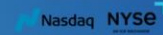


KEYNOTE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION  
February 9, 2023

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Link  
Greek Shipping Forum  
“Stay Calm & Sail On”  
Thursday, February 9, 2023  
Divani Caravel Hotel – Athens, Greece

In Cooperation With



**H.E. Ioannis Plakiotakis**  
Minister of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy  
Hellenic Republic

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**The Greek Minister of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy**  
**H.E. Ioannis Plakiotakis**  
**Keynote Speaker**  
**at the**  
**“13th Annual Capital Link Greek Shipping Forum”**  
**“Stay Calm and Sail On”**  
**Thursday Feb. 9, 2023**  
**Divani Caravel Hotel, Athens**

[Photos](#) | [HD Photos](#) | [All Forum Material](#)

February 14, 2023

The “[13th Annual Capital Link Greek Shipping Forum](#)” was held with great success and significant attendance at the Divani Caravel Hotel in **Athens on Thursday, February 9th, 2023**, in cooperation with the **New York Stock Exchange** and **Nasdaq**. The Lead Sponsor was **Bank of Communications Financial Leasing**.

With attendance exceeding 800 people, the 13th Annual Capital Link Greek Shipping Forum entitled “Stay Calm and Sail On” featured the heads of international shipping institutions as well as the leaders of important economic organizations in Greek and international shipping, and for this reason the forum was rightly labeled as an unofficial Summit of Global Shipping. The significant topics and pressing issues discussed at the forum include the current lack of seafarers, decarbonization, and digitalization, among others.

Capital Link’s 13th Annual Greek Shipping Forum discussed the industry’s main trends and challenges, as well as the opportunities that lie ahead and strategies to compete in an increasingly complex and demanding world. The forum’s distinguished speakers discussed and debated the most pressing issues in shipping, such as geopolitics, energy security, increasing regulation, deglobalization, a slowing world economy, higher interest rates, and the easing covid restrictions in China.

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The institutional leadership of global shipping, specifically the Secretary General of the IMO, the heads of four global industry associations: BIMCO, INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO & The International Chamber of Shipping, high level representatives from the European Union, the President of the European Community Shipowners' Associations, as well as the President of the Union of Greek Shipowners, the Greek Ministers of Shipping and Energy, and representatives from the US Department of the Treasury all attended the forum. These prominent figures include **Mr. Kitack Lim**, Secretary General - **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**, **H.E. Ioannis Plakiotakis**, Minister of Insular Policy & Shipping - **Hellenic Republic**, **H.E. Konstantinos Skrekas**, Minister of Environment & Energy - **Hellenic Republic**, **Dr. Harry Conway**, Chairman - **Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) – IMO**, **Dr. Martin Stopford**, **Mrs. Sabrina Chao**, President & Chairperson of the Board – **BIMCO**; **Wah Kwong Maritime Holdings Limited**, **Mr. Emanuele Grimaldi**, Chairman – **INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING**; President & MD - **Grimaldi Euromed SpA**; Managing Director – **Grimaldi Group**, **Mr. Paolo d'Amico**, Chairman – **INTERTANKO**; Chairman & CEO - **d'Amico International Shipping SA**, **Mr. Dimitris Fafalios**, Chairman – **INTERCARGO**; President/Director - **Fafalios Shipping S.A.**, **Mrs. Melina Travlos**, President of the **Union of Greek Shipowners (UGS)**; Chair of the Board of **Neptune Lines**, and **Mr. Philippos Philis**, President - **European Community Shipowners Association (ECSA)**; Chairman & CEO – **Lemissoler Navigation Co Ltd**.

The energy crisis has impacted all sectors across the world, and its lasting affects are some of the most significant topics today. Coupled with pressing topics such as climate change and decarbonization, as well as countless geopolitical factors, the issue of energy security is complex and plays an important role in all our lives. Expanding upon this vital topic of energy, H.E. Konstantinos Skrekas, the Greek Minister of Environment & Energy, presented his Keynote Speech at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Link Greek Shipping Forum.

## **The Greek Minister of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy, Mr. Ioannis Plakiotakis, participated at a roundtable discussion with Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary General of International Maritime Organization (IMO).**

**H.E. Ioannis Plakiotakis** stated in his speech: “We live in challenging times, there is no doubt about that. The pandemic and more recently the Russian invasion have rescheduled our priorities due to intense uncertainties. The first thing we need to preserve in this path towards recovery is sustainable development. The main challenges for that include decarbonization, digitalization, cyber security issues, and, lastly, the greatest challenge of all in my opinion: the shortage of qualified personnel. We politicians need to cooperate at the level of the IMO and at the multilateral level. International activities need international rules and regulations, while ensuring the protection of the sector’s competitiveness.

Greece is an advocate for adaptation. We fully support the implementation of the IMO’s strategy to reduce greenhouse emissions. I’ve stated many times that to fulfill our goals, we must ensure global availability of alternative fuels, and there’s a lot more work to be done on that front. It will be crucial to make things more predictable, to facilitate investing in the future.

The progress we’ve witnessed on shipping safety is considerable. The number of vessel casualties has declined while the global fleet has grown. Now, the challenge lies in incorporating new technologies without overlooking the primordial importance of safety.”

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