



OPENING ADDRESS

MR. JOSHUA HUCK

**Deputy Assistant Secretary For Southern Europe And The Caucasus,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**In The Context Of The
OFFICIAL DINNER - AWARD CEREMONY:
“2023 HELLENIC CAPITAL LINK LEADERSHIP AWARD”**

[WEST LOUNGE photos](#) [GREAT HALL photos](#)

Digital Journal <https://forums.capitallink.com/greece/2023/flip/>

Agenda : <http://forums.capitallink.com/greece/2023/>

New York, Thursday, December 14th, 2023

On Monday, December, 11, 2023, the successful [25th Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum «Accelerating Investments for Sustainable Growth»](#), concluded with a very well attended official dinner honoring the strong political and financial bonds between Greece and the United States.

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230 Park Avenue • Suite 1540 • New York • New York 10169, USA • Tel.: +1 212 661 7566 • Fax: +1 212 661 7526

10 Lower Grosvenor Place, London, SW1W 0EN, United Kingdom • Tel: +44 795 626 2380

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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Mr. Nicolas Bornozis, opened the ceremony making brief introductory remarks, welcoming and thanking all those who participated in the Forum, as well **H.E. Ekaterini Nassika**, *Ambassador of Greece to the United States*, and **Mr. Joshua Huck**, *Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southern Europe and the Caucasus - U.S. Department of State*, who gave the Dinner's **Keynote Remarks**.



Mr. Joshua Huck, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Southern Europe and the Caucasus, U.S. Department of State, hailed the bilateral relationship between the United States and Greece, which is at an all-time high. Secretary Blinken met with Foreign Minister Gerapetritis at the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting and spoke with Prime Minister Mitsotakis in early November. DAS Huck emphasized that the U.S. government is making impactful investments in Greece via the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)'s \$125 million investment in ONEX's efforts to rehabilitate and revitalize the Elefsina Shipyard. This investment will expand the Greek ship repair and maintenance sector at a time of high demand, support LNG vessels and U.S. LNG exports to Greece, and support Greece's diversification of energy sources away from Russia. USAID also recently signed an MOU with Greece to integrate electricity markets across the Western Balkans, improving regional energy security and cooperation.

Greece is an indispensable partner and plays a critical role defending NATO's southeastern flank. Our shared democratic values are now more important than ever. DAS Huck highlighted the growing numbers of U.S. and Greek students studying abroad in both directions. Exchanges like these bolster our mutual understanding and benefit the Greek and U.S. economies. When U.S. businesses invest in Greece, they bring tangible benefits to communities around the country by providing jobs and skills training, especially in STEM fields.

DAS Huck noted that ultimately, the partnership between the United States and Greece is based on our shared values and on the connection between our peoples. Hellenic organizations are the essential link between both countries and are important conduits for cooperation across sectors, political parties, generations, oceans, and borders. These efforts ensure that the U.S.-Greece relationship is stronger than ever and that future generations will also benefit from our cooperation.

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THE FORUM WAS ORGANIZED:

IN COOPERATION WITH: New York Stock Exchange – NYSE & Athens Exchange Group (ATHEX Group)

UNDER THE AUSPICES: of the Consulate General of Greece in New York, which hosted a welcome reception for all speakers.

The Forum, through its 25 years record of success, has been engaged in a systematic effort to highlight Greece's profile to a global business and investment audience. This year's forum was particularly significant as Greece is heralding a new dawn of investments and entrepreneurship, despite global challenges. The country's political stability, strong economic dynamics, and attractive valuations have boosted investor confidence in the Greek market. The upgrade of the Greek economy by Fitch formalizes the emergence of Greece in the investment category in terms of credit rating. Fitch is the third - out of four

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recognized by the ECB - rating agency to award our country investment grade status in recent months. This certifies the progress of the Greek economy and the even more positive prospects opened up by the implementation of the country's policy. At the same time, it creates the conditions for further strengthening investment inflows, better financing conditions for the economy, growth and increased employment.

The Prime Minister of Greece, H.E. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, addressed international investors via written message.

Keynote Remarks by Greek Ministers: Minister of Economy & Finance, H.E. Kostis Hatzidakis, Minister of Infrastructure & Transport, H.E. Christos Staikouras, Minister of Environment & Energy, H.E. Theodore Skylakakis, Alternate Minister of Economy & Finance, H.E. Nikolaos Papathanasis.

Greek Government Officials: Ms. Maria (Maira) Myrogianni, Secretary General for International Economic Affairs - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Mr. Orestis Kavalakis**, Governor of Recovery and Resilience Facility Coordination Agency - Ministry of Economy and Finance, **Mr. Dimitrios Tsakonas**, Director General - Public Debt Management Agency, **Mr. Michael Arghyrou**, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, **Mr. George Pitsilis**, Governor – Independent Authority for Public Revenue, **Mr. Vassilis Kontozamanis**, Former Alternate Minister of Health, **Mr. Gregory D. Dimitriadis**, CEO & Executive Member of the BoD - Growthfund, the National Fund of Greece, **Dr. Marinos Giannopoulos**, CEO - ENTERPRISE GREECE.

US Government (US Department of State) Representatives: • **Mr. Geoffrey R. Pyatt**, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Energy Resources, and • **Mr. Joshua Huck**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southern Europe and the Caucasus.

European Central Bank was represented by **Ms. Elizabeth McCaul**, Member of the Supervisory Board.

The Athens Exchange Group was represented by **Mr. Yianos Kontopoulos**, CEO - Athens Exchange Group, and the **Hellenic Capital Market Commission**, by **Dr. Vassiliki Lazarakou JSD**, Chair - Hellenic Capital Market Commission.

The Forum featured the important participation of representatives from **the biggest Greek Banks: 1) Four Systemic Banks, Alpha Bank - Eurobank - National Bank - Piraeus Bank, 2) Attica Bank and Hellenic Development Bank**, and from **the most important Global Investment Banks • Barclays • BNP Paribas • Goldman Sachs International • Morgan Stanley • Nomura • AXIA Ventures Group Ltd.**

Participating speakers in investor panel: John Paulson and representatives from: BC Partners - Brookstreet Equity Partners • CVC • Hotel Investment Partners (HIP) • RWE Energy Transition Investments • Thrivest Holding.

23 Listed Companies participated in a series of meetings with multiple foreign investors : Athens Exchange Group - Alpha Bank - Athens Water Supply & Sewage Company SA (EYDAP) -Attica Bank - AUTO HELLAS - AVAX Group - Cosmos Health, Inc. (NASDAQ: COSM) - Dimand S.A. - ELLAKTOR S.A. – Eurobank - GEK Terna Group - HELLENiQ ENERGY Holdings - Intrakat S.A. - LAMDA Development - MOTOR OIL Group - MYTILINEOS - National Bank of Greece - Opap - OTE Group of Companies - Piraeus Bank - PRODEA Investments - Public Power Corporation – PPC - Trastor REIC.

During the Official Luncheon the Greek Minister of Economy & Finance, H.E. Kostis Hatzidakis, and Mr. Evan Kotsovinos, Vice President and General Manager – Google, delivered Keynote Remarks. Mr. John Tuttle, Vice Chairman – NYSE; President - NYSE Institute, Dr. Nikolas P. Tsakos, Founder & CEO - TEN Ltd, and Ms. Beth Hammack, Co-Head Global Financing Group - Goldman Sachs, delivered Welcome Remarks.

Nicolas Bornozis, President of Capital Link gratefully presented “THE CAPITAL LINK HELLENIC APPRECIATION AWARD” to Mr. John Tuttle, Vice Chairman - NYSE ; President - NYSE Institute, for NYSE’s and his own longstanding support & contribution to Greece, Greek Entrepreneurs, the Greek Maritime Community & the Greek-American Diaspora.

The Forum concluded with an Official Dinner during which the **"2023 Capital Link Hellenic Leadership Award"** was presented to **Mr. Nikos Stathopoulos**, Chairman of Europe & Member of the Management Committee - **BC Partners**, for his outstanding contribution to Greece: his significant involvement and positive impact on Greece and the Greek economy with his active investment participation. **Nicolas Bornozis, President of Capital Link, read the Greek Minister of Economy & Finance, H.E. Kostis Hatzidakis’ Keynote Address**, since the Minister had to urgently return to Greece. **The Ambassador of Greece to the USA, H.E. Ekaterini Nassika, and Mr. Joshua Huck**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southern Europe and the Caucasus - **U.S. Department of State**, delivered **Keynote Remarks**. **Ms Nicole Petalides**, Host - **Schwab Network** ; Former Anchor - **FOX Business Network**, was the **Master of Ceremonies**.

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On **Tuesday, December, 12, 2023**, within the context of the “**25th Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum**”, the **New York Stock Exchange** in cooperation with **Capital Link** organized a special ceremony honoring the “**Greek American Issuer Day at NYSE**”, during which Greek & Greek American companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange rang the “Closing Bell” - at **NYSE-New York Stock Exchange**.

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Supporters: BC Partners • Blueground • BrainReGain • Chicago Atlantic • CVC • Delsona Therapeutics • ESED (the Greek Corporate Governance Council) • Growthfund, the National Fund of Greece • Hotel Investment Partners (HIP) • Microsoft • Pfizer • Red Apple Group • RWE Renewables Hellas • RWE Energy Transition Investments

Speakers Reception Sponsor: Red Apple Group

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UNDER THE AUSPICES: of the Consulate General of Greece in New York • Greek Trade Office in New York - Consulate General of Greece in New York

• AHEPA • AHI - American Hellenic Institute • Cyprus - US Chamber of Commerce • EMBCA – The Eastern Mediterranean Business Culture Alliance • Endeavor • European American Chamber of Commerce, New York • EFM - European Financial Management Association • HABA - Hellenic American Bankers Association • Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce • HLA - Hellenic Lawyers Association • HMS – Hellenic Medical Society of New York • HPW - Hellenic Professional Women Inc. • HAWK - Hellenic American Women's Council • Leadership 100 • World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (PADEE-WHIA) • The Hellenic Initiative

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For further information, please contact:

NEW YORK // Ms Olga Bornozi & Ms Eleni Bej

Tel.: +1 212 661 75 66 - Email : obornozi@capitallink.com ; ebej@capitallink.com

ATHENS // Ms Athena Kosmadaki & Ms Victoria Tsoukala

Τηλ. +30 210 6109800

Email : athensoffice@capitallink.com ; vtsoukala@capitallink.com

Or visit:

<https://forumscapitallink.com/greece/2023/agenda.html>

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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. In addition, Capital Link organizes 18 high quality Investment Forums, webinars and podcasts, focusing on maritime transportation and U.S. investment products in 10 countries in the United States, Europe and Asia, in key industry centers, such as New York, London, Oslo, Hamburg, Athens, Limassol, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo and Hong Kong all of which are known for combining rich educational and informational content with unique marketing and networking opportunities. Capital Link is a member of the Baltic Exchange. Based in New York City, Capital Link has presence in London, Athens & Oslo.