



CAPITAL LINK'S 3rd ANNUAL GREEK SHIPPING FORUM – ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS WITH OVER 850 PARTICIPANTS

Athens, 1st March 2012

With huge success, as evidenced by an impressive attendance that exceeded 850 participants, **Capital Link** organized its Third Annual Greek Shipping Forum “**Shipping & Capital: Funding & Investment Opportunities**” on **Wednesday, February 29, 2012** at **Hilton Athens Hotel**. **Capital Link** is organizing on an annual basis Shipping Forums in New York and London, where listed shipping companies, bankers and analysts address the international investment community, while at the Athens Forum the international financial community and market experts address the Greek and international shipping industry.

ORGANIZERS

The Forum was organized by Capital Link, a New York based Investor Relations and Financial Communications firm, which amongst others is specialized in the shipping sector, working with the majority of the shipping companies listed in the Stock Exchanges of Europe and US. The Forum is organized in cooperation with NYSE Euronext and NASDAQ.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

In line with tradition, Capital Link enables organizations to contribute to the forum's enduring success. This year's Supporting Organizations were the Association of Banking and Financial Executives of Hellenic Shipping, Cass Business School, the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping, the Hellenic Shipbrokers Associations, Piraeus Marine Club, The International Propeller Club of the United States - Port of Piraeus and WISTA Hellas.

FORUM OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVE

The Forum discussed the latest developments and trends in international trade, dry bulk commodities, and the energy markets—framed against the broader backdrop of the global economy—but also review the various funding alternatives for raising capital among listed and private shipping companies. Experts additionally addressed effective investment strategies and risk management in today's shipping industry.

Capital Link's President, **Mr. Nicolas Bornozis** emphasized that current conditions in the shipping market present attractive opportunities for investors with long term horizon. Therefore adequate access to capital is a key competitive advantage that enables expansion at a low point in the cycle. In other companies access to capital is a matter of sustainability. The landscape of

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investment opportunities has changed due to the development of technologies that enable greater efficiency, transport safety and environmental protection.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Dagfinn Lunde, Member of the Board of Managing Directors, DVB Bank was the Keynote Speaker at the Luncheon , and addressed the audience on “**Challenges & Opportunities in Shipping Today**”.

TOPICS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Nathanael Mauclair, Managing Director, NYSE Euronext made the Introductory Remarks.

Throughout the day, there were presentations from the following:

Mr. Nick Kounis, Head of Macro Research, Group Economics, ABN AMRO presented on «**The Global Economy & World Trade**».

Dr. Kostas Perris, Director, PriceWaterhouseCoopers presented on «**Driving Efficiency & Effectiveness in a Shipping Organization**».

Mr. Magnus Fyhr, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Clarksons Capital Markets, presented on «**Investment Opportunities in Shipping Today**».

Dr. Anil Sharma, Founder, President, and CEO, Global Marketing Systems, Inc. (GMS), presented on «**Green Ship Recycling – Trends & Investment Opportunities** ».

Ms. Vasiliki B. Tsaganos, Partner, Fried, Franks, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP presented on «**Raising Capital in the US Capital Markets – Legal Considerations**».

Mr. Marc Richards, Partner, Blank Rome LLP presented on «**“So You Want To (Or Should Be) A Chapter 11 Debtor Under The U.S. Bankruptcy Code.”**».

Mr. Barry I. Grossman, Partner, Ellenoff Grossman & Schole LLP, presented on «**Reverse Mergers: Alternative Public Offerings**».

Mr. Shawn Frost, US Capital Markets Partner, Ernst & Young Greece, presented on «**Navigating through Accounting & Regulatory Changes** ».

Ms. Isabella Schidrich, Senior Managing Director, NASDAQ OMX made the Introductory Remarks at the afternoon sessions.

Mr. Erik Helberg, Chief Executive Officer, Oslo, RS Platou Markets, presented on «**Oslo as a Capital Raising Destination** ».

DISCUSSION PANELS

There were various discussion panels, as per the following:

«Shipping & Bank Financing»

Moderator: **Mr. Jasel Chauhan** , Senior Associate, Holman Fenwick Willan LLP

Panelists: **Mr. George Arkadis**, Chief Representative, Energy, Commodities & Transportation (ECT), ABN AMRO, **Mr. Dimitri Vassilacos**, Head of Greek Shipping - Citibank International plc , **Mr. Evan Cohen** , Managing Director and Global Head Dry Bulk Group , DVB Group Merchant Bank (Asia), **Mr. Dimitris Gialouris**, Shipping Manager , Marfin Popular Bank Public Co. Ltd.

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«Energy Efficiency / Environmental Equation – Challenges & Opportunities»

Panelists: Ms. Helena Athoussaki, CEO, Carbon Positive and Mr. Apostolos Poulouvassilis, Regional Marine Manager, Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA), Lloyds Register.

«Restructuring as an Investment Opportunity»

Moderator: Mr. Stuart Gelfond, Corporate Partner , Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP

Panelists: Mr. Ken Becker, Director ,AMA Capital Partners, Mr. Socrates Leptos, Bourgi, Assurance Partner, Global Shipping & Ports Industry Leader, PwC and Dr. Gunnar Gerig, Senior Manager, Ernst & Young GmbH

«Are Capital Markets Open to Shipping Today?»

Moderator: Mr. Antonios Backos , Corporate Partner , Watson, Farley & Williams LLP

Panelists: Mr. Sandy Reddin, Managing Director, Knight Capital Americas, L.P., Mr. Eric Schless, Managing Director, Wells Fargo Securities, Mr. Philippe Chrysticopoulos, Managing Director, Head of Shipping EMEA, Bank of America Merrill Lynch Securities and Mr. Wiley Griffiths, Managing Director, Global Transportation ,Morgan Stanley.

«Alternative Sources of Ship Finance»

Moderator: Mr. Clay Maitland, Managing Partner, International Registries Inc.

Panelists: Mr. John Ong, Managing Director & Head of Corporate Finance & Capital Markets ,ABN AMRO Securities (USA) LLC, Mr. Hamish Norton, Managing Director, Jefferies and Mr. Peter Sorkin, Director of Transportation Research , Knight Capital Group.

« Investor Attitudes in Shipping »

Moderator: Mr. Nicolas Bornozis, President , Capital Link, Inc.

Panelists: Mr. Ben Nolan, Director of Shipping , Knight Capital Americas, L.P. and Mr. Michael Webber, Vice President & Senior Equity Analyst ,Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

GLOBAL SPONSORS

- **Global Lead Sponsors:** ABN AMRO and Tsakos Energy Navigation Ltd (TEN)
- **Global Gold Sponsors:** Knight Capital Group and DVB Bank

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MEDIA PARTNERS

The Media Partners of the Forum included: BUSINESS FILE economia.gr, www.efoplistesnews.gr, Elnavi, IHT -Kathimerini, Lloyd's List, Maritech News, www.maritimes.gr, The Maritime Executive, NafsGreen, Naftika Chronika, SHIP to SHORE, Shipping International Monthly Review, Tradewinds και Worldoils.

TV MEDIA PARTNERS

SBC Channel.

CONFERENCE MATERIAL

All conference material is available on Capital Link's website, at:

<http://forums.capitallink.com/shipping/2012greece/index.html?articleID=10Oy274mobRnZNB>

ABOUT CAPITAL LINK

Capital Link is a New York-based Advisory, Investor Relations and Financial Communications firm. Capitalizing on our in-depth knowledge of the shipping industry and capital markets, Capital Link has made a strategic commitment to the shipping industry becoming the largest provider of Investor Relations and Financial Communications services to international shipping companies listed on the US and European Exchanges. Capital Link's headquarters are in New York with a presence in London and Athens.

In our effort to enhance the information flow to the investment community and contribute to improving investor knowledge of shipping, Capital Link has undertaken a series of initiatives beyond the traditional scope of its investor relations activity, such as:

- www.CapitalLinkShipping.com: A web based resource that provides information on the major shipping and stock market indices, as well as on all shipping stocks. It also features an earnings and conference call calendar, industry reports from major industry participants and interviews with CEOs, analysts and other market participants.
- **Weekly Capital Link Shipping e-Newsletter**: Weekly distribution to an extensive audience in the US & European shipping, financial and investment communities with updates on the shipping markets, the stock market and listed company news.
- www.CapitalLinkWebinars.com: Sector Forums & Webinars: Regularly, we organize panel discussions among CEOs, analysts, bankers and shipping industry participants on the developments in the various shipping sectors (containers, dry bulk, tankers) and on other topics of interest (such as Raising Equity in Shipping Today, Scrapping, etc).
- **Capital Link Investor Shipping Forums**: In New York, Athens and London bringing together investors, bankers, financial advisors, listed companies CEOs, analysts, and shipping industry participants.
- www.MaritimeIndices.com: Capital Link Maritime Indices: Capital Link developed and maintains a series of stock market maritime indices which track the performance of U.S. listed shipping stocks (CL maritime Index, CL Dry Bulk Index, CL Tanker Index, CL Container Index, CL LNG/LPG Index, CL Mixed Fleet Index, CL Shipping MLP Index – Bloomberg page: CPLI. The Indices are also distributed through the Reuters Newswires and are available on Factset.

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