

New York, December 13th, 2016

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**2016 HELLENIC CAPITAL LINK LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**At the 18th Annual «Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum»  
The «2016 Hellenic Capital Link Leadership Award» was presented to:  
Mr. Wilbur L. Ross, Chairman & Chief Strategy Officer of WL Ross & Co**

On **Monday December 12, 2016**, the **Capital Link's 18th Annual Greek Investor Forum** concluded with an Official Dinner presenting the **“2016 Hellenic Capital Link Leadership Award”** to **Mr. Wilbur L. Ross, Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer of WL Ross & Co**, for his outstanding commitment and contribution to Greece. Mr. Wilbur Ross has been a significant and long term investor in Greece and has provided valuable thought leadership on how to put the economy back on a growth path.

The **Capital Link Hellenic Leadership Award** is presented annually to a person or an organization for outstanding contribution in fostering closer ties between Greece and the global business and investment community. Previous honorees were in **2012, Mr. Andrew N. Liveris**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Dow Chemical Company, in **2013, Mr. John Calamos**, Chairman, CEO & Global Co-Chief Investment Officer of Calamos Investments, in **2014, Mr. George Logothetis**, Chairman and CEO of Libra Group and in **2015, Dr. Anthony Papadimitriou**, President to the Board of Directors of Alexander S. Onassis Foundation & Managing Partner of "A.S. Papadimitriou & Partners Law Firm.

Following the Welcome Remarks by Mr. Nicolas Bornozis, President of Capital Link, Mr. Panos Papazoglou, Country Managing Partner in Greece - Central and South East Europe Accounts Leader of EY and Mr. Joseph R. Ficalora, President & CEO of New York Community Bancorp, Inc., parent of Atlantic Bank of New York, made their own introductory remarks. Mr. John Catsimatidis, Chairman & CEO of Red Apple Group introduced Mr. Wilbur Ross and presented him with the Capital Link Hellenic Leadership Award.

US President-elect elect, Donald Trump, announced the nomination of Mr. Wilbur L. Ross as United States Secretary of Commerce. During 55 years of investment banking and private equity activity, he restructured over \$400 billion of assets across a wide range of industries serving as a Chairman or lead director of more than 100 companies operating in more than 20 different countries. He has received numerous awards and recognitions and has been extensively involved with several non-profit organizations.

The dinner was honored by the participation of the following guests:

- **Hon. Dimitri Papadimitriou, Minister of Economy and Development, Hellenic Republic**
- **Hon. George Stathakis, Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic**
- **Hon. Elena Kountoura, Minister of Tourism, Hellenic Republic**
- **Hon. Alexis Charitsis, Alternate Minister of Economy and Development, Hellenic Republic**
- **Mr. George Pitsilis, Secretary General of the General Secretariat for Public Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Hellenic Republic**
- **Mr. Eric Tourret, Deputy CEO, Hellenic Financial Stability Fund**
- **Business Executives, Government Leaders of Greece and the United States, as well as a group of distinguished Greek American entrepreneurs**

**Mr. Nicolas Bornozis**, mentioned: "Mr. Ross is among the best known and respected personalities worldwide for his financial and business acumen. He has been a significant and long term investor in Greece, tangibly showing his confidence in the long terms prospects of the country. Furthermore, on numerous occasions he has publicly shared his insight and suggestions as to how to put the economy back on a growth track and attract more foreign investment, thereby raising Greece's profile within the international investment community."

**Mr. Wilbur Ross** appeared optimistic about a possible exit of Greece from the crisis. "I've been through so much with Greece that it makes me feel that I was always Greek," said the billionaire major investor. He also added that "It seems that Greece passes on the other end of this terrible nightmare that your country lives in all this time." Additionally, Mr. Ross noted that he is waiting for the moment that except from the good friends he has done and the respect he has developed for the Greek culture, his investments in Greece to start yield gains. He also referred to the moves that his company, W.L.Ross & Co, has made known for its investments in the Greek banking sector.

**Mr. Panos Papazoglou**, Country Managing Partner in Greece - Central and South East Europe Accounts Leader of EY, mentioned: "One can only admire Wilbur Ross' remarkable career and achievements. Wilbur Ross is no ordinary business man, he is a risk taker par excellence, a man who could always spot opportunities and turn around distressed industries earning shareholders substantial profits in the process."

**The Dinner was sponsored by EY and Red Apple Group**

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The CAPITAL LINK website: [www.capitallink.com](http://www.capitallink.com)  
The CAPITAL LINK FORUM website: [www.capitallinkforum.com](http://www.capitallinkforum.com)

**ABOUT CAPITAL LINK**

With its headquarters in **New York** and presence in **London, Athens** and **Oslo**, Capital Link has been active since **1995** in the field of Investor Relations and Financial Communication. It also organizes annually in New York, London, Athens, Limassol and Shanghai a series of Investment Forums focusing on its main activity fields ([www.capitallinkforum.com](http://www.capitallinkforum.com)). Capital Link's efforts have been recognized by the 2011 Greek Shipping Lloyds Awards and in 2012 and 2013 the by Intercontinental Finance Magazine. Mr. Nicolas Bornozis has been personally honored for his relentless, efficient and highly effective efforts to promote Greece and Greek Shipping abroad and among the international investment community by the International Propeller Club of the United States and the [AHI-American Hellenic Institute](http://www.ahinstitute.org).