



## 4<sup>th</sup> KOREAN-HELLENIC MARITIME COOPERATION FORUM

On the occasion of [Posidonia 2024 International Shipping Exhibition](#)

### **Sailing Towards New Horizons: Innovating Solutions Across Challenging Waves**

05.06.2024 | [Athens Metropolitan Expo](#) | 16:00 – 19:00

Posidonia Seminar Room Central

**H.E. Jung Il Lee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea**

#### **Opening Remarks**

**On the occasion of 2024 Korean-Hellenic Maritime Cooperation Forum**

안녕하세요 / Kali Spera / Good afternoon

H.E. Christos Stylianides, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy,  
Dr. Takis Thomopoulos, Chairman of the IOBE,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Korean government, I warmly welcome each and every one to this forum. It is really a great honor and privilege to co-host the “4th Korean-Hellenic Maritime Cooperation Forum”, together with the IOBE, the esteemed economic think tank.

I extend special thanks to Professor Nikos Vettas and his colleagues for their efforts in organizing this valuable event.

Ladies and Gentlemen, (Country of the Year / High level visits)

As I begin my remarks, I am pleased to highlight some remarkable achievements that Greece made last year. According to "The Economist", Greece was well-named “Country of the Year” for its economic performance.

Additionally, bilateral relations between Korea and Greece are better than ever before. Recently, there have been multiple high-level visits, including those of the Korean PM Han Duck-soo and two Presidential Envoys.

Also, the fourth Joint Economic Committee was held in last December, and on that occasion, KOTRA and "Enterprise Greece" signed a cooperative MOU to facilitate a commercial cooperation.



## 4<sup>th</sup> KOREAN-HELLENIC MARITIME COOPERATION FORUM

On the occasion of [Posidonia 2024 International Shipping Exhibition](#)

Additionally, this year, last May, a Korean delegation visited to discuss a "Social Security Agreement" with the Greek counterparts, and had a very good discussion

During recent visit, My Prime Minister Han and representatives from the business communities expressed great interest in Greece's strong resilience. They were particularly keen to learn how Greece achieved a **political stability and economic resilience** following recent economic crises.

### Ladies and Gentlemen, (Shipbuilding ahead)

Under these favorable atmosphere, Korea and Greece share many commonalities, especially including democracy. Both of our countries have experienced similar socio-historical development paths towards democracy. This year, specifically I am delighted to congratulate Greece on its 50th anniversary of the restoration of democracy.

With a strong commitment to common values such as freedom and democracy, I would like to emphasize that Greece dispatched over 10,000 troops during the Korean War in early 1950s under the UN flag.

Since then, Korea's backbone industries, such as shipbuilding and car manufacturing, have thrived, based on the foundation of the sacrifices and efforts of Greek Korean War Veterans.

Specifically, our shipbuilding industry received graciously its first order from Greece in 1971, and continuously in 1977, Greece became the first European destination for 300 Korean-made export automobiles.

We will never forget the sacrifices of those young Greek soldiers. In this regard, our Embassy holds proudly an annual commemoration ceremony for Greek Korean War Veterans even now.

### Ladies and Gentlemen, (New ways of ship-building)

Korea and Greece have developed a mutually beneficial partnership in the maritime field over the past half-century. In the last ten years alone, Korean shipbuilders have received generous orders for more than 500 vessels from Greece.

This trusted relationship has enabled both countries to lead the shipbuilding and shipping industries, with Greece representing 20% of the global fleet and, Korea being one of the world's best shipbuilders. At this connection, Korean companies like 'STX Engine' and 'Korea Global Solution' are collaborating with Greek companies like ONEX and HYDRUS to develop environment-friendly vessels, culminating in signing into a bilateral cooperative MOU in June 2023.

Also, the Korean delegation has proposed a joint study to explore new business opportunities in LNG trading and the intercontinental transportation of ammonia and hydrogen as well.

### Ladies and Gentlemen, (Military Agenda 2030 and ahead)

The global maritime landscape demands new solutions, and international regulations are tightening. In July last year, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) upgraded its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050. Additionally, the European Union (EU) included the maritime sector in its Emission Trading System (ETS) in 2021.

In this rapidly changing environment, the direction of cooperation between Korea and Greece is very crucial. As Greece excels in using renewable energy, with more than 50% of its power coming from



#### 4<sup>th</sup> KOREAN-HELLENIC MARITIME COOPERATION FORUM

On the occasion of [Posidonia 2024 International Shipping Exhibition](#)

renewable energy sources, collaboration between the two countries is very promising. To promote this cooperation, Korean President of SK E&S visited Greece and, met with Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Fragogiannis, to discuss in more details on the preferable cooperation in the renewable energy. Additionally, we hope to foster further defense collaboration to help realize Greece's "**Agenda 2030**" for advanced military technology. Korea, ranked among the top 10 countries in the world for defense exports from 2019-2023, is well-positioned to contribute to this effort as well.

In 2022, Korea and Greece already signed an MOU on defense cooperation, laying the groundwork for such initiatives. Specifically, "Hyundai Heavy Industries" has also expressed interest in entering the Greek coast guard vessel market.

I am confident that today's forum will be a fruitful event for shaping up best practices and upholding global standards in response to climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I first came to Greece 3 years ago, I was pleasantly surprised to find Greek concept of "filoxenia". Based on this common ground between our two countries, I would like to highlight our relationship as follows: "We are friends and will always be friends".

As the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, I am deeply honored to deliver the opening remarks for this occasion by second time. I will do everything possible to strengthen the friendship between Korea and Greece.

Let us continue to work hand in hand towards a future defined by mutual respect, trust, and shared success.

Efharisto – Thank you. 감사합니다. /End/