



## Speakers Biodata

## Opening Session

**Costas Theofylaktos**, Secretary General and Chairman of IENE's Energy Efficiency Committee, IENE, Greece



Is a USA trained Mechanical Engineer with an MSc from the University of Evansville, Indiana, and has 25 years experience in the energy sector. Constantinos's special interests include cogeneration and RES and was for many years chairman of Greece's Cogeneration Association and also member of the executive council of COGEN Europe. He has served as chairman and CEO of the Athens based Centre of Renewable Energy Sources (CRES).

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

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 is 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).

**Simon Bennett, Energy Technology Analyst International Energy Agency (IEA) Paris**



Simon Bennett covers new technology analysis in the International Energy Agency's Energy Technology Policy Division, leading work on innovation tracking, policy and outlooks. Simon was lead author of the IEA's 2025 report The State of Energy Innovation. Before joining the IEA in 2012, he worked at the European Commission's DG Energy and holds MSc degrees in chemistry and environmental technology. His doctorate in energy policy is from Imperial College.

**Dr. Athanasios Dagoumas, President, Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste and Water (RAEWW), Greece**



Dr. **Athanasios Dagoumas** is President of the Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste and Water in Greece. He is an Associate Professor in Energy and Resource Economics and the founding Director of the Energy & Environmental Policy laboratory at the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus. He holds a Diploma in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, where he elaborated his PhD in Energy Economics. He has more than 15 years of work and research experience in energy related issues, including working as a Senior Researcher at the University of Cambridge, as a Senior Energy Analyst at the Transmission System Operator and at the Electricity Market Operator in Greece and as a Member of the Board of the Cambridge Trust for New Thinking in Economics. Moreover, he was enrolled as a Special Advisor to the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change in Greece. His extensive experience builds his capacity for an in-depth understanding of multidisciplinary aspects of the global energy sector: economic, engineering, environmental and policy. He is keen on developing models for the real energy markets, the energy systems and the economic-energy-environment (E<sub>3</sub>) systems.

**Mr. Konstantinos Eleftheriadis, Partner, Energy, Resources & Industrials Sector Leader, Deloitte, Greece**



Konstantinos Eleftheriadis is the Energy, Resources & Industrials Sector Leader and a Forensic & Financial Crime Partner at Deloitte Greece. He specializes in Forensics, and M&A Transactions Advisory Services. With over 21 years of professional experience, Konstantinos' expertise has been instrumental in a range of sectors with special focus in the Energy & Resources market, both locally and internationally. Konstantinos specializes in services and areas like: transactions support, M&A assistance, feasibility studies, independent business reviews, liquidity, business and e-mobility plans, storage, gas and new fuels, and advice on Power Purchase Agreements, having provided such services for many Greek and international clients that are operating in Power generation, Renewables, Oil & Gas, Mining & Metals, Waste treatment, etc.

**Mr. Anastasios Tosios, IENE Partner, Leader "Innovation in Energy Programme", 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.

## SESSION II – Electricity Transmission and Grids

**Nikos K. Kokkalakis**, Principal, Strategy Technics, Greece



Nikos K. Kokkalakis is the Principal of STRATEGY TECHNICS, a strategy and organization consultancy based in Athens, Greece. An engineer by training, he holds a doctorate degree on managerial decision making from NTUA and an MBA from the University of Washington. Nikos has worked at various significant Greek and multinational companies in the fields of financial, commercial and general management. He regularly consults with the CEOs and executive committees of businesses across sectors on strategy development and implementation and on top team effectiveness.

**Prof. Pandelis Biskas**, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Chairman of IENE's Scientific Council, Greece

Pandelis Biskas was born in Serres, Greece, in 1977. He received his Diploma in Electrical Engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1999 and his Ph.D., degree from the same university in 2003. He also performed his Post Doc research from March 2004 till August 2005 in the same university.



From March 2005 till July 2009 he was a power system specialist at the Hellenic Transmission System Operator (HTSO), Market Operation Department, where he worked on the development of the Greek wholesale electricity market and on the procedures for the auctioning of the Physical Transmission Rights (PTRs) in the interconnections with neighboring countries.

Currently, he is an Associate Professor at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. His research interests are in power system operation & control, in electricity market operational and regulatory issues, and in transmission pricing. He was a Principal Investigator in more than 55 research projects and participated as a senior researcher in another 30 projects. He

has 47 papers in international peer-reviewed journals and above 55 papers in international conference proceedings. He is a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece, IEEE and CIGRE.

**Konstantinos Tsirekis, Director of Strategy and System Planning, IPTO – Independent Power, Greece**



Konstantinos Tsirekis was born in Thessaloniki, Greece in May 1969. He received the Electrical Engineering and Doctor of Engineering degrees from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece, in 1994 and 2004, respectively. From 1995 to 2000 he worked as Project Engineer, being responsible for the design, cost accounting, implementation, and on-site supervision of the electrical part of numerous private and public turn-key projects. In 2001, he joined the Transmission System Operator of Greece (IPTO), being responsible for the composition of the 10-year network development plan. From 2018 till 2022 he was Director of the New Projects Department of IPTO, being responsible for the construction of new overhead, underground, and submarine transmission lines and extra-high-voltage substations. He is currently Director of the Strategy and System Planning Department of IPTO, with a key mission of the design and planning of the electrical interconnections of non-interconnected islands, international interconnections as well as the necessary infrastructures that will allow the increased penetration of Renewable Energy Sources into the country's electrical system.

For over two decades he had been a part-time lecturer at the Technological Educational Institutes of Athens and Piraeus, participating in several graduate and postgraduate programs. He is a member of the System Development Committee of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E), of the Conference Internationale des Grands Reseaux Electriques a Haute Tension (CIGRE) and the Technical Chamber of Greece.

**Dr. Nikos Stefanakis, Assistant Director of Research & Innovation Department, Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator (HEDNO), Greece**



Nikos Stefanakis currently serves as the Assistant Director of the Research and Innovation Department at HEDNO. He holds a Dipl.-Ing. degree in Chemical Engineering (2002) and a Ph.D. in Process Analysis and Plant Design (2009), both from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). With over 20 years of experience, he has developed deep expertise in the design, modeling, and optimization of energy processes across the entire energy value chain. He has been involved in numerous high-tech



private energy projects, as well as in more than 40 European and National research and innovation initiatives, through collaborations with universities, research institutes, large enterprises, and technology providers. Additionally, he has served as an independent energy innovation consultant, providing specialized advisory services to the European Commission, the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises, the Hellenic Development Company, Eurobank, and several leading consulting firms. He is a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece, the Institute of Solar Technology, the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling, and CIGRE.

**Mr. Ioannis Togias, Executive Director-Marine Technology, Asso.subsea, Greece**



Ioannis Togias is the Executive Director of the Marine Technology Business Unit of Asso.subsea Single Member S.A., a leading subsea power cable installation contractor based in Greece. With degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering and with over two decades of experience in the marine technology industry, he has played a pivotal role in developing and advancing Asso.subsea's specialized fleet of cable installation vessels, supporting the company as a leader in innovative maritime solutions. His work focuses on improving operational efficiency and sustainability in the subsea energy sector, bringing valuable insights to the discussions on the future of energy at this conference.

**Prof. Vassilios Vescoukis, Electrical & Computer Eng., Ph.D., National Technical, University of Athens, Greece**



Prof. Vescoukis holds a Diploma and a Ph.D. in Engineering from the Electrical and Computer Engineering School of NTUA. Professor of Software Engineering and Geoinformation at NTUA. Visiting Professor at ETH Zurich and the University of Groningen NL (2014-2015). Executive VP of the National Cadaster and Mapping Agency S.A. (2015-2017). Chief scientific officer in funded research projects focusing on state-of-the-art technologies such as Blockchain, time series data infrastructures, distributed and heterogeneous systems, environmental simulation and crisis management, smart grids, optimization and multi-dimensional analytics. Worked as a special consultant on Information Systems for public and private Greek and global entities including the Council of Europe and the World Bank. Since 2018 he works as a researcher and consultant in Energy Data Infrastructures, digital transformation and intelligent services, for operators and major participants in the Greek Energy market. Head of R&D in the development of tools for hybrid storage optimization, investment planning and policy making for RES with P2x applications, at the Hellenic Energy Competence Center, a spinoff company

founded by NTUA with the participation of major research and industrial partners in the Energy sector. His professional and research interests focus on IT strategy and architectures, SaaS, spatio-temporal Energy data infrastructures and analytics, as well as optimization and forecasting problems for the Energy sector.

### SESSION III – Energy Efficiency, Gas, Hydrogen, AI

#### Mr. Michalis Pierettis, Chief Commercial Manager, QNR, Greece

Michalis Pierettis holds BSc in Physics from the University of Ioannina, MSc in Mobile Communication Systems from University of Surrey, as well as a final year student of the Executive MBA at the University of Piraeus.



His career starts in 2006 and includes important positions in the field of Commercial & Sales in well-known companies such as Latris Software Engineering, Rugged & Mobility Prospects, Cosmos Business Systems, and ADAPTIT SA, where he proved his ability in large-scale public projects with success.

As of June 2024, Michalis Pierettis serves as the company's Chief Commercial Manager.

#### Dr. Kostantinos Balaras, Research Director, Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development (IERSD) - National Observatory of Athens (NOA), Greece

Dr Balaras is a mechanical engineer with a PhD (1988) and MSc (1985) in thermal sciences from Georgia Institute of Technology, and BSc (1984) in energy from Michigan Technological University. Leader of Group Energy Conservation and research scientist since 1995 at the Institute for Environmental Research & Sustainable Development (IERSD) of the National Observatory of Athens, a government research lab in Greece. R&DD interests in the areas of energy conservation, high performing buildings and decarbonization, sustainability assessment of buildings-neighborhoods-cities, solar thermal and cooling applications, building energy audits-diagnosis and retrofitting, energy policy, national regulations - technical guidelines – software tools for EPBD transposition, embodied energy/carbon, indoor environmental quality, thermal energy systems and building thermal simulations, solar air-conditioning. Author in over 350 scientific articles published in international peer reviewed journals, books and conference proceedings. Fellow ASHRAE, Fellow ASME, European Engineer (EUR ING), Member of the Technical Chamber of Greece





(Chartered Mechanical Engineer). More information at <https://gr.linkedin.com/in/costasbalaras>, <https://groupenergyconservation.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/GROUPEnergyConservation/>

### **Dr. Alexandros Papaspyridis, Managing Director, Nefos Consulting, UAE**



Dr. Alexandros Papaspyridis is a leading expert in Artificial Intelligence (AI) with over 20 years of experience in developing innovative technological solutions. As the Managing Director of Nefos Consulting, he guides business executives in strategically leveraging AI to enhance productivity, achieve corporate objectives, and redefine business models.

Dr. Papaspyridis advocates for elevating AI as a strategic pillar within organizations, enabling them to derive significant business value. He believes AI is crucial in building agile, adaptable entities capable of thriving in an ever-changing world. He emphasizes the importance of engaging every employee in AI, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to this new work paradigm.

During his international career at Microsoft, Dr. Papaspyridis served as the Global Director for Azure Data & AI solutions in Education, developing strategies for integrating Generative AI and shaping the future of AI in education.

He holds a PhD in Electronic Engineering from Imperial College and is certified in AI through the Microsoft Professional Program. Dr. Papaspyridis is an active member of several advisory boards, regularly publishes articles on AI, and is a frequent keynote speaker at international conferences, continuing to influence the discourse on AI.

### **Mr. Paris Frantzeskakis, Senior Manager of the Technical Department (Asset Management Division), DESFA, Greece**



Frantzeskakis Paris, Mechanical Engineer, is the Senior Manager of the Technical Department in DESFA (Asset Management Division). A graduate of the National Technical University of Athens, he holds a Degree in Mechanical Engineering and Master's (MSc) in Finite Element Analysis. With more than 15 years of experience in the Oil & Gas industry, he is a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece as well as of several European Organizations related to the Natural Gas sector.

Mr Frantzeskakis possesses strong expertise in design, analysis, and project management, leveraging from extensive experience in challenging projects. He is always managing cross-functional teams to deliver projects on time and within budget, fostering collaboration and driving efficiency.

Mr. Frantzeskakis has been involved in most hydrogen related projects of the National Natural Gas System and is the coordinator of DESFA's Innovation Lab Working Group.

He speaks fluent English, while his mother tongue is Greek.

#### **Dr. Nikos Koukouzas, Director of Research, EKETA & Visiting Research Fellow IENE, Greece**



Dr Koukouzas holds a PhD in Industrial Mineralogy from the UK and has over 27 years of experience in industrial geology, energy technologies, geomechanics, applied petrology and CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage. Since 2003, he is the Director of Research at the Centre for Research & Technology Hellas / Chemical Process and Energy Resources Institute (CERTH/CPERI) and Scientific Responsible at over 55 EU research projects, with a team of more than 40 scientists. Previously, he held positions as Policy Officer, Detached National Expert in the European Commission, Direction General for Energy (DG ENER) (2020-2022), Coordinator of EU experts and Gulf countries experts on Carbon Capture and Storage for the EU-Gulf Countries Clean Energy Network (2010- 2013) and, Scientific Officer, Detached National Expert in the European Commission, Direction General for Energy and Transport (1999-2003). Furthermore, Dr Koukouzas has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Greek Institute for Geology and Mineral Exploration (IGME) and a Consultant to energy, construction and cement industries.

He has over 300 publications in Scientific Journals, 3500 citations and is a member of various University Boards and Editorial Boards in International Magazines including the International Journal of Greenhouse Gas Control.

### **SESSION IV – Nuclear Power and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**

#### **Dr. Michael Drury, Managing Director, LucidCatalyst, UK**



Michael Drury is a seasoned Managing Director at LucidCatalyst, with a distinguished career in the nuclear industry. He has previously held the position of Managing Director at two reactor vendors developing Gen IV reactors. Michael has represented the UK government on SMR and AMR at the International Atomic Energy Agency and led significant programmes on Gen III+ and Gen IV reactors at the UK's National Nuclear Laboratory. He also chaired the UK Molten Salt Technology Platform and currently serves on the board of Midlands Nuclear in the UK.

Michael has provided written and oral evidence to the Science and Technology Select Committee in the UK government and has been an expert speaker at the All Party Parliamentary Group for both Nuclear and APPG SMR. He has played a crucial role in public perception development for modular reactors in the UK and has collaborated closely with HM Treasury and DESNZ on developing UK policy for nuclear.

In academia, Michael is a fellow at the University of Liverpool on the Zero Power reactor programme. He has developed engineering solutions and managed major projects such as Chernobyl NSC, ITER Fusion programme, Magnox decommissioning, and reactor operations on the existing fleet of AGR and PWR reactors in the UK. Before his nuclear career, Michael spent nearly a decade in the automotive industry at Jaguar Land Rover, focusing on volume production vehicles. His recent work has centred on the volume production of advanced modular reactors and the development of clean, net-zero solutions and industrial application such as Datacentres, hydrogen and ammonia plants. **LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/in/michael-drury-1b048718](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-drury-1b048718)

**Prof. Ionut Purica, Executive Director, Advisory Center for Energy and Environment - Romanian Academy, Romania**

Presently an Executive Director of the Advisory Center for Energy and Environment, Dr. Purica was also personal adviser of the Minister of Research, the Minister of Economy and, previously, the Minister of the Environment and an expert for the Parliament of Romania, also President (State Secretary) of the Romanian Nuclear Energy Agency (top level security clearance). He is a member of the EU Advisory Group for Energy and of the World Energy Council study group for energy scenarios 2050 and was a member of the steering committee of the Global Threats Study Network financed by Dpt. of Defence and managed by Virginia Tech. USA, also a senior researcher in the Romanian Academy's Institute for Economic Forecasting. Moreover, he is a corresponding member of the Academy of Romanian Scientists (AOSR) Section of Technical Sciences.



Previously he worked as a project officer for energy and infrastructure in the World Bank, in Romania and the Balkans (e.g. energy assessment in Kosovo 1999), being trained in project guarantees, value at risk, procurement to complete his expertise in engineering acquired as director for international projects of the Romanian Power Company RENEL and senior engineer managing a joint Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd-IMG-Bucharest quality engineering group for the manufacture of nuclear reactor components for the CANDU units in Romania. He worked also as an international researcher (under the ICTP TRIL Program) for ENEA Rome – the Italian Commission for Energy New Technology and Environment – and as an associate researcher at ICTP Trieste.

Prof. Purica has authored books in his field of expertise e.g. (Imperial College Press, Academic Press, etc.) and published articles in journals like Risk Analysis, IEEE Power

Engineering Review, Foundations of Control Engineering, Romanian Journal of Economic Forecasting, etc. He took his second PhD in economics, (the first one in Nuclear Energy Engineering) and, he is also Professor, teaching a course in Project Risk management to masters of science programs.

**Dr. Dionysios Chionis, Co-Founder, Athlos Energy, Greece**



Dionysios Chionis is the co-founder of Athlos Energy, the first Greek company dedicated to advancing nuclear energy. With extensive experience in the energy sector, Dionysios also leads the nuclear physics team at Axpo Power AG, Switzerland's largest utility. His expertise spans reactor physics, nuclear technology, and strategic energy development. He holds a PhD in nuclear physics from EPFL, a Master's in nuclear engineering from ETH Zurich, and a Mechanical Engineering degree from NTUA.