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PRESS RELEASE

**DINNER AND DIALOGUE BETWEEN BUSINESS EXECUTIVES &
GOVERNMENT LEADERS OF GREECE, EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES**

At the 19th Annual «Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum»

On **Monday December 11, 2017**, the “**19th Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum**” concluded with an Official Dinner presenting the “**2017 Hellenic Capital Link Leadership Award**” and **Keynote Speaker Mr. Jonathan R. Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary European and Eurasian Affairs U.S. Department of State.**

In his remarks, **Mr. Nicolas Bornozis, President of Capital Link** expressed his appreciation for the participation in the Capital Link Forum of senior government officials from Greece, Europe and the United States, which reinforces Greece’s message to the international investment community. He made particular mention of the presence of **Mr. Jonathan R. Cohen, who in his role as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of State oversees, among other, matters related to Greece and Cyprus. Also, of the fact that the U.S Ambassador in Greece made a special trip to the United States and had an active involvement with the Forum, along with the Representatives of the European Institutions, Mr. Declan Costello, Mr. Nicola Giammarioli και Mr. Francesco Druddi.**

In his remarks, **Hon. Dimitris Papadimitriou, Minister of Economy & Development, Hellenic Republic** highlighted the progress achieved in the Greek Economy and stressed that the country’s positive outlook is expected to accelerate the flow of foreign investments to Greece.

The speeches were followed by the Hellenic Capital Link Leadership Award Ceremony.

Hon. Haris Lalacos, Ambassador of Greece in the USA, presented the «2017 Hellenic Capital Link Leadership Award» to Mr. Andre Calantzopoulos, CEO – Philip Morris International honoring him for his outstanding contribution to Greece.

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 and in **2016, Mr. Wilbur L. Ross**, Chairman & Chief Strategy Officer of WL Ross & Co.

Mr. Nicolas Bornozis, President of Capital Link, mentioned: “We are particularly proud to present the “2017 Capital Link Hellenic Leadership Award” to Mr. Andre Calantzopoulos. He is at the helm of a major multinational group and his group has made a major contribution to the Greek economy and Greece in general. We should highlight that the commitment of Philip Morris to Greece has been continuous, even



during the difficult times. And we should all pay a special tribute to this unwavering commitment to the potential of Greece.”

Mr. James Hansel, Senior Vice President, Red Apple Group introduced Mr. Andre Calantzopoulos.

Mr. Andre Calantzopoulos, mentioned: *“Philip Morris International has a significant presence and impact on the Greek economy through its affiliate, Papastratos. Philip Morris’ investments in Greece since 2003 amount to 1 billion euro. The most recent investment is underway. It refers to the conversion of the Papastratos’ factory to the third production center of heatsticks for IQOS, creating 400 new jobs and constituting a real vote of confidence in the Greek economy which contributes to enhancing the image of Greece as a business destination to the international investment community.”*

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

- Hon. Dimitris Papadimitriou, Minister of Economy & Development, Hellenic Republic
- Hon. Elena Kountoura, Minister of Tourism, Hellenic Republic
- Mr. George Tziallas, Secretary General for Tourism Policy and Development, Ministry of Tourism
- Mr. George Pitsilis, Governor, Independent Authority for Public Revenue, Hellenic Republic
- H.E. Geoffrey R. Pyatt, Ambassador of the United States in Greece
- H.E. Haris Lalacos, Ambassador of Greece to the United States
- Dr. Konstantinos Koutras, Consul General, Greek Consulate General in New York
- Dr. Martin Czurda, CEO, Hellenic Financial Stability Fund
- Mrs. Rania Ekaterinari, CEO, Hellenic Corporation of Assets & Participations S.A
- Business Executives, Government Leaders of Greece, Europe and the United States, as well as a group of distinguished Greek American entrepreneurs

The Dinner was sponsored by EY and Red Apple Group.

For further information, please contact:

NEW YORK - Ms. Olga Bornozi / Ms. Eleni Bej

Tel. +1 212 661 75 66 - Email: ContactNY@capitallink.com

ATHENS - Ms. Maira Kitova

Tel: +30 210 610 9800 - Email: marketing@capitallink.com

For more details and extensive information, please visit:

The CAPITAL LINK website: www.capitallink.com

The CAPITAL LINK FORUM website: www.capitallinkforum.com

ABOUT CAPITAL LINK

Capital Link is an Advisory, Investor Relations and Financial Communications firm. Besides the customized Investor Relations programs tailored to each specific client, Capital Link is also known for the organization of large scale high quality maritime and investor forums in key industry centers, such as in New York, London, Athens, Shanghai, Limassol and Singapore. Capital Link organizes fourteen conferences annually, of which seven are focused on the maritime sector. Capital Link’s events draw the elite of the financial, investment and maritime communities and provide a unique combination of superior informational content, marketing and

Capital Link – New York – London – Athens – Oslo

230 Park Avenue • Suite 1536 • New York • New York 10169, USA • Tel.: +1 212 661 7566 • Fax: +1 212 661 7526

Longcroft House, 2/8 Victoria Avenue, London, EC2M 4NS, U.K. • Tel. +44(0) 20 3206 1322

40, Agiou Konstantinou Str, Suite A5, 151-24 Athens, Greece • Tel. +30 210 6109 800 • Fax +30 210 6109 801

Raadhusgaten 25, P.O.Box 1904 Vika • N-0116 Oslo, Norway

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networking opportunities. Capital Link's global marketing platform enhances the visibility and reach of these events during the year on a global scale that lasts well beyond the date on which each event is held, becoming a continuous reference point for market participants.

Capital Link's efforts have been recognized by the 2011 Lloyds's List Greek Shipping Awards, in 2012 and 2013 by the InterContinental Finance Magazine and in 2016 by the Wealth & Finance Magazine, Also, by the International Propeller Club of the United States and AHI-American Hellenic Institute.

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