UBS and Merrill Lynch, where he created and led large teams of leading analysts, building an extensive international network of contacts with major and significant investment firms around the world.

In Greece, he was Chief Investment Officer of Eurobank as well as CEO of Eurobank Asset Management, the largest mutual fund management company in the country. He has also worked in key positions in hedge funds abroad with billions in investments in global markets.

Mr. Kontopoulos holds a Ph.D., M.Phil., and M.A. in Economics from Columbia University and an A.B., also in Economics, from Harvard University. He was born and raised in Thessaloniki.



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## John W. McArthur

Director, Center for Sustainable Development  
&  
Senior Fellow, Global Economy and  
Development  
The Brookings Institution

John W. McArthur is senior fellow and director of the Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution. He co-founded and co-chairs the [17 Rooms initiative](#), a new approach to catalyzing action for the Sustainable Development Goals. Outside of Brookings, he is also a senior adviser to the United Nations Foundation, a member of Policy Horizons Canada's Deputy Minister Steering Committee, and a member of the Novata ESG Advisory Council.

He was previously the chief executive officer of Millennium Promise Alliance, the international nongovernmental organization. Prior to that he served as the manager and then deputy director of the U.N. Millennium Project, Secretary-General Kofi Annan's independent advisory body mandated to recommend an action plan for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

McArthur grew up in Vancouver and is a Canadian citizen. He completed a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) at the University of British Columbia; a Master's in Public Policy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government; and then an M.Phil. and D.Phil. (Ph.D.) in economics at Oxford University, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar.

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Studies in Electrical Engineering, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)

Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral Engineer of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)

Founder of the company “FORTELER”

He has been dealing with the recycling sector for over 25 years, introducing the “recycling houses”, using high-tech automated recycling machines, in Greece, Cyprus and other countries.



**Panagiotis Mourgos**

Managing Director  
Texan S.A.

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**Charles P. Ries**

Adjunct Senior Fellow  
Rand Corporation

M.A. and B.A. in international affairs, Johns Hopkins University.

Ambassador (Ret.) Charles Ries is an adjunct senior fellow at the RAND Corporation. His research focuses on the economics of development, trade, transatlantic, and Middle East affairs. Previously, Ries served as vice president, International at RAND (2012–2020). Earlier, while on a leave of absence from RAND, Ries served as executive vice president of the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund. Prior to RAND, Ries was a foreign service officer, serving as ambassador to Greece, principal deputy assistant secretary for European Affairs, and in other postings. At RAND, Ries has led projects on the economic and political effects of Brexit, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and national security decisionmaking, among others.

During Ries' three decades in the U.S. diplomatic service he served as U.S. ambassador to Greece (2004–2007), and principal deputy assistant secretary of State for European Affairs (2000–2004). Ries oversaw economic sections at U.S. Embassy London and the U.S. Mission to the European Union. He served as deputy assistant U.S. trade representative for North American Affairs and was a member of the NAFTA negotiating team.

Ries is the recipient of the State Department's Cordell Hull Award for Senior Economic Officers, the Distinguished Honor Award, Presidential Meritorious Service Award, the Rockwell Schnabel Award for U.S.-EU Relations, and several Superior Honor Awards. For his service in Iraq, he received the Department of the Army's Outstanding Civilian Service Award. He is a member of the Academy of American Diplomacy. He has an M.A. and B.A. in international studies from Johns Hopkins University.

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**Konstantinos Skrekas**

Minister

Ministry of Development

Minister of Development Konstantinos Skrekas comes from Megarhi, Administrative District of Trikala, he is married and the father of two children.

He holds a Degree in Civil Engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (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 Greek General Elections of May the 6th 2012 he was elected Member of the Hellenic Parliament (MP) for the Constituency of Trikala with the New Democracy Party. He was re-elected on June 17th of the same year. On the 25th of January 2015 he was elected Member of the Hellenic 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 the 20th September of the same year.

In the General Elections of July 7th 2019, he was elected Member of the Hellenic Parliament for the Constituency of Trikala. He was appointed Minister of Development and Competitiveness from October 2014 until February 2015. On the 9 th July 2019, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Food, with the specific responsibility for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), until January 4th, 2021. On the 5 th January 2021, he was appointed Minister of Environment and Energy until May 25th, 2023. In the national elections of 25th May 2023, he received the largest number of electoral votes among candidates from all political parties in the Constituency of Trikala. Since the 27th June 2023, Kostas Skrekas has assumed the duties of Minister of Development. He speaks English and French.

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**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 cooperation 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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## David Stainforth

Professorial Research Fellow  
The Grantham Research Institute,  
London School of Economics and Political  
Science (LSE) &  
Honorary Professor in the Department of  
Physics  
University of Warwick

Prof. David Stainforth is a Professorial Research Fellow in the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and an Honorary Professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Warwick. He studied physics at Oxford University and later received his Doctorate on climate predictions from the same university. In between he obtained an MSc in “Energy Systems and Environmental Management” from Glasgow Caledonian University, and worked for a number of years as a renewable energy consultant.

He has extensive experience of computer models of the climate system and with Prof. Myles Allen he founded the *climateprediction.net* project: a public-resource, distributed-computing project which has engaged hundreds of thousands of people worldwide with the challenges of climate modelling. More recently, at LSE, he has pursued research on climate economics, climate modelling, the philosophy of climate science, and climate decision-making under deep uncertainty.

He has published over 80 influential academic papers - several in journals such as *Nature* and *Nature Communications*. His new book, “Predicting Our Climate Future” discusses how to separate robust conclusions from more speculative research on climate change, and how to link physical understanding of climate with economic assessments and policy development.



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## Gregory Stamatopoulos

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
Export Credit Greece S.A. (ECG)

Gregory Stamatopoulos is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Export Credit Greece S.A. (ECG). He is a graduate of the Saint - Michel Jesuit College in Brussels. He holds a degree in Investment & Financial Risk Management, in Business Administration and postgraduate studies in International Business Economics and a MBA. He also holds an Executive Management Certificate in Business Strategy in the era of Digital Transformation (MIT).

With more than 20 years of experience in the private sector in companies such as E&Y, PwC, Eurobank, etc., he was the co-founder of a start-up company, raising funds from Greek and foreign investors. He has also been a member of Boards of Directors in companies in Greece and abroad.

He has many years of experience in finance, financial engineering, restructuring, project finance and mergers & acquisitions and several projects for reorganization and implementation of ERP systems.

He was included in the list of Fortune magazine "40 under 40" in 2015, 2016 and 2018, he is married and has a child.

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## Benjamin Todd

Vice President for Global Business  
Development  
Export-Import Bank of the United States  
(EXIM)

Benjamin Todd is the Vice President for Global Business Development at the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM).

In this capacity, Ben is responsible for the overall function of the office as well as early stage transaction development, marketing and outreach efforts to potential EXIM clients, globally. Prior to EXIM, Ben was Principal Business Development and Acting Head of Office, North America, at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) where he provided early transaction development, education, and outreach to North American clients looking to invest in EBRD regions resulting in nearly €150 million in transactional development.

Prior to EBRD, Ben worked on the EMEA portfolio at EXIM where he brought in nearly \$4 billion of transactions for the bank.

Ben has a master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University and a bachelor's degree from Trinity College, Hartford.

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**George J. Tsunis**

U.S. Ambassador  
to the Hellenic Republic

George James Tsunis presented his credentials to the President of the Hellenic Republic on May 10, 2022. He was nominated by President Biden and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 10, 2022.

Ambassador Tsunis is the proud Greek-American son of immigrants to the United States, with deep roots in the village of Platanos in the beautiful mountainous region of Nafpaktia. Growing up, his parents instilled in him the Hellenic ideals of καλοσύνη (goodness), αγάπη (love), and above all, φιλότιμο (the love of honor). He learned Greek as his first language. Deeply engaged with the Greek-American community, Ambassador Tsunis was a founding trustee of the Hellenic American Leadership Council, and is a trustee of the Hellenic Initiative among other roles.

Prior to his nomination, Ambassador Tsunis was the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Chartwell Hotels, LLC. He served as Chairman of Battery Park City Authority. He was also a Trustee for the New York City Convention Development Corporation and the New York City Convention Operating Corporation and helped manage a 1.5 million square foot expansion of the New York Convention Center, transforming it into one of the world's most modern and beautiful convention centers. Ambassador Tsunis served as the chairman of the Nassau University Medical Center, a large public safety net hospital with a focus on providing care to vulnerable communities.

Previously, Ambassador Tsunis was a Counsel and Partner (Attorney of Law), at Rivkin Radler LLP, Uniondale, NY, and Legislative Attorney, New York City Council. He served as Counsel for Dix Hills Water District, Dix Hills, NY and Town of Huntington Committee on Open Space Preservation, Huntington, NY.

Ambassador Tsunis earned a B.A. from the New York University, New York, NY and a J.D. from St John's University of Law, Queens, NY. He was an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Order of Saint Andrew), the highest ecclesiastical honor that can be bestowed upon a layman by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Harry Chapin Humanitarian Award for Long Island Cares and the lifetime achievement award for civic engagement for Long Island Business News. Ambassador Tsunis is married and has three children.



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**Tankut Turnaoğlu**

Chair

Amcham Turkey

CEO/Senior Vice President

P&G Turkey & Caucasus and Central Asia

Tankut Turnaoğlu is the CEO/Senior Vice President of P&G Turkey & CCAR since March 2013. He started his career as an Assistant Brand Manager in 1991 in P&G Turkey and since then he held various positions like Country Manager of Central Asia and Caucasus in Kazakhstan, Fabric Care Marketing Director of Central and Eastern Europe in Brussels, Fabric Care General Manager of Asia and Australia region in Singapore.

Giving a lot of importance to building self-confidence among children and youngsters through sports, he led Olympic Moms movement program for encouraging children to engage in sports at early ages for their development.

As a strong believer of innovative ideas in business, corporate citizenship and work culture, Turnaoğlu led P&G Turkey's Office Move Project. The office is created under his leadership based on the career and personal development needs of Generation Y employees.

Turnaoğlu is especially engaged in the creation of corporate start-up atmosphere within P&G. He initiated an internal P&G team building partnerships with start-ups and organizing start-up days & hackathons. He also represents P&G in Endeavor Turkey as a member of Board - supporting entrepreneurship ecosystem of Turkey region.

He is currently the Chair of ABFT Turkey (US AmCham - American Business Forum) and a board member of BCSD (Business Council for Sustainable Development Turkey) and Fenerbahçe Sports Club Association, as well as a member of TUSIAD (Turkish Industry and Business Association) and has been in the Board of YASED (International Investors Association) for 3 terms. He is also in the High Advisory Board of Darussafaka Foundation, Boğaziçi University and Fenerbahçe University.

Turnaoğlu received his bachelor's degree from Boğaziçi University in Business Administration and completed a master's degree with honors in International Marketing at the University of Massachusetts, where he was a scholarship student. Tankut is married and has three children.