22 nd Corporate Responsibility Conference







October 22, 2024

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, Lighthouse

Speakers Bios



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Theodora Antonakaki, Director, Climate Change and Sustainability Centre, Bank of Greece

Theodora Antonakaki, Director of Bank of Greece's Climate Change and Sustainability Centre (CCSC), is coordinating BoG's work on climate, sustainability and research at the Climate Change Impacts Study Committee (CCISC) and representing BoG at the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) and at the newly established Eurosystem Climate Change Forum. She is a member of Hellenic Ministry of Finance's working group for Sustainable Finance and Green Economy Transition, and she has been an advisor on issues of sustainability and socioeconomic impact in a wide range of projects, in planning, urban and architectural design. Her work has gained awards from Europa Nostra and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, while she has been honored, by the French Republic, with the title of Knight of the French National Order of Merit (Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite), as an acknowledgment for her contributions to climate and sustainability issues. She is a graduate of the Polytechnic School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the University of London, where she was an Honorary Research Fellow. She has lectured at Syracuse University, the University of Stirling, the School of Nordic Urban Design and has taught at the Hellenic Open University. Her work has been published in peer reviewed journals and she has written book chapters in edited books.



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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 AEEX, 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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Thomas Bartzanas, Professor, Vice Rector for Research, Finance and Development & Director of the Lab of Farm Structures, Agricultural University of Athens

Thomas Bartzanas is Professor, Vice Rector for Research, Finance and Development, Professor and Director of the Lab of Farm Structures at the Agricultural University of Athens (AUA) and Chairman of the Board at SmartAgroHub S.E, a spin-off of AUA. He is an agricultural engineer, with a PhD in agricultural engineering systems and process at the University of Thessaly and the Bioclimatology station of INRA in France and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Aarhus in Denmark (Department of Engineering). His research interests focus on the development, evaluation and application of new techniques and technologies in controlled environment production systems (greenhouses, vertical farming systems, hydroponic systems, livestock buildings), the sustainable and smart use of natural resources in the agrifood sector and the assessment of the environmental impact (environmental footprint) in the agrifood sector using the life cycle analysis. He has participated as a Coordinator and/or Researcher in 50 national and European research programs and has more than 350 publications in international journals and conference proceedings (h-index 33/5100 citations). Thomas is Associate Editor in Biosystems Engineering and member of the EurAgEng, vicechair in the Structures & Environment Committee of CIGR and member of the Scientific Council of the European Union, in the Directorate for Research and Innovation for open access to research results in the field of Agricultural Sciences.



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Alexander Betts, Professor of Migrations and International Affairs & William Golding Senior Fellow in Politics, University of Oxford

Alexander Betts is Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs, and Senior Fellow in Politics at Brasenose College, at the University of Oxford. He serves as the University's Local and Global Engagement Officer, and Chair of the University's Sport Strategy Committee. His research focuses on refugees' access to socio-economic opportunities, and he has undertaken research across Africa and Europe. He has published 12 books, around 100 scholarly publications, and won several academic prizes, including from the International Studies Association and American Political Science Association for his scholarship, and the ESRC's Outstanding International Impact Prize. He has been named by Foreign Policy magazine as one of the world's top-100 global thinkers, by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader, by Friends of Europe as a European Young Leader under-40, and by Thinkers50 on their radar list of emerging business influencers. He has written for the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Guardian, and his TED talks have been viewed by over 3 million people. He has previously served as the Director the Refugee Studies Centre, Associate Head of the Social Sciences Division, and is co-founder of the Oxford SDG Impact Lab and the Refugee-Led Research Hub in Nairobi. He was previously the World Masters and European Universities debating champion. In his spare time, he coaches an Oxford City under-9s team and is a long-distance runner who has completed the 6 Abbott World Marathon Majors. Areas of expertise: higher education, community engagement, organisational strategy, communications.



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Leonidas Canellopoulos, Chief Sustainability & Innovation Officer, Titan Cement Group

Leonidas Canellopoulos is Chief Sustainability & Innovation Officer and Executive Member of the Board of Titan Cement Group. Since 2012, he has covered various roles within the Group's Finance and Strategic Planning functions and has served as Cement Operations Director of the Group's Greek Region. Before that, he worked for Separation Technologies and Alpha Bank. He is a member of the Board of the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE), and of Junior Achievement Greece. He holds a BA in Economics with Honors from Harvard University and an MBA from INSEAD, where he received the Henry Ford II Prize.

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Constantinos Cartalis, Professor of Environmental and Climate Physics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Constantinos Cartalis is Professor of Environmental and Climate Physics at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Acting member of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change as well as of the respective Scientific Committee in Greece. Member of the Coordination Unit of the international initiative of UNFCCC-UNESCO-Greece for the protection of cultural heritage from the impacts of climate change. Has acted as UNDP Technical Expert on Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation and member of the United Nations Subsidiary Body for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement. Has published over 250 papers in international scientific journals (110) and Conferences.





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Eva Chioti, Public Affairs & Sustainability Senior Manger for Greece, Cyprus & Malta, The Coca-Cola Company

Eva Chioti is Public Affairs & Sustainability Senior Manager of The Coca-Cola Company for Greece, Cyprus & Malta. She is a seasoned executive with extensive work experience in the field of corporate affairs, communications and sustainability. For more than 20 years she has worked in leading multinational companies and Greek organizations of various industries, such as Mars Hellas, Gucci, Olympiakos Sports Club, the Ministry of Tourism and the Frigoglass Group, where she has led robust ESG strategies, large-scale social, environmental and community programs, as well as corporate reputation, communications and public affairs. She has served as a Communications advisor for the Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD). She is a member of the Corporate Responsibility Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. She holds a BSc in Business Administration from the Athens University of Economics and Business and a BA in Psychology from Deree, The American College of Greece. She has studied on a scholarship at the Sorbonne University Paris North - UP13 and holds an Executive MSc in Services Management from the Athens University of Economics and Business.





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Maria Damanaki, Independent Advisor on Climate-Oceans

Acting as an independent consultant in global organizations, Maria Damanaki is serving as an advisor for Oceans5 (USA) and Rockefeller Brothers Foundation (USA). She is a member of the Friends of Ocean Action of the World Economic Forum. She co-chairs the network of the High-Level Ocean Panel and she sits on the Boards: Monaco Ocean Foundation and Oceanographic Institute, European Marine Regions Forum (Berlin), Global Fishing Watch (Partnership of Google and Oceana, USA), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC-London), Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR UN New York), Beneath the Waves (USA). She also serves as a visiting professor on Marine Policy at NOVA University of Lisbon. She served for five years as the Global Managing Director for Oceans at The Nature Conservancy USA. She also served as the European Union Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Under her leadership, the Commission introduced a new Common Fisheries Policy that brought fish populations back to healthier levels-from as few as five sustainable stocks in 2010 to up more than 30 today. She also served as a Greek politician for many years. She was the first woman leader of a Greek political party, author of four books on Gender and Human Rights issues, Education and European Policy.





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Dimitrios Dimopoulos, Head of ESG, Piraeus Financial Holdings

Dimitrios Dimopoulos received his bachelor degree in biology and his PhD from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Since 1989, he has been involved in nature conservation and sustainable development. In 2006, he joined Piraeus Bank, today, he is the Head of the ESG unit of Piraeus Financial Holdings. He represents Piraeus Group at UNEP FI, where he is currently serving as an elected member on the Banking Board and co-chair. He was involved in creating the UN Principles for Responsible Banking. He participates in the Advisory Boards of the EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform and the Finance for Biodiversity Foundation.





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Chryssa Eleftheriou, Sustainability Leader, Interamerican Group

Chryssa Eleftheriou is Sustainability Leader of Interamerican Group. With more than 20 years of professional experience, she has held positions of responsibility in the areas of "Corporate Relations & Responsibility" and "Business Development" in both Greece and Cyprus. She has studied Public Relations and Communication at the University of Western Macedonia and holds a Master's degree in Service Management from the Athens University of Economics and Business. In 2022, she completed the program Sustainable Development Strategies at Harvard Business School. She serves as chair of the Sustainability Committee of the Hellenic-Dutch and Industry Association. She is also a member of the ESG working group of Hellenic Federation of Enterprises, the Sustainability Committee of the Hellenic Association of Insurance Companies and the Corporate Responsibility Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

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Maria Gavouneli, President, Greek National Commission for Human Rights & Director General, (ELIAMEP)

Maria Gavouneli is a Professor in the Law Faculty of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, a member of the Athens Public International Law Centre (Athens PIL), Director of the University of Athens' Refugee and Migration Studies Hub, and Director General of ELIAMEP. During the 2018–2019 academic year, she was a visiting professor at the University of California Berkeley as a Fulbright Scholar. She graduated from the Law Faculty of the University of Athens (1987, A. Papadakis Scholarship, M. Stasinopoulou Prize) and from the University of Cambridge, where she obtained an LL.M. in international law (1988) and a Ph.D. in international environmental law (1994, Greek State Scholarship). For her doctoral thesis on "Pollution from offshore installations", she was awarded the international Paul Guggenheim Prize. Visiting Professor in Greece and abroad at institutions including the Hague Academy of International Law, the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), the Universities of Edinburgh (Brodies Lecture), Oxford, Manchester, Glasgow, Utrecht, Ankara, Tulane, Paris 1 (Panthéon Sorbonne) and Paris 2 (Panthéon Assas), the NUS Academy of International Law, and the Nippon Fellows program at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea – ITLOS. Her extensive publications include five monographs: Pollution from offshore installations (Martinus Nijhoff, 1995 -Guggenheim Prize), State Immunity and the Rule of Law (Ant. N. Sakkoulas, 2001), Functional jurisdiction in the Law of the Sea (Martinus Nijhoff, 2007), Energy installations in the sea (Nomiki Bibliothiki, 2016) and Energy at Sea (Edward Elgar, 2024). She has edited eight collective works, contributed many papers to collective volumes, and published numerous articles in Greek, English, French and Italian. She is fluent in Spanish and has a basic knowledge of German. She is one of the editors-in-chief of the Yearbook of International Environmental Law (OUP). President of the International Law Association – the Greek branch of the ILA, and Vice President of the Hellenic Society of International Law & International Relations. She is also President of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights—GHCHR, a member of the Management Board of the National Transparency Authority, and a member of the National Accessibility Authority.





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Ada Gianneskis, Communications Director Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, IKEA

Ada Gianneskis, a seasoned marketing and communications executive, grew up between Toronto, Canada, and Athens, Greece. She currently serves as the Communications Director of House Market SA, the IKEA franchisee for Greece, Cyprus, and Bulgaria. In this role, she oversees commercial and corporate communications, marketing, interior design, and the food business. She additionally supports all Fourlis Group in marketing and communication endeavors. Ada's marketing experience includes roles as Advertising Manager and Marketing Manager at IKEA, as well as Brand Manager for Samsung and other electronic goods brands. She holds an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University, specializing in sports marketing. Beyond her professional achievements, Ada is a certified facilitator for Inter-IKEA (senior coach) and has conducted training workshops for IKEA and other organizations. She actively participates in various associations, including the Corporate Responsibility Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and the Advertisers Association of Greece. In her free time, Ada enjoys sports, cooking, travel, and binge-watching series.





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Vasiliki Kapari, People Director, Wella Company

Vasiliki Kapari, People Director of Wella Company, has studies in International Relations and Human Resources Management. She has acquired 20 years of professional experience in HR departments in Technology, Hotel, Wellness Services and FMCG industries, with local and global roles, in multinational and Greek enterprises. For the last 15 years, she has been passionate about Corporate Responsibility and Organizational Citizenship Behavior both within companies and in institutions, such as the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce of which she is a member of its Corporate Responsibility Committee.





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Martha Kesisoglou, Corporate Affairs Executive Director, Nova

Martha Kesisoglou is a strategic communications, marketing and sustainability senior professional, and Nova's Corporate Affairs Executive Director. He career comprises senior managerial and advisory positions in the Greek Tourism Confederation (SETE), Eurobank, Piraeus Bank, Nova Bank and Athens International Airport. Martha is highly experienced in business strategy and transformation, corporate and marketing communications, press relations, crisis management, stakeholder engagement, employer branding, B2B, advertising and digital assets. She holds a Marketing Management B.Sc. from Deree College and an MA in Sociology from the University of Kent.



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Elina Konstantinou, Marketing & Communications Director, Zepos & Yannopoulos

Elina Konstantinou joined Zepos & Yannopoulos in 2019 and is responsible for the corporate communications, external affairs, and corporate responsibility. She has been involved with corporate communications since 2003, having worked, throughout the years with a multitude of Greek and international corporations and organizations in the defense, banking, and technology sector. Elina has designed and implemented integrated corporate communications campaigns in Greece and abroad, covering the areas of media relations, investor communications, corporate social responsibility, crisis and issues management, public affairs, and stakeholders' management. She holds a Bachelor in Law and Politics from SOAS (University of London) and an MA in International Studies and Diplomacy from the Centre of International Studies and Diplomacy (SOAS, University of London). She holds a Certificate (CPD) on Business Sustainability Management from University of Cambridge

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Kiara Konti, Partner, EY Greece

Kiara Konti is a Partner at EY Greece, leading Sustainability Services for EY Greece and the EY CESA (Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe & Central Asia) region. She has subject-matter knowledge and 19 years of experience in sustainability consulting and assurance services, across a series of ESG aspects, including decarbonization, the circular economy, social impact and sustainable finance. Kiara has led more than 350 engagements on climate change and sustainability services, for more than 100 companies, across 25 sectors/subsectors. She is a BoD Member of the UNGC Network in Greece, a committee member of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce's (AmCham) Corporate Responsibility Committee, as well as a committee member of AmCham's Circular Economy Committee. She also represents EY as a founding member of the Climate Governance Initiative Greek Chapter. Kiara is a GRI Certified Sustainability Professional, a GRI Certified Trainer, an AccountAbility Certified Sustainability Assurance Practitioner, she holds the ACCA Certificate in Integrated Reporting, she is a Certified Net Zero Carbon Emissions Leader (CNZ™) and has successfully completed the Social Value UK SROI training. She has deep knowledge and consulting experience in climate change and sustainability strategy and target setting, sustainability governance and management systems, ESG risk and opportunities identification and assessment (including impact analysis/double materiality methodologies), stakeholder engagement, community investment, measurement of non-financial KPIs, socioeconomic outcomes measurement, measurement of social return on investment (SROI), climate/green and sustainability liked bond/loan frameworks, ESG reporting, ESG training and non-financial assurance services. She is a subject matter expert on ESG standards and frameworks, including ESRS, IFRS S1/S2, GRI, SASB, <IR>, TCFD, TNFD, UNGC, UN SDGs, SROI, CDP, SBTi, ECOVADIS, SEDEX, ISO 26000, ISAE3000, AA1000AS & APS, AA1000SES, UNEPFI PRB, PRI etc. She has been involved in ESG strategy and compliance engagements for the financial sector, including ECB's climate and environmental risk expectations, ECB climate stress testing, and the implementation of the UNEP FI Principles for Responsible Banking. She has experience in the field of the Circular Economy, having worked on relevant studies, which included legislation overview and assessment, sectorial current state assessment and a gap assessment against leading practices. Since 2006, Kiara has published a number of articles on ESG in Greek magazines and newspapers, has contributed to international book publications on sustainability, is a regular speaker in sustainability conferences and events, and has provided a series of open and in-house training courses on the subject.



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Sofia Kouvelaki, Chief Executive Officer, The HOME Project

Sofia Kouvelaki is the Chief Executive Officer of The HOME Project. She was the Program Manager of the Bodossaki Foundation Program for Unaccompanied Minors and inter alia, in charge of projects on Social Welfare Provision to socially vulnerable groups. She has worked at the UN and at UNICEF in the economic analysis and social policy division and as an Adviser and Researcher for the public and private sector in Greece. She holds a Master of Science in International Political Economy from the London School of Economics and a Master in International Economics from Sciences Po Paris. She has completed a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International Relations at Brown University in the USA and a Certificate from the Harvard Program on Refugee Trauma and Recovery. Sofia Kouvelaki has given talks and participated in panel discussions on unaccompanied minors and the refugee crisis in Greece, at the US Congress, Harvard University, Brown University, University of London (UCL), TEDx Athens, Building Bridges Film Festival, and many other institutions in Europe and the US. She has been selected as part of Obama Foundation Leaders: Europe program which is composed of 35 emerging leaders who represent 18 countries throughout Europe. In the past, she has worked as a researcher and producer at Mega TV "War Zone" documentary series and was a contributing author at Huffington Post Greece.



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Dr. Stamatios Krimigis, President, Academy of Athens

Dr. Stamatios (Tom) Krimigis is Emeritus Head of the Space Exploration Sector at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), President of the Academy of Athens where he occupies the Chair of Science of Space and Applications, has built instruments that have flown to all 9 classical planets beginning with Mariner 4 to Mars in 1965 and ending with New Horizons to Pluto in 2015; also the Moon, the asteroid Eros, and the Parker Solar Probe to the Sun in 2018, and is Principal Investigator on NASA's Voyager 1 and 2 Interstellar Mission to the outer planets and the Galaxy. He has published over 640 papers in peer-reviewed journals and books with over 27,000 citations and h-index of 87. He is a three-time recipient (1981, 1986, 2014) of NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal. In 1999 the International Astronomical Union named asteroid 1979 UH as 8323 Krimigis. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). Other awards include the Council of European Aerospace Societies CEAS Gold Medal in 2011, the European Geophysical Union Jean Dominique Cassini Medal (2014), the AIAA Van Allen Space Environments Award (2014). Among his recent awards are the Smithsonian Institutions' National Air and Space Museum Trophy for Lifetime Achievement (2015), the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal (2016), and the Theodore von Karman Award (2017) of the International Academy of Astronautics. He is a member of Academia Europaea and was honored by a special resolution of the U. S. Senate "for exceptional contributions to space science" (2018). A short video his the **Smithsonian** found produced bv be on career can at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvqtPPy6bQg





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Dr. Kostas Lagouvardos, Director of Research, National Observatory of Athens

Dr. Kostas Lagouvardos (born in 1964) studied Physics at the University of Athens and holds a PhD in Dynamical Meteorology from the University of PARIS 6 (France, 1992). He is also a graduate of the National School of Public Administration (2001). He worked as a postdoctoral researcher and scientific associate at CETP/CNRS (Paris, France) in the period 1992-1993, at the University of Athens in the period 1993-1998, at the National Observatory of Athens (NOA) in the period from 1999-2002, while since 2002 he is researcher and since 2011 Director of Research at NOA. His thematic area of expertise includes: dynamical meteorology, numerical weather prediction, satellite and observational meteorology, climatology and dynamics of atmospheric systems (with an emphasis on extreme weather events in the Mediterranean region), atmospheric electricity, climatology and the study of social-economic effects of natural disasters. He also has extensive experience in the development of weather and climate services and early warning systems tailored to sectors such as civil protection, energy, and the urban environment. He is co-creator of the weather forecast website: www.meteo.gr. He has published 168 papers in peer-reviewed international scientific journals (h-factor 35, >4000 citations). He coordinates the METEO network of 550 automatic weather stations (6/2024). He has coordinated, participated as a principal investigator or as a scientific officer in a large number of national and European programs.



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Effie Lazaridou, Chief Executive Officer, New Agriculture New Generation

Effie Lazaridou is leading the non-profit organization New Agriculture New Generation (NANG) since its inception in 2018, (founding grant: Stavros Niarchos Foundation), and through its outstanding evolution into becoming an EU Best Practice; trusted partner of international institutional organizations; and acknowledged stakeholder of the Greek agrifood sector, with 30.000+ beneficiaries to date. Effie was recognized for her work as an NGO leader in Kathimerini's Women Leaders publication. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Smart Agro Hub Competence Center S.A., as well as member in several industry think tanks: Agrotechnology Committee, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce; AgriBusiness Committee, Greek-German Chamber of Commerce; Agricultural Development Committee, International Chamber of Commerce Women, Hellas; and Greek Nutrition 2.0 Committee, Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food. She frequently contributes with opinion articles on capacity building, women entrepreneurship, and empowerment in the agrifood sector and is a regular speaker in industry conventions. She is an experienced marketing strategist with a proven track record in delivering complex international projects in SE Europe, leading multinational, multi-disciplinary teams, multistakeholder groups, and nationwide bodies. Among others, she led landmark projects of national importance, such as Destination Greece's brand and marketing strategy, the largest communication consultancy project ever initiated in the country, and Greece's wine sector first ever international branding & strategic marketing plan, mobilizing hundreds of professionals across the country to participate in think tanks and task groups. She holds an Integrated Master in Chemical Engineering (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), a Master of Arts in Cultural Management (City University, London) and a Professional PGDip in Marketing (Chartered Institute of Marketing, London). She is a trainer, certified business coach, Associate of the Chartered Institute of Marketing London, mentor in several entrepreneurship programs, professional flutist and volunteer with Make-A-Wish-Greece.



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Maria Clara Martin, Representative, UNHCR Greece

UNHCR Representative in Greece from November 2021, Maria Clara Martin served as Representative in Ecuador between 2015 and 2020. She also served as Head of the Americas Section of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, as Head of the Appeals and Reports Unit at UNHCR HQ, Senior Liaison Officer at UNHCR Brussels and worked in Rwanda and Mozambique with UNHCR. She was a Human Rights Observer in Haiti with the UN/OAS International Civilian Mission. She has worked as a volunteer at the Colombian Commission of Jurists and with the World Food Programme and Amnesty International in London, where she was a researcher. Finally, she has worked as a producer at the BBC. She holds a post-graduate diploma in human rights from Andres Bello University in Caracas, an MA in Latin American studies from the University of London and a BA in Applied Modern Languages from the University of Paris III.



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Pakis Papademetriou, Director of ESG, Pharmathen

Pakis Papademetriou has been serving Sustainability since 1995. He is an experienced integrator of management systems and a passionate advocate for sustainability. He has received a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Master's degree in Industrial Engineering, both from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is also certified professional in Business Sustainability Management by the University of Cambridge (CISL). In 2024, he joined Pharmathen as Director ESG, with primary responsibility for the development and deployment of the Group's Sustainability Strategy. From 2021 to 2024, Pakis served as Head ESG at Eurobank, driving the embedding of ESG Principles & Culture, enabling the materialization of the ESG Community and contributing to the continuous improvement of Operational Impact. Prior to that, he served at Athens International Airport (AIA) for 22 years in the position of Manager, Corporate Quality & Sustainability. His career started with engineering positions in the aluminum industry and telecommunications. Pakis is a member of the Corporate Responsibility Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AmCham Greece) since its foundation in 2003 and he has been serving as Chair of the Committee since 2016. From 2022-2024, he served as Chairman of the Hellenic Bank Association (HBA) Coordinating Committee for ESG, Corporate Governance and Green Banking and member of the HBA's Executive Committee.





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Georgios Paximadis, Aquaculture Specialist, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) FAO

Georgios Paximadis works for the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO on aquaculture sustainability, with a focus on responsible practices, certifications and marketing. Having worked as a Seafood Sustainability and Marketing Consultant globally, Marine Officer for WWF Greece and Account Director for Ogilvy, his professional experience includes marine conservation and research, fisheries policy and stakeholder outreach, as well as communications, for over 20 years.



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Sotiris Pastras, Sustainability & Corporate Responsibility Manager, APIVITA

Sotiris Pastras is the Sustainability & Corporate Responsibility Manager of APIVITA. He is responsible for the integration of the Sustainability Report, the B Corp & BREEAM Certifications, the CDP & EcoVadis assessments, and the Social Responsibility Program. He studied at the National Kapodistrian University of Athens graduating from the Communication & Mass Media Department. He also completed his Master of Science degree in Human Recourses Management (Athens University of Economics and Business) emphasizing in Business Ethics and Corporate Responsibility. As a swimmer and member of the Greek National Team, he participated in two Olympic Games in Athens (2004) and Beijing (2008). He is also a founding member and General Secretary of the NGO "ExcellenSeas" which supports students from Greek borderline islands to their academic studies. In January 2021 he was appointed as a member of the Corporate Responsibility Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

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Alcibiades Siaravas, Marketing, Communications and Corporate Citizenship Manager, KPMG

Alcibiades Siaravas, a proficient marketing and communications leader, currently steers the domains of Marketing, Communications, and Corporate Citizenship at KPMG in Greece. His triumphant record encompasses strategic acumen, creative ingenuity, and unwavering dedication to corporate social responsibility. Within KPMG, Alcibiades spearheads comprehensive marketing and communications, trailblazing novel trends like pioneering the first business podcast among Greece's prominent quartet of firms. His emphasis on superior content, digital strategies, and nurturing client bonds reinforces KPMG's revered industry standing. He fervently advocates diversity, equity, and inclusion, cultivating an all-encompassing workspace. Furthermore, Alcibiades adroitly oversees KPMG's corporate citizenship, aligning influential initiatives with the firm's core values. His expertise in corporate and brand strategy, event management, product debuts, digital campaigns, and media alliances generates extraordinary outcomes. Bestowed with the accolade of one of Greece's "100 most powerful Marketers" by Marketing Week, Alcibiades garners prestigious honors, a tribute to his role in KPMG's citizenship initiatives, diversity endeavors, innovative communications campaigns, and social media initiatives. As the Manager of Marketing, Communications, and Corporate Citizenship at KPMG, he also supervises KPMG Conferences, bolstering the firm's stature. His academic journey underscores his unwavering commitment to excellence and diverse skillset. He embarked with a BA (Honors) in Business Administration/Marketing from Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College, a steppingstone into business dynamics. Further, he attained a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Studies (DMS) from GSM London, delving into intricate management practices. Alcibiades continued to refine his expertise with an MA in Marketing Communications from the University of Westminster, London. In tandem, he pursued a Professional Diploma in Digital & Social Media Marketing at KnowCrunch (American College of Greece) in 2019, earning an exceptional High Distinction grade. Last but not least, he is a KPMG Greece podcaster and Athens Voice guest editor, infusing sagacity on marketing and correlated topics.



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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 co-operation 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 served as Treasurer of the American Chambers in Europe (ACE) Executive Committee from 2022 and elected as ACE Vice Chair since January 2024.



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Vasilis Stenos, Founder & CEO, Solmeyea

Vasilis Stenos is an Environmental & Agricultural Engineer, EU Commission Climate Impact Ambassador with research and business background experienced in management consulting, CO2 utilization technologies, biocircular economy values, sustainable business, SDG's, ESG's policies. Vasilis is also the founder of the multiple-awarded CO2 utilization company, named SOLMEYEA. SOLMEYEA is the only BioTech Company producing at-scale, carbon-negative, non-GMO Proteins from CO2 that can be sold for human consumption in Europe & the US, today with corporate clients including Danone, and DELTA Foods. Having lived, studied and worked in the EU, US & Africa, Vasilis carries with 18 years of international business experience with a strong focus on Sustainability, Green infrastructure projects, through management consulting roles in Kenya (Africa), Construction Project Management and Agricultural & Environmental Engineering Research focusing on solving the double-faced climate & feeding issue on Earth as it will arise due to overpopulation & livestock revolution. During 2014-2018 Vasilis has been a Project Manager at Turner Construction Headquarters in NYC. Prior to this, he completed 1 year of PhD research at Columbia University with a focus on sustainable food production against Overpopulation, 1.5 years in Management Consulting at Booz & Co. affiliate in Greece, Brussels & Africa. He also holds a BSc & MSc in Business Economics & Agricultural Engineering from the University of Athens with Distinction, an MSc in Earth & Environmental Engineering from Columbia University and a Business Certificate from Columbia Business School. He is fluent in English, Greek & German.





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Efthimios Tartaras, Head of Geoscience and CCS, HEREMA

Efthimios Tartaras is the Head of HEREMA's Geoscience department, specializing in hydrocarbon exploration and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). He has over 15 years of experience in senior management and business development positions in the Oil & Gas industry. In his various roles, Efthimios managed large multi-disciplinary teams working on G&G data integration and was responsible for global sales and marketing of multi-physics services, including software, data acquisition, processing and interpretation. He holds a BS in Geology from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, MS and PhD degrees in Geophysics from the University of Utah, with a specialization in 3D geophysical modelling and inversion. He has conducted research in advanced imaging and inversion algorithms for subsurface characterization and has worked on the modelling and interpretation of surface, borehole and airborne geophysical data for hydrocarbon, mineral and geothermal exploration.



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Matina Tzortzi, Head of Communications & Consumer Marketing, Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Mastercard

Matina Tzortzi, Head of Communications and Consumer Marketing at Mastercard for Greece, Cyprus, and Malta, possesses a proven track record in PR and Marketing. Over her five-year tenure at Mastercard, she has managed and led innovative marketing campaigns and strategic communications initiatives. Matina's expertise is focused around B2B and B2C Marketing in crafting strategic campaigns, driving brand visibility, business growth, and competitive advantages for the three countries she oversees. Matina's professional journey includes thus far positions at top PR agencies, where she directed corporate communications strategies for global Tech, FMCG, and pharmaceutical companies. She holds a Master's degree in Management with a specialization in Marketing from Cass Business School in London, complemented by a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Panteion University of Athens.





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Margarita Veniou, Chief Corporate Development, Governance & Communications, Diana Shipping Inc.

Margarita Veniou has served as the Chief Corporate Development, Governance & Communications Officer of Diana Shipping Inc. since July 2022. From September 2004 until June 2022, she served in the Corporate Planning & Governance Department of Diana Shipping Inc., holding various positions as Associate, Officer and Manager. She is also the Corporate Development, Governance & Communications Manager of Diana Shipping Services S.A., a position she has held since 2022. From 2004 to 2022 she held various other positions at Diana Shipping Services S.A. where she was responsible for the implementation and supervision of general corporate matters, including the development of the company's strategic plans. In addition, since November 2021, she has served as the Chief Corporate Development & Governance Officer of OceanPal Inc., and she has also served as the company's Board Secretary since April 2023. She is the General Manager of Steamship Shipbroking Enterprises Inc., a position she has held since April 2014. From January 2010 to February 2020, Margarita Veniou also held the position of Corporate Planning & Governance Officer of Performance Shipping Inc. (ex. Diana Containerships Inc.). She holds a bachelor's degree in Maritime Studies and a master's degree in Maritime Economics & Policy from the University of Piraeus, Greece. She completed the Sustainability Leadership and Corporate Responsibility course at the London Business School and has obtained the Certification in Shipping Derivatives from the Athens University of Economics and Business. Margarita Veniou is also a member of WISTA Hellas and ISO 14001 certified by Lloyd's Register.