AGENDA

GREEK-BRITISH SYMPOSIUM 2026

Redefining UK–Greece Relations

8–10 October 2026 | Athenian Riviera, Greece

www.greekbritishsymposium.com | #GreekBritishSymposium

Organised by

British Embassy Athens

ΠΡΕΣΒΕΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΛΟΝΔΙΝΟ
EMBASSY OF GREECE LONDON

DELPHI ECONOMIC FORUM

BRITISH COUNCIL

Sponsor

HELLENiQ ENERGY

Supporters

ELVALHALCOR
HELLENIC COPPER AND ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY S.A.

Milbank

PeopleCert

pwc

Official Air Carrier Sponsor

AEGEAN

Media Partner

KATHIMERINI

8-10 OCTOBER 2026, Athenian Riviera, Greece

Redefining UK-Greece Relations

DAY 1 – THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER

19.00-21.00 Welcome drinks

Venue: *Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso,* ***A & D BAR***
Address*: 10 Agiou Nikolaou Str. 166 71, Vouliagmeni, Greece*
Dress Code: *Smart Casual*

DAY 2 – FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

Venue: *Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso,* ***POSEIDON Room***
Address*: 10 Agiou Nikolaou Str. 166 71, Vouliagmeni, Greece*
Dress Code: *Smart Casual*

09.30 -10.00 *Registration – Coffee/Tea*

10.00-10.30 Welcome & Commemoration

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

Commemoration Video

Costas Mitropoulos, Co-Chair, Greek-British Symposium
The Rt Hon Lord Maude of Horsham, Co-Chair, Greek-British Symposium
Yannis Tsaousis, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the UK *(video message)*
Stephen Lillie CMG, His Majesty's Ambassador-designate to Greece

Mistress of Ceremonies*:* **Alexia Tasouli,** Diplomatic Correspondent, Naftemporiki TV

10.30 – 11.00 OPENING PLENARY

Keynote Speakers:
Harry Theoharis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic
General Dimitrios Choupis, Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13.00 Session 1: THE NEW GEOECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

Under President Trump's relentless action driven politics and the Iran war, the world order is changing fast, but it is also becoming fuzzier. Securing oil and gas, sourcing economic inputs, rerouting trade, strengthening energy connectivity and building new infrastructure are all manifestly critical to economic growth. On top of all these, defence policies and capabilities have become top priorities for Europe. Reconfiguring institutions, developing new security arrangements, building up capabilities and production capacity and exploiting synergies are of tantamount importance for Europe. Britain and Greece will both benefit from targeted cooperation across all the areas of strong joint interest.

Session Speaker: Sir Simon Gass GCMG CVO, Chair, Joint Intelligence Committee (2019-2023), UK

Moderator: **Ilias Lekkos,** Group Chief Economist and Head of Investment Strategy, Piraeus Bank

Panellists:
Maria Damanaki, Independent Advisor on Climate-Oceans; EU Commissioner for Maritime & Fisheries (2010-2014)
James Sproule, Chief Economist, Handelsbanken UK
Angelos Syrigos, MP, Associate Professor of Int'l Law & Foreign Policy, Panteion University
Loukas Tsoukalis, President, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy; Professor, Sciences Po, Paris

13.00-14.30 Informal lunch & networking

14.30-16.00 Session 2: ENERGY SECURITY AND AFFORDABILITY

The Iran war is putting a squeeze on economic growth, fueling inflation and eroding Europe's competitiveness, which already lagged that of China and the US. Up to that point, European energy policies focused largely on the adverse environmental impact of fossil fuels. This has proven detrimental to Europe's competitiveness, and to an extent has undermined its energy security. Economic growth requires continuous energy flow, which poses a huge security and affordability challenge. Energy security equals multiple sources, unconstrained connectivity, the and the correct signals to consumers and investors, whilst affordability requires cheap sourcing and market integration. Redesigning and integrating the electricity and gas markets, redrafting regulatory frameworks, adopting common gas procurement and jointly funding connectivity will enable Europe to grow faster and become more competitive. Dealing with the same problems, Britain and Greece can learn from each other and work together in tackling them.

Session Speaker: Michael Bradshaw, Professor of Global Energy, Warwick Business School

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

Panellists:
George Alexopoulos, Deputy CEO, HELLENiQ ENERGY
Kostantinos Bikas, Ambassador (ret), Int'l Business Director, METLEN Energy & Metals
Nick Butler, Visiting Professor, Kings College London, UK
Emilios Melis, Partner, Deals & Strategy, Head of Strategy, PwC
Jayesh Parmar, Managing Director, Capemere Ventures Ltd

16.00-16.30 Coffee Break

16.30-18.00 Session 3: DEFENCE AND INNOVATION

European defence is gradually being strengthened. The EU and Britain are converging towards a more integrated European defense policy, to reduce dependence on the US. Within this policy context, bilateral and multilateral cooperation should aim to feed innovation, rationalize military platforms on land, sea and air and raise overall production capacity for advanced equipment and munitions. Such cooperation is bound to stimulate innovation, spread standardization, increase the size of industrial units, develop agile and technology savvy subcontractors, reduce fragmented procurement and generally have a broad positive economic impact. This is already reflected in the dynamics of the European defence industry, with both M&A activity and contractual cooperation picking up and with new products launched. Greece and the UK could both benefit from cooperating in developing innovative defence platforms and ancillaries, suitable for smaller countries in the periphery of Europe.

Moderator: **Vasilis Nedos**, Diplomatic and Defence Correspondent, Kathimerini Newspaper

Panellists:
Andreas Athanasopoulos, Executive Director & CEO, Olympia Group
Apostolos Gkoutzinis, Partner, Milbank
Gregoire Roos, Director, Europe, Russia & Eurasia, Chatham House
David Williams, Regional Managing Director - Europe, BAE Systems

19:30-22.00 FORMAL DINNER
Venue: *Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso, Aristotelis Veranda*
Address*: 10 Agiou Nikolaou Str. 166 71, Vouliagmeni, Greece*
Dress Code: *Business Attire*

Guest Speaker*:* **Elias Papaioannou**, Professor of Economics, London Business School

Theme: **Anatolian Imprints**

DAY 3 – SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

Venue: *Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso, POSEIDON Room*
Address*: 10 Agiou Nikolaou Str. 166 71, Vouliagmeni, Greece*
Dress Code: *Smart Casual*

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

10.00-11.30 Welcome

The Rt Hon Lord Maude of Horsham, Co-Chair, Greek-British Symposium

Session 4: EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Culture and education have been historically the strongest pillar of Greek British relations. Greece supplied British universities with a very considerable number of students until Brexit and British colleges have been operating in Greece for many years. The UK has been long supporting many cultural and archaeological initiatives. Recently, British based private equity funds and education companies invested in a number of private secondary schools in Greece, whilst UK universities established their presence in Greece under the new high education law. These moves have enriched the education market in Greece and opened new areas of cooperation, changing the balance between the two countries and raising issues to be jointly addressed.

Keynote Address: Byron Nicolaides, Founder & CEO, PeopleCert

Moderator: **Michael Moschos,** Director, The International Hellenic Prize

Panellists*:*
Jamie Arrowsmith, Director, Universities UK International
John Forsyth, Founder, Forfar Education
Zoi Geitona, Head of School, CGS (Costeas-Geitonas School)
Ianis G. Matsoukas, Deputy Principal, Strategic Projects & Reputation Management, University of Keele – Greece
Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos, Professor of Political Science, University of Athens

11.30-12.00 The Symposium Speech

Distinguished Speaker: Ioannis Maniatis, Professor; Member of the European Parliament; Vice President of the Group of Socialists & Democrats (S&D), European Parliament

Theme: **Europe, Greece and the United Kingdom: Navigating the Era of Polycrises and Strategic Autonomy**

12.00-12.30 Closing Remarks

Alberto Costa, Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Greece, UK Parliament *(video message)*
Christos Staikouras, Chairman, Greece-UK Friendship Group, Hellenic Parliament
The Rt Hon Lord Maude of Horsham, Co-Chair, Greek-British Symposium

12.30-14.30 Lunch *(optional)*