



## 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**

**Mr. Christos Stylianides**

**Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy**

**Opening Remarks  
Congratulatory Remarks**

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

Your Excellency Mr. Ambassador,

Distinguished representatives of the shipping community of Greece and the Republic of Korea,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's really a great honor for me to address the Fourth Korean-Hellenic Maritime Cooperation Forum. Which takes place within the framework of the International Shipping Exhibition "Posidonia 2024".

This event is another proof of the excellent maritime relations of our two countries.

Let me apologize, however, from the outset that I have to leave immediately after my remarks. To speak to another event taking place in the framework of "Posidonia". I am sure I have your understanding as you all know the heavy obligations that come with "Posidonia".

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to underline that the shipping relationship between Greece and the Republic of Korea is of strategic importance.

The Greek-owned fleet contributes significantly to the development and service of Korea's commercial interests. Through the movement of raw materials, fuel, equipment and products to and from Korea.

Additionally, I would like to underline the long-standing bilateral cooperation between Greece and Korea in the shipbuilding sector.



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Greek shipowners have long-standing ties and very close cooperation with the South Korean shipbuilding industry. Dating back to the 1970s.

Korean shipyards, due to their competitiveness and the cutting-edge technology they apply, are one of the first choices of Greek shipowners, who increasingly invest in green ships.

One hundred forty nine (149) new Greek-owned ships are being built today in the Korean shipyards. This is truly impressive!

All of these constitute an excellent basis to further strengthen our maritime ties.

The strategic cooperation in the field of maritime transport is based on the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement, which entered into force in 2011, and improves the conditions under which maritime transport is carried out from EU Member States to Korea and vice versa.

In addition, the 2006 Agreement on Maritime Transport between Greece and the Republic of Korea ensures the conditions for both sides to confirm their commitment to environmentally friendly shipping and maritime safety.

And to the provision of efficient maritime transport services as well as to respect for the fundamental principles of free access to markets and fair competition.

Furthermore, our bilateral strategic shipping relationship has been upgraded through the “Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Marine and Ship Technology”, signed in Piraeus exactly ten years ago.

All these agreements have proved to be mutual beneficial for the economies of our two countries.

It is my firm belief that we can further expand our bilateral cooperation in other shipping-related areas. Such as the port sector, cargo transit, supply chain and of course the marine equipment industry.

Dear friends,

A key forum of cooperation is the International Maritime Organization (IMO). In which we promote the same maritime policy objectives and make joint efforts for the development and facilitation of maritime trade. Alongside the pursuit of shipping safety and the protection of the marine environment.

This constructive cooperation was reconfirmed with the mutual support of the two countries for their re-election to Category "A" of the IMO Council in the recent elections.

This confirms, in the most emphatic way, the confidence our countries enjoy from all Member States of the IMO.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Shipping remains the backbone of international trade and global prosperity despite the challenges.

The unprecedented global health crisis was followed by the energy crisis and a series of geopolitical turbulences, which have directly affected shipping activities. Putting at risk seafarers' lives in critical maritime routes, such as the Black Sea and the Red Sea.



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In addition, the shipping industry faces numerous other challenges. Such as:

- To meet new environmental targets and comply with really complex rules.
- To embrace digitalization and technology innovation.
- To address seafarers' shortages.
- To promote upskilling and reskilling of seafarers.
- To sustain geopolitical instability.

Regarding especially decarbonization, one of the biggest challenges for shipping is to secure worldwide availability of safe alternative low and zero carbon fuels and technologies, as well as related infrastructure.

Dear friends,

The sea is part of the identity of the peoples of Greece and Korea. For us Greeks, shipping is in our DNA!

On the basis of maritime cooperation, our peoples can come even closer and build stronger ties.

This is exactly the added value of the Korean-Hellenic Maritime Cooperation Forum. Which has already become an institution.

With these thoughts in mind, let me congratulate the government and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea as well as the Board of the Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research for their work and for bringing us together.

Thank you very much and I wish every success in the work of the Forum.