



Athens, February 09 2018

PRESS RELEASE

“2018 CAPITAL LINK GREEK SHIPPING LEADERSHIP AWARD”

**In the context of the 9th Annual Greek Shipping Forum
The “2018 Capital Link Greek Shipping Leadership Award” was presented to
Messrs. Panos Laskaridis & Athanasios Laskaridis**

On **Thursday, February 8, 2018**, during the Luncheon of the **Capital Link’s 9th Annual Greek Shipping Forum** the **“2018 Capital Link Greek Shipping Leadership Award”** was presented to **Messrs. Panos Laskaridis & Athanasios Laskaridis respectively.**

Mr. Panos Laskaridis, is the President of European Community Shipowners Associations; CEO, Lavinia Corporation/Laskaridis Shipping Company Ltd. **and**

Mr. Athanasios Laskaridis, is the Chairman and CEO of Lavinia Corporation, Lavinia Enterprises Limited and Laskaridis Shipping Company Ltd.

The award was given in recognition of their unique and extensive contribution to Shipping and Greece and for their overall outstanding service to the shipping industry made by each of them individually, by their family and by their companies.

The **“Capital Link Greek Shipping Leadership Award”** is presented annually to a patriarch of the Greek Shipping Community who has gained the respect and the appreciation of the international shipping industry and who is also recognized for his wisdom, philanthropy and contribution to society. The Award aims to recognize the patriarchs of Greek Shipping, those pioneers with a significant contribution to elevating Greek Shipping to its leadership position globally.

Previous honorees were: in **2013 Captain Panagiotis N.Tsakos**, **2014 Mr. Pericles Panagopoulos**, **2015 Mr. Lambros Varnavides**, Vice Chairman of the Baltic Exchange, Trustee of the Lloyds Register Foundation and Managing Director and Global Head of Shipping RBS 1998 to 2014, **2016 Messrs. Nicolas, George and Andreas Tsavlis** of the Tsavlis Salvage Group and **2017, Professor Costas Th. Grammenos** CBE DSc, LRF Chair in Shipping, Trade & Finance, Chairman, Costas Grammenos Centre for Shipping, Trade & Finance, Cass Business School, City, University of London,

The Award Ceremony took place during the Official Luncheon of the **Capital Link’s 9th Annual Greek Shipping Forum** at the Divani Caravel Hotel in Athens. **More than 500 high level participants attended the luncheon representing the elite of the financial and investment communities, as well business and government leaders from the United States, Greece and London.**

Capital Link’s President, Mr. Nicolas Bornozis in his introductory Remarks mentioned: *“It is an honor that today we presented the “Capital Link Greek Shipping Leadership Award” to Messrs. Panos Laskaridis & Athanasios Laskaridis in recognition of their unique contribution to the shipping industry”.*

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Dr. George A. Gratsos - HELMEPA Chairman introducing Mr. Panos Laskaridis and mentioned *“I know Panos Laskaridis since the 1980s. He is in every way a very accomplished individual in all aspects concerning the maritime field and a leading businessman. Among other distinctions, he also has degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture from leading world universities.*

His C.V. is second to no one’s. He is very involved in international shipping matters being the current President of the European Community Shipowners Association, member of the executive committees and boards of many other international shipping related organizations and learned societies. He is also involved in many land based and tourist industries.

Importantly he is a great philanthropist who has devoted a lot of time and effort to improve health, education and access to knowledge of the disadvantaged. He is President of the Aikaterini Laskaridou Foundation and Library with its impressive collection of books, which provides, among others, educational programs and lectures to, mostly, young people by important scholars in the arts and sciences, in order to broaden their perspective on life and culture. Panos Laskaridis has also undertaken the repair of several of Greece’s historical lighthouses, upgraded Navy and Coastguard ships, has assisted in deep sea archeological explorations and has been involved in many philanthropic activities”.

Mr. Panos Laskaridis - President, European Community Shipowners Associations; CEO, Lavinia Corporation / Laskaridis Shipping Co. Ltd. In his speech mentioned:

“I am grateful to the organisers for this prestigious distinction.

I feel it reflects more on my lifelong friends and partners, my family and my brother rather on whatever people feel I have achieved.

For over 40 years I have devoted my life to ships, shipowning and shipmanagement.

I have been very lucky to meet and work with many excellent executives and shipowners, most of them more accomplished than myself, who have taught me all I know about the business .

Shipping is today very different from what it was when I first entered work 40 years ago. Since then, shipping has undergone a sea of change.

Regulation is one of the most important. Global versus regional regulation is another problem.

Environmental concerns and public pressures are also predominant as the business looks forward into developments that will shape shipping policies over the next 20-30 years.

This is the work of politicians and it is the duty of the shipping bodies to engage strongly in these challenging discussions.

European Shipping Policy is today dealing with many of the most important aspects of future policy and it is the duty of the shipping and shipowning community through their representative

Associations to actively pursue these discussions.

Greece is currently chairing the European Shipowners Association and we are trying to advance these discussion to the benefit of the entire shipping industry”.

Mr. Takis Arapoglou – Chairman, Tsakos Energy Navigation (TEN) Ltd, introduced Mr. Athanasios Laskaridis by stating: *“It is a great honour to be asked to introduce Thanassis Laskaridis, a close friend of four decades, on the occasion of the prestigious award presented to him by Capital Link. His remarkable success of heading today a broad array of businesses, ranging from shipping to real estate, entertainment and tourism spread around the globe, is a product of great vision and astuteness. Exceptionally well informed about a vast range of topics, he has never hesitated to openly express his views on all things that matter. Thanassis Laskaridis combines foresight and determination with realism in his decisions for every move. Hard working throughout his life, he always*

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makes sure to be close to his family and loyal to his friends. His and his whole family's focus to support good causes and to give back to the community, are an additional reason to warmly congratulate him, as well as to thank Capital Link for awarding him today this very special recognition”.

Mr. Takis Arapoglou, presented the Award to **Mr. Odysseas Laskaridis**, Managing Director- Laskaridis Shipping Company Ltd., who addressed the audience and mentioned: ‘It is a privilege to be here today representing my family, and I can only hope to continue following in my father’s footsteps.’

Mr. Athanasios Laskaridis, Chairman & CEO, Lavinia Corporation, Lavinia Enterprises Limited and Laskaridis Shipping Company Ltd. addressed the audience through a video-message mentioned: *“Global Shipping is at regulatory crossroads whose effects are so far unclear. The elements of uncertainty make this business yet again a most interesting and a most challenging one. Greek Shipping in particular , having made great progress despite all odds over the last ten years , now find itself in a rather advantageous position and with a substantially improved fleet at its disposal . Hardly however the time rest on one’s laurels when the entire Greek fleet is valued at about 100 billion US Dollars whilst at the same time many single multinational corporations are worth a multiple of this figure. Greek ship owners can and must do more in Greece to help our Country and seek to address socio economic imbalances , which are at the present time very negatively affecting the infinite success of capitalism worldwide. ”*

The Official Lunch was sponsored by “Bermuda Business Development Agency”

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The CAPITAL LINK website: www.capitallink.com

The CAPITAL LINK FORUM website: www.capitallinkforum.com

ABOUT CAPITAL LINK

Founded in 1995, Capital Link is a New York based investor relations, financial communications and advisory firm with a strategic focus on the maritime, commodities and energy sectors, MLPs, as well as Closed-End Funds and ETFs.

Based in New York City, Capital Link has presence in London, Athens & Oslo. Capital Link is a member of the Baltic Exchange and works very closely with the New York Stock Exchange, NASDAQ and the London Stock Exchange as well as with major international and supranational organizations and industry associations in the areas of the firm's strategic concentration.

Our proactive approach, which integrates Investor Relations, Information Technology and Media, enhances awareness and branding for our clients through tailored outreach programs targeting analysts, institutional and



9th Annual Capital Link Greek Shipping Forum "Opportunities & Challenges"

Thursday, February 8, 2018
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IN COOPERATION WITH



individual investors and the financial media complemented by extensive and uniquely powerful marketing platforms.

Capital Link offers a full suite of services including strategic and corporate advisory, investor relations, media relations, public and industry relations and the organization of corporate events.

Capital Link is also known for the organization of large scale, high quality Investment Forums focusing on maritime transportation and U.S. investment products in key industry centers, such as New York, London, Athens, Limassol, Shanghai and Singapore. We organize twelve to fourteen conferences annually, of which seven are focused on the maritime sector. The Capital Link Investment Forums feature industry leaders and draw the elite of the global financial and investment communities.

The Capital Link brand is widely-recognized and valued worldwide by participants in these communities for combining rich informational and educational content with as well as superior networking opportunities.

In addition to conferences, Capital Link organizes Webinars focusing on investment strategies, sectors, critical topics of interest to the investment community and company presentations. Capital Link's global marketing platform enhances the visibility and reach of these events 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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