



## PRESS RELEASE

**WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE  
H.E. KYRIAKOS MITSOTAKIS**

**FOLLOWED BY A KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
FROM THE GREEK MINISTER OF ECONOMY & FINANCE,  
H.E. KOSTIS HATZIDAKIS**

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum  
“Accelerating Investments for Sustainable Growth”**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 11, 2023**

**21 sessions - 100 Top Level Speakers**

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

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

New York, Thursday December 14, 2023



**The Official Luncheon of the Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum began with a written message from H.E. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, who addressed the international investors.**

Prime Minister Mitsotakis' message was ready by Mr. Nicolas Bornozi, President of Capital Link, before H.E. Kostis Hatzidakis, Minister of Economy & Finance of the Hellenic Republic, gave his Keynote Address.

H.E. Mitsotakis began his message writing that he is delighted to address Capital Link's yearly Forum as Prime Minister for the fifth time.

As he writes in his message, he is confident that Greece is on the right track.

Furthermore, he expresses his confidence that now is the time to accelerate investments for sustainable growth, which is also the title of this year's Forum.

The Prime Minister reiterated his message from 2019 – Now is the time to invest in Greece:

“We have proven we can change. And do not have any doubt: we will continue on the same path of stability, consistency and reforms. Because this is the path that makes our country stronger.”



**The Minister of Economy & Finance of the Hellenic Republic, H.E. Kostis Hatzidakis, in his Keynote Address, stated:** “Over recent years Greece achieved a remarkable economic turnaround and emerged as a pleasant surprise for Europe. The Greek economy recorded high growth rates, significantly higher than the EU average, a notable reduction in unemployment, impressive growth of exports and Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and fast fiscal consolidation. This success has been reflected in the successive upgrades of our credit rating and the recent regaining of the investment grade.

This success was the result of an economic policy mix which combined fiscal prudence with a business-friendly reform agenda, laser-focused on tax reductions, simplifying licensing procedures and modernizing the labour market.

We are witnessing in Greece today a commonsense revolution. The populist rhetoric that dominated the public discourse during the debt crisis has been superseded by a rational approach, which focuses on solutions and results. The protracted crisis we endured has taught us that the country cannot live beyond its means; that you cannot have investments without

investors and employees without employers. We are not trying to reinvent the wheel. We are following best European and international practices.

We still have a way to go and do not ignore the challenges ahead. Among them are short-term challenges such as the energy crisis and the inflation resulting from it, but also, long-term challenges such as climate change and the digital transition. However, we can now safely say that we have left the worst behind us.

As we move forward our aim is to preserve the gains achieved so far and to make sure the sacrifices and efforts of the Greek people do not go to waste. But we also want to take a further step forward. We have put in place a unique window of opportunity to transform the Greek economy into a model of fast, sustainable and inclusive growth, leaving no one behind. And we are determined to take this opportunity, because this is simply our patriotic duty.

Our economic policy therefore is going to be based on four pillars.

1. The first pillar is further improvement in our public finances, through fiscal prudence and our unquestionable commitment to fiscal sustainability. Over the next years we expect to have primary surpluses, above 2% of GDP and substantial debt reduction – well above the requirements set by the EU Stability Pact.
2. The second pillar is the intensification of our efforts to diversify the Greek economy. We will pursue this by further developing sectors where we have comparative advantages, supporting innovation and knowledge-intensive activities with high added value, providing incentives for business growth, facilitating the digital and green transition and addressing endemic problems, such as tax evasion and tax avoidance.
3. The third pillar is the intensification of our efforts to improve the prospects of our banking system even further. We are proceeding as planned with the state's divestment program of its bank holdings. We are also taking measures to foster competition in the banking system and further reduce the NPL ratio.
4. The fourth pillar is the intensification of our efforts to attract investments and close the investment gap created during the crisis. We have set a goal of increasing investment by 70% by 2027. To achieve this, we will continue to improve the business environment, make full use of all funds available to Greece through European financing programs and improve the management and financial performance of state property, through privatizations and concessions.

Currently in Greece there is a unique opportunity. On the one hand we have the right economic policy mix that brings results. On the other hand, we have political stability. We have a stable government and a clear mandate to change our country and we are determined to succeed in this historic task."

## 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 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.

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**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.**

On **Tuesday, December, 12, 2023**, within the context of the **“25<sup>th</sup> 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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