



PRESS RELEASE

Presentation of the:

"2025 Capital Link Greek Shipping Leadership Award"

to **Mr. Thanasis Martinos**, Managing Director – **Eastern Mediterranean Maritime Limited**

In the context of the
15th Annual Capital Link Greek Shipping Forum

Friday, February 7, 2025
Athenaeum Intercontinental, Athens

[Link to Forum Agenda](#)

[Photos | Videos](#)

Monday, February 17, 2025

The "2025 Capital Link Greek Shipping Leadership Award" was presented to **Mr. Thanasis Martinos**, Managing Director – **Eastern Mediterranean Maritime Limited**, in recognition of his invaluable contributions to Global and Greek shipping.

The Official Award Ceremony took place on Friday, February 7, 2025, at the Forum Luncheon which was held in the context of the the [15th Annual Capital Link Greek Shipping Forum](#).

With attendance exceeding 1,000, of which 750 attended the Luncheon, the event featured the institutional and industry leadership of global and Greek shipping, and it has thus been rightly labeled as an unofficial Summit of Global Shipping. The Forum was attended by the institutional leadership of global shipping, specifically IMO Representative, the heads of four global industry associations: BIMCO, INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO & The International Chamber of Shipping, high level representatives from the European Union, the Greek Minister of Shipping and Insular Policy, the Heads of Classification Societies, Global Heads of Shipping, and Major Global Investors.

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The Marshall Islands Registry sponsored the Luncheon. Mr. Theofilos Xenakoudis, Chief Commercial Officer & Managing Director Piraeus Office of The Marshall Islands Registry, delivered welcome remarks.



In his welcome remarks, **Mr. Nicolas Bornozis, President - Capital Link, Inc.**, stated: “We are privileged to recognize Mr. Martinos, not only as a successful businessman, but also as someone that’s been pivotal for the development of Greek shipping and for his multi-faceted support and activities in Greece. Every stone you turn, you either find him or George Prokopiou. That being said, part of his greatness is his humility, as he is very approachable.”

Mr. George M. Foustanos, Maritime Historian & Founder - Greek Shipping Miracle, delivered **Introductory Remarks**. **Mr. Foustanos** stated: “Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my honour and pleasure to share with you my thoughts about a unique

personality, Mr. Thanassis Martinos. I met Thanassis 43 years ago, when I was first elected a board member of the Union of Greek Shipowners. Although younger than me, Thanassis had already been serving the UGS board alongside renowned shipping legends, for six years, elected at the age of 26. This rare distinction for a person of his age, purely reflected, at the time, our shipping community’s admiration for the exceptional performance of the group he led.

Thanassis’ family has no shipping roots. His father, Ioannis, was a well-known antique dealer in Athens. His mother Athina, was daughter of a distinguished lawyer. In 1964, when Thanassis was only 14, his uncles, Meletis and Cleovoulos Methenitis, acquired a ship, soon followed by their sister Athina, who made her entry in shipping, with a bold vision: To establish a large shipping enterprise, not for herself, but for her three sons, whom she envisioned to see becoming prominent shipowners. Consequently, on establishing Thenamaris in 1970, she opted to remain behind the scenes and entrusted her elder son, the 20-year old Thanassis, to take the helm. Her other two sons, Dinos and Andreas, who later contributed significantly to the success of the family enterprise, had not even finished school at the time.

Thanassis modestly maintains that he is not a self-made entrepreneur, stating that his father provided the funds for the acquisition of the family’s first two ships. However, in my view as a historian, he is definitely one of the best examples of a self-made entrepreneur. He has worked hard to achieve this. From the age of 15, still a high school student, he spent most of his free time visiting, almost daily, his uncles’ office in Piraeus in order to familiarise with shipping operation. He later moved to London and followed a course in economics while training in a shipping office run by Greeks, representing the first Martinos family ships, before returning home to assume command of Thenamaris.

The evolution of Thenamaris was truly amazing. The company grew throughout the 1970s to reach a fleet of about 40 ships, when the devastating crisis of the early 1980s started plaguing the international shipping community, forcing many traditional enterprises out of business. By the end of this catastrophic decade, Thenamaris was not only among the survivors, but had increased its fleet to over 50 ships. From that point on, Thanassis embarked on a new chapter. His amicable separation with his brothers, marked the establishment of his own company, Eastern Mediterranean, which has since evolved into a robust group, operating over 80 high-quality ships, of all types.

Despite achieving enormous success in business, Thanassis’ life had serious setbacks, as he faced the loss of dear family members, most recently the one of his mother - the unforgettable, to all of us, Nounou Martinos. Beyond inspiring him to

pursue a career as a shipowner, her outlook on life, instilled in him a genuine respect for women. At this point, I must pay tribute to a very special lady who has accompanied for over half a century Thanassis' life journey in the most creative and inspiring manner. His beloved wife, Marina. Together, they weathered every storm. Most importantly, they managed to turn their personal grief to the welfare of the many. Always maintaining a low and modest profile, they committed themselves in splendid acts, that have, over the past 30 years, placed them among our country's greatest philanthropists and benefactors. Very few people indeed can match the generosity of Thanassis and Marina Martinos. Their constant endeavours to provide relief to those in need, to support the national defense and the country's health system, to promote education, religion, culture and heritage, strengthen all important pillars for the existence of our nation.

Finally, as a dedicated historian, I feel compelled to express my admiration and gratitude to Thanassis, for his genuine interest in promoting history, especially maritime history. He is indeed one of the very few people who truly appreciate the catalytic role of the sea and the shipping industry in our lives. I remember that, when we met at the funeral of his uncle Cleovoulos Methenitis, he asked me to write a book about the Methenitis family. "They deserve to be remembered" he said, "after all, we started our journey in shipping, following their steps".

Mr. Martinos, my friend Thanassis, we are all very proud of you."

Mr. George Prokopiou, Founder - **Dynacom Tankers Management; Dynagas Ltd. (DLNG) / Sea Traders**, delivered **Introductory Remarks**. **Mr. Prokopiou** stated: "What can one say about Thanasis Martinos? Anyone in Greece that finds himself in need can knock on his door and seek help. His ecclesiastical contributions and hospital renovation activities are only a part of his philanthropy. Thanasis has known the struggles of life from a young age. He always loved the sea; he ended up managing his first ship from his bedroom in Glyfada! Our friendship continued uninterrupted even when we got married and had children. We always talked about business and shared our plans with one another.

In many of shipping's tough times, his mother Nounou offered me advice. The entire shipping industry owes a lot to the Martinos family, who provided inspiration for all of us. Whenever Thanasis and I meet each other, we still burst in uncontrollable laughter, like we did when we were kids. Thanasis has a very strong work ethic and remains determined. This award is one of many he has received, and yet publicly he talks about everyone but himself. Thanasis, you have completed 60 years in shipping, I wish you 60 more!"

In his acceptance remarks, **Mr. Thanasis Martinos** stated: "Many thanks to Mr. Bornozis, Mr. Foustanos, and Mr. Prokopiou for their kind words. With Mr. Foustanos we have a common passion for maritime history, while Mr. Prokopiou and I are bound together by many years of friendship.

My mother Athena was instrumental and inspirational in my career. She once said that shipping is in Greece's DNA and that us Greeks have sea water flowing through our veins. Fast-forward to the present and the future, it is said that artificial intelligence can play a major role in transforming shipping. Yet, in the last few years, the extraordinary events that have occurred have proven any reasonable prediction wrong. During the pandemic, the dry bulk sector collapsed entirely. Soon thereafter, Putin's invasion in Ukraine and the devastating war between two European countries has been impacting our economies, especially Germany's, due to the increase in energy prices. After that, Red Sea traffic has been cut due to Houthis attacking the passing ships. 6 of our ships were attacked, but thankfully they were unsuccessful, and our Filipino crew proved loyal and resilient. Some of the tariffs announced by President Trump will also hurt some sectors of the shipping industry. All that to say that the last five years were tumultuous to say the least, thusly confirming in my mind, that not even AI would have been able to predict the adventure that our lives have been as Greek shipowners."

The "**Capital Link Greek Shipping Leadership Award**" is presented annually to a leading maritime figure of the Greek Shipping Community who has gained the respect and the appreciation of the international shipping industry and who is also recognized for their outstanding contribution to elevating Greek Shipping to its leadership position globally.

Previous honorees were: **2013 - Captain Panagiotis N. Tsakos**, Founder & President - **Tsakos Group**, **2014 - Mr. Pericles Panagopoulos**, **2015 - Mr. Lambros Varnavides**, Vice Chairman of the **Baltic Exchange**, Trustee of the **Lloyds Register Foundation** and Managing Director and Global Head of Shipping RBS 1998, **2016 - Mr. Nicolas, George and Andreas Tsavlis** of the **Tsavlis Salvage Group**, **2017 - Professor Costas Th. Grammenos CBE DSc**, Chairman C. Grammenos Centre of Shipping Trade & Finance, **Bayes Business School, City, University of London**, **2018 - Mr. Panos Laskaridis**, President of **European Community Shipowners Associations**; CEO, **Lavinia Corporation/Laskaridis Shipping Company Ltd.** and **Mr. Athanasios Laskaridis**, Chairman and CEO of **Lavinia Corporation, Lavinia Enterprises Limited and Laskaridis Shipping Company Ltd.**, **2019 - Captain Paris Dragnis**, Chairman & Founder - **Goldenport Group**, **2020 - Mr. George Procopiou**, Founder, **Dynacom Tankers Management, Sea Traders – Dynagas**, **2022 - Mr. Simeon Palios**, Founder and Chairman, **Diana Shipping**, **2023 - Mr. Themistocles Vokos**, Founder Member, Honorary Chairman of **Posidonia**; Founder of **Seatrade**, and **2024 - TEN LTD. -TSAKOS ENERGY NAVIGATION LTD., & Dr. Nikolas P. Tsakos**, Founder & CEO - **TEN Ltd. (NYSE: TNP)**; Chairman - **INTERTANKO (2014-2018)**.

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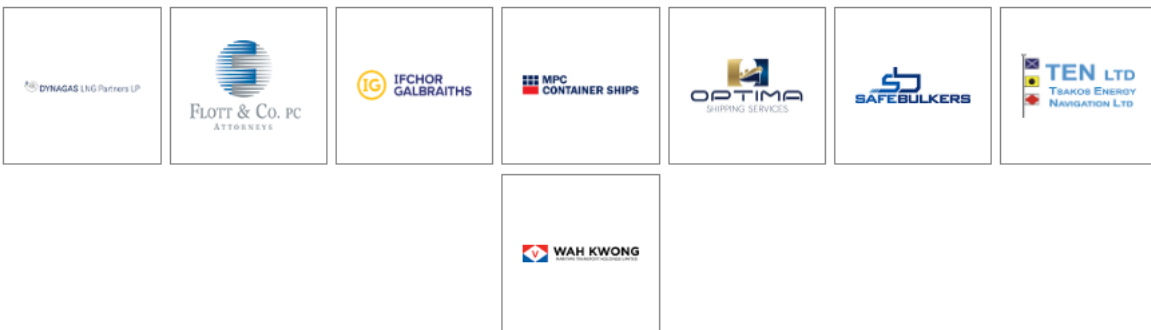
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