



## 2022 KOREAN-HELLENIC MARITIME COOPERATION FORUM

On the occasion of [Posidonia 2022 International Shipping Exhibition](#)

Opening remarks | 08.06.2022

**Mr. Panayotis (Takis) THOMOPOULOS, Chairman of the Board of IOBE**

Honourable Minister, Honourable Ambassador,

Distinguished guests and friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you to the third Korean-Hellenic Maritime Cooperation Forum which is organised in the framework of the 2022 Posidonia International Shipping Exhibition.

In the current period of global uncertainty and turbulence, the main goal of the Korean-Hellenic Forum is to enhance and broaden the collaborative spirit cultivated between the Republic of Korea and Greece, through joint action beyond shipbuilding, expanding in the general maritime sector, to address the opportunities and challenges in the new era.

The Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Korea have developed a long-lasting, mutually beneficial relationship in the wider cluster of shipbuilding and maintenance over the past years. In 2019, the year just before the pandemic, 74% of the Greek ship-owners' total investment in new buildings (approximately USD14 billion) was directed to Korean shipyards, while currently, the global total orderbook from Greek ship-owners is estimated at USD 18.2 billion.

Furthermore, Greece has a well-established network of Manufacturers of Shipping Equipment. Based on a relevant study of IOBE, published just last week, this highly extrovert cluster produces high added value products and services, serving the demand of shipping, globally.

Today's event is built not only on facilitating collaboration between the relevant stakeholders from both nations, but also on triggering the discussion on how the combination of experience and know-how will generate investments and even higher quality products and services to enhance our position, globally.

Based on the above, we believe that this forum will be another important step towards consolidating tangible cooperation between our two countries, so that our political, economic, social and cultural ties can be further strengthened.