

Friday, September 10

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SPEAKERS BIOS

by alphabetical order

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Kostas Andriosopoulos, Professor of Finance and Energy Economics, ESCP Europe Business School & Chairman, Energy Committee, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Professor Dr. Kostas Andriosopoulos is the Executive Director of the Research Centre for Energy Management at ESCP 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: Chairman of the Energy Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce; Founder and former Chairman of the Hellenic Association for Energy Economics (HAEE); Board member of the Global Gas Center - World Energy Council as a Gas and LNG markets expert.

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In September 2019 he was appointed Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Public Gas Company (DEPA), a position he also held for the period 2014-2015. Since August 2018 he is Country Manager of Akuo Energy in Greece, a multinational company based in France that develops RES projects in more than 30 countries around the world. In addition, he has worked as an advisor to the Retail Banking Director and Managing Director for the British Bankers' Association (2007). His work has been published in international finance and commodity-related Journals, and has participated as speaker in recognised conferences world-wide. He is the Associate Editor for the International Journal of Financial Engineering and Risk Management, Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Energy Markets, he has edited special issues in recognised journals, acts as a reviewer for a number of academic journals, and has organised numerous international conferences.

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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 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 AEX”, 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.

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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 AmChamGR and President of the Northern Greece Committee, and since June 2019 he was elected President of AmChamGR. In October 2019 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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Dan Byers, Vice President, Climate & Technology, U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute

Dan Byers is vice president of climate and technology at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute. With a focus on domestic and international climate policy, as well as broader environmental and regulatory issues, Byers develops and implements strategies in support of the Chamber's broader education and advocacy efforts. Byers brings over two decades of public policy experience to his work assessing the impact of existing and emerging federal laws and regulations on the U.S. energy industry. Before joining the Chamber, Byers was staff director of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee for the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Prior to that, Byers served as deputy to the associate director for technology at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), where he oversaw policy development and coordination associated with a broad suite of technology issues.

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From 2007 to 2009, he also worked for the White House National Economic Council, leading the development and coordination of telecommunications policy for the Bush administration. Byers holds an M.S. in soil science from North Carolina State University and a B.S. in crop and soil environmental sciences from Virginia Tech. He lives in Fairfax, Virginia, with his wife and two sons.

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Kate Marie Byrnes, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy to North Macedonia

Kate Marie Byrnes, a 28-year veteran of the U.S. diplomatic corps, is the Ambassador to North Macedonia. She previously served as Deputy Chief of Mission to U.S. Embassy Athens and Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. at the U.S. Mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna. Formerly, Ms. Byrnes held positions at the Department of State Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; the office of the Under Secretary of State for Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy; and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. She served as Public Affairs Advisor at the U.S. Mission to NATO, and was a Senior Civilian Representative supervising governance and development in eastern Afghanistan. She has also represented U.S. interests overseas in Spain, Bolivia, Hungary, and Turkey. Ms. Byrnes holds a Bachelor of Science in International Relations and a master’s degree in Policy Management, both from Georgetown University.

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Kurt Donnelly, Senior Bureau Official (SBO), Bureau of Energy Resources' Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State

Kurt Donnelly is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. He is currently the Department of State Bureau of Energy Resources' Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy. Prior to coming back to Washington, DC, DAS Donnelly served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia. His other assignments include the U.S. Mission to NATO, Afghanistan, Turkey, Hungary, Russia, Germany, the National Security Council, Director of the State Department Office for International Religious Freedom, and Director for Central Asian Affairs.

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Maria Rita Galli, CEO, DESFA

Maria Rita Galli is the CEO of δesfa. 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 δesfa'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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Anthony F. Godfrey, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy to Serbia

As U.S. Ambassador, Anthony F. Godfrey leads the U.S. Government's efforts to advance its partnership with Serbia, expand economic prosperity, and assist Serbia's efforts for European integration. It is in the strategic interest of the United States that Serbia develops as a modern, democratic, and prosperous European nation that is at peace with its neighbors and demonstrates full respect for the rule of law and rights of its citizens. Helping our Serbian partners to strengthen their democratic institutions, protect the rights of members of minority communities, combat corruption, and improve media freedom are key areas for Ambassador Godfrey and his team. Supporting Serbia's goal of EU membership and regional stability by promoting the normalization of relations between Pristina and Belgrade is a top priority for Ambassador Godfrey. Ambassador Godfrey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister Counselor, arrived in Serbia on October 23. He served from 2015 to 2019 as Political Minister Counselor, and then Deputy Chief of Mission, at U.S. Embassy Moscow, Russia.

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He was Director of Iraq Affairs in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the Department of State 2013-2015, and Political Minister Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad 2012-2013. During almost 40 years of service in the U.S. Navy and the Foreign Service, Ambassador Godfrey has become an expert in central and southern European affairs. Ambassador Godfrey was Director for Turkey and Eurasian Energy at the National Security Council, 2011-2012, and Political-Military Affairs Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, 2008-2011. He was Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassy Yerevan, Armenia, 2004-2007, and Political Officer at U.S. Embassy Zagreb, Croatia, 2001-2004. He was International Affairs Officer in the Office of Russian Affairs, Bureau of European and Eurasian affairs, 1998-2000, and Deputy Head of Group, OSCE Assistance Group, in Chechnya, Grozny, Russia, 1996-1997. His U.S. Navy service, 1980-1992, included tours in Turkey and Japan, and he studied Russian at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. His final military assignment was four years with the On-Site Inspection Agency, working to verify Soviet implementation of arms control agreements. Ambassador Godfrey earned a B.A. with Highest Honors at the University of California at Davis. His numerous awards include the 2018 James A. Baker III DCM of the Year Award. He speaks Russian, Serbo-Croatian and Turkish. Mr. Godfrey is married to the former Anne O'Toole, whom he met while posted in Dublin. They have three children, ages 27, 19, and 18.

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George Ioannou, CEO, Energy Exchange, Greece

Professor George Ioannou is the CEO and BoD member of EnExGroup. He is the Leader of the implementation of the target model, Professor of Operations Management at the Department of Management Science and Technology of the Athens University of Economics (AUEB) and Business and Director of its Management Science Laboratory. He holds a diploma in Mechanical Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens, a M.Sc./DIC in Robotics and Automation from Imperial College and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland at College Park. He served as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering of Virginia Tech, directing the Manufacturing Systems Integration Lab, as well as a GRA at the Institute for Systems Research. He has received the Microsoft Excellence in Education Award and many Teaching Excellence Awards as Director and Academic Coordinator of the Energy Club of AUEB's MBA International.

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He was an Executive BoD member of Hellenic Railroads SA as well as a member of the Innovation Council at the Ministry of Development, of AUEB's Senate and of AmCham's Innovation Committee and he has served as Head of the Evaluation Committee of ΣΥΖΕΥΞΙΣ II (Information Society SA).

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Nektaria Karakatsani, Expert in Energy Regulation and EU Funding, Greece

Nektaria Karakatsani is an expert in energy regulation and EU funding. She is an advisor to the Minister of Energy and Environment in Greece, and a Member of the Board at the Center for Renewable Energy Sources and the Hellenic Survey of Geology and Mineral Exploration. She has acted as a member of the Board of RAE, CEER and ACER Board of Regulators. She holds a PhD in Energy Economics from London Business School and an MSc from Oxford University. She has worked as an energy consultant for UK institutions and firms, focusing on market reforms and risk management. She has published her research in influential journals, including Energy Economics, Journal of Forecasting, Oxford Handbook of Economic Forecasting and Journal of Non-linear Dynamics and Econometrics. She has been teaching forecasting, business statistics and econometrics at LBS, LSE and City University. Over the last years, she has written more than 60 articles to raise public awareness on issues of green funding, energy transition, infrastructure, consumers and competition.

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Olga Khakova, Deputy Director, European Energy Security, Atlantic Council

Olga Khakova is the deputy director for flagship convenings and Global Engagement, in the Global Energy Center at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center, where she manages transatlantic energy initiatives. Before joining the Atlantic Council, Khakova was a senior program coordinator for US Energy Association's Energy Technology and Governance Program. She helped start and coordinate the Western Balkans' Electricity Market Initiative working group, which provides technical expertise on creating better-connected electricity markets. Khakova also worked as a program director for a leading energy non-profit in the Midwest, The Climate + Energy Project (CEP). While at CEP she co-led the conception and development of the Clean Energy Business Council, a network of businesses seeking to capitalize on renewable energy resources in Kansas and the greater Kansas City area through legislative, regulatory, and educational solutions.

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Khakova facilitated state-wide stakeholder engagement on energy issues, such as education and outreach on rate design dockets at the Kansas Corporation Commission. During her time at Bombardier Aerospace, Khakova organized events and developed communications strategies in Brazil, Canada, China, and the US for a distinguished human factors safety program called Safety Standdown. Khakova has a business administration degree from Wichita State University and a professional science masters in environmental assessment from the University of Kansas. She is originally from Ukraine.

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Yuri Kim, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy to Albania

Yuri Kim arrived in Tirana as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Albania in January 2020. A career diplomat, Ambassador Kim has worked on key foreign policy and national security challenges across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. She was director of Southern European Affairs, responsible for Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, and the broader Eastern Mediterranean region, as well as director of the Office of European Security and Political-Military Affairs, responsible for NATO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). She was also previously Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of State and director of the Center for the Study of the Conduct of Diplomacy. Earlier in her career, she was Special Assistant to Secretary Colin Powell as well as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Overseas assignments include Turkey, Iraq, the Republic of Korea, Japan, and China. Yuri Kim holds a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.Phil. from Cambridge University.

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Konstantin Konstantinov, CEO, Independent Bulgarian Energy Exchange EAD (IBEX)

Konstantin Konstantinov has been CEO of Independent Bulgarian Energy Exchange EAD (IBEX) since its establishment in 2014. He holds a Master's degree in Electrical power engineering from the Technical University of Sofia and in Information systems from Sofia University. Mr. Konstantinov has extensive experience in the energy sector starting from Geographic Information Systems senior specialist at Electricity Distribution Sofia EAD and member of the Management board and Deputy executive director of Enemona Utilities EAD. Prior to joining IBEX, he was head of the Electricity Trading Directorate at the National Electricity Company (the Bulgarian public supplier) and member of the Management board of NECO S.A.

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David Livingston, Senior Advisor, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate

David Livingston is a senior advisor to the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry. Prior to joining government, Mr. Livingston previously worked at the Eurasia Group, a consultancy, focusing on energy, climate, trade and technology issues, and as a non-resident senior fellow of the Atlantic Council. He has also served as a Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as the inaugural Robert S. Strauss Fellow for Geoeconomics at the Office of the US Trade Representative. Earlier in his career, he worked at the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California and the University of Oxford, a rising leader with the Aspen Strategy Group, and a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

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Vladimir Malinov, CEO, Bulgartransgaz

Vladimir Malinov joined the gas sector as Head of Legal Division in Bulgartransgaz in 2010 and was responsible for regulatory affairs. He was deeply involved in relations with EU institutions, the company's TSO certification and unbundling and the implementation of EU Network Codes. In 2018 Mr. Malinov was appointed a Member of the Management Board and Executive Director of the company. Notable achievements during his tenure include the realization of a number of large-scale projects and cooperation with neighboring TSOs enabling the implementation of the Balkan Gas Hub concept. Since 2018 Mr. Malinov is Member of the Management Board of Bulgarian Association Natural Gas and of the Board of Trustees of the University of Mining and Geology St Ivan Rilski.

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He is also:

- Chairman of the Board of Directors, Gas Hub Balkan - (2019 > Present) - The company is the operator of the Natural gas trading platform in Bulgaria;
- Member of the Board of Directors, Gastrade S.A. - (2021 > Present) - The company is the promoter of the Alexandroupolis LNG project.

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Milos Mladenovic, Managing Director, SEEPEX, Serbia

Miloš Mladenović has graduated in Faculty of Electrical Engineering in 1995 at University of Belgrade. He joined EPS in 1998, working in the fields of real-time System Operation and Cross-border market. After the establishment of the Serbian TSO (EMS), starting from 2005 he has played important role in the emerging process of the electricity sector unbundling and liberalization of the Serbian electricity market, participated as a technical expert, task leader and project manager in several local and international projects related to the implementation of legal, regulatory and technical framework for the establishment and further development of the Serbian electricity market. In 2008 he becomes the Assistant General Manager for System and Market operation in EMS, taking responsibility over the System operation tasks (including transmission system planning and integration of renewable energy sources) and Electricity Market development and administration tasks performed by the Serbian TSO.

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In 2010 he was appointed as the Executive Manager for System and Market operation in EMS, performing executive management role for all System and Market operation issues, including connection of RES facilities to the transmission network and TSO-DSO relationship. Starting from 2012 he has worked as a Director for International and Regulatory Affairs, at the same time performing the role of the ENTSO-E Board member and Convenor of the ENTSO-E Regional group for SEE. With comprehensive regional and European experience, as the member of the ENTSO-E Board and ENTSO-E Market Committee, as well as the chairmen of the SEE RG within ENTSO-E MC, he becomes one of the key players in the process of the SEE Electricity Market integration and EU Target Model implementation in the SEE region. Since July 2015, he works as a Managing Director of SEEPEX (South East European Power Exchange), JSC established by EMS and EPEX SPOT. Starting from June 2019, in close cooperation with the EEX AG SEEPEX has established Serbian futures, as a first financial derivative product in WB6 region. He is also the member of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) established under the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, at the same time participating as an independent Electricity Market and System Operation expert in several projects all over the world.

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Herro Mustafa, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy to Bulgaria

Herro Mustafa, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria on September 26, 2019. Previously, she was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal, where she also served as Chargé d'Affaires for the first seven months of the Trump Administration. A career member of the Foreign Service, Ambassador Mustafa worked in the Office of the Vice President from 2009-2011, providing counsel on issues related to the Middle East and South and Central Asia. Earlier Washington assignments included Deputy Director of the Afghanistan Office; Advisor on the Middle East in the Office of the Under Secretary for Political Affairs; Director for Iran, Israeli-Palestinian Affairs, and Jordan at the National Security Council (NSC); and NSC Director for Iraq and Afghanistan. Her overseas diplomatic postings were as the Political Minister Counselor at Embassy New Delhi, India; the lead U.S. Civilian Coordinator in Mosul, Iraq; a Consular Officer in Beirut, Lebanon; and a Political Officer in Athens, Greece.

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Prior to joining the State Department, Ambassador Mustafa was an International Elections Supervisor with the OSCE in Bosnia. She is the recipient of notable awards from the State Department, including the Matilda W. Sinclair Award for superior achievement in a foreign language. She speaks Portuguese, Arabic, Hindi, Russian, Greek, among other languages, and is studying Bulgarian. Ambassador Mustafa grew up in Minot, North Dakota and her family story is the subject of the documentary film American Herro. She has an undergraduate degree from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and a Masters from Princeton University. She is married and has two children.

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Pavlos Mylonas, CEO, National Bank of Greece

Pavlos Mylonas was appointed Chief Executive Officer of National Bank of Greece in July 2018. He joined NBG in 2000 and served, inter alia, as Deputy CEO, CRO and Head of Strategy. 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. He 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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Naser Nuredini, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, Republic of North Macedonia

Naser Nuredini was born in Tetovo, North Macedonia. He moved to Vienna as a child and was educated at the Vienna International School before completing his higher education in the United Kingdom. Naser built his career in finance in London and Vienna, first as an analyst and then as an investment manager for the central and eastern European markets. His core goal during this period was to drive good quality, clean and green investments in his home region, to use his cross-border experience to be a bridge between the west and the east. This awakened his passion for green economics – a modern approach to environmental management that creates jobs while looking after the health and long-term wellbeing of its residents.

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WORK EXPERIENCE

April 2016- Nuredini GmbH, Vienna, Director, Advisor

September 2014 – March 2016 Acquisitor Ltd BVI and THAL Discretionary Fund BVI, Vienna-Monaco, Director of Asset Management and Strategic Investments

March 2013 - June 2014 MKS Management, Vienna-Freiburg, Counsellor

July 2011 - November 2012 ING Bank NV, London, Director of Investments in Listed Corporations in the Eastern European Market

July 2006 - July 2011 UniCredit CAIB UK Ltd./UniCredit Bank AG, London, Vice President for Investment Management in Eastern Europe

December 2005 - June 2006 CAIB International Markets Ltd., London, Analyst for research on the capital market for listed financial companies and real estate in Eastern Europe

March 2004 - November 2005 B.P. Invest Consult, Vienna, Analyst

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EDUCATION

1998-2002 University of Brighton, East Sussex, BA (Hons) in "International Business", England

2000-2001 Fachhochschule Mainz "International Business", Germany

1989-1998 Vienna International School "International Baccalaureate", Austria

1986-1989 Primary School "Sabidin Bajrami", North Macedonia

PERSONAL SKILLS

Languages Distinguished: Albanian, English, German | Intermediate level: Serbian

OTHER SKILLS

Member of FCA, United Kingdom of England

Member of Xetra, Eurex and Euronext

Organisation of two humanitarian activities such as: "St Anna Kinderspital" to fight cancer, and other fund for children with limited abilities

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George Pechlivanoglou, Vice President, Eunice Energy Group (EEG) & Former Chairman, Wind Energy Committee ASME

George Pechlivanoglou studied mechanical engineering (BSc) and completed the MSc in renewable energy technology at the University of Oldenburg, Germany. He completed his doctoral dissertation (PhD) in the field of wind turbine aeroservoelasticity at TU Berlin, Germany and post-doctoral work at the same institute. Has published more than 90 scientific papers and holds more than 13 national and international patents. George Pechlivanoglou has 18 years of industrial experience in the wind energy market and 10 years' experience as a wind energy expert designer and wind turbine technical inspector with international collaborations and global project portfolio. He held the position of the technical director of SMART BLADE GmbH for 8 years and has established several global collaborations with corporations like 3M, Vestas, Nordex etc.

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He is the former Wind Energy Committee Chair at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and a member at the German Chamber of Engineers (VDI) as well as the former representative of the Technical University of Berlin at the European Academy of Wind Energy (EAWE). Mr. Pechlivanoglou is currently holding the position of Vice President for the EUNICE ENERGY GROUP (EEG).

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Natasa Pilides, Minister of Energy, Commerce, Industry & Tourism, Cyprus

Natasa Pilides was appointed Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry on July 10th 2020. Previously, on March 1st 2018 she had been appointed as the first Shipping Deputy Minister of the Republic of Cyprus, heading the strategic development and promotion of Cyprus as a world class, integrated, maritime cluster. From April 2016 to March 2018, Ms Pilides was Director General of the Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency (Invest Cyprus), responsible for the design and implementation of Invest Cyprus' strategy in investment promotion, investor support and facilitation of reform. She has more than fifteen years of private sector experience, notably as Director and Regional Chief Operating Officer at Baker Tilly South East Europe, heading the departments of Finance, Marketing, HR, Administration, Operations and IT, for Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova. She also worked, for 9 years, at PwC in Cyprus, Milan and London, in audit and tax consulting of multinational companies active in the fields of banking and finance, shipping, insurance, energy, construction and FMCG.

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Ms Pilides has wide experience in delivering professional training and courses for ICAEW, ACCA and CIMA exams, in the areas of audit, tax, corporate law, ethics, financial accounting and reporting, at BPP London, a leading professional studies organisation. She graduated from Oxford University with a first-class honours degree, with distinction, in Modern Languages and Literature (French and Italian). She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW) and a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus (ICPAC).

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Geoffrey R. Pyatt, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy to the Hellenic Republic

Geoffrey R. Pyatt, a career member of the Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic in September 2016. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine from 2013-2016, receiving the State Department's Robert Frasure Memorial Award in recognition of his commitment to peace and alleviation of human suffering in eastern Ukraine. 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 at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India as Deputy Chief of Mission from 2006 to 2007 and as Political Counselor from 2002 to 2006. Ambassador Pyatt served as Economic Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong from 1999 to 2002 and as Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Lahore, Pakistan from 1997 to 1999.

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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 posts in Honduras and India. 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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Alexandra Sdoukou, Secretary General for Energy & Mineral Resources, Ministry for the Environment and Energy, Greece

Alexandra Sdoukou is a lawyer, permanent employee at the Management Organisation Unit of Development Programmes (MOU S.A.) under the Ministry of Economy and Development. Since 2004, she is working as legal advisor in the public administration in various positions at the Ministries of Economy, Development and Environment, Energy & Climate Change. She has been specialised as energy policymaker, working with all Energy Ministers from 2007 to 2015. From 2012 to 2015, she was Head of Cabinet at the Minister of Environment, Energy & Climate Change, competent to develop policy formulation, implementation and monitoring on a wide range of energy and environmental projects. From October 2017, she was Advisor to the President of Nea Dimokratia on energy and natural resources. Alexandra holds a Bachelor of Law degree from Democritus University of Thrace, a Master's Degree LLM in European Commercial Law from the University of Bristol U.K., and a M.Sc. in International & Economic studies from the Athens University of Economics & Business.

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Andreas Shiamishis, CEO, Hellenic Petroleum

Holds an Economics degree specialising in Econometrics from the University of Essex England and is a Fellow (FCA) member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). He began his career in 1989 with KPMG in London, specializing in banking and large multinational Groups before joining the international food and drink group DIAGEO in 1993, to assume senior Greek and European positions in Finance and Business development. During 1998-1999, he also worked for the development of the food sector business (Pillsbury) in Middle East and North Africa. Between 2000-2002 he worked as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Restructuring Officer, in an ASE listed high-tech company (part of LEVENTIS Group) and in 2003 he joined PETROLA HELLAS as Chief Financial and IT Officer. After the legal merger and operational integration of PETROLA HELLAS with HELLENIC PETROLEUM, he was appointed as CFO of the new Group in 2005 and became a member of the Group's Executive Committee.

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In 2012, he assumed the responsibility for International subsidiaries and he was Deputy CEO during the period 2014-2015 and 2017-2019, when he became CEO. He is a founding member of the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) board of Corporate Governance and is also a member in a number of professional bodies including the Economic Chamber of Greece and ICAEW specialized faculties. In 2020, he was elected in the BoD of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) and from June 2021 he is the President of the Business Council for Sustainable Development (SEV VIAN).

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Konstantinos Sifnaios, Vice President & Project Director, Gastrade

Mr. 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.

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As of June 2007, he works in Copelouzos Group initially as New Projects Manager and currently as Group Energy Director in the sector of Gas. He also manages the Alexandroupolis LNG Terminal Project, under development by Gastrade. Mr. Sifnaios was born in Athens in 1960 and originates from the island of Lesbos. He speaks English, French and Spanish.

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Konstantinos Skrekas, Minister, Ministry of Environment & Energy

Konstantinos Skrekas comes from Megarhi, Trikala. He is married to Eirini Karagouni and has two daughters, Alexandra and Sophia. He holds a Degree in Civil Engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Technology), and an M.Sc. in Construction Management from the University of Birmingham, UK. After completing his studies, he worked in the Fast Moving Consumer Goods sector in managerial positions. He is the co-founder of a company operating in the FMCG sector and held the position of CEO for 15 years. In the general election of 6 May 2012 he was elected Member of the Greek Parliament (MP) for the Constituency of Trikala with the New Democracy Party. He was re-elected on 17th June of the same year. On the 25th of January 2015 he was elected Member of the Greek Parliament (MP), receiving the largest number of electoral votes among candidates from all political parties, in the Constituency of Trikala. He was re-elected in the elections on 20th September of the same year.

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In the general elections on 7th July 2019 he was elected Member of the Greek Parliament for the Constituency of Trikala. During his terms of office in the Hellenic Parliament he has been a member of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, the Standing Committee on Production and Trade, the Special Permanent Committee on Research and Technology and the Special Permanent Committee on Environmental Protection. He was also Shadow Minister for the Environment and Energy Sector for the New Democracy Party from January 2016 – June 2019. He was appointed Minister of Development and Competitiveness from October 2014 until February 2015. On 9th July 2019 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Food, being specifically responsible for the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). On 5th January 2021 he was appointed Minister of the Environment and Energy. He speaks English and French.

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Katerina Sokou, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council; Washington DC Correspondent, SKAI TV

Katerina Sokou is the Washington DC correspondent for SKAI TV and Greek daily newspaper Kathimerini, where she is also a columnist, focusing on transatlantic relations, foreign policy and financial diplomacy (2013-). She has covered extensively the Greek financial crisis, interviewing economists and policy-makers and providing commentary and reporting for news media in the U.S. and Europe. As a visiting scholar at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs (2017-2018), she researched the US role in the Greek debt crisis and its impact on bilateral relations, presenting her research in universities across the U.S. and Greece. She continues to work towards a book on the subject. Before that, she was a member of the editorial board and a contributor at the Washington-based European Institute (2016-2017). Katerina majored in History (BA with First Class Honors, University of Ioannina, Greece) and holds postgraduate degrees in International Studies (MA, University of Warwick, UK) and in Journalism from Columbia University, where she was a Knight-Bagehot Fellow in Economics and Business Journalism (2012-2013).

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She was also a non-degree student at the American College of Greece, where she studied Economics, and an Erasmus scholar at King's College London, where she took classes in the Fall of Yugoslavia, Modern Greek History and audited a class on European Politics at the London School of Economics. She started her career as a financial reporter at To Vima Athens newspaper, covering Greece and the Eurozone since the introduction of the Euro, and was International Financial News editor at Kathimerini during the global financial crisis. At the course of her reporting, she corresponded from Brussels and Strasburg on EU policies, from China on Chinese investments in Europe, from Lithuania and Slovenia on EU enlargement, from Denmark on Europe's social model, from the U.K. on Brexit, from Egypt on EU's neighborhood initiatives and from Italy, Switzerland and Germany on European business. She speaks Greek, English, French and some German.

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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.

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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, in the midst of 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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Yiannis Yiarentis, Chairman & CEO, Renewable Energy Sources Operator & Guarantees of Origin (DAPEEP SA)

Yiannis Yiarentis is the Chairman of BoD and CEO at the Renewable Energy Sources Operator & Guarantees of Origin (DAPEEP) from August 2019 until today. He holds a significant Greek and International experience in top management positions, in both private and public sector, with the most important, that of the President and CEO of IPTO (ADMIE) from 2013 to 2015 when he paved the way for major electrical Interconnections with Greek islands (Cyclades) and all major infrastructure projects, such as the Megalopolis HVC, the interconnection of Polypotamos and many more projects that breathed life into the Electric System. Before that he had a long-term international career in large multinational and Greek companies in the Energy field. He has been a member of National and International Councils and Committees (Entso-e, MED-TSO). He holds a degree in Petroleum Engineering and Production Engineering and Management and a postgraduate degree (MSc) in Sustainable Development.

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Andrey Zhivkov, Minister of Energy, Bulgaria

He completed his secondary education at "Cyril and Methodius" Secondary Polytechnic School in Kyustendil, in 1989. He graduated from the Technical University in Sofia with a major of "Power supply and electrical equipment" in 1996. He acquired a qualification in "Company Management" at the Institute of Postgraduate Studies to the University of National and World Economy in 2003 and a professional certificate in Management at New Bulgarian University in 2006. In 2012 he obtained a Master's degree in Economics. He worked at "Electricity Distribution Sofia Capital" EAD from 1996 to 2012 and after the sale of the company at "CEZ Bulgaria Distribution" EAD, where he held different positions with the last being Head of Department "Sofia Capital". From 2014 to 2015 he was a member of the Supervisory Board of "Electricity System Operator" EAD. From 2017 to 2018 he was a member of the Board of Directors of "Electricity System Operator" EAD.