

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

19.00-21.00 Welcome drinks

Venue: *Hyatt Regency Thessaloniki Hotel*

Address: *13 klm Thessaloniki-Perea, 570 01 Thessaloniki*

Dress Code: *Smart Casual*

DAY 2 – FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER

Venue: *Hyatt Regency Thessaloniki Hotel*

Address: *13 klm Thessaloniki-Perea, 570 01 Thessaloniki*

Dress Code: *Smart Casual*

09.30 -10.00 *Arrival of Guests – Coffee/Tea*

10.00-10.30 **Welcome**

Stelios Angeloudis, Mayor, City of Thessaloniki

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 (*video*)

Introduction: **Symeon Tsomokos**, Delphi Economic Forum

10.30-11.00 **OPENING PLENARY**

Keynote Speakers:

Greek Minister, Hellenic Republic (tbc)

Mike Kane MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Minister for Aviation, Maritime & Security

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, critical minerals, components and energy. There is a strong geopolitical angle, reinforced by new technology requirements, which calls for the reorganisation, reoptimisation, and in some instances the protection, of the supply chains, so as to minimise the risk of shortages, whilst costs are contained. Such measures will change the supply architecture of Europe and will redraw the geopolitical lines around the globe. How should Europe position itself? Should it exploit the new value-adding opportunities and manage and hedge the associated geopolitical risks in a centrally coordinated manner with transnational agreements and alliances, or should European countries attack them on their own?

Moderator: Foivos Karzis, Journalist

Panellists:

Maria Damanaki, Advisor on Climate-Oceans; former EU Commissioner for Maritime & Fisheries

Rebecca Harding, Senior Research Fellow, British Foreign Policy Group

Konstantinos Bikas, Ambassador (ret), Int'l Business Director, Metlen Energy & Metals; fmr Head, Greek National Intelligence Service

Sean Edwards, Chairman, International Trade Forfeiting Association (ITFA) & Head of Legal EMEA at SMBC

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

European industry depends on imported energy, raw materials, components and subsystems. As we are transiting to net zero, the dependence on critical minerals and rare earths will also be growing. On-shoring and vertical integration may tackle, at a significantly higher cost, part of the supply problems, but securely sourcing all that is needed will remain of tantamount importance. Issues of this magnitude require a lot of capital to tackle them, and their outcome will definitely affect Europe's overall competitiveness. The UK and Greece have different supply needs and export orientations, but in the broader European context the question is how they will reposition themselves vis a vis the emerging business opportunities and how should they work together to exploit synergies?

Moderator: Elias Lekkos, Group Chief Economist and Head of Investment Strategy, Pireaus Bank

Panellists:

George Milonas, President & CEO, Alumil Group

Thras Moraitis, CEO, Serra Verde

Andreas Athanasopoulos, CEO, Olympia Group

Paul Stanley, CEO, Achilles

David Bailey, Professor of Business Economics, University of Birmingham

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, more renewables, transportation of energy from different sources, electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, 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 problem of affordability. Will the creation of a large and economically disciplined European energy market, in which the UK and Greece could be integrated, prove to be the key condition for security of supply and energy affordability?

Moderator: Costis Stambolis, Chairman & Executive Director, Institute of Energy for South-East Europe

Panellists:

George Alexopoulos, Deputy CEO, Helleniq Energy

Vassili Apostolopoulos, CEO, Athens Medical Group

Nick Butler, Visiting Professor & Chair King's Policy Institute, King's College

Pandelis Biskas, Professor, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Glen Suarez, Chairman, Knight Vinke Asset Management

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

Venue: Thessaloniki Officers' Mess

Address: Ethnikis Amynis St. 1, 546 21 Thessaloniki

Dress Code: Business Attire

Guest Speaker:

Misha Glenny, journalist and writer

Theme: Serbia's Lithium Treasure Trove – Solution or Problem?

DAY 3 – SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER

Venue: Hyatt Regency Thessaloniki Hotel

Address: 13 klm Thessaloniki-Perea, 570 01 Thessaloniki

Dress Code: Smart Casual

09.30 -10.00 Arrival of Guests – Coffee/Tea

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 sea and land transportation networks, the expansion of ports and train yards/terminals and the shift to a new generation of transportation fuels are the main practical and financial challenges. Connecting efficiently and effectively entry points and production facilities with demand across Europe will be a technical but also a political feat. How can Greece reinvent its role in supplying Europe by capitalizing on its geographical position?

Moderator: Alexia Tasouli, Diplomatic Correspondent

Panellists:

Ben Sheppard, Partner, PwC UK

Rania Ekaterinari, President of the Executive Committee & Vice-President of the Board, SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises

David Landsman, Former UK Ambassador to Greece, Executive Chair, British Expertise International and Senior Adviser, British Foreign Policy Group

George Achniotis, CFO, Navios Maritime Holdings

Nikos Vettas, Professor of Economics, Athens University; Director General, IOBE

11.30-12.00 Coffee Break

12.00-13.00 The Symposium Speech

Distinguished Speaker: (tbc)

Theme: tbd

13.00-13.30 Closing Remarks

Alberto Costa MP, Shadow Solicitor General, Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Greece, UK Parliament (*video*)

Representative, Greece-UK Friendship Group, Hellenic Parliament (tbc)

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

13.30-15.00 Lunch (*optional*)