



4th 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. Panayotis Thomopoulos, President of the BoD of IOBE

Opening Remarks

On the occasion of 2024 Korean-Hellenic Maritime Cooperation Forum

Honourable Minister, Honourable Ambassador,

Distinguished guests and friends,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you to the fourth Korean-Hellenic Maritime Cooperation Forum, organised as part of the 2024 Posidonia International Shipping Exhibition.

In this 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. Our joint action extends beyond shipbuilding, encompassing the general maritime sector, to address the opportunities and challenges of the new era.

Greek shipping plays a pivotal role in the global maritime transport, acting as a driving force for international trade. According to a study of IOBE, published last October with the support of the Aikaterini Laskaridis foundation, Greek-owned shipping contributes approximately 7.9% of the Greek GDP and sustains around 86.3 thousand full-time jobs in the Greek value chain. Moreover, an important cluster has developed around Greek maritime shipping, which includes a well-established network of Manufacturers of Shipping Equipment.

As a result of the significant presence of Greek-owned shipping, the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Korea have developed a long-lasting, mutually beneficial relationship in the cluster of shipbuilding and maintenance over the past years. During the first five months of 2024, 224 of the 538 new building orders placed by Greek ship-owners were directed to Korean shipyards, corresponding to an investment of over USD18.0 billion. Currently, the global total orderbook from Greek ship-owners is estimated at USD 40.0 billion.



4th KOREAN-HELLENIC MARITIME COOPERATION FORUM

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

Decarbonisation, the use of alternative fuels and the integration of artificial intelligence are just some of the challenges that global maritime is currently facing. To safeguard the global role of the Greek-owned shipping, there is a need to promote innovation in the Greek fleet and this calls for collaboration with ship manufacturers, today.

In this context, today's event aims not only to support networking and collaboration between relevant stakeholders from both nations, but also to initiate discussions on the importance of upscaling innovation in the maritime sector.

We believe that this forum will be another important step towards consolidating tangible cooperation between our two countries.