

**5th Southeast & East
Europe Med**
Washington D.C.
Monday - Tuesday, February 12-13, 2024

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Conference at the Willard Intercontinental Washington DC Hotel

Address: 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

08:00 Registration – Coffee/Tea

08:30 **Opening Remarks**

Symeon G. Tsomokos, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

08:40 **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ALEXANDER:**

CONNECTING EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND INDIA WHILE COUNTERING CHINA

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) has the potential to integrate three disparate regions, effect Great Power Competition, and make Greece a key diplomatic player far to its east. What are the prospects for IMEC in a post October 7 world? What should be its short-term goals? How will China, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan all react?

Alexandra Papadopoulou, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic

Jason Isaacson, Chief Policy and Political Affairs Officer, American Jewish Committee, USA

Chair: **Apostolos Mangiriadis**, News Anchor, Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT), Greece

09:15 **FIRESIDE CHAT**

George Tsunis, U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic

Chair: **Lena Argiri**, Washington DC Correspondent, Kathimerini & Greek Public Broadcasting (ERT), USA

09:30 **US-GREECE ECONOMIC POLICY**

Joshua Huck, Dep. Ass. Secretary of State, Bureau of European & Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Chair: **Endy Zemenides**, Executive Director, Hellenic American Leadership Council, USA

09:45 **U.S.-GREECE RELATIONS: BIDEN AT YEAR THREE; A SECOND TERM FOR TRUMP OR BIDEN**

William Antholis, Director & CEO, Miller Center, University of Virginia, USA

Chair: **Tom Ellis**, Editor in Chief, Kathimerini English Edition, Greece

10:00 Coffee Break

10:15 **BATTLEGROUND BALKANS: HOW TO STABILIZE A REGION**

The EU's Growth Plan for the Western Balkans is a major initiative to support the region's economic development and integration into the EU. The US has a long history of engagement in the Western Balkans, and its role in the region is more important than ever. Can these joint efforts be enough for the transatlantic allies to strengthen leadership in the region.

Assen Vassilev, Minister of Finance, Republic of Bulgaria

Angelina Eichhorst, Managing Director for Europe, European External Action Service of the European Union

Gabriel Escobar, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Discussants

Kalin Peshov, President, GBS Bulgaria

Evangelos Kalpadakis, Diplomatic Advisor to the Leader of the Main Opposition Party, Greece

Chair: **Katerina Sokou**, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council/ Research Fellow, Eliamep/ Columnist, Kathimerini

11:15 **FIRESIDE CHAT**

Chris Van Hollen, U.S. Senator of Maryland

Chair: **Alexis Papahelas**, Executive Editor, Kathimerini Newspaper, Greece

11:35 **US-GREECE: AN ECONOMIC STRATEGIC ALLIANCE IN A COMPLEX WORLD**

Over the past decade, the US and Greece have cultivated a strong strategic alliance that is essential for stability and security in the Mediterranean region and beyond. How can this diplomatic relationship become an asset to soothe regional tensions and navigate the nascent geopolitical landscape?

Vicky Loizou, Secretary General for Private Investments, Ministry of Development, Hellenic Republic
Konstantinos Bikas, Amb (ret), fmr Head Gr. Nat. Intelligence Service, Int'l Business Director, MYTILINEOS, Greece
Deborah Wince-Smith, President & CEO, US Council on Competitiveness, USA
Nikos Vettas, General Director, Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research; Professor, AUEB, Greece
Christos Harpanfidis, Vice President Philip Morris International, South-East Europe

Chair: **Symeon Tsomokos**, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

12:30 **KATHIMERINI'S OPINION POLL: RESEARCH ON THE U.S. – GREEK RELATIONS**

Alexis Papahelas, Executive Editor, Kathimerini Newspaper, Greece
Symeon Tsomokos, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece
Endy Zemenides, Executive Director, Hellenic American Leadership Council, USA

Chair: **Tom Ellis**, Editor in Chief, Kathimerini English Edition, Greece

13:00 Light Lunch

13.45 **THE NEW MAP: IS THE GEOGRAPHY OF ENERGY DESTINY?**

In 2020, Pulitzer Prize winner Daniel Yergin wrote about the new global map that is being shaped by dramatic shifts in geopolitics and energy. Eastern Mediterranean energy reserves have done much to shape this new map. As natural gas resources come online and renewable resources are added to the mix, an even newer map is being drawn, and Greece is in the center. What diplomatic initiatives, infrastructure, and economic assistance is needed to draw this new energy map?

Kimberly Harrington, Dep. Ass. Secretary of State, Bureau of Energy Resources, U.S Department of State
Osama Mobarez, Secretary General, East Mediterranean Gas Forum, Arab Republic of Egypt
Georgios Stassis, Chairman & CEO, Public Power Corporation, Greece
Jonathan Cohen, Ambassador (ret), Distinguished Fellow, Royal United Services Institute, USA

Chair: **Iliana Magra**, Journalist, Kathimerini Newspaper, Greece

14:30 **BUILDING EUROPE'S NEW REGIONAL ENERGY & CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

Viorel Ursu, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to the USA
Vladimir Malinov, Executive Director, BULGARTRANGAZ, Bulgaria
Vivian Bouzali, Chief Corporate Affairs & Communication Officer, MYTILINEOS, Greece

Chair: **Iliana Magra**, Journalist, Kathimerini Newspaper, Greece

15:10 **IN CONVERSATION WITH**

Dimitris Kairidis, Minister of Migration and Asylum, Hellenic Republic

Chair: **Endy Zemenides**, Executive Director, Hellenic American Leadership Council, USA

15:25 **PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH ON THE IMPRESSIONS THAT AMERICANS HAVE OF GREECE AND HOW THEY HAVE EVOLVED OVER TIME**

Nik Nanos, Chief Data Scientist and Founder, Nanos Research, Canada

Chair: **Symeon Tsomokos**, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

15:45 **THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE GREEK SHIPPING SECTOR IN THE AMERICAS**

Antonio Taquis, fmr. Ambassador of Panama in Greece; Gen. Director & Owner, Panama Shipping Agency

Chair: **Symeon Tsomokos**, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

16:00 **THE FOURTH SEA: ADDING THE AEGEAN TO THE BALTIC, ADRIATIC AND BLACK SEAS**

This summer, Greece became the newest member of the Three Seas Initiative, expanding its geographic reach and its diplomatic pull. What are the prospects for this partnership of 13 EU member states to coalesce into an influential regional actor? How does the U.S. plan to partner with the Initiative?

Katerina Nassika, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the USA
Kristjan Prikk, Ambassador of Estonia to the USA
Radovan Javorcik, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the USA

Chair: **Vassilis Nedos**, Journalist, Kathimerini Newspaper, Greece

16:30 **REMARKS, MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS**

17:00 **Concluding Remarks**

Symeon Tsomokos, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

Tom Ellis, Editor in Chief, Kathimerini English Edition, Greece

Endy Zemenides, Executive Director, Hellenic American Leadership Council, USA

End of Conference