

PROGRAMME - 8th GREEK-BRITISH SYMPOSIUM 2024
10-12 OCTOBER 2024, Thessaloniki, Greece

Global supply chains in an age of geo-political uncertainty – a South Eastern Europe perspective

DAY 1 – Thursday 10 October, evening only

19.00 - Welcome drinks

Venue: tbc

DAY 2 – Friday 11 October

Venue: Hyatt Regency Thessaloniki

10.00-10.30 Welcome

- **Stelios Angeloudis, Mayor, City of Thessaloniki (tbc)**
- **Costas Mitropoulos, Co-Chair, Greek-British Symposium**
- **Matthew Lodge, His Majesty's Ambassador to Greece**
- **Yannis Tsaousis, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the UK**

Introduction: Symeon Tsomokos, Delphi Economic Forum

10.30-11.00 OPENING PLENARY

Keynote Speakers:

- **GR Minister (tbc)**
- **UK Minister (tbc)**

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13.00 Session 1: STRATEGIC AND GEOPOLITICAL SUPPLY CHALLENGES

The pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war dislocated most supply chains around the world. Fuels, food, commodities, components, microchips and sub-systems came under a lot of pressure, constraining the production of final goods and pushing prices up. The more recent Gaza situation has also led to disruptions of trade flows through the Suez Canal. And the transition to net zero is bound to raise new challenges for the supply of raw materials and critical minerals. There is a strong geopolitical angle, reinforced by technology requirements, which calls for new sourcing and the reorganisation, reoptimisation and in some instances the protection of the supply chains, so as to minimise the risk of shortages, whilst total costs are contained. These will change the supply architecture of Europe and may also redraw the geopolitical lines around the globe. Should Europe exploit the new value-adding opportunities and manage and hedge the associated geopolitical risks in a coordinated manner with transnational agreements and alliances, or should countries address them on their own?

13.00-14.30 Informal lunch & networking**14.30-16.00 Session 2: SUPPLYING THE INDUSTRY**

European industry depends on imports of energy, raw materials, components and subsystems. As we are transiting to net zero, the dependence on critical minerals will also be growing. On shoring and vertical integration may tackle, at a significantly higher cost, part of the supply problem, but securely sourcing energy and raw materials will remain of tantamount importance. Changes of this magnitude will lead to shifts in industrial production across Europe, have a profound effect on employment, require a lot of capital and will definitely affect Europe's overall competitiveness. The UK and Greece, with a thinner industrial base, have different supply needs and export orientation and will undoubtedly develop different approaches. But in the broader European context, they must both reposition themselves vis a vis the new geopolitics and business opportunities and work together to exploit synergies.

16.00-16.30 Coffee Break**16.30-18.00 Session 3: SECURING AMPLE ENERGY**

The European way of living is totally dependent on ample energy being available at all times. Security of supply on the way to net zero is justifiably the prime concern. New sources of old energy, including nuclear, more renewables, transportation of energy from different sources, transmission and distribution infrastructure for the expansion of electrification, dense interconnectivity and the handling of CO₂ are the key issues facing all European countries. The investment required for new capacity and the upgrading of energy infrastructure is phenomenal and the cost of final energy is bound to go up, raising the question of affordability and of an adverse impact on GDP. The UK and Greece have so far made noticeable steps towards new energy. But, located at the extremities of the continent, their integration into a large and economically disciplined European energy market remains the key condition for security of supply and affordability.

19.00-20.00 Pre-dinner drinks**20.00-22.00 FORMAL DINNER**

DAY 3 – Saturday 12 October

Coffee will be available before session starts

10.00-11.30 Session 4: MOVING THINGS ABOUT AND THE ROLE OF GREECE

The reconfiguration of supply chains will lead to changes in the transportation industry. Longer routes, terminal points requiring expansion and upgrade, better integration of sea and land transport, and higher speeds of movement are the broad areas where new thinking is necessary. The revisiting of the transportation networks and their orientation, transport capacity building in sea and on land, expansion of ports and train yards/terminals and the shift to a new generation of fuels are the main practical and financial challenges. Connecting efficiently and effectively entry points and production facilities with demand distributed across Europe will not just be a technical but also a political feat, with the UK and Greece being amongst the main beneficiaries if it is accomplished.

11.30-12.00 Coffee Break**12.00-13.00****The Symposium Speech****13.00-13.30 Closing Remarks**

- **The Rt Hon Lord Maude of Horsham, Chairman, Francis Maude Associates LLP, Co-Chair, Greek-British Symposium**

13.30-15.00 Lunch (optional)