

Friday, September 6, 2024 | The MET Hotel | Thessaloniki, Greece



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8TH SOUTHEAST EUROPE ENERGY FORUM

Speakers Bios

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ANGELA P. AGGELER



Ambassador
U.S. Embassy in North Macedonia

Ambassador Aggeler, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service (SFS) with the rank of Minister Counselor, is the Ambassador to the Republic of North Macedonia. Previously, she served as Chargé d'affaires ad interim for U. S. Mission Pakistan. Ms. Aggeler has also served as the Minister Counselor for Public Affairs at U.S. Embassy Paris; the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs and Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Press and Public Diplomacy. From 2013 to 2015, she was the Counselor for Public Affairs at U.S. Embassy Islamabad.

She has also previously served at U.S. Embassy Islamabad; U.S. Embassy Skopje; U.S. Embassy Hanoi; Washington, D.C.; U.S. Embassy Paris; and U.S. Embassy New Delhi.

Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Aggeler served for the State Department in Burkina Faso, Hungary, and India. She worked at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. before joining her husband in their State Department postings and was previously a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Central African Republic. She is the recipient of numerous State Department awards, including Superior Honor and Meritorious Honor Awards, the Assistant Secretary's Award for Excellence, and the Mildred Sinclair Award for Language (Hindi, 2000). She speaks French, Macedonian, and some Hindi. She is married to Senior Foreign Service Officer Brian Aggeler, and their daughter is a journalist in Washington, D.C.



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SALEH AL KHARABSHEH



Minister
Ministry of Energy & Mineral Resources, Jordan

Qualifications:

- Ph.D., Renewable Energy, University of Florida, USA, 2003. (GPA 4.0/4.0)
- M.Sc., Mechanical Engineering, University of Jordan, Jordan, 1994.
- B.Sc., Mechanical Engineering, University of Burdwan, India, 1991.

Experience:

- 7/11/2019 : Minister of Environment
- 18/6/2017-14/6/2018: Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources.
- 10/2009-17/06/2017: Secretary General, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Amman, Jordan.
- 01/2006-10/2009: Director, Projects Department, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Amman, Jordan.
- 03/2008-06/2008 and 06/2009-09/2009: Acting Director, Policies and Studies Department, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Amman, Jordan.
- 03/2005-12/2005: Head, Energy and Agriculture Section, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Amman, Jordan.
- 08/2003-02/2005: Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department, Hashemite University, Zarqa, Jordan.
- 05/2001-08/2001: Fellow, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, Bonn, Germany.
- 08/2001-08/2003: Research assistant, Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA.
- 12/1995-07/2000: Engineer, Projects Department, Ministry of Planning, Amman, Jordan.
- 03/1998-06/1998: Consultant, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)/General Corporation for Environmental Protection (GCEP), Amman, Jordan.
- 09/1994-08/1995: Teaching Assistant, Higher Institute of Industrial Technology, Tripoli, Libya.
- 06/1994-08/1994: Mechanical Engineer, Steel Fabrication Company, Zarqa, Jordan.
- 09/1991-01/1994: Teaching Assistant, Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan.



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KOSTAS ANDRIOSOPOULOS



Professor of Finance and Energy Economics
Audencia Business School

Chair, Energy Committee
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Professor Dr. Kostas Andriosopoulos is the Executive Director of the Research Centre for Energy Transition & Sustainability Center at Audencia Business School where he holds the position of full Professor in Finance and Energy Economics.

Kostas holds a PhD in Finance (Cass Business School, City University London), where he has been the recipient of the prestigious Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation's scholarship. He also holds an MBA and MSc in Finance (Northeastern University, Boston, USA), and a bachelor's degree in Production Engineering and Management (Technical University of Crete, Greece).

Kostas is a member in various professional and academic associations.

- President of the Energy Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.
- President of the Decarbonization Fund of the Greek islands for the Hellenic Ministry of Environment & Energy.
- Founder and former Chairman of the Hellenic Association for Energy Economics
- Board member of the Global Gas Center - World Energy Council as a Gas and LNG markets expert.

Since August 2018 he is Country Manager of Akuo Energy in Greece, a multinational company based in France that develops RES projects in 17 countries around the world.

His work has been published in international finance and commodity-related Journals and has participated as speaker in recognized conferences world-wide.



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NIKOLAOS BAKATSELOS



President
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the Managing Director of Pyramis Metallourgia A.E. and Pyramis Deutschland GmbH. He was a Member of the Board of Directors and Deputy Managing Director of Northern Greece Publishing S.A. He has held the position of Managing Director of Imperium AEE, and Member of the Board of Directors of Egnatia Bank Securities S.A. He was a Member of the Board of Directors of Attica Bank from February 2014 until June 2016. He was a Member of the Steering Committee of the International Hellenic University from 2006 until January 2014 and Member of the Board and President of the Northern Greece Committee of EEDE. He is Member of the Committee Support CERTH, Trustee of Anatolia College, Member of the Board and Member of the Steering Committee of SVE and Honorary Consul of Belgium for Northern Greece. After being a Member of the Board of Directors of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce for several years, in June 2010 he was elected Vice President of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and President of the Northern Greece Committee, and since June 2019 he was elected President of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. He is a founding member and member of the Board of the Council of Competitiveness of Greece. From October 2019 until February 2022, he was elected as President of HEDNO by the General Assembly of HEDNO. Nikolaos Bakatselos holds a B.A. in Sociology from University of Reading and a MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University Business School.



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ANDREAS BORGEAS



COO
Gap Project

MoB
Eunice Green Energy

Andreas Borgeas, former California State Senator (USA) and a distinguished member of the Greek-American community has served in several public capacities, including as a prominent Republican member of the Senate (2018-2022) and as a federally appointed commissioner on the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission. During his political career, he strongly advocated for Greek positions on key foreign policy issues. Andreas Borgeas Ph.D. was a Fulbright Scholar in Greece and completed graduate studies at Harvard University, Georgetown Law School, and Panteion University in Athens.

Dr. Andreas Borgeas has joined the Eunice Energy Group as CEO of Greece-Africa Power Interconnector (GAP), the transnational electricity interconnection project between Greece and Egypt. Borgeas leads efforts to advance the international consortium, working with leadership representatives from Greece, Egypt, and the European Union to accelerate the completion of the electrical interconnection project between the two continents, Europe, and Africa. The GAP consortium continues to expand its network of partnerships by admitting new members with significant experience in similar international-scale projects.” Dr. Andreas Borgeas is also MoB at Eunice Green Energy.



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SEBASTIAN-IOAN BURDUJA



Minister
Ministry of Energy, Romania

Sebastian-Ioan Burduja is the Romanian Minister of Energy, appointed in June 2023. He has previously served as the Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, between May 2022 and June 2023. Since December 2020 he has been elected to the Romanian Parliament and is also the President of the Bucharest branch of the National Liberal Party.

Before starting his political career, he acted as the Founding President of the League of Romanian Students Abroad (LSRS), now the largest Romanian non-profit network in the world, and the co-founder of the CAESAR Foundation, a think tank connecting 500 top Romanian and international policy experts.

Previously, he served as a Regional Development Specialist for the World Bank in Washington, D.C., focusing on Europe and Central Asia. Mr. Burduja has also worked for Dalberg Global Development Advisors, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, McKinsey & Co., and the National Endowment for Democracy.

He graduated from the Stanford University as member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society with a major in Politics and sub-specializations in Economy and Sociology. From 2008 to 2011, he continued his studies at Harvard University, being a David Rubenstein's fellow and graduating two master's programs: MBA from Harvard Business School and MPP from Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He was honored in 2009 and 2010 with outstanding academic achievement, including the "First Year Honors" and "Second Year Honors" awards given to the best students at Harvard Business School.

Mr. Burduja holds a PhD in Economics and International Affairs from the Romanian Academy of Economic Studies, with the "Summa Cum Laude" qualification.



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ARISTOTELIS CHANTAVAS



CEO
Principia

President
SolarPower Europe

Aristotelis Chantavas is the CEO of Principia (a company established in March 2024 by its shareholders, Enel and Macquarie Asset Management, continuing the operations it commenced in Greece in 2008 as part of Enel Green Power). In April 2023 he was also re-elected as President of SolarPower Europe.

He has a diverse background in the management of different types of renewables projects, varying in both size and type. His broad professional career in renewable energy, both in Europe and North America, includes executive roles in business development, construction and maintenance, M&A and new investments.

Aristotelis graduated in Civil Engineering from DUTH and holds an MSc in Engineering Business Management from University of Warwick, with further specialization in Entrepreneurial Studies at Harvard University.



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JORGO CHATZIMARKAKIS



CEO
Hydrogen Europe

Jorgo Chatzimarkakis has been working at Hydrogen Europe since 2016. He currently holds the position of CEO of the association. He previously covered roles in the planning department of the Foreign Office of Germany, at Infineon Technologies and was Member of the European Parliament (2004-2014) inter alia in the ITRE Committee (Industry, Technology, Research and Energy) where he could contribute to lay the cornerstone for the first and the second Joint Undertaking on hydrogen and fuel cells. He was awarded Hydrogen Person of the Year at the World Hydrogen Awards 2022, “as a major player promoting hydrogen in Europe and world-wide, accelerating collaboration and industry development”. Jorgo was born in Duisburg, Germany. He holds German and Greek nationality, and a degree in political science from the University of Bonn.





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ALEXANDROS COSTOPOULOS



Founder & CEO
FORESIGHT Strategy & Communications

Secretary General
American- Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Alexandros Costopoulos is a communications strategist, renowned speaker and seasoned contributor to leading international and Greek media on communications, credibility, soft skills and U.S. relations.

Founder and CEO of FORESIGHT, Alex has collaborated with distinguished individuals and prominent organizations from the political, academic and business spheres in the United States, Greece and the broader southeast European region, providing critical insight and developing bespoke results driven strategies and tactics related to public affairs, reputation management, public diplomacy, civil society engagement and American affairs.

He is the Secretary General, an elected member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, Director for Greece of American Citizens Abroad and Co-Founder of the Institute for Regional Dialogue and Strategy.

He has written various social and political opinion editorials for top newspapers and magazines in Greece and has spoken extensively on the importance of cooperation and smart power, while he published two books, “Bridges of Cooperation-Marshall Plan and Greece” in 2008 and “Bridges of Liberty- American Philhellenism in the 18th and 19th Centuries” in 2009.

In December 2011 he founded RepowerGreece, an international grassroots public diplomacy initiative that seeks to empower a new way of thinking in facing emerging challenges and redefine Greece by investing in a renewed entrepreneurship and talentbased movement.



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ATHANASSIOS DAGOUMAS



President

Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste & Water, Greece

Dr. Athanassios Dagoumas is President of the Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste and Water in Greece. He is an Associate Professor in Energy and Resource Economics and the founding Director of the Energy & Environmental Policy laboratory at the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus. He holds a Diploma in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, where he elaborated his PhD in Energy Economics. He has more than 15 years of work and research experience in energy related issues, including working as a Senior Researcher at the University of Cambridge, as a Senior Energy Analyst at the Transmission System Operator and at the Electricity Market Operator in Greece and as a Member of the Board of the Cambridge Trust for New Thinking in Economics. Moreover he was enrolled as a Special Advisor to the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change in Greece. His extensive experience builds his capacity for an in-depth understanding of multidisciplinary aspects of the global energy sector: economic, engineering, environmental and policy. He is keen on developing models for the real energy markets, the energy systems and the economic-energy-environment (E3) systems.



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MARY EILEEN DEVITT



Mission Director
USAID Kosovo

Mary Eileen Devitt is a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister Counselor. Ms. Devitt assumed her duties as USAID Kosovo Mission Director in October 2023.

She has over 20 years of diverse USAID experience including 18 years in the Middle East. In her most recent assignment, Ms. Devitt served as USAID/Lebanon Mission Director (2020 to 2023). She also served as the Senior Development Advisor/Country Director for Yemen based in the Yemen Affairs Unit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2018 to 2020). Prior to Yemen, Ms. Devitt was the Director of the Office of Financial Management in Egypt (2014-2018) where she also served in Mission leadership. Ms. Devitt served as the Acting Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chief Financial Officer at USAID Headquarters in Washington, DC (2011-2014). She has led financial management teams in Bangladesh (2007-2011); the Regional Service Center for Southern Africa (2002-2007) and Egypt (1997 to 2003). She has served as an advisor to the non-permissive environment and regionalization working groups and on other Agency initiatives.

Ms. Devitt served as a financial management development expert for the Agency, supported regional and bilateral operations and provided executive level expertise in public financial management; leadership in donor and host country government and private sector engagement and collaboration on a broad range of matters including public financial management, macro-economic issues, and private sector engagement. As USAID's Acting Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chief Financial Officer for Overseas Operations, she provided technical direction and support to over 180 US Foreign Service Officers and 1,700 Foreign Service National financial management professionals. Ms. Devitt and her team were also responsible for oversight and stewardship of the USAID's financial resources totaling over \$34 billion dollars.

Ms. Devitt has received a number of honor and performance awards during her USAID career. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and a master's degree in management. Ms. Devitt is married and they have a son.



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MINAS DIACAKIS

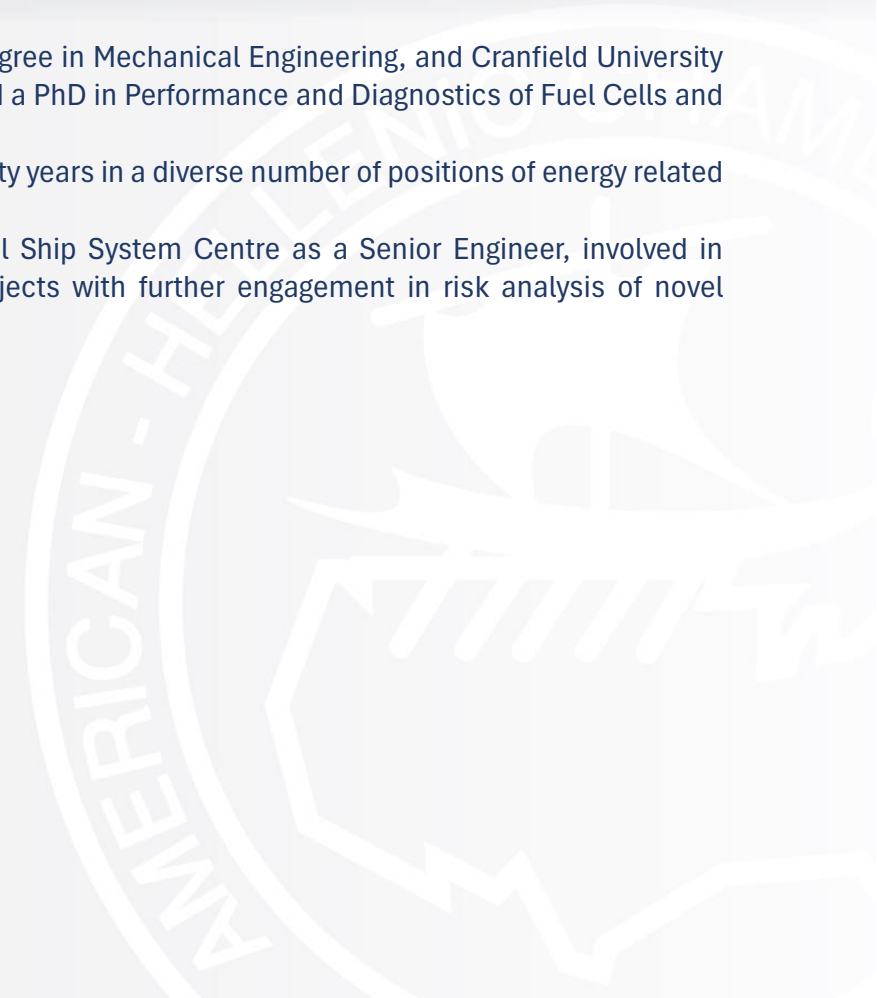


Senior Engineer, Global Ship Systems Center
American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)

Minas Diacakis is a graduate of Southbank University, with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and Cranfield University with a Masters Degree in Energy Systems & Thermal Process and a PhD in Performance and Diagnostics of Fuel Cells and Gas Turbine cycles.

Before joining American Bureau of Shipping – ABS, he spent twenty years in a diverse number of positions of energy related projects as an engineer and sustainability consultant.

Since December 2022 he has been a member of ABS's Global Ship System Centre as a Senior Engineer, involved in ammonia, hydrogen, wind and nuclear technology related projects with further engagement in risk analysis of novel technologies for the maritime industry.





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JULIE D. FISHER



Ambassador
U.S. Embassy in Cyprus

Prior to her appointment as Ambassador to Cyprus, **Julie Fisher** served as the Special Envoy for Belarus based in Vilnius, Lithuania. In 2020, she was confirmed as the first U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus since 2008. Fisher previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Europe and the European Union in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs and as Deputy Permanent Representative of the U.S. Mission to NATO. Earlier, she was the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, and the Director of the State Department's Operations Center. Other assignments include a detail to NATO's international staff as Deputy Director of the Private Office and assignments at U.S. embassies in Georgia, Ukraine, and Russia, as well as tours at the National Security Council, the bureaus for European and Eurasian Affairs and Near Eastern Affairs, and the Secretary of State's Executive Secretariat Staff.

Fisher is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service and has received numerous awards including a Presidential Rank Award. Fisher earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master's degree from the School of International and Public Affairs at Princeton University. She speaks Russian and French.



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MARIA RITA GALLI



CEO
DESFA

(Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator)

Maria Rita Galli is the CEO of DESFA (Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator). Until recently she held the position of the Executive Vice President Business Development & Asset Management at Snam S.p.A, a leading global energy infrastructure company and was the Chairman of the SENFLUGA Energy Holdings S.A., a consortium controlling 66% of DESFA's share capital.

Ms. Galli started her career at Eni in 1997, as a graduate in nuclear engineering from the Milan Polytechnic University. At Eni, she went through various roles within the International Business Development Department, joined relevant international projects and was involved in M&A activities. As a member of Eni's Board of Directors, she also oversaw the operations of some of the Group's companies abroad (Galp, Distrigas, eni Gas&Power Trading BV, eni Gas&Power France, GVS GmbH, etc.)

Since 2006, she has been in charge of the International Business Development unit and, from January 2010, she has been in charge of the International Business Development and Assets Management department.

In October 2016, she joined Snam as the Head of Business Development and International Asset Management.



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TEODORA GEORGIEVA



Executive Officer and Board Member
ICGB AD

Teodora Georgieva has more than 20 years of experience as a strategic manager, leading significant projects in various economic sectors. Currently, Ms. Georgieva is the Executive Officer of the Bulgarian side of ICGB AD and is also a member of its Board of Directors. ICGB is responsible for the overall management and development of the gas pipeline between Greece and Bulgaria and is Bulgaria's second independent transmission system operator.

From 2012 to 2014 Teodora Georgieva was Managing Director of Nabucco Bulgaria, and before that she worked at OMV Bulgaria for 13 years, 8 of which she was Managing Director of the company holding cluster positions for Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia. Georgieva was the coordinator for Bulgaria of the European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT) in 2009 and was among the top 10 Bulgarian managers for 2 consecutive years.

She graduated from the University of National and World Economy and has a master's degree in Finance. Married, with two children.



8TH SOUTHEAST EUROPE ENERGY FORUM 2024

ELENA GIANNAKOPOULOU



Group Chief Strategy Officer
PPC

Elena Giannakopoulou is the Chief Strategy Officer of PPC, responsible for developing and delivering the Group's strategy on decarbonisation and energy transition. Prior to joining PPC, and for more than ten years, Elena held senior positions in energy investment, analysis and consulting organizations in London, UK.

In her previous roles, Elena worked with a great range of energy companies and organizations across different sectors and continents (Europe, Americas, Asia and Australia) helping them develop their decarbonisation strategies and navigate through the energy transition.

She is a mentor on various network groups encouraging young girls and women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) and promoting women's leadership on climate change.

Elena is also a member of the Board of Directors of Eurelectric, the federation of the European electricity industry.

Elena is a Mechanical Engineer by training graduated from National Technical University of Athens. She also holds a master's degree from Imperial College London (MSc in Sustainable Energy Futures) and one from Athens University of Economics and Business (MSc in Applied Economics and Finance).



8TH SOUTHEAST EUROPE ENERGY FORUM 2024

CHRISTOPHER R. HILL



Ambassador
U.S. Embassy in Serbia

Christopher R. Hill arrived in Belgrade on March 31, 2022. He previously served as the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Korea, Poland, and North Macedonia, as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and as Head of the U.S. delegation to the 6 Party Talks on North Korea. Earlier in his diplomatic career, Hill was the special envoy for the Kosovo crisis and prior to that was a member of the U.S. negotiating team whose efforts led to the Dayton Peace Agreement, ending the Bosnian war.

Following his retirement from the Foreign Service in 2010, Hill was Dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, and then Chief Advisor to the Chancellor for Global Engagement and Professor of the Practice of Diplomacy, at the University of Denver. In 2021, Hill was named the George Ball Adjunct Professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. In October 2021, he was called upon to return to diplomatic service when President Biden nominated him to be the next U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia.

Hill earned a B.A. at Bowdoin College and an M.S. at the Naval War College. The recipient of numerous honors, including the Robert S. Frasure Award for Peace Negotiations and the Secretary of State Distinguished Service Award. Hill speaks Serbian, Polish, Macedonian and French. He is joined in Belgrade by his wife, Julie.



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STYLIANOS KYRIAKOY



Manager

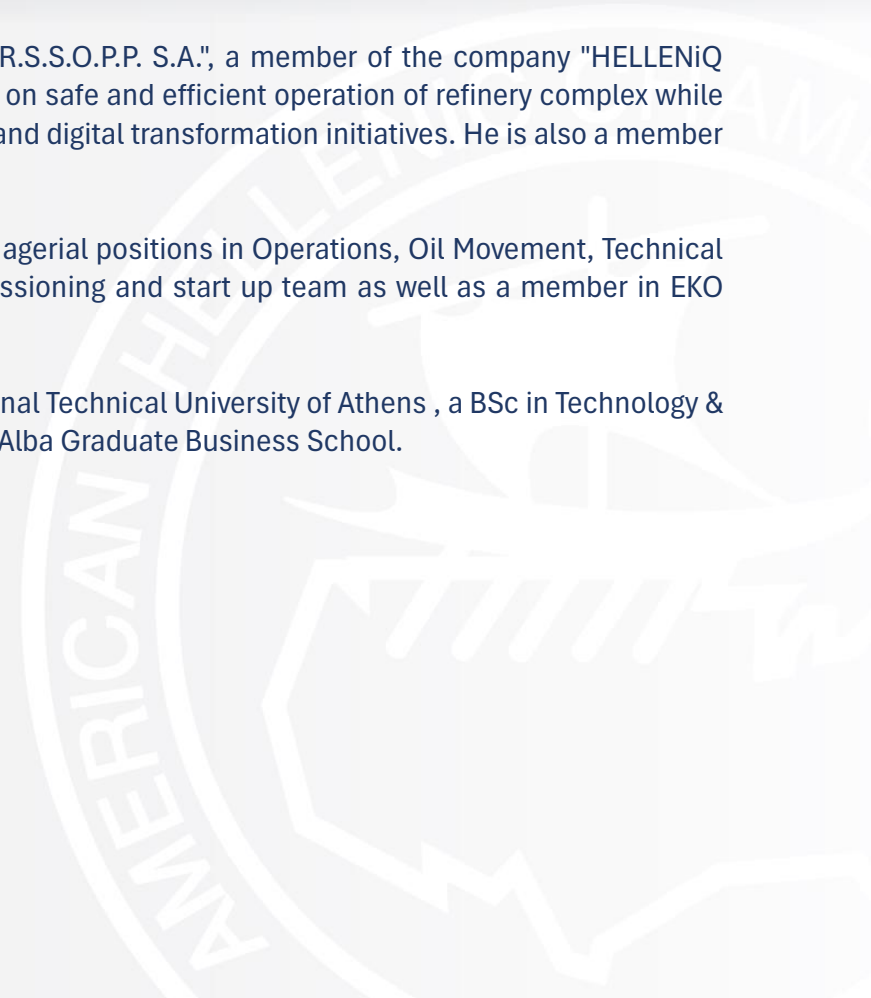
Elefsina Refinery Manager

HELLENIC PETROLEUM R.S.S.O.P.P. S.A., HELLENIQ ENERGY

Stylianos Kyriakou currently works in "HELLENIC PETROLEUM R.S.S.O.P.P. S.A.", a member of the company "HELLENIQ ENERGY", as Elefsina Industrial Complex manager, with a focus on safe and efficient operation of refinery complex while promoting the development and adoption of the relevant energy and digital transformation initiatives. He is also a member of EKO Bulgaria BoD.

During his 24 years career in the group he served in various managerial positions in Operations, Oil Movement, Technical Services as well as in Elefsina Refinery Upgrade project commissioning and start up team as well as a member in EKO Bulgaria BoD.

He holds a Diploma and PhD in Chemical Engineering from National Technical University of Athens, a BSc in Technology & Production Systems from University of Piraeus and an MBA from Alba Graduate Business School.





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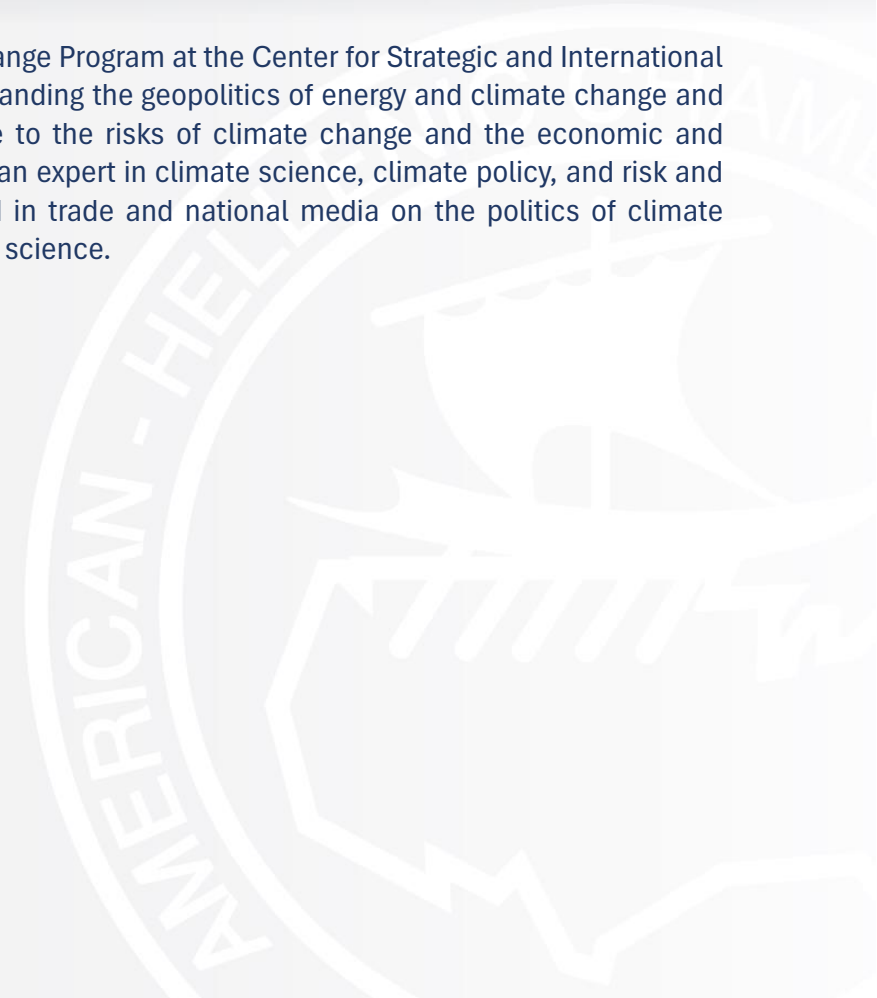
JOSEPH MAJKUT



Joseph Majkut is director of the Energy Security and Climate Change Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). In this role, he leads the program's work understanding the geopolitics of energy and climate change and working to ensure a global energy transition that is responsive to the risks of climate change and the economic and strategic priorities of the United States and the world. Joseph is an expert in climate science, climate policy, and risk and uncertainty analysis for decisionmaking. He is frequently cited in trade and national media on the politics of climate change and has testified before Congress on climate change and science.

Director

Energy Security and Climate Change Program
Center for Strategic and International Studies
(CSIS)





8TH SOUTHEAST EUROPE ENERGY FORUM 2024

VLADIMIR MALINOV



Minister
Ministry of Energy, Bulgaria

Vladimir Malinov was born on June 3, 1976 in Sliven. He holds a Master's degree in Law from the Faculty of Law of St. Kliment Ohridski University in Sofia.

In the period March 2018 to 2024 Mr. Vladimir Malinov is Executive Director of the Bulgarian national gas transmission operator Bulgartransgaz EAD. During this period, the company implemented a number of strategic projects in order to improve the energy connectivity and achieve real diversification of natural gas supply sources and routes both in Bulgaria and in the South-East Europe region. Prior to taking over the management of the gas operator, he headed the Legal Department at Bulgartransgaz, where he was responsible for processes related to regulatory issues, relations with European institutions, certification and its unbundling, as well as the implementation of the EU market codes in the natural gas sector.

In 2019, Mr. Vladimir Malinov was elected a Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Balkan Gas Hub – the first gas exchange in Bulgaria. Since January 2021, he has been a member of the Board of Directors of Gastrade S.A. – the project company that is building the liquefied gas terminal near Alexandroupolis. At the end of 2021, Mr. Malinov was elected as a member of the Board of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSO-G), whereby Bulgaria actively participates in planning and development of gas networks to achieve the energy transition by creating conditions for using hydrogen. Since 2018, Mr. Vladimir Malinov is a member of the Board of the Bulgarian Natural Gas Association, as well as the Board of Trustees of the St. Ivan Rilski University of Mining and Geology.

Since August 2008 to June 2010, he was the Head of the Market Research and Strategic Project Management Department in the Armaments Policy Directorate at the Ministry of Defence. In the period March 2003 to August 2008, he worked successively as a senior and chief expert in the Legal and Regulatory Directorate at the Ministry of Defence.

Since April 2024 Mr. Malinov has been appointed Minister of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria.

He is fluent in English and German.



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MANOS MANOUSAKIS



Chairman & CEO
Independent Power Transmission Operator
(IPTO or ADMIE)

Manos Manousakis is the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer of Independent Power Transmission Operator (IPTO or ADMIE) since June 2017.

Previously, Mr. Manousakis was the CEO of OTE Rural North and South, having held various positions of responsibility in the Greek Telecommunications Company, where he played an instrumental role in the design of cutting-edge telecommunication services. He was appointed Secretary General of the Hellenic Ministry of Economy (2015), as well as a Director at Black Sea Trade and Development Bank for the same period.

Mr Manousakis holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens. He has also academic experience having been a lecturer at the University of Piraeus. His career combines business development leadership and complex project management with country strategic planning.



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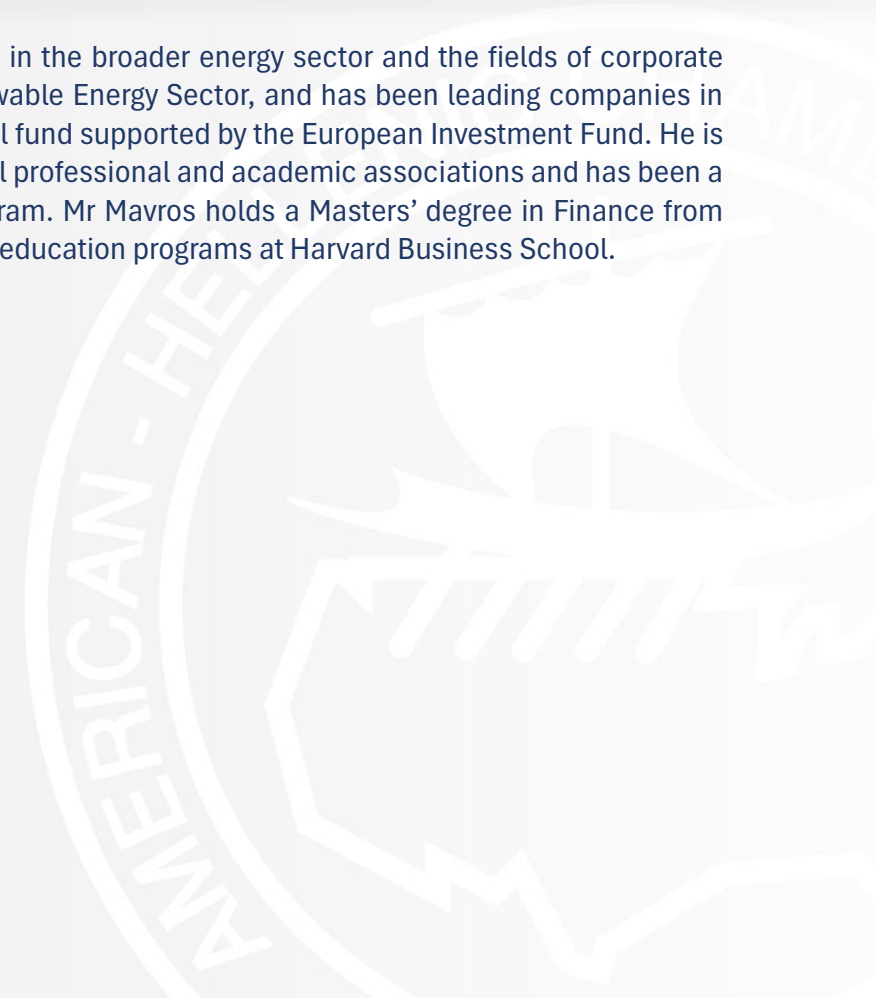
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KONSTANTINOS MAVROS



CEO
PPC Renewables

Konstantinos Mavros has significant and diversified experience in the broader energy sector and the fields of corporate finance and technology. He has worked in the past in the Renewable Energy Sector, and has been leading companies in the technological field. He has also co-founded a Venture Capital fund supported by the European Investment Fund. He is an active member and holds key positions in several international professional and academic associations and has been a visiting lecturer at the Athens University International MBA program. Mr Mavros holds a Masters' degree in Finance from Imperial College London and has completed high level executive education programs at Harvard Business School.





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OSAMA MOBAREZ



Secretary General
East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF)

Osama Mobarez has 30 years of experience in the Oil & Gas industry. He is currently the Secretary General of the East Mediterranean Gas Forum; Osama had a key role in the establishment and activities of the East Mediterranean Gas Form (EMGF), In his previous role at the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources as the Undersecretary for Technical office, he was responsible for the Realization Office to drive Egypt's Modernization Program across the Oil & Gas sector. Over his career he supported the development of policies and reforms within the petroleum sector in Egypt including; a comprehensive energy subsidy reform strategy, initiation of gas market reforms, modification and update of upstream agreements, and feasibility studies of infrastructure development projects. Osama led bi-lateral cooperation with other countries on oil and gas topics, as well as communication with financial institutions and oil and gas organizations. He was Egypt's representative in the Executive Board of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), and the International Energy Forum (IEF). He was also the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of Egypt Petroleum Show EGYPS, the biggest oil and gas show in Africa and Southern Mediterranean. Osama holds an MBA with Distinction from Edinburgh Business School, Heriot Watt University UK, and completed Post- Graduate Studies in Economics of Energy at Reading University UK.



8TH SOUTHEAST EUROPE ENERGY FORUM 2024

PAVLOS MYLONAS



CEO
National Bank of Greece

Pavlos Mylonas was appointed Chief Executive Officer of National Bank of Greece in July 2018. He was elected Executive Member of the Board of Directors and Deputy CEO of the National Bank of Greece (NBG) in June 2014.

He was appointed Chief Risk Officer in December 2013. He is a Member of the Executive Committee since 2012 and of the ALCO Committee of the Group since 2000.

In July 2012, he was appointed General Manager of Strategy and International Operations. From December 2010 until July 2012, he served as General Manager of Strategy and Governance. From April 2004 to December 2010, he was General Manager of Strategy and Research, Head of Investor Relations and Chief Economist of NBG Group, which he joined in 2000.

He worked on the staff of the OECD from 1995 to 2000, and at the International Monetary Fund from 1987 to 1995. In the years 1985-1987, he was visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics in Boston University.

Pavlos Mylonas holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics-Economics (Magna cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa) from Brown University, as well as a Master of Arts and a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University.



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MARIOS PANAYIDES



Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry,
Cyprus

Marios Panayides is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, and Industry. He previously served as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Sport, and Youth. Before assuming his role as Permanent Secretary, he served as Nicosia's District Officer from September 2013 to October 2019 and held the position of Director of Technical Services for the Ministry of Interior and Nicosia District Administration Office from 1995 to 2013. Prior to his government service, Mr. Panayides worked as a Structural Engineer in the private sector in a prominent architectural office from 1991 to 1995. He actively participates as a member of the board of Directors in public benefit organizations and has represented the Republic of Cyprus in various European and International Committees, including the Standing Committee for Construction Products, the European Committee of Competent Market Surveillance Authorities of Construction Products, the Consortium of European Building Control, the Steering Committee for Education Policy and Practice (Council of Europe), and the High-Level Group on Education and Training. Mr. Panayides plays a pivotal role in representing the Republic of Cyprus in European Ministerial Meetings and International Forums. His educational background includes a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering (Structural Engineering) from the National Technical University of Athens. Additionally, he holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Limassol (CIIM Business School). Currently, he is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering at Frederic University.



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SPIROS PAPAETHIMIOU



President
Hellenic Association for Energy Economics

Affiliate Professor
ESCP London

Spiros Papaefthimiou is the Director of the Industrial, Energy and Environmental Systems Lab and he is specialized in renewables, energy efficiency issues and energy saving applications. His research interests include various aspects of renewables (assessment and implementation of technologies and especially photovoltaics and solar thermal systems, implementation of national policies related to renewables and financial and social incentive schemes, renewable energy heating and cooling applications, renewable energy auctions and market exchange, Life Cycle Assessment and environmental impacts analysis from largescale deployment of renewable energy technologies); Sustainability in the energy sector; Energy saving devices; Technologies of "smart" materials for energy related applications; Energy characterization of building structural elements. As part of his academic work he has published more than 60 papers in international peer-reviewed journals and has been cited more than 2800 times, with a current h-index of 30; additionally, he has actively participated in more than 50 research projects. He has presented papers to numerous international energy related conferences and acted as referee for international journals in the area of Renewables, Energy efficiency and Energy policy, while on the same time he has served as member in various professional and academic associations such as the International Association for Energy Economics and the International Solar Energy Society. Additionally he has provided lectures and supervised MSc theses in various academic institutions including ESCP London, EADA Spain and Montpellier Business School. Spiros is the President of the Hellenic Association for Energy Economics. Spiros is member of the top 2% of the world's top scientists for 2022 in the field of Energy, according to the "World's Top 2% Scientists" ranking published by Stanford University.



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GEOFFREY R. PYATT



Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Energy Resources,
U.S. Department of State

Geoffrey R. Pyatt, a career member of the Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, was sworn in as Assistant Secretary for Energy Resources on September 19, 2022. Ambassador Pyatt served as U.S. Ambassador to Greece from 2016 to 2022 and U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine from 2013 to 2016. Among other recognitions, he received the State Department's Robert Frasure Memorial Award in recognition of his leadership of the U.S. response to Russia's invasion of Crimea and eastern Ukraine in 2014. Previously, Ambassador Pyatt was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs from 2010-2013. He was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna, Austria from 2007 to 2010. He also served three times at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India, as Deputy Chief of Mission from 2006 to 2007, Political Counselor from 2002 to 2006, and Political Officer from 1992 to 1994. Ambassador Pyatt was Economic Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong from 1999 to 2002 and Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Lahore, Pakistan from 1997 to 1999. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1989, he has also served on the National Security Council staff, on the staff of Deputy Secretary Strobe Talbott and at the U.S. Embassy in Honduras. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he worked with The Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based think tank that brings together leading citizens of the Americas. Ambassador Pyatt grew up in La Jolla, California and holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Yale and B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Irvine.



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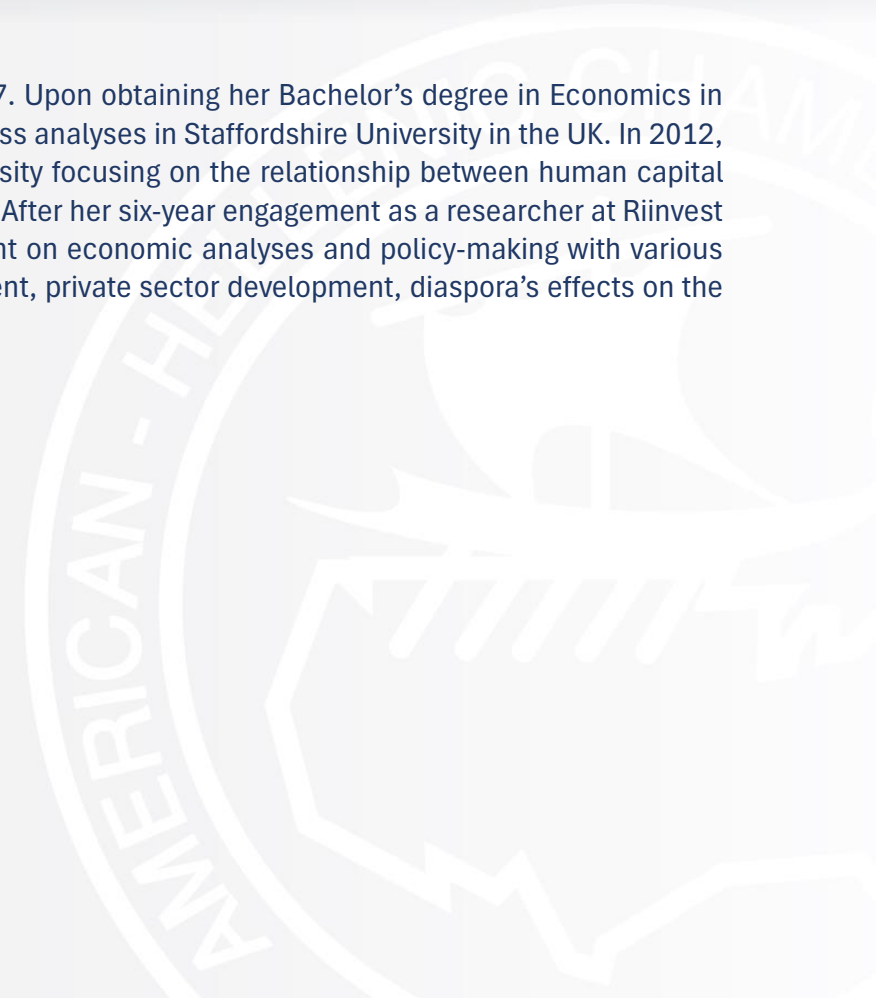
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ARTANE RIZVANOLLI



Minister
Ministry of Economy, Kosovo

Dr. **Artane Rizvanolli** is a lecturer at Riinvest College since 2007. Upon obtaining her Bachelor's degree in Economics in 2006, she continued her Master studies in Economics for business analyses in Staffordshire University in the UK. In 2012, she completed her PhD in Economics from Staffordshire University focusing on the relationship between human capital and foreign direct investment in European transition economies. After her six-year engagement as a researcher at Riinvest Institute, she continued her work as a researcher and consultant on economic analyses and policy-making with various local and international organisations in areas such as employment, private sector development, diaspora's effects on the economy, public finances, etc.





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ALEXANDRA SDOUKOU



Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece

Alexandra Sdoukou is a lawyer and has served as a legal consultant in both the private sector and public administration. In 2007, she was formally employed by the Management Organisation Unit of Development Programmes (MOU S.A.).

She holds a Law degree from Democritus University of Thrace, complemented by postgraduate degrees in European Commercial Law from the University of Bristol and in International and European Economic Studies from the Athens University of Economics and Business.

From 2004 to 2012, she held significant advisory roles within various ministries, including the Ministries of Economy and Finance, Development and Environment, and Energy. From 2012 to 2015, she served as the Director of the Minister's Office of Environment, Energy, and Climate Change.

Her extensive expertise lies in the formulation, execution, and supervision of energy policies. Notably, from 2017 to 2019, she served as a special advisor on energy and mineral resources matters to Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the President of New Democracy Party. From July 2019 until June 2023, she held the position of Secretary General for Energy and Mineral Resources (GSEMR) at the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy.

On June 27, 2023, she was appointed as Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy.



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JANET SHALOM



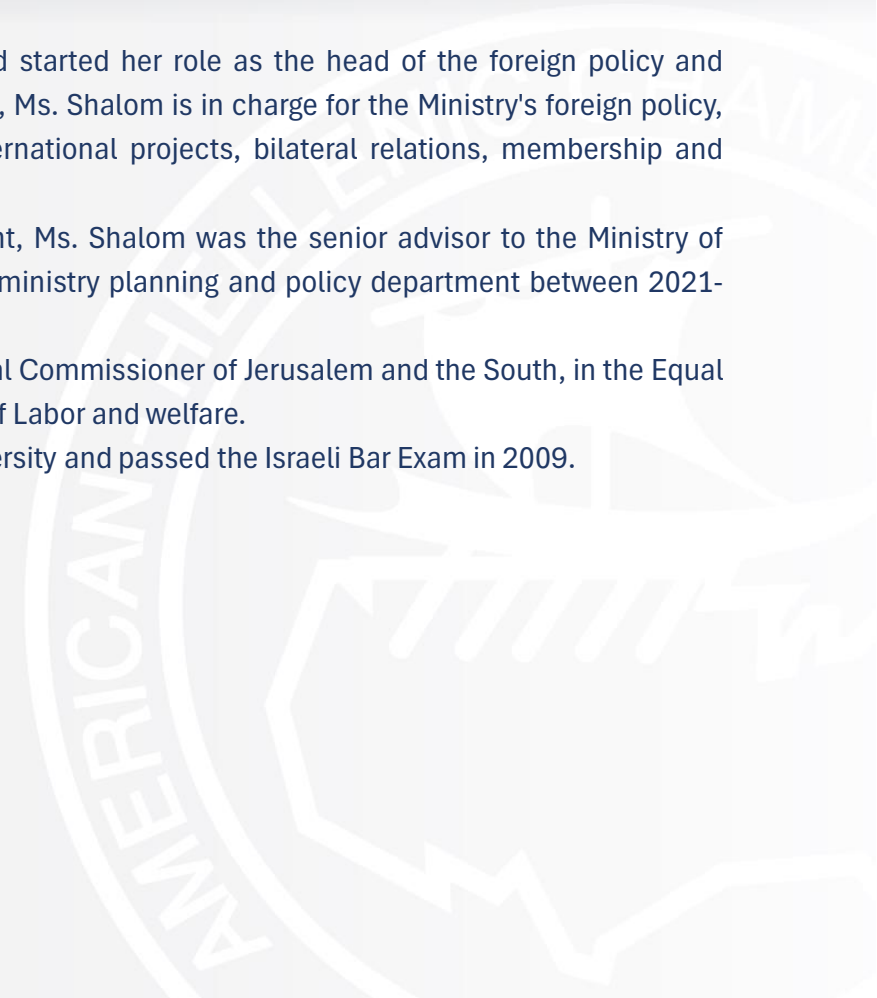
Janet Shalom joined the Israeli Ministry of Energy at 2018 and started her role as the head of the foreign policy and international projects department at 2024. As Part of her duties, Ms. Shalom is in charge for the Ministry's foreign policy, Leads the international relations of the ministry including international projects, bilateral relations, membership and participation in international organizations, and more.

Prior to her nomination as head of the international department, Ms. Shalom was the senior advisor to the Ministry of energy DG, Mr. Adiri, between 2018-2021, and the head of the ministry planning and policy department between 2021-2023.

Before joining the Ministry of Energy Ms. Shalom was the Regional Commissioner of Jerusalem and the South, in the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) at the Ministry of Labor and welfare.

She holds an LLB degree from the Faculty of Law at Hebrew University and passed the Israeli Bar Exam in 2009.

Head of the foreign policy & international projects department
Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, Israel





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KOSTIS SIFNAIOS



Managing Director
Gastrade

Kostis Sifnaios graduated from the school of Mathematics and Applied Sciences of the University of Athens having completed a special program on studies, methods and applications of Linear Programming and Network Flows. He went on to work as a research and faculty assistant at Columbia University, New York, U.S. where he received a Master of Science (MSc) in Operational Research and Applied Business Administration.

Mr. Sifnaios started his professional career at Mobil Oil Hellas in 1987 as a Strategic Planning analyst. He continued in a number of positions within Sales and Marketing reaching the post of Sales Manager for South & Western Greece. He was transferred to Mobil Oil International in London and Madrid where he assumed posts in supply and trading. In 1997 he moved to BP International, based in Brussels to work on the European restructuring of the company. He returned in Greece as General Commercial Sales Director for BP Greece (2000 – 2002) to then once more resume his international career within BP's European supply chain till 2007.

From June 2007 to the end of 2021, he worked in Copelouzos Group initially as New Projects Manager, gas sales Commercial Manager and then as Group Energy Director in the sector of Gas. He also managed the development of the Alexandroupolis LNG Terminal Project to its Final Investment Decision.

Since January 2022, when FID was taken on the Alexandroupolis LNG Project, he was appointed Managing Director of Gastrade, the owner and operator of the Terminal.

Mr. Sifnaios was born in Athens in 1960 and originates from the island of Lesvos. He speaks Greek, English, French and Spanish.



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THEODORE SKYLAKAKIS



Minister
Ministry of Environment & Energy, Greece

Theodore Skyakakis was born in 1959 in Athens. He is an economist. Member of Parliament for New Democracy (2022-2023). Minister of Environment and Energy from June 2023. Alternate Minister of Finance, responsible for Fiscal Policy and responsible for preparing and coordinating the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan "Greece 2.0" (2020-2023). Deputy Minister of Fiscal Policy (2019-2020), Member of the European Parliament (2009-2014), Secretary General for International Economic Relations and Development Cooperation (2006-2009), Municipal Councilor, Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Athens (2003-2006), responsible for preparing for the 2004 Olympic Games. From 1990 to 1993 he served as Advisor to Prime Minister Konstantinos Mitsotakis and Head of the Prime Minister's Planning and Communication Office.

He also served as President and Director General of the E21 Research Centre (1994-2001). He was the last President of Drasi (2014-2019), which suspended its activity to support New Democracy.

He has worked in advertising and communication since 1985 and he has founded four companies in the fields of communication (1994-1999), crisis management (2000-2006) and agricultural production & processing (2014-2019).

He studied economics in Greece (University of Athens) and business administration (MBA) in England (City University, London) and received a master's degree from the British Market Research Society in Market Research. He has received a PhD from the Department of History and Philosophy of Science of the University of Athens, entitled: "Social tolerance to corruption".

He is married to Eleni Papapanou, has two daughters, Marianna and Irene and four granddaughters.



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ELIAS SPIRTOUNIAS



Executive Director
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

After graduating from the School of Mathematics of the University of Athens, **Elias Spirtounias** completed his graduate studies at the School of Electrical Engineering (M.Sc. degree and pre-Ph.D. studies) at Boston University. During his residence in the United States, he participated as a Research Engineer in several research programs in cooperation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in the fields of analog and digital electronics, circuits design and applications. He returned to Greece in 1992 and after completing his military service in 1994, he held the position of Technical Director for the subsidiary of the Italian company Citec SpA., a company specialized in the design, production and application of voice and image processing systems. From 1997 until February 2009, he worked for the Foundation of the Hellenic World, a major Greek private non-profit cultural organization, starting as a Construction Supervisor and continuing as a Managing Director of the brand new then Cultural Center, Hellenic Cosmos an innovative, based on new technologies, theme park. During his tenure, he contributed significantly to the expansion, development and operation of the Center and its establishment as one of the most known technology-driven cultural theme park in Greece and abroad. From March 2009, he holds the position of Executive Director of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Along with his colleagues and in cooperation with the Board have managed, during the economic crisis, to increase significantly the number of activities, undertake important initiatives, retain in high level the memberships, foster the advocacy level, expand further the presence of the Chamber in US and contribute to the evolution of the Chamber into one of the leading dynamic and reliable business organization in Greece. He serves as Treasurer of the American Chambers in Europe (ACE) Executive Committee.



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ARISTOFANIS STEFATOS



CEO
Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy
Resources Management Company
(HEREMA)

Aristofanis (Aris) Stefatos, CEO of the Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company (HEREMA S.A.) holds a PhD in geology & geophysics, a master's degree in Environmental Oceanography and a bachelors in Geology. For the last 16 years he has held senior and top management positions in private E&P companies in Norway and has been a founding partner of five Norwegian companies within the broader E&P sector, including companies developing innovative environmental and digitalization solutions. Through his 25 years of work experience, Mr. Stefatos has also worked with the technical maturation of exploration prospects and drilling. He has worked in geological basins in Europe, North America, Indian ocean, West Coast of Africa, and South East Asia. He has a proven track record of five oil and gas discoveries in the Norwegian and the Barents Sea.



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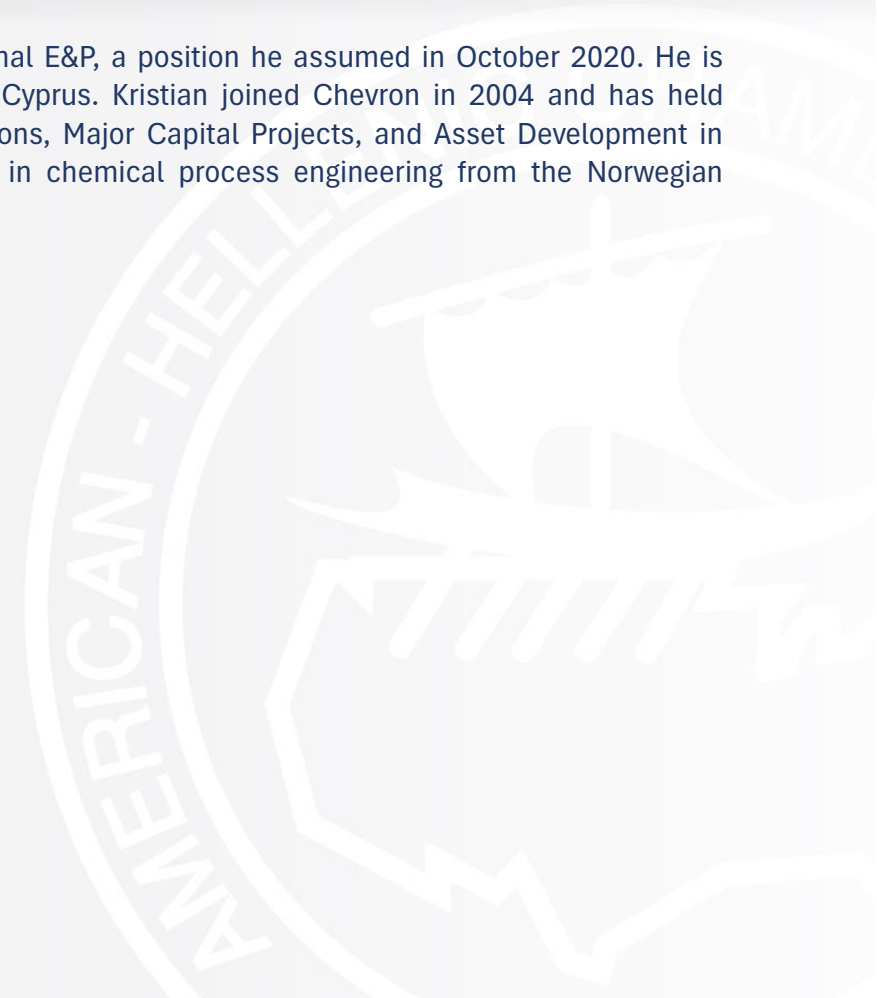
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KRISTIAN SVENDSEN



Regional Manager
Chevron International E&P,
Egypt & Cyprus

Kristian Svendsen is Regional Manager for Chevron International E&P, a position he assumed in October 2020. He is responsible for Chevron's upstream businesses in Egypt and Cyprus. Kristian joined Chevron in 2004 and has held numerous positions of increasing responsibility within Operations, Major Capital Projects, and Asset Development in several locations and countries. Kristian received his degree in chemical process engineering from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in 2003.





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THEODOROS TSAKIRIS



Coordinator of International Energy Policy & Energy Security
Office of the Minister of Environment and Energy, Greece

Dr. **Theodoros Tsakiris** is a Professor of Geopolitics & Energy Policy at the University of Nicosia where he coordinates the Energy Studies Programs of the School of Business. In parallel, since 2019 he has been serving in the Office of the Minister of Environment & Energy as the Coordinator of International Energy Policy & Energy Security. He is also a Member of the Board of Directors of DESFA SA, the Greek Natural Gas Transmission System Operator. From June 2022 onwards Dr. Tsakiris has been appointed as the Coordinator of the Committee for the Acceleration of E&P Hydrocarbon activities. He was also a member (2021-2023) of the National Committee responsible for the Drafting of the Greek Hydrogen Strategy and is an expert adviser to the Committee responsible for drafting the Greek NECP since 2022.

He has also coordinated the special expert groups of the Program Secretariat of Nea Demokratia which were responsible for the drafting of the party's government program for Energy in the periods 2016-2019 and 2022-2023. From 2008 to 2010 Dr. Tsakiris served as a senior policy adviser on international energy affairs to Energy Ministers Christos Folias, Kostis Hatzidakis and Deputy Minister Yiannis Maniatis. From 2014 to 2016 Dr. Tsakiris served as a member of the Board of Directors of the state-owned Cyprus Hydrocarbons Company (CHC) and the Geostrategic Council of the Republic of Cyprus.

From 2011 to 2019 he directed ELIAMEP's Geopolitics of Energy Program. Between 2017-2019, Greece's preeminent Foreign Policy think tank. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of HAEE (Hellenic Association for Energy Economics). During that period he was also a non-resident Research Associate for the Research Center for Energy Management of ESCP Europe where he taught between 2018-2020. From 2013 to 2014 he was an Associate of the Southern Europe Program at the LSE Ideas think-tank of the London School of Economics. He is a regular contributor to Kathimerini (<https://www.moneyreview.gr/author/theodoros-tsakiris/>) and Energy Press (<https://energypress.gr/news/tsakiris>).



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GEORGE J. TSUNIS



Ambassador
U.S. Embassy in Greece

George James Tsunis presented his credentials to the President of the Hellenic Republic on May 10, 2022. He was nominated by President Biden and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 10, 2022.

Ambassador Tsunis is the proud Greek-American son of immigrants to the United States, with deep roots in the village of Platanos in the beautiful mountainous region of Nafpaktia. Growing up, his parents instilled in him the Hellenic ideals of καλοσύνη (goodness), αγάπη (love), and above all, φιλότιμο (the love of honor). He learned Greek as his first language. Deeply engaged with the Greek-American community, Ambassador Tsunis was a founding trustee of the Hellenic American Leadership Council, and is a trustee of the Hellenic Initiative among other roles.

Prior to his nomination, Ambassador Tsunis was the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Chartwell Hotels, LLC. He served as Chairman of Battery Park City Authority. He was also a Trustee for the New York City Convention Development Corporation and the New York City Convention Operating Corporation and helped manage a 1.5 million square foot expansion of the New York Convention Center, transforming it into one of the world's most modern and beautiful convention centers. Ambassador Tsunis served as the chairman of the Nassau University Medical Center, a large public safety net hospital with a focus on providing care to vulnerable communities.

Previously, Ambassador Tsunis was a Counsel and Partner (Attorney of Law), at Rivkin Radler LLP, Uniondale, NY, and Legislative Attorney, New York City Council. He served as Counsel for Dix Hills Water District, Dix Hills, NY and Town of Huntington Committee on Open Space Preservation, Huntington, NY.

Ambassador Tsunis earned a B.A. from the New York University, New York, NY and a J.D. from St John's University of Law, Queens, NY. He was an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Order of Saint Andrew), the highest ecclesiastical honor that can be bestowed upon a layman by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Harry Chapin Humanitarian Award for Long Island Cares and the lifetime achievement award for civic engagement for Long Island Business News. Ambassador Tsunis is married and has three children.



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TASSOS VLASSOPOULOS



CEO
HELLENiQ Upstream

Tassos Vlassopoulos is the CEO of HELLENiQ Upstream SA (HELLENiQ Energy's Upstream Business Unit), managing six hydrocarbon licenses as well as leading HELLENiQ's efforts in CCS. Prior to this role, he has held senior international management positions at GE, driving market strategy in Oil & Gas (globally) and Power Generation (in Europe). He has also led M&A and BD with major Oil & Gas companies in the North Sea and the Caspian, and Global Oil & Gas Research at BCG, working with senior European clients. Furthermore, Tassos Vlassopoulos has also served as a non - Executive Board Member at PPC. In total, he has 33 years of experience in the Energy sector. Following the downturn in Oil & Gas ten years ago, Tassos Vlassopoulos published an influential SPE paper on "Standardisation - Learnings from Industrial Sectors", addressing key actions to reduce costs, and used it to advocate with major Oil & Gas companies and UK industry stakeholders. At the beginning of his career, he worked as a Research Officer at the London Business School, where he co-authored of a book and several academic articles on industrial and business strategy. He holds a MSc in Operations Research from the London School of Economics and a 1 st class BSc (Hons) in Economics from the University of Piraeus.



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VALBONA ZENELI



Nonresident Senior fellow
Europe Center & Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security,
Transatlantic Security Initiative, Atlantic Council

Valbona Zeneli is a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Europe Center and at the Transatlantic Security Initiative of the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security. She is also a visiting scholar for 2023-2024 at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University. From 2011 to 2023, she served as a professor of national security studies and chair of strategic engagements at the US Department of Defense's George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies where she continues her affiliation as an visiting adjunct professor. Zeneli is also a visiting fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

She specializes in transatlantic relations, strategic competition, NATO, globalization and international economy, European Union enlargement, and the Western Balkans. Zeneli has published numerous papers and book chapters, and is a frequent contributor to international leading magazines. She has delivered more than one hundred presentations in more than thirty countries, including as frequent lecturer and visiting professor at the NATO School in Oberammergau, the US Foreign Service Institute, US Department of State, and defense academies across Europe. Zeneli was a nonresident visiting fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna in 2021-2022 as a Europe's Future fellow, focusing in her research on Chinese influence in the Balkans.

Zeneli received her PhD in political economy from the University of Bari and a BS with honors in business administration from the University of Bologna, Italy. She also completed graduate studies in international marketing as a fellow in the Foreign Service Program at Georgetown University, and the Executive Education for Senior Executives in National and International Security at Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Besides English, she speaks Italian, German, and some Spanish. Zeneli is the 2023 winner of the Inspiration Award for Women.



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IVANA ZUZUL



Senior Director, Europe
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Dr. **Ivana Zuzul** joined the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as Senior Director for Europe in August 2022. Her portfolio includes energy and sustainability, financial services, and trade. She also coordinates the work on the Chamber's Ukraine Business Initiative, focusing on reconstruction and redevelopment of Ukraine. Prior to joining the Chamber, Dr. Zuzul worked in international consulting in various capacities for over a decade, focusing on international government consulting and foreign private investment. She led Four Corners Global Consulting, a boutique strategic consultancy that provided companies, principally in energy and defense, with strategic, outreach, and advisory support in Central and Southeast Europe. Previously, she worked as a Senior Advisor for International Trade at Baker Hostetler LLP, looking at inter-state relationships and foreign policy, and worked with Monitor Group. Dr. Zuzul was part of a small team that founded the first private University in Croatia under the auspices of the United Nations Alliance for Civilizations (UNESCO). She managed and oversaw the daily operations of the University for 5 years as Vice President. Dr. Zuzul graduated from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She holds a Ph.D. in International Law and Economics from Bocconi University Faculty of Law and SDA School of Management. Her doctoral dissertation examined drivers of growth in transitional economies. She was born in Zagreb, Croatia, and has lived in Croatia, Switzerland, Italy, and Costa Rica. She speaks French and Croatian.