



PRESS RELEASE

PANEL DISCUSSION

WHY GREECE - THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTOR PERSPECTIVE

In the context of the

26th Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum
"Greece - Speeding Ahead Post Investment Upgrade"

Monday, December 9, 2024 – New York

24 Sessions – 97 Top Speakers – 19 Listed Companies
An International Summit about the Greek Economy & Investment Opportunities in NEW YORK
Featuring Top US and International Investors, Global & Greek Companies,
Global Investment Banks & Institutions, High-Ranking Government Officials from Greece and the US

[All photos](#)

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Digital Journal <https://forums.capitallink.com/greece/2024/flip/>

Agenda : <https://forums.capitallink.com/greece/2024/agenda.html>

Friday, December 20, 2024

The following highly interesting Panel Discussion, titled **“WHY GREECE - THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTOR PERSPECTIVE”**, were part of the agenda of the **26th Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum: "Greece - Speeding Ahead Post Investment Upgrade"**, that was held with great success and participation, on **Monday, December 11, 2024** in New York, in cooperation with the New York Stock Exchange, the Athens Exchange Group (ATHEX Group), and major Global Investment Banks & Organizations, and under the Auspices of the Consulate General of Greece in New York. **«Goldman Sachs», «Morgan Stanley» and «TEN Ltd (Tsakos Energy Navigation) »** were the **Lead Sponsors**.

Moderator: **Mr. Milan Thakker**, Partner (M&A / Private Equity), and Head of Life Sciences & Healthcare Transactions - **Reed Smith LLP**

Panelists:

- **Mr. Alexandros Argyros**, Managing Director & Head of Investment Banking - **AXIA Ventures Group**
- **Mr. James Christopoulos**, Partner - **CVC Capital Partners**
- **Mr. Samy David**, Managing Partner - **Grifon Capital Advisors**
- **Mr. Spyros Spyropoulos**, Senior Advisor - **Oaktree**

Mr. **Milan Thakker**, Partner (M&A / Private Equity), and Head of Life Sciences & Healthcare Transactions - **Reed Smith LLP**, participated in the panel discussion exploring the international investor's perspective when it comes to Greece.

Mr. **Alexandros Argyros**, Managing Director & Head of Investment Banking - **AXIA Ventures Group** stated: "The 26th Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum takes place amid political instability in Europe and beyond, rising geopolitical tensions, and challenges in the global and European investment landscape, including anaemic growth prospects as well as heightened inflation and interest rates. Against this backdrop, Greece stands out as a compelling success story. For many years, if we were to talk about a country in Europe that would be an example of political stability, exhibit outsized GDP growth and be a top destination for investments, Greece would certainly not be featured in that discussion. Yet today, Greece combines all of the above attributes. Once associated with economic uncertainty, the country has undergone a remarkable transformation and has restored its credibility on the global investment stage. At AXIA Ventures Group, we have played a pivotal role in facilitating investments across key sectors, including financial services, energy, real estate and various corporates, enabling the successful deployment of capital from international investors aligned with Greece's economic priorities. AXIA remains dedicated to leveraging its expertise and global network to enable high-impact investments, ensuring Greece capitalizes on its momentum and emerges as a beacon of transformation in the European economic landscape."

Mr. **James Christopoulos**, Partner, – **CVC**, stated: "To date, our experience of investing in Greece has been a very positive one. We have targeted growing sectors of the economy, partnering with outstanding management teams helping them build better businesses, sustainably and for all stakeholders: customers, suppliers, employees, and local communities. We firmly believe that long-term institutional investors have an increasingly important role to play in the country's growth journey, not only by bringing fresh capital (FDI) to the economy but also international experience and best-practice sharing from other markets worldwide. We continue to see a tremendous amount of potential for sustainable growth in the country and we hope to contribute as well across our existing portfolio companies and new investments."

Mr. **Samy David**, Managing Partner - **Grifon Capital Advisors**, stated: "We have been actively engaged in Greece for the past 12 years. When we first started, the Greek economy was considered the pariah of the Eurozone and was on the verge of a "Grexit." This situation resulted in a colossal accumulation of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs), creating a significant burden for the country over the years. Since then, the market has evolved dramatically. The economy has converged towards the core European countries, exhibiting above-average growth rates and notable improvements in the regulatory framework. During this period, we have successfully restructured the largest passenger shipping company, helping it establish a sustainable capital structure. Additionally, we have rebuilt distressed energy production facilities, repositioned real estate companies, and acquired a substantial number of NPL portfolios. We remain deeply committed to the Greek market and are excited about the next phase, which focuses on NPL resolution and company rehabilitation. This phase presents promising opportunities, aligning with our targets and vision for the coming years."

Mr. **Spyros Spyropoulos**, Senior Advisor – **Oaktree**, participated in the panel discussion exploring the international investor's perspective when it comes to Greece.

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.

This International Summit about Greece held in New York, has been taking place year after year, regardless of the political and economic conditions in Greece. With a 26-year track record of success, it has been engaged in a systematic effort to highlight Greece's profile to a global business and investment audience. The Forum was organized in a particularly positive timing for Greece, Featuring Top US and International Investors, Global & Greek Companies, Global Investment Banks & Institutions, High-Ranking Government Officials from Greece and the US (4 Greek Ministers), 19 Listed Companies, and 97

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Top Level Speakers. This year's forum was particularly significant as Greece is now experiencing a remarkable upturn in economic growth and inflow of foreign investments. The regaining of the Investment Grade Rating is a milestone for the Greek economy, attracting long-term capital and creating favorable liquidity conditions. This rating status unlocks opportunities for a significant influx of foreign capital, facilitated by the significant efforts in digitalization and tax incentives. The country offers diverse sectors ripe for investment, including infrastructure, hospitality, real estate, and energy. Greece's geographical position at the crossroads of three continents provides easy access to emerging and mature markets.

The Prime Minister of Greece, H.E. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, opened the Forum and delivered the Greek Government's message to international investors, with a written message which was read by Mr. Nicolas Bornozis, President of Capital Link.

Keynote Remarks by Greek Ministers: Minister of Infrastructure & Transport, H.E. Christos Staikouras – former Minister of Finance, Minister of Labour & Social Security, H.E. Niki Kerameus, Alternate Minister of Economy & Finance, H.E. Nikolaos Papathanasis, and Deputy Minister of Environment & Energy, H.E. Alexandra Sdoukou.

Greek Government Officials: Ms. Mary Psylla, General Secretary of Tax Policy - Ministry of Economy & Finance, 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. George Pitsilis, Governor – Independent Authority for Public Revenue, and Mr. Vassilis Kontozamanis, Former Alternate Minister of Health.

US Government Representative • H.E. George J. Tsunis, U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic - U.S. Embassy in Athens.

European Investment Bank was represented by Mr. Yannis Tsakiris, Vice President.

The Athens Exchange Group was represented by Mr. Yianos Kontopoulos, CEO - Athens Exchange Group, (via webcast), and **Enterprise Greece** by Dr. Marinos Giannopoulos, CEO.

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 of Investments (HDBI ex TANEQ), and**
- 3) from ♦ **major Global Investment Banks • Barclays • BNP Paribas • Goldman Sachs International • Morgan Stanley • Nomura • AXIA Ventures Group.**
- 4) **Participating speakers in investor panel, representatives from: AXIA Ventures Group - Brook Lane Capital - CVC Capital Partners • Grifon Capital Advisors • Oaktree**

♦ **19 Listed Companies :** • AKTOR Group of Companies (ATH:INKAT) • Alpha Services & Holdings S.A. (ATH:ALPHA) • Athens Stock Exchange S.A. (ATH:EXAE) • Athens International Airport S.A. (ATH:AIA) • Athens Water Supply & Sewage Company S.A. (ATH:EYDAP) • Attica Bank S.A. (ATH:TATT) • AVAX Group (ATH:AVAX) • Dimand S.A. (ATH: DIMAND) • Ellaktor S.A. (ATH:ELLAKTOR) • Eurobank Ergasias Services & Holdings S.A. (ATH: EUROB) • GEK TERNA S.A. (ATH:GEKTERNA) • HELLENIQ ENERGY Holdings S.A. (ATH: ELPE) • IDEAL Holdings S.A. (ATH:INTEK) • LAMDA Development S.A. (ATH:LAMDA) • Metlen Energy & Metals S.A. (ATH:MYTIL) • National Bank of Greece S.A. (ATH: ETE) • Piraeus Financial Holdings S.A. (ATH:TPEIR) • Public Power Corporation S.A. – PPC (ATH:PPC) • Trastor REIC (ATH:TRASTOR).

During the Official Luncheon the Greek Minister of Infrastructure & Transport, Mr. Christos Staikouras, Mr. Christos Megalou, Chief Executive Officer, Piraeus Group, and Ms. Eleni Vrettou, CEO - Attica Bank delivered Keynote Remarks. Mr. Chris Taylor, Global Head of Listings – NYSE, Mr. Yianos Kontopoulos, CEO - Athens Exchange Group, and Dr. Nikolas P. Tsakos, Founder, Chairman & CEO - TEN Ltd. (NYSE: TEN); Chairman, INTERTANKO 2014-2018, delivered Welcome Remarks.

The Forum concluded with an Official Dinner during which the "2024 Capital Link Hellenic Leadership Award" was presented to Dr. Yannis Stournaras, Governor of Bank of Greece, for his invaluable contributions to the European and Greek economies, and for his instrumental role in keeping Greece as part of the Euro and to Greece's return to economic growth and prosperity.

Dr. Yannis Stournaras delivered Keynote Remarks.

The Dinner opened with a brief Welcoming Speech by **The Ambassador of Greece to the USA, H.E. Ekaterini Nassika.**

Dr. Yannis Stournaras was introduced by Mr. John Paulson, President & Portfolio Manager - Paulson & Co.

«GREEK AMERICAN ISSUER DAY» at NYSE-New York Stock Exchange.

On **Tuesday, December, 10, 2024**, within the context of the "26th Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum", the **New York Stock Exchange** in cooperation with **Capital Link** organized for a **20th year in a row**, a special ceremony, the "**Greek American**

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Issuer Day at NYSE", honoring Greece and Celebrating the Close Ties between the US, the Greek American and the Greek Business Communities, during which Greek & Greek American companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange rang the "Closing Bell" - at NYSE-New York Stock Exchange.

Sponsors:

Lead Sponsors: Goldman Sachs • Morgan Stanley • Tsakos Energy Navigation - TEN Ltd.

Platinum Sponsor: Attica Bank

Gold Sponsors: Barclays • BNP Paribas • EY • Nomura • Piraeus Group

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Greek Securities Firms:

• NBG Securities

Supporters: Brook Lane Capital • CVC • Google • Grifon Capital Advisors • Hellenic Development Bank of Investments (HDBI ex Taneo) • Hotel Investment Partners (HIP) • Microsoft • MSCI • Oaktree

Cocktail Reception Sponsor: Navios Maritime Partners L.P.

Dinner Sponsors: Onassis Group • Red Apple Group

UNDER THE AUSPICES: Consulate General of Greece in New York • Greek Trade Office in New York, Department of Economic & Commercial Affairs

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

• AHEPA • AHI - American Hellenic Institute • Cyprus - US Chamber of Commerce • Deon Policy Institute • EFM - European Financial Management Association • EMBCA – The Eastern Mediterranean Business Culture Alliance • Endeavor • European American Chamber of Commerce, New York • Hellenic Federation of New Jersey • HABA - Hellenic American Bankers Association • HAT – Hellenic Association of Treasurers • Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce • HIAS - Hellenic Institute of Advanced Studies • Intercollegiate Hellenic Society Global – IHS Global • HLA - Hellenic Lawyers Association • HMS – Hellenic Medical Society of New York • HPW - Hellenic Professional Women Inc. • HAWK - Hellenic American Women's Council • Leadership 100 • SIDO - State International Development Organizations, Inc. • THI - The Hellenic Initiative • World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (PADEE-WHIA)

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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. Based in New York City, Capital Link has presence in London, Athens & Oslo. The company 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.

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's proactive approach integrates Investor Relations, Information Technology and Media, enhancing awareness and branding for our clients through tailored outreach programs targeting analysts, institutional and individual investors and the financial media complemented by extensive and uniquely powerful marketing platforms.

Capital Link is also known for the organization of 18 top-level investment and industry forums, Webinars and Podcasts, the majority of which focus on maritime transportation and U.S. investment products, in 10 countries in Europe, the United States and Asia, in key industry centers, such as New York, London, Oslo, Hamburg, Athens, Limassol, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo and Hong Kong, featuring industry leaders focusing on investment strategies, sectors, critical topics of interest to the investment community that draw the elite of the global financial, investment and business communities. Capital Link holds about 18 forums annually focusing on the areas of its strategic concentration.

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 with a global marketing platform that 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 in 2023 by HABA – Hellenic American Association for Professionals in Finance, in 2018 by the Finance Monthly CEO Awards, in 2016 by the Wealth & Finance Magazine - by the International Propeller Club of the United States and by AHI-American Hellenic Institute, in 2013 and 2012 by the InterContinental Finance Magazine, and also in 2011 by the Lloyds's List Greek Shipping Awards.