



## Speakers & Moderators Biodata

## Opening Session

### **Costis Stambolis, Chairman & Executive Director, Institute of Energy for SE Europe (IENE)**



Mr. Costis Stambolis who is the Executive Director of IENE, has a background in Physics and Architecture having studied at the University of London, the North East London Polytechnic (NELP) and the Architectural Association in London from where he holds a Graduate Diploma in Architecture and Energy Studies (AA Dip. Grad). He also holds a professional practice license from the Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE), and a Masters Degree from the Said Business School, University of Oxford, where he studied "Strategy and Innovation".

Costis has carried out numerous studies and projects on Renewable Energy Sources in developing countries. He has consulted widely on solar building applications for both private and institutional clients in various European countries. He has worked as a consultant and strategy advisor on natural gas, oil markets and energy security issues for large multinational companies, international organizations and governments.

Costis has lectured widely on energy issues and has organised several national, regional and international conferences, seminars and workshops. He has published several books, conference proceedings, research papers and studies on energy policy, solar energy, RES and energy markets. Among others he is the editor of the "S.E. Europe Energy Outlook (2011, 2017, 2022)", which considered a basic reference on energy for SE Europe.

Since 2001 he supervises and edits daily Greece's foremost energy site [www.energia.gr](http://www.energia.gr). He is a founding member of the Institute of Energy for South East Europe (IENE), which he currently chairs. He is a member of the Energy Institute (UK), the International Passive House Association (IPHA), The Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE). Since 2018 he also serves as a full member of the Greek government's standing committee on Energy and Climate Change (NECP).

### **Yannis Triphyllis, Board of Directors, Hellenic Chamber of Shipping**



Yannis Triphyllis is a member of the 4th generation of the Efstathios G. Gourdomichalis and Carras/Fatsis, of Kardamyla, shipping families.

Yannis studied International Relations and Economics at Harvard University, Cambridge MA 1990-94 where he received

his BA degree “Cum Laude”, having earlier graduated “Magna Cum Laude” from Athens College, Greece in 1990. He received a Diploma in the International Law of the Sea taught at IDIS, in collaboration with Pandeion University, 2023.

He has been actively involved in the shipping industry for the past 25 years, having served on the BoD of family-owned GOURDOMICHALIS MARITIME SA, as M.D. of ship manager LYDIAMAR (part of the Aug. Bolten Group, Hamburg), and as a client of ARISTON NAVIGATION.

Yannis Triphyllis participates in the Board of several high level Maritime Institutions, including the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping, 2012 to date (-Executive Committee 2015-24), the UK DEFENCE CLUB, 2008 to date and the UGS Foreign Affairs Committee 2006 to date. He has been repeatedly elected to the Piraeus Marine Club Board (2006-2021) and is serving his second BoD term as Treasurer of the Hellenic Maritime Museum , 2020 to date.

He has been a member of the ELIAMEP Advisory Board, 2018 to date, Greece’s foremost geopolitical think tank, and served on the Executive Committee of the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) from 2006-2012, and the Intercargo Ex.Com between 2008 - 2019.

**George Xiradakis, Founder-Managing Director, XRTC Business Consultants, President – Association of Banking and Financial Executives of Hellenic Shipping**



George Xiradakis was born in Athens and grew up in Volos. He graduated from the Nautical Marine Academy of Aspropyrgos-Athens and he holds a diploma in Commercial Operations from City of London Polytechnic and an MSc in Maritime Studies from University of Wales. He served as Senior Manager in the French bank Credit Lyonnais both in Athens and Paris. In 1999 he founded XRTC Business Consultants which acts as a commercial representative of foreign banks and institutions in Greek Shipping Market. Since 2009 XRTC acting as Advisor to Chinese Finance market and in 2010 awarded in Lloyd’s List Greek Shipping Awards as “Financier of the Year 2010” for the completion of the first bilateral loan between a Chinese bank that was a milestone transaction in the world of ship financing being the first transaction of the new Chinese market. He is a Banker of reference for Chinese financing in the international business cycles due to his long-lasting relationship with Chinese financial institutions. XRTC recently signed a cooperation with China’s leading maritime services provider, Huayang Maritime Center Co Ltd, while Mr. Xiradakis holds the position of Senior Advisor for Greece.

He is President of the Association of Banking and Financial Executives of Hellenic Shipping, Member of the Board of Directors of AB Bank, and Deputy Director of the

2nd Shipping Finance Committee of the China Institute of Navigation. In addition, he is Vice President of the Heraklion Port Authority and a Board Member of the Nasdaq-listed companies Imperial Petroleum Inc., C3is Inc. and Rubico Inc. He also serves as a Board Member of the Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Piraeus Marine Club and is a member of both the Hellenic Maritime Museum and the Hellas Liberty Floating Museum. Moreover, he is Vice President of the Hellenic Chinese Chamber, Board Member of the Greece–China Association, and member of the Mediterranean Committee of the China Classification Society (CCS). He is also member of the Hellenic French and British-Hellenic Chambers of Commerce and holds the honorary title of President Emeritus of the International Propeller Club – Port of Piraeus.

Maritime industry has been George Xiradakis passion which has been expressed through his vision on the merits of the «Blue Economy» in creating a sustainable future for Europe and the world. This vision attracted the Greek Prime Minister’s attention and secured his candidacy as a Member of European Parliament in the 2019 EU elections.

He is a frequent keynote speaker in national and international conferences dealing with a range of subjects and he is often invited by academic institutions as a maritime thought leader. He also has a strong presence in the press via articles or interviews and he is recipient of several awards, among the many being, the Meritorious Public Service Award from the US Department of Homeland Security / US Coast Guard.

**Dr. Nikolaos Liapis, Energy and Business Consultant, Managing partner ActaNonVerba, Chairman of IENE’s Downstream Committee**



Dr. Nikolaos Liapis is a Mechanical Engineer, MEng NTUA and he holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering. His main areas of specialization are fuels, biofuels and lubricants, tanker ships management and logistics. He is an Energy and Business consultant, specialized in Green Transition. He has worked for more than 29 years in managerial positions in the Oil Sector. For the last 15 years he was occupied as COO in ELINOIL, an oil distribution company and as General Manager to ELIN SHIPPING, an affiliate shipping company, operating small tankers. He is highly experienced in project management, overseeing projects as biodiesel production plant design and construction, fuel depots construction and tanker design and construction. Dr. Liapis is the President of the Hellenic Institute of Marine Technology (HIMT), MoB of Hellenic Shortsea Shipowners Association (HSSA), member of the Downstream Committee of Southeast Europe Energy Institute (IENE) and member of the Lloyd’s Register Technical Committee. He has been the Coordinator of the Energy Products Committee of the Hellenic Petroleum Marketing Companies Association (SEEPE), now being a Consultant to SEEPE. He is a founding member of the Greek Association of Biofuel Producers (now

SVIVE) and has been Chairman of the Marine LNG Network, Chairman of the Biofuels Technology Platform and the representative of the European Biodiesel Board (EBB) in Greece. He is a lecturer at University of Piraeus, at University of Limassol and at Business College of Athens and has been a lecturer at Athens Metropolitan College, teaching Energy Policies, Decarbonization of Shipping, Maritime Logistics, Shipping and Strategic Management. He was a speaker at a significant number of conferences on energy, fuels, biofuels and shipping.

**Prof. Angelos Syrigos, Member of Parliament, Professor of International Law and Foreign Policy, Panteion University**

Angelos Syrigos (Athens, 1966) is a member of the Greek Parliament (elected in July 2019, May and June 2023 General Elections in the 1<sup>st</sup> District of Athens with the New Democracy Party). He is also Professor of International Law and Foreign Policy at the Department of International and European Studies at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens.



He is a graduate of the Law Schools of the National University of Athens and of the University of Bristol, England where in 1994 he was conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the field of public international law.

He has served as Deputy Minister for Higher Education at the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (January 2021-May 2023), Secretary General of Population and Social Cohesion of the Greek Ministry of Interior (August 2012-May 2015) and Secretary of the Ministry of Education responsible for Intercultural Education (September 2007- January 2009)

He has published nine books and several articles on Greek-Turkish relations, the law of the Sea, the Cyprus issue, the Balkans, minorities, migration, the Minor Asia Catastrophe and the Restoration of Democracy. His latest book “50 questions and answers for Greece and Turkey” was published in March 2026.

He is married to Dr. Eirini STAMATOUDI, Law Professor at the University of Nicosia and they have three children.

## Session I: Energy Transportation and Fuels

### Captain Stylianos Dimouleas, CEO, ALMI Tankers SA



Captain Stylianos Dimouleas has 35 years of experience in the shipping industry. He spent sixteen years as an Officer and Master on large oil tankers, including two years overseeing construction of Aframax, Suezmax, and VLCC tankers in major shipyards in Japan and Korea. He subsequently held various managerial roles in the shipping sector, before becoming the CEO of Almi Tankers S.A. in 2013.

Captain Dimouleas has forged significant strategic partnerships, deals and negotiations with the most reputable Oil Majors, Oil Trading Companies, and other major industry stakeholders worldwide. He also led new building projects involving some of the most advanced designs of Suezmax and VLCC tankers. Moreover, he leads the continual improvement of an integrated management system, recognised by international accreditations such as ISO 9001, 14001, 45001, 50001, 22301 and 27001. Under his leadership, his team has emerged as a top-tier oil transportation service provider, earning several awards and notable recognitions from charterers, and various industry bodies. He led the “Investors in People” standard accreditation, and he was instrumental in achieving the “We Invest in Wellbeing” standard accreditation that were offered to a shipping company for the first time in Greece. Actively engaging with the industry, he participates in various initiatives and forums focusing on the industry’s future challenges. He has authored industry-related articles and is a guest lecturer for an elective course of a top-tier Master’s program in Shipping in the UK.

Captain Dimouleas holds a Master’s level PGDip in Organisational Leadership from the University of Oxford – Said Business School, a Master of Philosophy in Shipping Management from St. Thomas Polytechnic Singapore and a Level 5 Extended Diploma from the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), UK. He also has a Captain’s Class A license, , and a Chartered Manager qualification. He is also a DBA candidate in Strategic Management since Oct 2024.

He is a Council Member of Intertanko, a Fellow Member of the Nautical Institute UK, a Fellow member of the Chartered Management Institute UK, an affiliate member of Pembroke College, Oxford University and a member of the Hellenic Shipmaster’s Association. Since September 2023 he has been appointed by the University of Piraeus as Clinical Professor of the MSc in Shipping Management as well as student Mentor.

## **Panos Zachariadis, Technical Director, Atlantic Bulk Carriers Management**

**Panos Zachariadis** is Technical Director of Atlantic Bulk Carriers Management Ltd. since 1997. He is a Mechanical Engineer (BSc Iowa State University) and Naval Architect and Marine Engineer (MSE University of Michigan). His 44-year shipping experience spans diverse areas including sea service in bulk carriers and oil tankers, dry dock repairs, new-building supervision, building negotiations and specifications, ship operations and chartering.



From 2004 to 2020 he has been attending the meetings of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as a member of the delegation of Greece. In cooperation with major Korean shipyards, he has applied several energy-saving ideas, some of which have become industry standards. He is a Fellow member of the American Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME), a National expert (Greece) of the International Standardization Organization (ISO), member of several Technical Committees of ship classification and professional societies, the Union of Greek Shipowners, BIMCO Marine Committee, INTERCARGO executive committee and in the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping and MARTECMA (Marine Technical Managers Association). He has written numerous technical guides, papers and articles and is the recipient of several shipping awards.

## **Vasiliki Marianna Sourtzi, Fuel Transition Lead at LR Decarbonisation Hub**

Vassia Sourtzi is the Fuel Transition Lead at LR's Decarb Hub, where she leads research and modelling efforts to accelerate the adoption of sustainable fuels in the maritime sector. Her work combines technical, economic, and policy analysis to support global investment decisions and regulatory frameworks that enable maritime decarbonization.



With over 15 years of experience in shipping, including six years focused on decarbonisation, Vassia has held roles across industry and consulting. She previously worked as an Energy Transition Senior Specialist at LR Advisory, advising stakeholders on tailored decarbonization strategies, and as a transport analyst at E3 Modelling / Ricardo PLC. Earlier in her career, she spent a decade at a Greek Ro/Pax company managing fuels, bunkering, compliance, and energy efficiency.

Vassia is actively involved in international initiatives such as the Green Corridor Cluster Silk Alliance and plays a leadership role in the Fuel Adoption Programme. She holds an MSc in Energy: Strategy, Law and Economics and is currently pursuing a PhD, focusing on alternative fuels, particularly green hydrogen."

**Marie-Athena Papathanasiou, Dr.Jur, Research Fellow IENE, Director, Ecoprosperity Capital Ltd, London**

Marie-Athena is an international environmental lawyer and non-practicing barrister,



based across Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Greece. She was educated in France and the UK, holding a Doctorate in International Comparative Law from University of Paris II Panthéon-Assas (Sorbonne), as well as an LL.M. and JD in International Environmental Law and Policy from the London School of Economics.

She began her academic career as a Post Graduate Research Assistant in Marine Environmental Law, focusing on marine pollution. Over the years, she has developed extensive experience as Counsel in shipping, infrastructure, and clean energy sectors across the UK, Europe, and Greece.

Marie-Athena has built significant expertise in renewable energy, having served as General Counsel EMEA for a major global energy corporation. In this role, she contributed to the development of solar and waste management projects across Europe.

Currently, she is active in advancing energy sustainability solutions, combining her legal expertise with a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and energy prosperity. She is engaged in originating and developing CleanTech ventures aimed at accelerating the energy transition and supporting decarbonization efforts.

She has co-authored a research paper on the role and potential of nuclear energy in shipping decarbonisation. More recently, she has been appointed as a Research Fellow at Institute of Energy for South-East Europe (IENE), where her work focuses on the legal framework governing nuclear applications in the maritime sector.

**Session II: Vessel Certification for Energy Cargoes**

**George Teriakidis, Regional Manager for Southeast Europe, DNV Maritime**

George Teriakidis is a naval architect and currently holds the position of Regional Manager for Southeast Europe for DNV Maritime.



He has completed studies of B.Eng. in Naval architecture at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne as well as of a M.Sc. in Ship Production Technology at Strathclyde University of Glasgow. Upon completion of his studies, he joined Det Norske Veritas office of Dubai, UAE as surveyor. During his 8 year stay in Dubai he took various roles and responsibilities.

In August 2008 he joined Det Norske Veritas Piraeus and since 2013 he was responsible for the business development for Det Norske Veritas's region of South East Europe and Middle East. In 2019, he became the Area Manager for East Mediterranean and Black sea. Since January 2025, he is the Regional Manager for Southeast Europe.

In December 2019 he was awarded the "New Generation Award" from CAREER4SEA. He is the president and general manager of the board of directors for DNV Hellas.

During his free time he still enjoys photography, reading books and listening to music.

### **Spyridon Zolotas, Vice President, South Europe, Marine, RINA Hellas Ltd**

Spyros Zolotas is a Naval Architect and Marine Engineer, graduate of the National Technical University of Athens.



After some post-graduate academic experiences in Greece and abroad, as well as a period of employment with a major engine manufacturer, back in 1996 he joined RINA classification society as exclusive marine surveyor. At this position and after a training period at RINA Head Office in Genoa, Italy, he followed various projects of ships in service,

as well as newbuildings in Greece and worldwide.

Later he served in various positions within RINA, as Technical Manager of Piraeus Marine, Country Manager for Greece, Area Manager for Greece, Cyprus & Black Sea, as well as, Marine Senior Director for Southern Europe, Middle East & Africa.

He is now holding the position of Vice President Marine South Europe, overseeing the activities of RINA in this region which is one of the most important, responsible for the classification of around one third of total RINA fleet in terms of gross tonnage.

Zolotas is the author of two technical books and a regular writer of articles, Member of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects and Chartered Engineer (CEng), Member of SNAME, as well as European Engineer FEANI.

In 2017 he was elected as Honorary Secretary on the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Joint Branch of RINA/IMAREST.

In 2019 and in 2021 he was elected in the Board of Directors of the Greek Union of Cruise Ship Owners & Associated Members.

In 2020, Spyros Zolotas was elected as Board Member of the Hellenic Institute of Marine Technology (ELINT), which is an institution with long history in Greece. From 2022 till 2024 he served as Vice President of the Institute, while today is Chairman of the Control Committee.

He is also member of the International Propeller Club of the United States, Port of Piraeus and the Nautical Museum of Greece, as well as other associations.

Spyros Zolotas is married and father of two sons.

### Session III: Global and Regional Crude Oil, LNG and LPG Markets

#### **Anastasios Tosios, Strategy Consultant, IENE Partner, Leader "Energy Innovation Programme" IENE, Greece**

Until 2002, he held positions in management, consulting, sales, and supervision of electromechanical constructions, in various companies in Thessaloniki and Athens.



During the period 2002 - 2016, he worked for EPA Attiki SA (Attiki Gas Supply Company), holding successively the positions of Key Account Manager, B2B Sales Manager, Customer Technical Service Director, and Technical Director. From 2017 till mid-2019, following the successful split of EPA Attiki in 2016 in two companies for Supply and Distribution respectively, he undertook the positions of Distribution Operating (Technical and Commercial) Director and then, that of Commercial Director at the newly established EDA Attikis SA (Attiki Natural Gas Distribution Company). During the period 2019-2023, he was the Deputy CEO & Executive Member of the Board of Directors at EYDAP SA (Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company). Then till September 2024, he was the Head of Strategy & New Gas Division of ENAON (former DEPA Infrastructure), a company of Italgas Group.

He holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, an MSc in Technical Change and Industrial Strategy from the Alliance Manchester Business School, UK, as well as an Executive Diploma in Business Administration (SHELL mini-MBA) from ALBA Graduate Business School, Greece. He has also completed the Leadership Development Program Advanced (PLDA) at Harvard Business School, USA, and the International Directors Program at INSEAD, France.

He has extensive experience in utilities and energy market, being a member of management teams since 2009. He also serves voluntarily as the Vice Chairman of the BoD of the Hellenic Association for the Cogeneration of Heat and Power (HACHP) and as a member of the BoD and the Executive Committee of the Institute of Energy for South-East Europe (IENE). He recently assumed the role of Coordinator of the "Energy Innovation Group" of IENE.

**Dr. Charles Ellinas, Senior Fellow, Global Energy Center of the Atlantic Council,  
Senior Visiting Research Fellow, IENE, UK**

Over 35 years experience in the oil & gas sector in senior management positions.



Currently CEO of e-CNHC (E-C Cyprus Natural Hydrocarbons Company Ltd), providing management and advisory services in the oil & gas and energy sectors in Cyprus and the region. A lot needs to be done and the aim of the company is to contribute to the successful development of these sectors for the future of Cyprus.

Prior to this, as CEO of KRETYK, Cyprus' national hydrocarbons company, I was responsible for implementing Cyprus government's strategy for the development of its hydrocarbons sector.

Until 2012 I was a Director of Mott MacDonald for 25 years and the Managing Director of Mott MacDonald's Oil, Gas & Petrochemicals business world-wide.

Charles Ellinas is also: Features Editor, Natural Gas World, and Senior Fellow, Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council.

**Kostas Karathanos, Chief Operating Officer, GasLog**



Kostas Karathanos was appointed as our Chief Operating Officer in February 2022, following his last appointment as our Deputy Chief Operating Officer from November 2021. He has also served as the General Manager Innovation and Technology from 2019. He first joined the group in 2000 when it was operating as Ceres Hellenic Shipping Enterprises, Ltd. and from then until 2017, has held several positions during his years within the group of companies such as Fleet Manager, Project & Site Manager and Ship Manager. Prior to re-joining GasLog, he was holding the position of the Technical Manager at Minerva Marine from 2017 to 2019.

Kostas has over 20 years of experience in the shipping industry specializing on LNG Carriers design and construction, Technical & Operational management as well as focusing on Energy & Performance with emphasis on the Energy efficiency and Decarbonization of the fleet.

Mr. Karathanos has an Executive MBA from ALBA, The American College of Greece, an MSc in Thermal Power and Fluid Mechanics from the University of Manchester and a B.Eng. in Mechanical Engineering from Manchester Metropolitan University.

**Prof. Michael Fan, Chief Technology & Innovation Officer, Tsakos Energy Navigation, TEN Ltd**



Michael Fan is a naval architect with over 36 years' experience in the marine sector. He was a lecturer in Naval Architecture at the University of Strathclyde for nine years, before holding positions as Technical Authority for the Type 45 Destroyer, and the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carrier programmes for the UK's Royal Navy. He has held the position of Head of Naval Architecture for both Babcock and BAE Systems, before joining Abu Dhabi Ship Building (ADSB) in 2017, where he was the Shipbuilding & Engineering Director until 2022. From January 2023, he is the Chief Technology & Innovation Officer of Tsakos Energy Navigation (TEN) Ltd. He holds a 1st Class BEng(Hons) in Naval Architecture, is a Chartered Engineer (CEng), and a Fellow of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (FSNAME), the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (FRINA), the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (FIMarEST), and the Institution of Engineers in Scotland (FIES). He has 27 publications/public appearances, and since January 2016, he also holds the post of Visiting Professor in Naval Architecture at the University of Strathclyde.

**Session IV: Geopolitical Turmoil, Safety on Board, Insurance Cover and Shipping Freight**

**George Tsavlis, Principal, Tsavlis Salvage Group**



Mr. George A. Tsavlis was born in London. He graduated from Athens College in 1968 and having acquired professional qualifications in Shipping (F.I.C.S., ACI.Arb), he concluded his graduate and post graduate studies in Shipping Law at University College London in 1973, with an L.L.M. degree. In 2009 he was qualified as a Mediator at the ADR Group London and in 2014 was certified as a Mediator by the Greek Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights.

He familiarized himself with the shipping and salvage sectors from a very early age by being engaged in the family business. George is a Principal at "Tsavlis Salvage Group" and represents the business on both a commercial and environmental basis internationally. He holds the position of Vice Chairperson of INTERMEPA (International Marine Environment Protection Association), President of CYMEPA (Cyprus Marine Environment Protection Association), which received the "Cyprus Maritime Prize 2007", as well as member of the Board of Directors of Cyprus Union of Shipowners, Board Member of ECSA (European Community Shipowners' Associations), Board Member of

The Yacht Club of Greece, Board Member of Friends of Hellas Liberty Association and the Jubilee Sailing Trust in the UK and Honorary Chairman of the Tsavlis Cultural Foundation. Furthermore, Mr. George Tsavlis is Member of the Academic Board of Metropolitan College / Solent Southampton University. Mr George Tsavlis was awarded the 2016 Capital Link Greek Shipping Leadership Award, in recognition of his unique and extensive contribution to Shipping and Greece and for his overall outstanding service to the shipping industry made by him individually, as a family and by his company as a Group. In Jan 2019, Mr Tsavlis received the Cyprus Environmental Award on behalf of CYMEPA by the President of the Cypriot Republic Mr Nikos Anastasiades and on March 12th, 2019, Mr Tsavlis was recognized with the Safety4Sea Leadership Award 2019 for his work with CYMEPA and other national & international organizations, toward the protection of the marine environment. On July 1st, 2019, Mr Tsavlis was appointed Non-Executive Chairman of OneGlobal Broking, Greece & Cyprus. Mr Tsavlis is a Founding Member and Vice President of The Propeller Club, Port of Limassol, Cyprus. In March 2024, Mr Tsavlis was elected President of Friends of Liberty Group and the floating Museum SS HELLAS LIBERTY.

In Dec. 2019, Mr Tsavlis published the book, which he co-wrote with Alba University Professor, Paul Emmanuelides, *Winning Shipping Strategies: Theory and Evidence from Leading Shipowners*. The book was translated into the Greek language and published in March 2021.

George is a frequent keynote speaker and panelist at numerous maritime related conferences. He is an avid supporter of various charities, an art and music enthusiast and has completed ten London marathons. He is a father of six children.

### **George Alexandratos, President, Hellenic Chamber of Shipping**

George Sp. Alexandratos was born in Athens in 1973, with family origins from Kefalonia.



He holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Shipping Business from the University of Plymouth and a Master of Science (MSc) in Maritime Policy from Cardiff University. He is the Managing Director of Apollonia Lines S.A., a company founded by his father, Spiros, in 1974, specializing in dry bulk shipping.

George Sp. Alexandratos serves as President of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping, having been elected in January 2025, after serving as Vice President since 2018. He previously served for 19 years as Vice President and Secretary General of the Association of Short Sea Shipping Companies of Greece.

In addition, he served as President of the Piraeus Marine Club for a three-year term (2022–2025). He strongly believes in synergies and actively supports Maritime Hellas, the official Greek maritime cluster initiative.

### **Dr. Antonios Tsavdaridis, Partner – Head of Arbitration Practice, Rokas Law Firm**

Antonios has studied at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and London School of Economics and holds a PhD in international maritime arbitration. He is also a Lecturer at the Faculty of Laws of the Democritus University of Thrace, teaching International Commercial Arbitration and Investment & Energy Arbitration, International Business Transactions, and Conflicts of Laws, to postgraduate and undergraduate students.



Antonios is a lawyer qualified since 1991, authorised to appear before the Greek Supreme Courts. He is a Partner at Rokas International Law Firm (Athens) and heads its arbitration practice combining 10 offices in 9 countries. He has appeared as advisor, counsel, co-arbitrator, sole arbitrator or chairman in dozens of international and domestic arbitrations under the most well-known arbitration rules. He has extensive arbitration and litigation experience with particular emphasis in international business transactions, insurance and commercial/maritime, construction, energy and investment law. He has represented as counsel states and state entities and multinational corporations in high-profile international arbitrations with values of hundreds of millions of euros.

Antonios is the President of the Piraeus' Association of Maritime Arbitration, Vice-President of the Greek Association for Arbitration, former Secretary General of the European Court of Arbitration (2016-2024), Member of the Executive Committee of the International Arbitration Commission of ICC Hellas, Board Member of the Greek Chapter of the International Association of Insurance Law (AIDA), Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration & ADR, Member of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA). He has published extensively (books, articles and case comments in legal journals) on international arbitration and international business transactions, and he is also a frequent speaker in Greece and abroad in conferences on the same topics.

### **John N. Cotzias, President, Hellenic Shipbrokers Association (HSA)**



John N. Cotzias is President of the Hellenic Shipbrokers Association, serving his 4th term since 2013. With 37 years of experience, he represents the 4th generation of Greece's oldest shipbroking family, active since 1893 in sale & purchase and chartering. In 2017, he co-founded Xclusiv Shipbrokers Inc., a leading firm in S&P, projects, and finance. He serves as Maritime Advisor to NATO's TGOS and AMSCC and has advised numerous shipping companies, financial institutions, and academic bodies. A frequent moderator, speaker, and panelist at major conferences, he also co-hosted Greece's first live weekly shipping program on national TV. Throughout his career, he has concluded

numerous S&P transactions and structured complex projects involving finance and long-term employment. Mr. Cotzias holds an MSc in Shipping, Trade & Finance from City University Cass Business School and a BSc in Economics from the University of Buckingham. He is married to Dr. Maria-Evgenia Kosmopoulou and has two daughters.

### Session V: The Greek Shipping Sector and Economic, Environmental and Geopolitical Challenges

#### Dr. Philip-Mark Spanidis, Project Manager, ASPROFOS Engineering S.A.



Dr. Philip-Mark Spanidis is a Rural and Surveying Engineer and a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece, as well as a member of the Committee for Geopolitics of the Institute of Energy for Southeast Europe (IENE). He holds a MEng degree from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, an MSc in the Management of Industrial Systems from the National Technical University of Athens, and a PhD in Technology Management of Hydrocarbon Transportation Systems from the University of Piraeus. He currently serves as a Project Manager at ASPROFOS Engineering S.A., where he leads multidisciplinary projects of high complexity focused on the transportation, storage, and distribution of oil and gas. In addition to his primary responsibilities, he is actively engaged in the management of environmental engineering and safety projects within the same organization. Dr. Philip-Mark Spanidis is also a research associate and scientific advisor in the Department of Industrial Management and Technology at the University of Piraeus and the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of West Attica. His academic interests include energy geopolitics, geoeconomic corridors, regional security, and project and risk engineering/management. His research output includes over 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals, academic books, and international conference proceedings, with a total of 230 citations. He supervises MSc theses and serves as a reviewer for academic journals in the fields of environmental science, safety engineering, industrial geopolitics, and energy systems.

#### Michael B. Christides, Ambassador (a.h.) Balkans and Black Sea Forum, Diplomatic Advisor, IENE



Ambassador (Ad Honorem) Michael B. Christides was born in Thessaloniki in 1949. His father Basil was a distinguished Professor of Agriculture at the University of Thessaloniki, as well as founder and Director of the world-known “Cotton Research Institute” in Sindos. Michael Christides studied Law at the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki and followed courses of International Law at the Academy of International Law at The Hague. In 1976 he joined the Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Since then he has served in

many Greek Diplomatic Missions abroad and assumed important responsibilities in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He retired in August 2014, after 38 years in the Diplomatic Service. Christides has spent more than 20 years dealing with Balkan issues, while travelling extensively in the region. He served twice in the Greek Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria, first as Dep. Head of Mission and later as the Ambassador, was the Head of the Hellenic Delegation to the “European Community Monitoring Mission” in Zagreb, during the crisis in ex-Yugoslavia and served as Political Director for S.East Europe in the Greek MFA. Thus he established a wide personal network of high level political, business, academic and media contacts and helped shape Greece’s important role (political - economic) in the Balkan region. During the second semester of 2014 he was appointed as the National Coordinator of the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation (BSEC). In April 2015 he was elected by the BSEC Member States as the Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) of BSEC, assuming his new duties on the 1st July 2015, for a 3-year term.

**Dr. Thanasis Karlis, Chief Deputy Manager, Marketing Dept. Piraeus Port Authority SA**

Thanassis Karlis is currently Chief Deputy Manager at the Marketing Department of

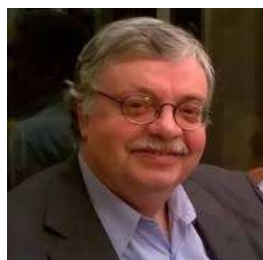


Piraeus Port Authority SA. Before his current position, he held the Management positions of the departments of Marketing, Strategic Planning and Public Relations at the Port of Piraeus Authority SA. Thanasis was a clinical professor at the MSc Shipping of the University of Piraeus, External Examiner for the University of Essex UK and an Adjunct Professor of the University of Tasmania-Australia

where he served as Head of the Ports and Shipping Department. He has published in journals and conferences on maritime and port economics and policy. He holds a PhD from the University of Piraeus, Maritime Studies and an MSc from Cardiff University in International Trade.

**Prof. Charalambos Tsardanidis, Director, Institute of International Economic Relations, Honorary Professor of the Peloponnese University**

Charalampos Tsardanidis is Director of the Institute of International Economic Relations



and Honorary Professor of the Peloponnese University. Professor at the Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean, Rhodes (2014- retired 31.8.2022). He studied Political Science at the Department of Political Science, University of Athens, B.A., European Studies, (M.SC) and International Relations (Ph.D.) at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He taught at the Panteion University as an Assistant Professor during the period (1987-1993), University of Piraeus, Harokopio University, University of

Athens and the Hellenic Open University. His research interests are on Foreign Policy Analysis, International Political Economy and EU foreign relations. Author of ten books, co-editor of nine and of over 110 articles. Articles of Dr. Tsardanidis have appeared in the Journal of Common Market Studies, Journal of European Integration, European Foreign Affairs Review, European Review of International Studies, Journal of South East European and Black Sea Studies, Journal of Political and Military Sociology, Journal of Area Studies, Geopolitics, Ethnopolitics, Southern European Yearbook, Defensor Pacis, Le Courier des Pays de l' Est, Perceptions, Hellenic Studies, Revue Hellenique de Droit Internationale and others.

**Dr. Lykourgos Liakakos**, PhD in International Law, Panteion University, Director General, “Mesonisos” Cultural & Development Center

Dr. Lykourgos Liakakos is a political scientist and international relations expert holding a



PhD in International Law, specializing in the Law of the Sea, from Panteion University. He has served as a lecturer at the Laiko Panepistimio Athinon (Open University of Athens), teaching international law, international relations, and foreign policy. As Scientific Director of the MESONISOS Cultural and Development Center in Greece, he combines international law, geopolitics, and environmental sciences, with a focus on renewable and marine energy resources, while also leading

seminars and workshops on the Law of the Sea. He has cooperated as a research associate at European Center for Environmental Research and Development (EKePEK). He has contributed to scientific volumes on international law, and authored articles in both Greek and international publications. A graduate of Greece’s first institution of Participatory Democracy, organized by the Council of Europe, he has also collaborated with major news websites and frequently appears as an international affairs analyst on public and private television channels. Alongside his academic and media activity, he is also engaged in entrepreneurship through extensive family ventures.

**Christos Dimas**, Member of Executive Committee, IENE and Chairman of IENE’s Geopolitics Committee, Greece



- Topographer (1972) & Civil Engineer (1974), National Technical University of Athens.
- He has managed major projects on Energy, Industry & Infrastructure (Europe, Saudi Arabia, Russia). He was a senior executive and Board member in various businesses and organizations (Petrola Hellas, Petrola International, Hellenic Petroleum, Helpe - Thraki, Trans Balkan, Construction

companies, etc.) Christos Dimas represented the Greek Ministry of Development for international energy issues and participated in international conferences with

presentations on the transport of oil and gas from Russia, Central Asia and the Caspian Sea to the International Markets

*Among others he has held the Following positions:*

- Refinery Project Manager (Petrola Hellas)
- Project Manager of Latsis Group in Greece
- He was the General Technical Director of TBP B.V. (Burgas -Alexandroupolis Oil Pipeline)
- He was the General Director of TBP B.V. (Burgas -Alexandroupolis Oil Pipeline) and Chief Executive Officer of TBP B.V. – Greece and General Manager of Helpe-Thraki SA.
- President of the Hellenic-Russian Chamber of Commerce (2011-2017).
- He was member of the International Council of the Russian Industry Organization (RSPP) in Moscow
- President of the EPEE Strategic Council in Moscow with members: Russia's Federal Chamber of Industry, Russia's Federation of Russian Industries (RSPP), Russian Academy (energy sector), Russia's Agency for Strategic Initiatives, Federation of Russian Construction Companies, the Federation of the Russian Pharmaceutical Industry,
- Founding Member and Partner of Institute of for Energy South East Europe (IENE)
- Chairman of the Geopolitics & Energy Committee of the Institute of Energy for SE Europe (IENE)