

Friday, September 4, 2026
Met Hotel | Thessaloniki, Greece



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10TH SOUTHEAST EUROPE ENERGY FORUM

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SPEAKER BIOS

By alphabetical order



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KOSTAS ANDRIOSOPOULOS

*Chair, Energy Committee, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AmChamGR)
Academic Director, HELLENiQ ENERGY Center for Sustainability and Energy @Alba Graduate
Business School, ACG, and Affiliate Professor, Finance & Energy Management*

Professor Dr. Kostas Andriosopoulos is the Academic Director of the HELLENiQ ENERGY Center for Sustainability and Energy at Alba Graduate Business School, The American College of Greece, and Affiliate Professor of Finance and Energy Management. He previously held academic positions at Audencia Business School in France as Full Professor and Founding Director of the Energy Transition & Sustainability Center, and at ESCP Business School, where he was Academic Director of energy management programs and Founding Executive Director of the Energy Management Centre. He has published over 50 peer-reviewed papers in leading journals, including Energy Economics, the Journal of Banking & Finance, and Energy Policy, and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Energy Markets. Kostas chairs the Energy Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and sits on the boards of the Global Gas Center of the World Energy Council and the Hellenic Association for Energy Economics, which he founded. He has organized major international energy forums, including Greece's flagship Energy Transition Symposium and the Southeast Europe Energy Forum. Kostas has served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of DEPA (2014–2015 and 2019–2021), Senior Advisor to the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, and Head of the Decarbonisation Fund of the Greek Islands. He contributed to national legislation on e-mobility and represented Greece in climate diplomacy at COP28 and COP29. In the corporate sector, he served as CEO of Akuo Energy Greece until July 2026. He is also Co-founder and CEO of Deeprunner.ai, a Silicon Valley-based AI solutions company.





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ISTVÁN-LÓRÁNT ANTAL

Senator, President of the Committee on Energy, Energy Infrastructure and Mineral Resources, Parliament of Romania

István-Lóránt Antal has been a Senator of the Romanian Parliament since 2018 elected in Harghita County representing the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR). He chairs the Committee on Energy, Energy Infrastructure and Mineral Resources. He is also a member of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Industry and Services and the Committee on Budget, Finance, Banking and Capital Market. His parliamentary work focuses on energy policy and security, energy infrastructure and regional interconnections, mineral resources, nuclear energy, energy markets and consumer protection. Mr. Antal has extensive professional experience in the energy and business sectors, having founded and managed companies active in renewable energy development, consultancy and financing, as well as regional development programmes. He has also been actively involved in initiatives aimed at improving energy consumer protection and transparency. In 2023, he joined the Romanian Parliament's Special Committee supporting Romania's accession to the OECD.





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THEODORA ANTONAKAKI

Director, Climate Change and Sustainability Centre (CCSC), Bank of Greece (BoG)

Theodora Antonakaki, Director of Bank of Greece's Climate Change and Sustainability Centre, is coordinating BoG's work on climate, sustainability and research at the Climate Change Impacts Study Committee and representing BoG at the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System and at the Eurosystem Climate Change Forum, where she has been appointed Chair for a two-year term (2025-2026). She has worked as an advisor on sustainability and socioeconomic impact, and has lectured at several universities, including Syracuse and Stirling. Her work has received awards from Europa Nostra and Denmark's Foreign Ministry, and she has been awarded the rank of Chevalier in the French National Order of Merit for her contributions to climate and sustainability.





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ELENI BAIRAMI

Managing Director, ECO Hellas

Eleni Bairami is the owner and Managing Director of ECO Hellas, one of the fastest-growing companies in the Renewable Energy Sector in Greece. Focusing on solar energy, biogas, gasification and circular economy, Eleni has developed, constructed, operated more than 2 GW of renewable energy projects with over 280 million of investment value. Currently she is collaborating with multinational RES conglomerates in a series of projects in Greece and in the Region of Southeastern Europe. Eleni studied Physics majors and Mathematics in Wolfgang - Goethe University Frankfurt / Main Germany, while she started her career in the German Bank sector in Frankfurt/Main. She continued her career in the RES private sector by working in executive positions in the biggest German biogas and biomethane construction company MT Energie/ MT Biomethan (today HITACHI ZOSSEN INOVA) where she gained experience in projects in several countries such as Germany, France, UK, South and North America, South Korea, Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Latvia, and Greece. Eleni focuses on constantly following recent developments in the sector, thus maintaining cutting-edge knowledge of the developments and challenges in the Renewable Energy industry. Given her academic background in physics and mathematics, she has the ability to function seamlessly in a highly technical environment, while maintaining the required business perspective, thus providing a 360o approach to complex issues regarding the energy sector. And at the same time, she can communicate specific details related to the operation and management of projects, thus approaching a broad range of audiences and business partners.





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SANJA BOZHINOVSKA

Minister of Energy, Mining and Mineral Resources, North Macedonia

Sanja Bozhinovska has served as Minister of Energy, Mining and Mineral Resources of the Republic of North Macedonia since June 2024. She brings over two decades of international experience in the energy sector, combining expertise in energy markets, strategic investments, and public policy with a strong commitment to advancing sustainable development and regional cooperation. As Minister, she is leading North Macedonia's energy transition through an ambitious reform agenda focused on strengthening energy security, accelerating renewable energy deployment, modernizing critical infrastructure, and aligning national legislation with the European Union's energy and climate acquis. Her work also emphasizes a just energy transition, supporting the transformation of coal-dependent regions, creating new opportunities for green investment and employment, and fostering innovation across the energy sector. Before entering public office, Minister Bozhinovska held senior positions in multinational energy companies across Europe, where she specialized in energy investments, strategic planning, and cross-border energy initiatives. She also worked as an independent energy consultant, advising governments and private-sector stakeholders on energy policy, market development, and long-term strategic planning. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Anglo-American University in Prague and a Master's degree in International Business from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. Throughout her career, she has actively contributed to the development of energy policies and reform processes while advocating for greater inclusion and female leadership in the energy sector. Today, she continues to play a central role in positioning North Macedonia as a reliable regional partner committed to a resilient, low-carbon, and future-oriented energy system.





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KONSTANTINOS I. CHATZIFOTIS

Director, European Affairs, Motor Oil Group

Konstantinos I. Chatzifotis is Director of European Affairs at the Motor Oil Group (MOH), a Member of the Board of Directors of Hellenic Hydrogen, and an attorney admitted to the Athens Bar Association (since 2005). He has held senior positions at the European Commission and the European Parliament and has served as Special Advisor on International and European Affairs and EU Funding to ministries of the Greek Government. He has also worked as an external expert on EU funding for ministries, regional and local authorities, providing strategic planning, development, promotion, and management of EU co-funded programmes. In addition, he has participated as a legal expert in international ICT projects. He holds a DES in European Union Law from the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium, an LL.M. in ICT Law from KU Leuven, Belgium, and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.





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MICHAEL DAMIANOS

Minister, Ministry of Energy, Commerce & Industry, Cyprus

Michael Damianos was appointed Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry on 8 December 2025. He had previously served, since 10 January 2024, as Minister of Health. He is a lawyer and studied Law (LLB) at the University of Southampton, from where he graduated with honours and received the best academic performance award. He holds a Master of Laws (LLM), specialised in International Law, awarded by the University of Cambridge. He received the best academic performance award by the Fitzwilliam College of the University of Cambridge. He holds the professional title of Solicitor, granted by the Supreme Court of England and Wales. He worked at the international law firms of Simmons & Simmons and Hogan Lovells in London, specialised in corporate, commercial and energy matters. Upon his return to Cyprus, he worked at a law firm in Nicosia and in 2010 he founded his own law firm, which bears his name. He served as a Municipal Councillor at Strovolos Municipality (2011-2016). Since 2018, he is the Vice President of Democratic Party (DIKO). Mr Damianos was born in Archangelos, Lefkosia. Originally, he comes from Polystypos, Larnaka. He is married and has two children.





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MINAS DIACAKIS

Principal Engineer – Technology Europe, ABS

Minas Diacakis is a graduate of Southbank University, with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and Cranfield University with a Masters Degree in Energy Systems & Thermal Process and a Ph.D. in Performance and Diagnostics of Fuel Cells and Gas Turbine cycles. Before joining American Bureau of Shipping, he was employed as an engineer and sustainability consultant in a diverse number of positions in energy and safety related projects. Since 2022 he has been a member of ABS's Technology Europe team, involved in fuel cell, hydrogen, ammonia and nuclear technology related projects, with a focused engagement in the risk analysis. Further, he represents American Bureau of Shipping in the IACS Safe Decarbonisation Panel, a working group dedicated to the safe implementation of novel technologies in the Maritime Industry.





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KONSTANTINOS ELEFThERiADiS

Partner, Energy, Resources and Industrials Industry Leader – Sustainability Leader, Deloitte

Konstantinos Eleftheriadis is the Energy, Resources & Industrials Industry Leader and a Financial Advisory Partner at Deloitte Greece. He specializes in Financial Advisory, M&A Transactions and Forensic Services. With over 21 years of professional experience, Konstantinos' expertise has been instrumental in a range of sectors with special focus in the Energy & Resources market, both locally and internationally. Konstantinos specializes in services and areas like: transactions support, M&A assistance, feasibility studies, independent business reviews, liquidity, business and e-mobility plans, storage, gas and new fuels, and advice on Power Purchase Agreements, having provided such services for many Greek and international clients that are operating in Power generation, Renewables, Oil & Gas, Mining & Metals, Waste treatment, etc.





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GEORGE FINTIKAKIS

Journalist, Euro2day

Professional Profile

He has been covering the energy sector for nearly 20 years. He currently reports on energy for the financial news website Euroday and the specialized platform Energypress. He previously held a long-term position at TA NEA and served as Director of Liberal.gr.

Education

Graduate of the Faculty of Architecture, La Sapienza University.

Skills & Languages

Fluent in English and Italian.

Personal

Married with two children.





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MARIA RITA GALLI

Chief Executive Officer, Aktor LNG

Maria Rita Galli is Chief Executive Officer of AKTOR LNG S.A., responsible for the LNG and natural gas activities of the AKTOR Group. She is an internationally experienced energy executive with more than 25 years of expertise in natural gas, LNG, energy infrastructure, and business development. Before joining AKTOR in 2026, she served as Chief Executive Officer of DESFA (Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator) from 2021 to February 2026, contributing to the development of Greece's strategic energy infrastructure and regional energy connectivity. Maria Rita Galli began her career in 1997 at Eni, where she held senior management positions in gas and LNG supply and trading, international business development, mergers & acquisitions, and management of international subsidiaries. In 2016, she joined Snam as Executive Vice President for Business Development and coordinated the acquisition of a 66% stake in DESFA through the SENFLUGA Energy Holdings consortium, formed by Snam, Enagás, and Fluxys. She subsequently served as Chairwoman and CEO of SENFLUGA before assuming the leadership of DESFA in 2021. She holds a master's degree in Nuclear Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Milan.





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ALEXANDROS GIANNIS

Chief Executive Officer, Engaia

Alexandros is the Founder and CEO of ECOERA Group, a London-based group of companies developing since 2006 in the industries of Cleantech, Healthcare and Hospitality. As an entrepreneur, he co-founded a number of market leading renewable energy companies including ENGAIA SA, ECOERA Renewables PC, ECOERA Capital Ltd, MECASOLAR Technologies SL and others. Since its foundation, the total operations of the Group in the sector have surpassed 600MW of Photovoltaic Projects in development, equipment production, distribution and construction. At the same time, the Group has commenced the investment in 550MWh Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) as well as a network of Ultra-High speed EV charging stations throughout Greece. He has also advanced the group operations towards the field of disruptive healthcare treatments by partnering in SOLARCANN SA and FLORALIS SA, two vertically integrated manufacturing facilities of Medical Cannabis products. Moreover, he has initiated operations related to the hospitality industry, namely ACROBAT Yachting PC, created under the same common values of responsible travel and green practices in tourism. Alexandros is a Chartered Civil Engineer and speaks Greek, English, Spanish and German.





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KIMBERLY ANN GUILFOYLE

Ambassador, U.S. Embassy to Greece

United States Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic Kimberly Ann Guilfoyle was sworn in on September 29, 2025 in Washington, DC. Ambassador Guilfoyle brings over two decades of experience in law, media, and national political advocacy. She began her career as a prosecutor in the San Francisco and Los Angeles District Attorney's Offices, where she handled serious felony cases including domestic violence, sexual assault, and homicide. In 2000, she was appointed Assistant District Attorney in San Francisco, earning recognition for her work on victims' rights and trial litigation. Her legal accomplishments laid the foundation for a national media career, most notably as a co-host of The Five on Fox News, where she provided legal and political commentary on issues ranging from constitutional law to foreign affairs. Ambassador Guilfoyle is a best-selling author, writing *Making the Case: How to Be Your Own Best Advocate*, and the delightful children's book, *The Princess and Her Pup*. Most recently she served as the founder and CEO of Polished Rice, Inc., and Managing Member of Metropolitan Medspa LLC and KGT Productions LLC. Beyond her legal and media work, Ambassador Guilfoyle has played a prominent role in national politics and public communications, having formerly served as a Senior Advisor to President Donald J. Trump and as National Chair, Trump Victory Finance Committee, Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. Originally from California, Ambassador Guilfoyle graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Davis and earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law. She currently resides in Florida and has one son, Ronan Villency. Ambassador Guilfoyle is the 25th resident U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic and the first woman to hold the role.





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STAVROS KALAFATIS

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Development and Investments

Stavros Kalafatis is the Deputy Minister of Development Responsible for Research and Innovation. Member of Parliament for A' Thessaloniki NEA DEMOKRATIA. He also served as Deputy Minister of Development (2007 -2009), Minister of Macedonia - Thrace (2009), Alternate Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (2012 - 2014), Deputy Minister of Interior Responsible for Macedonia - Thrace (2021 - 2023). He's been a member of the Greek Parliament since 2003. He's been reelected as a member of the Parliament in 2004, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2019 and 2023. He served as Secretary General of the ND Parliamentary Group (2019 - 2021 and 2023 - 2025) following a proposal by the Prime Minister and President of Nea Demokratia, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis. His political carrier started in 1998 when he was elected into the Municipal Council of Thessaloniki and sworn in as Deputy Mayor responsible for the Environment and the Green Belt in 1999. He served as special advisor of Communications and Public/International Relations to the Municipal Council of Thessaloniki (2000-December 2002). He was born in Thessaloniki in 1965. He's an Attorney at Law. He studied Law at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and continued his education receiving an MA in International Studies from the same institution in 1991. In 1994, he took a second MA from the University of Maryland, USA, in Sports Management. He worked as a Communications Manager for "Macedonia", one of the most popular newspapers in Greece. He was a Management and Communications Consultant of the soccer team PAOK. He also taught sports management at private colleges. He's married to Vicky Moisiadou with whom he has a daughter and a son.





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SOTIRIS KAPELLOS

Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, HELLENiQ RENEWABLES

Dr. Sotiris Kapellos is a Chemist and holds a PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Athens. He has extensive executive and management experience in large energy organizations. He held senior management positions at BP Hellas from 1993 to 2010 and served as Managing Director of BP Solar Greece. Since 2010, he has been working for the HELLENiQ ENERGY Group and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Board and CEO of HELLENiQ RENEWABLES. The company's renewable energy portfolio comprises 552 MW of operating and another 726 MW under-construction projects, with a strategic target of reaching 2 GW by 2030 in Greece and Southeastern Europe. He plays an active institutional role in the energy sector, having served for many years as President of the Hellenic Association of Photovoltaic Companies (HELAPCO). As of 2026, he is Vice President of the Hellenic Association of Energy Storage Systems (HAESS) and Chairman of the Energy Committee of the Hellenic-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce.





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VASSILIS KARAMOUZIS

General Manager, Corporate and Investment Banking, National Bank of Greece (NBG)

Vassilis Karamouzis (born 1977) was appointed General Manager of Corporate and Investment Banking in February 2020. He joined NBG in September 2017, as Assistant General Manager of Corporate and Investment Banking. He worked for eight years (2009-2017) at HSBC in various managerial positions: he started at HSBC in Greece as Head of Global Market Sales and Debt Capital Markets for Greece and Cyprus. Later on he moved to HSBC in London, where he worked as Head of Structured Finance Origination for Southern Europe and Capital Financing for Greece and Cyprus, and, finally, as Managing Director, Member of EMEA Financing Management and Head of Investment Banking Greece and Cyprus. He started his professional career in 2001 at Deutsche Bank in London, where he stayed until mid-2009. Initially he worked in Hedge Fund Sales, while in the period 2006-2009 he held the position of Head of FX and Commodities Sales for Greece and Middle East. Vassilis Karamouzis holds an MSc in Finance from Birkbeck College, University of London and a bachelor degree of Economics from the University of Piraeus.





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JOHN KARYDAS

Chief Executive Officer, Renewables and Battery Storage Business Unit, Copelouzos Group

John Karydas is the Chief Executive Officer of the Renewables and Battery Storage Business Unit of Copelouzos Group. He is the Managing Director or an Executive Member of the Board of major companies of the Group developing and operating RES, energy storage and electrical interconnection projects. He is also the Managing Director of the company developing the electrical interconnection between Greece and Egypt project (GREGY). Prior to joining Copelouzos Group, he held senior and commercial positions in Greek and multinational companies. He received an M.B.A. degree from Bath University in the UK, an M.Sc. in Computing Science from Oxford University and a B.Sc. (with First Class Honors) in Computer Science with Mathematics from London University. He is a graduate of Athens College.





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GEORGE LAGIOS

Country Manager-Greece, National Energy

George joined National Energy in 2019 as one of the company's first employees and played a pivotal role in establishing and developing its operations in Greece. Since joining, he has led the growth and implementation of the company's portfolio across multiple acquisition and development stages, taking projects through financing and construction. He has been instrumental in arranging more than €450 million bank debt and leveraging the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) across six transactions. George currently oversees an operational portfolio of wind and solar PV assets with an aggregate capacity of 385MW while assuming responsibility for key corporate matters and for fostering a culture of operational excellence across the company's systems and processes. Prior to joining National Energy, George held roles at Engie UK, SSE and Ingenious Group, where he worked within the UK Alternative Investment Fund team. George holds a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Patras, Greece, and an MSc from Imperial College London, UK.





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DESPINA PALIAROUTA

Secretary General for Energy & Mineral Resources Ministry of Environment & Energy

Mechanical Engineer with many years of experience in project management, mainly in the production and supply chain sectors. Ms. Paliarouta has served as head of the design, development, and implementation of projects within a Strategic Portfolio of 11 pillars in one of the country's largest industries, developing expertise in Negotiation, Change, Team, and Resource Management. She has also worked as Operations Manager at Amazon UK distribution centers. Combining her professional experience with her passion for entrepreneurship, she founded her own business in the medical sector. She previously held the position of Secretary General for Transport at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, overseeing, among other areas, urban transport, electromobility, road safety, transport interconnectivity, and sustainable and safe mobility. Effective July 2025, she assumed the position of Secretary General for Energy and Mineral Resources at the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Ms. Paliarouta completed her studies at the National Technical University of Athens in 2011. She holds a Master's degree from Imperial College London as well as an MBA from the Athens University of Economics. She is married and has two children





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IOANNIS PANIARAS

Executive Director Europe, Titan Cement Group

Ioannis Paniaras studied Civil Engineering at Imperial College (BSc, MSc) and Business Administration at INSEAD (MBA). He started his career at Knight Piésold, an international mining and engineering consultancy headquartered in London. Between 1998 and 2015, he held senior management positions in Greece and Germany in S&B Industrial Minerals Group and – in 2015 – in its new parent company, Imerys. He concluded his term there as vice-president of the former S&B Division and managing director of S&B Industrial Minerals S.A. In January 2016, he joined TITAN Group, where he has led, since 2020, its European business as well as Group Sustainability. From 2016 to 2021 he served as chair of the Business Council for Sustainable Development of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV). Since 2022, he has served on the board of Quest Holdings S.A. as an independent non-executive director and chair of its board sustainability committee.





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SPIROS PAPAETHIMIOU

President, Hellenic Association for Energy Economics

Professor, Technical University of Crete

Affiliate Professor, ESCP Europe Business School, London

Spiros Papaefthimiou is the Director of the Industrial, Energy and Environmental Systems Lab and he is specialized in renewables, energy efficiency issues and energy saving applications. His research interests include various aspects of renewables (assessment and implementation of technologies and especially photovoltaics and solar thermal systems, implementation of national policies related to renewables and financial and social incentive schemes, renewable energy heating and cooling applications, renewable energy auctions and market exchange, Life Cycle Assessment and environmental impacts analysis from largescale deployment of renewable energy technologies); Sustainability in the energy sector; Energy saving devices; Technologies of "smart" materials for energy related applications; Energy characterization of building structural elements. As part of his academic work he has published more than 70 papers in international peer-reviewed journals and has been cited more than 3800 times, with a current h-index of 35; additionally, he has actively participated in more than 50 research projects. He has presented papers to numerous international energy related conferences and acted as referee for international journals in the area of Renewables, Energy efficiency and Energy policy, while on the same time he has served as member in various professional and academic associations such as the International Association for Energy Economics and the International Solar Energy Society. Additionally he has provided lectures and supervised MSc theses in various academic institutions including ESCP London, EADA Spain and Montpellier Business School. Spiros is the President of the Hellenic Association for Energy Economics. Spiros is member of the top 2% of the world's top scientists for years 2022-2024 in the field of Energy, according to the "World's Top 2% Scientists" ranking published by Stanford University.





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STAVROS PAPASTAVROU

Minister, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece

Stavros N. Papastavrou is the Minister of Environment and Energy. He served as a Minister of State from June 2023 to March 2024. He is an attorney-at-law, with postgraduate studies at Harvard Law School, Harvard University. He has worked for more than three decades as a legal advisor in the private sector, specialized in corporate law and capital markets, both in Washington D.C. and Athens. He was appointed as Head of the Prime Minister's Office of European Affairs and International Relations and served as chief negotiator of the Greek state with the European partners and the International Monetary Fund, in 2012-2015. He served as Secretary of International Relations and the European Union of New Democracy Party (2004-2012). He was elected Chairman of the Student Organization of the European People's Party (EDS), Chairman of DEMYC (Democrat Youth Community of Europe, 1997-2001), he was a founding member of the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP) and a member of the Political Council of the European People's Party. He was born on 23 July 1967, to Nikos and Fani Papastavrou. He is married to Mari Agaliotou and has two children, Nikolas and Fenia. Stavros N. Papastavrou, attorney-at-law, graduated from Athens College with the top performance in his class. He is a graduate of the University of Athens Law School with the highest marks of his year (1990, Valedictorian), and with postgraduate studies in International, European and International Economic Law at Harvard Law School, Harvard University (LLM 1992, SJD candidate 1994-1996), from which he graduated with honors degree, as a scholarship recipient of the State Scholarship Foundation. In 1996 he joined the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson LLP in Washington, D.C., where he specialized in international finance and commercial law.



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STAVROS PAPASTAVROU - CONTINUED

Minister, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece

In 1997, he returned to Greece and joined the law firm Zepos & Giannopoulos, initially as an associate, later becoming a partner, serving as the head of the Capital Markets, Banking, and Finance Group. He led a large number of privatizations, mergers, and acquisitions involving both listed and non-listed Greek companies, as well as other international business transactions and investments, such as the acquisition of a minority stake in Emporiki Bank by Credit Agricole and the listing of Cosmote on the Athens Stock Exchange. From 2008 to 2012, he was a partner at the law firm Seisoglou, Papastavrou, Papadaki. He has served as legal advisor to several multinational companies, and in recent years he has been practicing law as the Managing Partner of the law firm Stavros N. Papastavrou & Co, where he has currently suspended his legal status. Minister of State from June 2023 to March 2024, with primary responsibilities including supporting the Prime Minister's initiatives aimed at ensuring government unity and coherence of governmental work, shaping the government's strategic planning, promoting good legislation, attracting flagship investments, overseeing long-term planning, and coordinating the Mechanism for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He led the negotiations with the Greek State's European partners and the International Monetary Fund (2012-2015), as Head of the Office for European Affairs and International Relations of the Prime Minister's General Secretariat. He also served as coordinator of the Greek-German Partnership. He was Secretary of International Relations and European Union of the New Democracy Party (2004-2012), Member of the Political Council of the European People's Party (EPP) and was selected as a candidate Member of the European Parliament in the European elections in 1999 and 2009 by the President of the New Democracy Party. In the 1990s, he served as Secretary of International Relations and European Union of ONNED, of DAP-NDFK, as well as an elected member of the Central Committee of ONNED. In the same decade he also served as elected Chairman of DEMYC (Democrat Youth Community of Europe, 1997-2001), Chairman of EDS (European Democrat Students, 1989-1991), founding member of the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP), and Deputy Chairman of IYDU (International Young Democrat Union, 1997-2000).



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GEORGE PECHLIVANOGLU

*Deputy CEO, Innovation & Strategic Intelligence, Eunice Energy Group
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Joltie*

Dr. George Pechlivanoglou is a Mechanical Engineer holding a PhD from the Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin), with specialization in the aerodynamic flow control of wind turbine blades. He brings over 20 years of experience in the wind energy sector, with a focus on R&D, system design, and the implementation of international renewable energy projects. He has further complemented his academic background with the completion of the AI and Machine Learning: Leading Business Growth Program at MIT Professional Education. Since 2017, he has held executive positions at Eunice Energy Group, currently serving as Deputy CEO – Innovation & Strategic Intelligence. In this role, he drives the strategic vision for innovation, overseeing the development of advanced energy projects and products, the management of technical teams, and the coordination of international partnerships. As of June 2025, he also assumed the position of Chairman and CEO of Joltie, a Eunice Group subsidiary specializing in e-mobility solutions. Previously, he served as Technical Director of SMART BLADE GmbH, Head of the Wind Energy Research Group at TU Berlin, and CTO of Blink Charging Hellas. He is the creator of QBlade, the internationally recognized open-source software for wind turbine design. He holds several international patents in wind energy technology and has led or contributed to more than 100 scientific publications. His work has been recognized by institutions such as ASME and Elsevier, and he has served as Chair of the ASME Wind Energy Committee. He is also a member of BWE and VDI.





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DIMITRIOS PEFANIS

Journalist, Manager, CNN Greece

Dimitrios Pefanis is the Manager of CNN Greece. He has worked as a journalist in Greece and the United States, covering the fields of technology, finance and new media and for the last 15 years holds administrative positions in Greece's largest news-sites. He studied Communication and Mass Media at Panteion University and obtained his Master's Degree in New Media Journalism from Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts. In 2012 he received Citigroup's Journalistic Excellence Award and has taught Digital Marketing at the HellenicAmerican Union.





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IVA PETROVA

Minister, Ministry of Energy, Bulgaria

Iva Petrova has extensive professional experience in the energy sector, with a background in both public administration and the corporate environment. She began her professional career in 2000 at the Ministry of Energy, where she advanced to the position of Director of “Energy Markets and Restructuring” in 2008. Subsequently, from February 2009 until the end of June 2010, she served as Director of “Projects and Investments” at the Bulgarian Energy Holding. Ms. Petrova has also worked in the private sector as a partner in a management consulting company advising energy and utility companies in the region. Since September 2021, she has served as Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Energy, responsible for markets, strategy, reforms, and investments under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan in the areas of integration and utilization of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, infrastructure, and market liberalization. As Deputy Minister, she oversaw the participation in the decision-making process at EU level and chaired Working Group 14 “Energy.” Since 2000, Ms. Petrova has been a part-time Assistant Lecturer at the Faculty of Economics at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, where she currently teaches courses on the management and marketing of energy and utility companies within Master’s degree programs. Holds a Master’s degree in Economics and Management from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. She has also completed a postgraduate qualification program at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom. In addition, she has completed specialization programs in Hungary, Japan, and Belgium. Fluent in English and speaks Italian.





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MARINA PROTONOTARIOU

Journalist, Mononews.gr

Marina Protonotariou is a Greek journalist specializing in energy, business and sustainability, with extensive knowledge of developments in the energy sector and particularly of the key issues shaping energy security, infrastructure and regional markets in Southeast Europe. She has covered major energy developments through reporting, on-site coverage, interviews and the moderation of high-level discussions with policymakers, executives and industry experts. From 2018 she covers the energy sector for mononews.gr, with a particular focus on natural gas and LNG, the Vertical Corridor, electricity markets, renewables, energy infrastructure and the energy transition. She has extensive experience in financial and business journalism and has previously worked for leading Greek media, including Kathimerini and Imerisia. She holds a degree in Mass Media and Communication from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and a Master's degree in Quality Journalism and New Technologies.





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GEOFFREY PYATT

*Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources
Senior Managing Director, Energy and Critical Minerals Practice*

Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt is a Senior Managing Director of the Energy and Critical Minerals practice at McLarty Associates, and a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center. He held a variety of senior leadership positions across a distinguished 35-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service. As Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources (2022-2025), he was the U.S.'s chief energy diplomat, leading U.S. diplomacy to mobilize international support for Ukrainian energy resilience and counter Russian weaponization of its energy resource. Amb. Pyatt also led negotiations with U.S. allies on energy security partnerships and critical mineral agreements. Amb. Pyatt served as Ambassador to Greece (2016-2022) across the Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations and was U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine (2013-2016). Earlier in his career, Amb. Pyatt was the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs as well as Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Mission to International Organizations in Vienna, Austria, where he represented the United States before the IAEA. Amb. Pyatt was nominated to Career Ambassador — the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service — and is the recipient of numerous federal honors, including the Presidential Meritorious Service Award and Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award. He serves in several corporate advisory roles, including the Excelerate Energy International Advisory Board, the U.S.-India Business Council Board of Directors, and the Business Executives for National Security Ambassadors Council and the Partnership to Address Global Emissions (PAGE) Advisory Council. Ambassador Pyatt also chairs the Advisory Council for DTEK, Ukraine's largest private energy company.





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KIRIL RAVNACHKI

Chief Executive Officer, Bulgartransz

Kiril Ravnachki has been elected as CEO of the Bulgarian gas transmission system operator Bulgartransgaz in August 2026. He is Member of the Management Board since February 2023 and has been CEO of the company also in the period from April 2024 to January 2025. Over the period from 2019 until the beginning of 2023, Mr. Ravnachki was the Executive Director of Balkan Gas Hub EAD – the operator of the Bulgarian gas exchange. In the period April-December 2024 he has been a Member of the Board of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG). Mr. Ravnachki was the Bulgarian representative in the ad-hoc Steering Board of the AggregateEU platform for the purchase of natural gas, created at the end of 2022 by the European Commission. Mr. Ravnachki holds double majors in Economics and Business Administration from the American University in Bulgaria.





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KATERINA SARDI

Country Manager and Managing Director, Energean Oil & Gas

Katerina Sardi joined Energean in 2021. She claims 25 years of experience as an energy expert. She started her career in energy consulting in London working on coal gasification to synthesis gas for Hitachi. She joined the Greek Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) in 2002 and in 2011 she became the Head of RAE's Energy Planning and International Affairs Department. Since 2015 she has been working as an energy expert, advising companies and consortiums on implementation of the overall EU legal and regulatory energy framework and claims not only specialized but also cross-sectional understanding of all aspects of EU energy and climate policy. Her scientific work has been published in archive journals and presented in peer reviewed conferences. She has contributed into several prominent technical assistance projects in the EU, Egypt, Turkey, and other countries. She has also been teaching postgraduate courses at Greek academic institutions for over a decade on topics related to climate change, emissions trading and numerical modelling of flows and turbulent combustion. Katerina holds a Ph. D. in Fluid Mechanics and Natural Gas Combustion for Power Production, Mechanical Engineering Department, Imperial College, London and a Dipl. Eng. Mechanical Engineering Department, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.





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MARIA SFERRUZZA

Chief Executive Officer, Desfa

Maria Sferruzza joined the energy industry in 1995 and began her career in the Oil & Gas Division of General Electric as a compressors application engineer and subsequently assumed roles of increasing responsibility in sales, commercial, and operational functions in both the United States and Italy. In 2011, she became Global Sales General Manager for GE Oil & Gas Services and in 2017 she was appointed GE Officer. Following the 2017 merger between General Electric's Oil & Gas Division and Baker Hughes, Mrs. Sferruzza took responsibility for the Global Service Business Unit and LNG segment strategy, reporting directly to the CEO of the Turbomachinery and Process Solutions division. In 2018, she moved to Asia as Senior Vice President for Asia Pacific within Baker Hughes' Global Operations structure, before returning to Italy in 2021 to join the Snam Group. She has also served as a non-Executive Director on the Board of Italgas, Italy's main gas distribution system operator, and as Chairwoman of Stogit, Snam subsidiary managing gas storages across Italy.





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ANDREAS SHIAMISHIS

Chief Executive Officer & Executive Board Member, HELLENiQ ENERGY

Mr. Shiamishis is Chief Executive Officer and Executive Board Member. He joined HELLENiQ ENERGY in 2005. Holds an Economics degree specializing in Econometrics, from the University of Essex and is a Fellow (FCA) member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). He began his career in 1989 with KPMG in London, specializing in banking and large multinational Groups before joining the international food and drink group DIAGEO in 1993, to assume senior Greek and European positions in Finance and Business development. During 1998-1999, he also worked for the development of the food sector business (Pillsbury) in Middle East and North Africa. Between 2000 and 2002, he worked as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Restructuring Officer in an ASE-listed high-tech company (part of LEVENTIS Group) and in 2003, he joined PETROLA HELLAS as Chief Financial Officer. After the legal merger and operational integration of PETROLA HELLAS with HELLENIC PETROLEUM, he was appointed as CFO of the new Group in 2005 and became a member of the Group's Executive Committee. In 2012, he assumed the responsibility for international subsidiaries. and he was Deputy CEO during the period 2014-2015 and 2017- 2019, when he became CEO. He is a founding member of the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) board of Corporate Governance and is also a member in a number of professional bodies including the Economic Chamber of Greece and ICAEW specialized faculties. Since 2020, he is elected in the BoD of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) and from 2021 until 2024 he was the President of the Business Council for Sustainable Development (SEV VIAN). Currently, he is the Vice President of the BoD of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises.





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KONSTANTINOS SIFNAIOS

Vice President & Managing Director, Gastrade S.A.

He began his career in 1987 at Mobil Oil Hellas as a Strategic Planning Analyst and continued at Mobil Oil International, taking on roles in the supply and trading sectors in London and Madrid. In 1997, he joined BP International, participating in the company's European restructuring. Returning to Greece in 2000, he became General Manager of Commercial Sales at BP Greece, a position he held until 2002, before continuing in BP's European supply chain until 2007. From 2007 to 2021, he worked at Copelouzos Group, initially as New Projects Manager and Gas Sales Commercial Manager, and later as the Group Energy Director in the Natural Gas sector. Since 2022, following the Final Investment Decision for the Alexandroupolis LNG Terminal Project, he has been the Managing Director of Gastrade S.A.





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DIMITRIS SKALKOS

Secretary General for International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece

Dimitris Skalkos was born in Athens in 1971. He graduated from the Department of Political Science and International Studies of Panteion University and holds a master's degree in International Relations from the University of Kent. Since 2004, he has been working for the Management Organization Unit of Development Programmes S.A. as an executive on the EU co-financed programmes. Mr Skalkos has served for several years as an adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy and Development. He has authored four books on political theory, economic reform and regional development and has published numerous research papers in academic journals. In the period 2019-2024, Mr Skalkos has served as General Secretary for Public Investments and Partnership Agreement at the Ministry of Development and Investments, a member of the Greek National Resilience and Recovery Plan Steering Committee, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Development Bank. He is currently serving as the Secretary General for International Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as the Chairman of Enterprise Greece SA.





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KATERINA SOKOU

Executive Director, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce USA

Katerina Sokou is the Executive Director of the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce USA. She is also a nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council, a Research Fellow at ELIAMEP, and a contributor columnist at Greek daily Kathimerini. Her research interests include international political economy, energy and geopolitics, trade and transatlantic relations. Based in the U.S. since 2012, she has been Washington D.C. correspondent for Kathimerini and SKAI TV, the inaugural Theodore Couloumbis Fellow on Greek American relations at ELIAMEP, a visiting scholar at GWU's *Elliott School of International Affairs*, and a member of the editorial board at the *European Institute*. She started her career in Greece as a financial reporter at *To Vima* and International Financial News editor at *Kathimerini*. Katerina studied History at the University of Ioannina and holds postgraduate degrees in International Studies from the University of Warwick and in Journalism from Columbia University, where she was a Knight-Bagehot Fellow in Economics and Business Journalism.





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ARISTOFANIS STEFATOS

Chief Executive Officer, HEREMA

Dr. Aristofanis Stefatos was appointed CEO of the Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company (HEREMA) in 2020, carrying extensive experience in senior and executive management positions in the hydrocarbons sector. From 2016 to 2020 he served as General Manager of Operations at M Vest Energy AS, and prior to that he was Director of Land Management and Technology at Atlantic Petroleum Norge. He is also a founding member of four Norwegian energy companies. Dr. Stefatos has worked in hydrocarbon exploration and drilling projects across Europe, North America, the Indian Ocean, West Africa, and Southeast Asia. During the course of his career, he has actively participated in the discovery of natural gas and oil deposits in the Norwegian Sea and the Barents Sea. Aristofanis Stefatos holds a PhD in Geology and Geophysics, a Master's degree in Environmental Oceanography, and a Bachelor's in Geology from the University of Patras.





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EFTHYMIOS TARTARAS

Head of Geoscience & Management Consultant, HEREMA

Dr. Efthimios Tartaras is the Head of Geoscience at the Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company (HEREMA). Specializing in hydrocarbon exploration and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), he carries extensive experience in senior management and business development positions in the Oil & Gas industry. In his various roles, Dr. Tartaras managed large multi-disciplinary teams working on G&G data integration and was responsible for global sales and marketing of multi-physics services—including software, data acquisition, processing and interpretation. Efthimios Tartaras holds PhD and Master's degrees in Geophysics from the University of Utah, with a specialization in 3D geophysical modelling and inversion, and a Bachelor's in Geology from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He has conducted research in advanced imaging and inversion algorithms for subsurface characterization and has worked on the modelling and interpretation of surface, borehole and airborne geophysical data for hydrocarbon, mineral and geothermal exploration.





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DIMITRIS THEOCHARIS

General Manager, MEL-Macedonian Paper Mills

President, Union of Greek Paper Mills

CEO, Thessaloniki Industrial Park

General Manager of MEL-Macedonian Paper Mills, President of the Union of Greek Paper Mills and C.E.O. of Thessaloniki Industrial Park. Retains a legal and business background both professionally and academically with a PhD in negotiations and dispute resolution. In addition to his professional activity, he has vast teaching experience and has also published books and articles in daily press and specialized publications. He has been a speaker at numerous events on commercial and industrial issues.





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MICHAEL THOMADAKIS

Chief Strategy & Development Officer, Desfa

Michael Thomadakis is the Chief Strategy & Development Officer of DESFA, member of the Board of GIE and of ENNOH, actively engaged in enhancing the routes of molecules toward energy transition. Before 2020, he was the Vice Chairman and Member of the Board of RAE from 2005 to 2015, member of the BoR of ACER, the CEER General Assembly, the Board of MEDREG, the Board of Appeal of ACER and Chairman of the Investment Group of the Energy Charter. He has extensive experience in the development of the gas regulatory framework of the Greek gas market, and deeply involved in corresponding developments in South East Europe, especially in the regulatory framework for several gas infrastructure projects related to the Southern Gas Corridor. Started his carrier in DEPA, were he worked as the contractual administrator of the Gas Procurement contracts from Russia (pipeline) and Algeria (LNG), the LNG transportation contracts, the development of underground gas storage, the derivation of transportation tariffs and on the establishment of the Gas Distribution Companies in Greece. He is a Mechanical Engineer of NTU Athens with a PhD from the same University. He is the author of more than 40 scientific papers and reports and invited lecturer in many events of the energy industry worldwide.





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THEODOROS TSAKIRIS

Professor-Director for International Affairs, IPTO

Dr. Theodoros Tsakiris is IPTO's Director for International Affairs. He is also Professor for Geopolitics & Energy Policy at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus, a position he has held since 2013. Before joining IPTO Dr. Tsakiris served as Coordinator of International Energy Policy & Energy Security at the office of four consecutive Greek Energy & Environment Ministers. Dr. Tsakiris also served as an alternate National Representative for Greece in the Executive Board of the East Med Gas Forum organization where he headed its first long-term strategy (LTS) group. Between 2022-2023 Professor Tsakiris was also appointed as the Coordinator of the Task Force for the Acceleration of E&P Hydrocarbon activities and served as member of the National Committee responsible for the Drafting of the Greek Hydrogen Strategy H2 (2021-2023). He has also coordinated the special expert groups of the Program Secretariat of *Nea Demokratia* which were responsible for the drafting of the government program for Energy in the periods 2016-2019 and 2022-2023.





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NICOLE VARNES

Chargé d'Affaires a.i., U.S. Embassy to North Macedonia

Nicole Varnes, a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service, assumed the role of Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the U.S. Embassy in Skopje, North Macedonia, in January 2026 after serving as Deputy Chief of Mission since August 2024. Over the course of her distinguished career, Ms. Varnes has led diverse teams and managed significant human and financial resources in support of U.S. foreign policy priorities. Her overseas assignments include postings in New Delhi, Doha, Warsaw, Kingston, Chisinau, and Moscow. In Washington, she has held key leadership roles, including Supervisory Post Management Officer for Southeast and Central Asia, Assistance Coordinator in EUR/ACE, Chief of Staff in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, PERT Special Assistant, and Post Management Officer for Afghanistan. Before joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Varnes served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Latvia, where she taught high school English. She holds a dual degree in Political Science and History from Gonzaga University and is the recipient of multiple State Department Superior Honor and Meritorious Honor Awards. Ms. Varnes is proficient in Macedonian, Russian, and Latvian. She is an enthusiastic supporter of sports, music, and animal welfare, and is a proud military “blue star” mother.





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PANTELIS VOGIATZIS

Commercial Lead, EnEarth

Dr. Pantelis Vogiatzis is the Commercial Lead at EnEarth, where he leads the commercial strategy and business development for pioneering carbon storage initiatives, including the flagship Prinos CO₂ Storage Project. With over 20 years of experience in the energy and environmental sectors, he brings deep expertise in regulatory and institutional affairs, corporate operations, compliance, and strategic planning. He leads market engagement, commercial model development, and strategic partnerships, ensuring alignment with EU regulatory standards and contributing to the acceleration of climate-neutral infrastructure. Before joining Energean and EnEarth, Dr. Vogiatzis held senior roles at Enaon (Italgas Group) and Attiki Natural Gas Distribution Company, where he directed regulatory and institutional affairs, regulatory compliance and corporate operations. Earlier in his career, he held key positions at Protergia (METLEN Group), where he led regulatory, institutional, and compliance strategies across energy generation and supply activities. Alongside his executive roles, he is a distinguished adjunct professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business, instructing regulatory compliance, energy policy and climate governance. His academic credentials include a Ph.D. in EU environmental law from the School of Law at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK), postgraduate degrees (MSc, DEA) in environmental law and policy from the University of Nottingham (UK) and the International University of Andalusia (Spain). He also holds an honours degree in environmental engineering from the University of Salford (UK) and the University of Waterloo (Canada).





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JOSHUA VOLZ

Special Envoy for Energy Integration, U.S. Department of Energy

Mr. Volz previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Europe, Eurasia, Africa and the Middle East in the Office of International Affairs. Prior to joining the agency, Mr. Volz led the Eastern Mediterranean team at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources and held numerous positions within the U.S. Department of Defense. He has served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Syria. Mr. Volz holds a B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science from Kalamazoo College, an M.S. in National Security Strategy and Resourcing from the National Defense University, and lectures at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies.

