



**Capital Link Forum**  
**13th Annual Investor Forum - Greece**  
**"A New Beginning"**  
 Wednesday, December 7, 2011 - New York City



*Under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance of the Hellenic Republic*

**IN COOPERATION WITH**



**EVANGELOS VENIZELOS, GREECE’S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE ADDRESSES U.S. INVESTORS AT CAPITAL LINK’S 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INVESTOR FORUM - GREECE: “A NEW BEGINNING” IN NEW YORK CITY - FORUM A GREAT SUCCESS WITH 832 PARTICIPANTS**

New York, December 14, 2011

The **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Link Investor Forum on Greece**, titled “**A New Beginning**,” took place on **December 7, 2011** at the **Metropolitan Club** in New York City. With a successful track record of 12 years, Capital Link’s Investor Forum on Greece is an institution that fosters closer relations between the investment and business communities of Greece and the United States. This year’s attendance reached 832 participants.

**ORGANIZERS**

Held in cooperation with the **New York Stock Exchange** and with the **Athens Stock Exchange**, this forum was organized **under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance of the Hellenic Republic**.

**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 Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce in New York, the Trade Office of the Consulate General of Greece, the European American Chamber of Commerce – New York, the European-American Business Organization Inc., the Hellenic American Bankers Association, the Hellenic American Business Network, the American Hellenic Institute, the Hellenic American Lawyers Association, and Leadership 100.

**FORUM OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the forum is to update U.S. investors on the Greek economy, government economic policy and objectives, capital markets, the main sectors of business activity in Greece, as well as business and investment opportunities.

**Nicolas Bornozis**, President of Capital Link, highlighted the significance of reaching out directly to the wider investment community, especially during the turbulent and volatile times at present. Today, when Greece attracts worldwide attention, it is vital to ensure that proper information is made available to investors; Capital Link’s Investor Forum on Greece aims to provide this direct link. He

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stressed that with the reforms implemented in Greece, Greece is truly at the new stage— “A New Beginning.”

At lunch, the Keynote Speaker was the Greek Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, **Professor Evangelos Venizelos**, via webcast. **Mrs. Arianna Huffington, President and Editor-in-Chief of The Huffington Post Media Group** and **Mr. Jay Collins**, Vice Chairman of Global Banking and Managing Director of the Public Sector Group at Citi made introductory remarks.

**Mrs. Arianna Huffington**, President and Editor-in-Chief of The Huffington Post Media Group, made the keynote introductory remarks, pointing to the need to change the narrative concerning Greece and focus on optimism, solutions, and the incredible resilience of the Greek character, instead of simply on the problems facing Greece. However, she also cautioned about the recent European turn towards fiscal austerity, warning, “we cannot cut our way out of the crisis.” Instead, she said, we need to find ways to reinvest, create jobs, and tap into the human and natural resources that Greece is teeming with. She ended with an anecdote from her trip this summer to the Special Olympics in Athens, quoting Tim Shriver, who heads the games. When he was lighting the Olympic torch in the Parthenon, on one of those windy Athenian days, he said, "There's a stiff wind out here, but we will prevail." Using his words as a metaphor for her country of birth, she closed by saying, "I believe with all my heart that Greece will too."

**Mr. Jay Collins**, Vice Chairman of Global Banking and Managing Director of the Public Sector Group at Citi described Citi’s long involvement and commitment to the Greek marketplace and shared his views on the European sovereign debt crisis and the global economy.

**Minister Venizelos**, delivered his Keynote Address via webcast, as he had to remain in Greece for the Parliament vote on the 2012 Budget, which was concluded the day prior to the Forum. He outlined the objectives of the new three-party government in the context of the European sovereign debt crisis, duly noting how Greece would reach a primary surplus of 1.1% of GDP in 2012 from its fiscal deficit of 15.7 % of Greek GDP in 2009. He highlighted that “This achievement is even greater considering that we did it within the prevailing context of a five-year recession, which is in total higher than 15% of GDP and also in a period of increasing cost of our public debt service.” He underlined that reform, besides fiscal adjustment, was necessary, calling for structural reforms such as a decade-long national reconstruction project, which would entail the privatization of public enterprises, agencies, and real estate within a stabilized legal and tax environment while being buttressed by the “investment wave from overseas.” He also emphasized the need to strengthen and capitalize on Greek relations throughout the Euro area and the United States: “We really want a growth oriented and investment friendly Greece. We want a smart Greece—a Greece that provides fast and simple solutions. And we want a Greece that is ready to welcome the forces of diaspora and the forces of Greek shipping, the two major pillars of the Greek nation of which we are proud.”

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The Forum's target audience included U.S. institutional investors who invest in Greek equity and fixed-income securities, such as analysts, portfolio managers, financial advisors, commercial and investment bankers, financiers and corporations that do business with Greece as well as financial media.

For another successive year in a row, the audience members in attendance were indicative of the active and continuing interest in Greece. The forum, among others, attracted senior executives from Paulson & Co., Citi, Citigroup, Oppenheimer, Edward Jones Investments, Calamos Investments, Neuberger Berman, JP Morgan, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, HSBC, Wells Fargo Advisors, Polar Securities, Nataxis Bleichroeder LLC, Superior Investments, TK Investments, Omnivest Group, Litespeed Management, LLC, ICON Investments, FBR Capital Markets, Green Capital Investment Bank, U.S. Financial Investments, Inc., and Riverside Credit Investments Corp. and many more organizations.

There were also a series of one-on-one meetings organized in cooperation with Axia Ventures Group and Citi. The Forum also provided attendees with exceptional networking opportunities.

## **FORUM TOPICS & STRUCTURE**

The morning sessions focused on recent developments in Greece, assessing government reforms and policies, banking and finance, and other key business sectors. The afternoon panels were dedicated to the global energy, commodity, and shipping markets, which do not depend on the developments of the Greek economy, but rather on the global energy and commodity markets.

### **Keynote Speech**

- Introductory Remarks were given by **Ms. Arianna Huffington**, President & Editor-In-Chief, The Huffington Post Media Group.
- Introductory Remarks were also given by **Mr. Jay Collins**, Vice Chairman of Global Banking & Managing Director of the Public Sector Group, Citi.
- Keynote Speech was given (via webcast) by **Professor Evangelos Venizelos**, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance of the Hellenic Republic.

### **Morning Sessions: Greece - A New Beginning**

- Welcome Remarks were provided by **Mr. Nicolas Bornozis**, President of Capital Link, Inc.
- Opening Remarks were made by **Hon. Aghi Balta**, Consul General of Greece in New York. **Mr. Vassilis Kaskarelis**, Greek Ambassador to the United States was in Athens on a visit to Greece with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden.
- European Sovereign Debt Crisis: Searching for the End Game was presented by **Mr. Nick Kounis**, Head of Macro Research, Group Economics, at ABN AMRO.
- Greece's Economic Adjustment Program: The Restructuring of State-Owned Enterprises Privatization Program was presented by **Mr. George Kyriakos**, Special Secretary for Public Enterprises and Entities of Greece at the Ministry of Finance.

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- The Legal Aspects of the Upcoming Privatization Program was presented by **Mr. Anthony Papadimitriou**, Managing Partner at A. S. Papadimitriou & Partners Law Firm.
- Hellenic Exchanges & The Greek Stock Market was presented by **Mr. Socrates Lazaridis**, Executive Chairman of the Athens Exchange and CEO of Hellenic Exchanges.
- Investment Opportunities for Foreign Investors in the Greek Stock Market was presented by **Mr. George Linatsas**, Founding Partner, Director, and Member of the Executive Committee at Axia Ventures Group.
- Restructuring as an Investment Opportunity was moderated by **Mr. Nicolas Bornozis**, President of Capital Link, Inc. Panelists included **Mr. David A. Preiser**, Chairman and Senior Managing Director at Houlihan Lokey, **Mr. Alexandros Argyros**, Managing Director of Investment Banking at Axia Ventures Group, and **Mr. David Hilty**, Managing Director and Head of Financial Restructuring Group at Houlihan Lokey.
- Banking Sector was presented by **Mr. Cleon Papadopoulos**, Executive Chairman at TT Hellenic Postbank S.A.
- Gaming & Sports Betting was presented separately by **Mr. Nikos Polymenakos**, Investor Relations Advisor at OPAP S.A., and **Mr. Nikos Lattas**, Investor Relations Executive at Intralot S.A.
- Telecommunications was presented by **Mr. Kevin Copp**, Group CFO of Hellenic Telecommunications (OTE S.A.).

**Afternoon Sessions: 5th Annual Global Shipping Markets Roundtable**

- The Global Energy & Tanker Shipping Markets were moderated by **Mr. Ben Nolan**, Director and Head of Shipping Research at Knight Capital Group. Panelists included **Mr. Nikolas Tsakos**, CEO of Tsakos Energy Navigation Ltd (NYSE: TNP), and **Mr. Ted Petrone**, President of Navios Maritime Acquisition Corp. (NYSE NNA).
- The Global Commodities & Dry Bulk Shipping Markets were moderated by **Mr. Christian Wetherbee**, Senior Analyst at Citi Investment Research. Panelists included **Mr. Dale Ploughman**, CEO of Seenergy Maritime Holdings Corp. (NASDAQ: SHIP), and **Mr. Tasos Aslidis**, CFO and Treasurer of Euroseas Ltd (NASDAQ: ESEA).
- The Global Container Shipping Markets were moderated by **Mr. Fotis Giannakoulis**, Vice President of Shipping at Morgan Stanley. Panelists included **Mr. Tobias Koenig**, CEO and Founding Partner of American Feeder Lines Holding LP, and **Mr. Tasos Aslidis**, CFO and Treasurer of Euroseas Ltd (NASDAQ: ESEA).
- Analyst Panel was moderated by **Mr. Clay Maitland**, Managing Partner at International Registries, Inc. Panelists included Mr. Scott Weber, Vice President of Airfreight, Surface & Marine Transportation Research at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, **Mr. Ben Nolan**, Director and Head of Shipping Research at Knight Capital Group, **Mr. Fotis Giannakoulis**, Vice President of Shipping at Morgan Stanley, and **Mr. Christian Wetherbee**, Senior Analyst at Citi Investment Research.

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#### **FORUM SPONSORS**

Thanks to its sponsors, the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Link Forum** had another successful year in promoting the Greek Economy and its businesses:

<b>Lead Sponsors:</b>	Citi, Tsakos Energy Navigation Ltd (TEN)
<b>Global Gold Sponsors:</b>	Knight Capital Group, DVB Bank
<b>Grand Sponsor:</b>	TT Hellenic Postbank
<b>Supporting Sponsors:</b>	Atlantic Bank of New York, JP Morgan, Marathon Bank.
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#### **MEDIA PARTNERS**

Our Media Partners for this year attracted broad coverage from major international financial media in the United States, Greece, and Europe.

<b>International Media:</b>	Barron's, The Huffington Post, Investor's Business Daily, The Maritime Executive, Sarhan Capital.
<b>Greek American Media:</b>	Antenna Satellite, Enimerosi, The Hellenic News of America, Neo Magazine, Odyssey Magazine.

#### **CONFERENCE MATERIAL**

You can access online Capital Link's 50-page, published journal, which was distributed to forum participants, investment banks and supporting organizations, and to the Greek Consulates located throughout the U.S. The Journal contains articles from top government officials in Greece and the U.S., specifically from Professor Evangelos Venizelos, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Vassilis Kaskarelis, Greek Ambassador to the United States, and Mr. Daniel B. Smith, U.S. Ambassador in Greece and others.

The journal and all speeches, presentations, photos, and videos of the speakers will be made available on the event's website under "Webcast Archive": <http://forums.capitallink.com/greece/2011/>.

#### **OFFICIAL DINNER**

**Axia Ventures Group** and **Houlihan Lokey** hosted an official dinner after the Forum for the Forum delegates and select U.S. investors.

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**“GREEK DAY” AT NYSE**

Within the context of the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Link Forum on “A New Beginning”**, the New York Stock Exchange in cooperation with Capital Link organized, **“Greek Day at NYSE”** on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. A special ceremony in honor of Greece was held.

On Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> 2011, the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) held an official business lunch to honour the publicly listed Greek companies on the NYSE, and companies that participated in the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Link Forum**. NYSE also issued a special medal to honor “Greek Day at NYSE”.

Later that day, **Mr. Socrates Lazaridis** Executive Chairman of the Athens Exchange & CEO, of the Hellenic Exchanges Group and **Mr. Nikolas Tsakos**, CEO of Tsakos Energy Navigation Ltd rang **“The Closing Bell”**, ending the trading session on Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> 2011. The event was broadcast live on major news broadcasts in the United States and abroad to an audience of millions of viewers worldwide.

**ABOUT CAPITAL LINK, INC.**

With its headquarters in New York and presence in London and Athens, Capital Link has been active since 1995 in the field of investor relations and financial communications and the organization of investment forums.

Capital Link has a leading position globally in the area of Investor Relations with respect to shipping, as it cooperates with 25 shipping companies listed on the three US Stock Exchanges, as well as in London (LSE and AIM) and Milan. Capital Link is by far the most recognizable IR firm in this sector with unique access to investors, analysts, media and bankers. Capital Link has also a leading position in US Closed-End funds and ETFs, hosting The Annual Capital Link “Closed-End Fund and Global ETF” Forum in New York, already in its 10th year, which is considered a top Forum of this sector.

Capital Link has built one of the most extensive and effective networks for the promotion of Greek Listed Companies both in Greece and mainly in Europe and the United States targeting international investors. Indicative events of its activity are the decisive contribution of Capital Link to the signing of the Cooperation Memorandum between the New York and Athens Stock Exchanges in 2002, the organization of events for the OTE listing on the New York Stock Exchange in 1998, as well as the organization of the first visit by the Chairman of the New York Stock Exchange to Athens in 2001. The Annual Capital Link Forum on “Investing in Greece”, already in its 13th year, has been established as the most credible Forum for briefing US investors on the progress, developments and potential of the Greek economy, the stock market and Greek listed companies.

Since January 2011, Capital Link has expanded its activities in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility, by creating the portal [www.csringreece.gr](http://www.csringreece.gr), an innovative website that bridges the communication between companies and organizations that represent the Society, is a centralized

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source of information for all news relating to CSR and provides a platform for the Associations from all over Greece.

**For further information, please contact:**

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