



## WELCOME REMARKS

**H.E. EKATERINI NASSIKA  
AMBASSADOR OF GREECE TO THE USA**

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

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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<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**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**

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**Huck**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southern Europe and the Caucasus - U.S. Department of State, who gave the Dinner's **Keynote Remarks**.

**Mrs. Ekaterini Nassika, Ambassador of Greece to the United States**, congratulated the organizers on the 25-year anniversary of the Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum, which has been successfully promoting the dialogue for advancing the investment ties between Greece and the United States. Addressing the participants, the Ambassador highlighted that, overall, Greece's economic outlook improved significantly with real GDP surpassing pre-pandemic levels. Following Greece's strong recovery in the two previous years, economic activity remained robust throughout 2023 and is forecasted to continue in 2024 with a growth rate that is, comparatively, among the highest in developed countries. Fixed investment growth remained robust in 2023 and investment activity is forecasted to continue expanding with the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, which supports the nation's ongoing Green Transition and Digital Transformation, within the EU framework, utilizing European financial tools.

Greece has successfully positioned itself as an attractive destination for foreign direct investment, while in 2023 it reduced its public debt-to-GDP ratio at the fastest rate among the EU-27. The implementation of continuous policy reforms, and a steady focus on fiscal sustainability have helped maintain primary surpluses. In recognition of these achievements Greece regained investment grade, consequently attracting more foreign capital with a positive impact on the economy and its growth dynamic.

Notably, Greece's energy sector is undergoing a radical transformation, shifting to a higher energy mix in renewables by 2030. Plans include doubling its operational electricity interconnections and tripling its deployed LNG infrastructure, whereas the country emerges as a regional hub that can accommodate the energy needs of neighboring countries. Recent infrastructure developments, to facilitate the successful energy transition with a green and digital focus, offer excellent business opportunities to interested investors in a number of key energy projects, and contribute to Europe's energy security.

Bilateral relations between Greece and the US are at an all-time high. The deepening of our strategic partnership through the annual US-Greece Strategic Dialogue, launched in 2018, has yielded ripple effects, including in the economic realm, generating significant American interest for new investment opportunities in Greece. The next 5th Round of the US-Greece Strategic Dialogue, to be held in Washington DC, is poised to expand our cooperation in trade, energy and technology even further.

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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.

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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.

**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**

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**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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*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.*