



**THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER**  
*for LEADING STUDIES*  
and the  
**MEDITERRANEAN AGRONOMIC INSTITUTE**  
*of CHANIA*



present the  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Chania – Med Forum*  
*on*  
*Economy, Energy, Politics & Power*

# *Speakers & Guests*

*July 23-26, 2015*

*Thales room*  
*the Conference Center of MAICH*  
*Crete, Greece*

**Eleftherios Anghelopoulos**  
***Ambassador ad.H, Senior Policy Advisor, The Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation***

Eleftherios Anghelopoulos (Law, Athens University ; Sociology, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris), joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979 and served abroad, as Ambassador of Greece, in Ottawa (2010-2014) and Tbilisi (2005-2007).

Previous diplomatic positions include: Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Greece in Washington DC (2002-2005), Counsellor at the Embassy in Moscow (1996 -1999), Consul of Greece in Houston, TX (1989 -1993) and expert on International Development Cooperation (1983-1988) at the Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU in Brussels.

In Athens, he worked as Director General for International Economic Relations, Director of the Balkan Affairs Department and the Diplomatic Office of the Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Head of the Office of European Parliament.

Ambassador Anghelopoulos is married to Dr. Anastasia Anthi, MD and have two children.

**Stavros Arnaoutakis**  
***Governor of Crete***

Stavros Arnaoutakis was born in 1956 and grew up in Archanes of Iraklion in Crete. He is an economist. From 1981 to 1991 he was an executive in a private business.

In the Local Government elections of 1990 he was elected Mayor of Archanes at the age of 34. He served as Mayor of Archanes until 2004, as his fellow-citizens elected him for four consecutive periods. As Mayor of Archanes he started the implementation of a development plan, the philosophy of which was based on the close cooperation of local authorities and entities and the effective use of the human resources of the area. The following factors played a catalytic role in the implementation of this plan: Optimum use of European programs, cooperation of the municipality with scientific bodies and universities and practical application of available expertise for developing more effective interventions.

During his office Archanes was awarded the following prizes:2nd Award in the European Contest "Integrated and Sustainable Development of Exceptional Quality" in 2000, and 1st Award in the Contest "Local development respecting the natural environment and the human being" in 2002.

From 1991 to 2004 he was the Chairman of Iraklion Development S.A. From this position he managed the implementation of many European Programs, the results of which were evident both in the Municipality of Archanes and in the rest of the peripheral municipalities of the Regional Unit of Iraklion. It was because of his initiative that Iraklion Development became the first development company in Greece to acquire its own office in Brussels, with the aim of claiming and optimally implementing European Programs. By decision of the President of the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PA.SO.K.), Giorgos A. Papandreou, he was placed in the 4th position of the European ballot paper in the European Parliament elections in 2004. From 2004 to 2009, in his capacity as a member of the European Parliament, he was a member of the

Regional Development Committee, of the Fishery Committee and of the Delegation of Relations with the People's Republic of China.

In the parliamentary elections of 2009 he was elected a PA.SO.K. Member of Parliament and was appointed Vice Minister of Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping.

In the elections of November 2010 he was elected the first elective Regional Governor of Crete. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Union of Regions of Greece. He is a member of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR). He is a regular member of the Committee of the Regions.

**Prof. Dr. George Atsalakis**

***Assistant Professor, Technological Forecasting, the School of Production Engineering and Management, Technical University of Crete***

Dr. George Atsalakis is Assistant Professor of Technological Forecasting, at the School of Production Engineering and Management at Technical University of Crete, Greece. He received the Diploma in Business Administration from the Economical University of Athens, Greece. He received the M.Sc. degree in Business Administration and the PhD degree in Stock market forecasting from Technical University of Crete in 2000 and 2006, respectively. Dr. Atsalakis' research interests are focused in the areas of forecasting in the local and international markets, in technological forecasting, in forecasting of entrepreneurship evolution and forecasting of innovative economies and societies. He is using fuzzy, neuro-fuzzy and neural networks as modeling tools. He has published 2 books and over 90 book chapters, scientific journals and conference papers.

Dr Atsalakis has also organized and implemented international conferences, specialized seminars and short courses. He also acts as a Referee in various journals concerned with fuzzy, neuro-fuzzy, and neural network modeling.

**Prof. Dr. George Baourakis**

***Director, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania***

Dr. George Baourakis is the Director of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh) since June 2012, and the Studies and Research Coordinator of the Business Economics and Management Department of MAICh since 1989. He has more than two decades' experience in the management and coordination of educational and research activities, including coordination of the MSc Programme of MAICh-CIHEAM, organization of international seminars and training courses both at MAICh and in many other Mediterranean countries, and scientific, economic and administrative management of research projects. He has co-ordinated and participated in a large number of EU (FP 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, INTERREG I, II and III-Archimed, MED, Tempus, Phare, Life, Lifelong Learning, Leonardo Da Vinci, European Social Fund/Operational Sectoral Programme), international and national-regional research projects (Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Ministry of Economy, etc).

He is an Affiliate Professor in Marketing and Supply Chain Management, at the Centre of Entrepreneurship, Nyenrode University, The Netherlands Business School. He has been appointed as Distinguished Research Fellow in Food Marketing-Management at several

universities. He has published numerous papers in internationally refereed scientific journals, presented extensively at international conferences, and authored/co-authored several scientific and academic books and special issues which have been distributed by renowned publishing houses. Dr. Baourakis has lectured as an Invited Speaker in many internationally recognized Universities and has served as an OECD Consultant on regionalization and rural governance. He has organized and implemented international conferences and specialized seminars in cooperation with Universities and Research Institutes of many countries (Turkey, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, etc) and a large number of short courses mainly addressed to executives of the public sector of several countries (Palestine, Romania, Armenia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Iran, Albania, etc), co-organised and financed by the Ministry of Rural Development and Food. He is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Food Products Marketing (Routledge), the Journal of Food Economics (Taylor & Francis), the Journal of Computational Optimization in Economics and Finance (Nova Publishers), and the Journal of Agricultural and Food Economics (Springer). He is also acting as a Referee in various journals concerned with food marketing, management and finance. He has served for many years as President of the Economic Chamber of W. Crete, Executive Member of ANEK LINES, and Secretary General of a large coop retail chain (INKA).

**Dr. Antonia Oana Colibasanu**

**Associated Lecturer, Academy of Economic Studies, University of Bucharest, Romania**

Dr. Antonia Oana Colibasanu is the Founder of Books for Peace, a non-profit organization focused on promoting peace through education and culture, she worked with various organizations like the University of Bucharest, GAAEC, UNOY and Oxfam in various educational programs, serving both as lecturer and organizer to various seminars.

Since the beginning of 2011 she is also the Vice – President of International Marketing at the US geopolitical analysis company Stratfor. She started working with Stratfor in 2006 and where she has hold positions like regional consultant, researcher and director of research for Eurasia before working in international marketing. Considering her passion on international affairs and education, since 2007 – when she began to study for her PhD in international business and economics – has been a guest speaker at various courses at the Romanian Academy of Economic Studies and an associated lecturer for courses on Research Methodology, Economic Growth and Development, International Organizations or Diplomacy. She has finished her PhD research in March 2011 when she successfully defended her thesis on country risk and investment decision making process in international business.

She is currently a contributor on foreign affairs and global business environment to Financial Times – experts discussion platform, Long Room and to Euractiv – BlogActiv.

### **Elaine Dundon**

***Co-founder, CEO, The OPA! Way®, Professor, Innovation Management, University of Toronto***

Elaine Dundon is co-founder and CEO of The OPA! Way®, a new approach to Living & Working with Meaning uniquely inspired by Greek philosophy and culture. Following her MBA, Elaine worked in Brand Management for 15 years, including at Procter & Gamble.

She founded The Innovation Group Consulting Inc. (1995), was adjunct professor of a groundbreaking course in Innovation Management at the University of Toronto (1999+), and authored an international best-selling book, *The Seeds of Innovation* (2002).

Her work has been featured globally in numerous leading publications. Through her consulting work with some of the world's best businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations, her focus shifted to "the human side of innovation" and the development of new ways of thinking to deal with the complexities of today.

Elaine is now leading the Meaning Movement by bringing Meaning and Metaphysics to the business and government worlds and encouraging leaders to find deeper Meaning by "knowing thyself" and serving humanity.

She is one of the founding members of the Board of Thinkers (Advisory Board) of the Boston Global Forum, an international nonprofit network of thought leaders, both academic and practitioners hosted at Harvard University, who collaborate on-line and in person for the purposes of identifying, discussing, and proposing meaningful, innovative, and practical solutions to issues of global concern.

### **Prof. Antonis Foscolos**

***Professor Emeritus, Technical University of Crete***

Born on 1930 in Cairo Egypt where I completed my elementary and high school studies.

Subsequently, I pursued my education at the Aristotelian University, Bachelor in Agricultural Engineering followed by an M.Sc and PhD. at the University of California Berkeley in the field of Physical Chemistry of Clay Minerals. Upon completing my graduate studies in 1966, I was hired by the Geological Survey of Canada, Institute of Sedimentary and Petroleum Geology to carry research in the area of hydrocarbons in Central Alberta, Northeastern British Columbia, the Beaufort MacKenzie Delta and the Canadian Arctic Islands. One third of my scientific publications are related to these activities.

In 1986 I was elected as a professor at the Technical University of Crete, Department of Mineral Resources Engineering. My teaching was related to the field of Inorganic and Organic Geochemistry and Organic Petrology. Between 1966 and 1997 I also served as Academic vice President. 1988-1993, Head of the Department of Mineral Resources Engineering, 1995-1997, energy consultant for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 1975-1985 and Adjunct Professor, Department of Geography and Archaeology, University of Calgary, 1975-1986.

My scientific record includes 79 publications, most of them in peer review journals, with a Citation Index of 243 (till 2003), 33 participations at International and National Conferences

with presentations and posters and 14 Technical Reports for the Public Petroleum Corporation of Greece (DEP-EKY), Public Power Corporation of Greece, S.A. (DEH), Institute of Mineral Exploration, Greece (IGME) and the United Nations.

**Dr. Nikolaos E. Farantouris**

***Chair holder of the Jean Monnet Chair on EU Law and Policies, Head, Legal Department, Public Gas Corporation (DEPA) S.A.***

Dr. Nikolaos E. Farantouris is the Chair holder of the Jean Monnet Chair on EU Law and Policies. He studied law at the University of Athens and completed a Master's degree in European and Comparative Law and a Doctorate in European Law, both at the University of Oxford. He has held posts as adjunct professor, research associate or visiting lecturer at Erasmus University Rotterdam, Dresden University, Athens University, Bahçeşehir University, Marioupol State University of Humanities, Oxford University et al. An Ass. Professor at the Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus, the Chair holder has taught since 2002 more than 15 different modules relating to European law, Policies of the EU and European integration. He also holds posts at the European Centre of Economic and Financial Law (ECEFIL), the Centre of European Economic Law (CIEEL), the Hellenic Open University and the European Community Studies Association. Before entering the academia, the Chair holder worked for a number of years at Goldman Sachs legal Department and at the international law firm Norton Rose in London, Brussels and Athens, where he handled major EC law, regulatory, antitrust, merger control, multinational cartel and state aid cases in the banking, energy and transport sectors before national and international authorities, the EU Commission and European Court of Justice. He has also gained experience as a member of the Hellenic Competition Commission involved in more than 30 decisions of the Commission, a Legal Adviser of the Hellenic Republic on EU law issues for more than 6 years, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Greek Public Gas Corporation. He has been acknowledged as one of the "top EU competition law experts" by Global Competition.

Nikolaos E. Farantouris has authored more than 30 journal papers and 5 books (in English, French and Greek). His papers have been published among others in *Revue du Marché Commun et de l'Union européenne (RMCUE)*, *European Competition Law Review (ECLR)*, *Revue de l'Energie*, *Journal of International and Comparative Environmental Law (MJICEL)*, *Revue des Affaires Européennes (RAE)*, etc. His recent monographs include: *The Control of State Aids for Rescue and Restructuring Companies* (Athens 2006), *European Integration and Maritime Transport* (Brussels 2003 – Onassis Foundation Prize), *Merger Control and Antitrust Enforcement in the EU and US: A Comparative Analysis* (London 2003), *Judicial Aspects of EU Competition Policy in Air Transport* (London 2002), *Shipping in European and the Emergence of a Common Maritime Transport Policy* (Athens 2000). He is also a member of the Governing Board of the ECSA-Greece as an elected member of the Governing Board.

**Dr. George Friedman**  
***Founder, Stratfor Global Intelligence***

George Friedman founded Stratfor in 1996 with a pioneer's vision for bringing open-source intelligence analysis to the private market. Today Stratfor is a leading global intelligence and consulting firm that provides geopolitical analysis and forecasting to individuals and organizations around the world.

Dr. Friedman is the author of several best-selling books, including *The Next 100 Years* (Doubleday, 2009), *The Next Decade* (Doubleday, 2011), *America's Secret War* (Doubleday, 2004), *The Future of War* (St. Martin's Press, 1998) and *The Intelligence Edge* (Crown, 1997). His latest book, *Flashpoints: The Emerging Crisis in Europe* (Doubleday, 2015) was published in January 2015.

A very popular keynote speaker, Dr. Friedman is in high demand at numerous conferences and industry-specific events for major financial firms such as J.P. Morgan, Citibank, Ernst & Young and many Fortune 500 companies. In addition, he has briefed the Australian Command and Staff College, Eglin Air Force Research Laboratory, U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College and many other military and government organizations. Dr. Friedman is frequently invited to speak internationally, including in Turkey, Germany, Poland, Azerbaijan, Australia and New Zealand.

The world's top media organizations regularly ask Dr. Friedman to appear as an international affairs and geopolitical expert. He has been featured in *Barrons*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Fortune*, *Newsweek*, *TIME*, *The Financial Times* and many other domestic and international publications, as well as broadcast media ranging from NPR to CNN to CNBC. He and Stratfor also have been featured in cover stories in *Barron's* and the *New Statesman*. Dr. Friedman received his Bachelor's degree from the City College of the City University of New York and holds a Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University.

**Theodossis Georgiou**  
***Chairman, Greek Association for Atlantic & European Cooperation, Co-Founder, The International Center for Leading Studies***

Theodossis Georgiou is the Chairman of the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation. He is an honorary Lawyer after 40 years of practice at his own firm. Furthermore, he is the President of the Eurodefense – Greece, a Member of the Governing Council of AWEPA (The Netherlands), and its contact person in Greece.

Additionally, he is a Member of the Board of Regents of the Fund for American Studies (Washington D.C.) and Co-Chairman of the International Institute for Political and Economic Studies (IIPES, 1996-2012). From 2003 - 2012 he has served as a member of Board of the International Foundation for Election Systems, (UK Limited) Washington D.C.; London.

Having been involved in various networks of the Euro-Atlantic cooperation for more than 8 years, Th. Georgiou took the initiative to establish the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation, in 1991, and revive the principles of transatlantic links in Greece within the framework of Atlantic Treaty Association. GAAEC experienced a dynamic development and rapidly took a leading role among other NGOs in Greece and Europe, focusing on transatlantic

cooperation, security and education. GAAEC works in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense of Greece, as well as with NATO Public Diplomacy Division.

On October 7, 1997, Mr. Georgiou was unanimously elected President of Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA; Paris; Brussels), an international organization (confederation) of the National Atlantic Councils and Committees of 42 States (all NATO and PfP countries) and remained in office until November 2000.

He has been Director of the Office for the Minister of Interior Affairs Kostis Stefanopoulos (1974-1976), Member of the Greek Delegation to the European Communities in Brussels (1976-1979 during the negotiations period of Greece integration), Secretary General of the Council of Economic and Social Policy (ECOSOC), and a Special Advisor of Prime Minister. He was also a Member of the Economic and Social Assembly (Committee) of the European Communities, a member of "Nea Demokratia" party in 1995, and a Founding Member of the "Democratic Renewal Party" until its cessation at the election of Kostis Stefanopoulos as the President of the Hellenic Republic. He has run in national elections in Athens and Patras electoral districts, as well as in elections for the European Parliament.

Mr. Georgiou has been a guest lecturer in various academic institutions and universities in Europe, Caucasus, Canada, the US and Africa and continues being active. His academic interests and research focus primarily, from the political point of view, on transatlantic security and cooperation, Euro - Atlantic integration, role of NGOs in the 21st century, dialogue between North and South, resolution of conflicts and conflict prevention. During the last 25 years Mr. Georgiou has been organizing and has chaired hundreds of symposiums, conferences and round table discussions both in Greece and around the globe, and he has delivered a vast number of speeches. Additionally, he has led and participated in countless international meetings, representing governmental and non - governmental sectors.

Having a strong involvement in the field of interdisciplinary education, in 2012 Mr. Georgiou, together with other distinguished personalities, founded The International Center for Leading Studies (TICLS), a new platform compounding various educational programs.

On June 4, 2003, he was awarded the "Chevalier dans l' Ordre de la Legion D' Honneur" by the President Jacques Chirac and on November 26, 2004 he received the "Golden Laurel Branch Award" from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria. He also has several other decorations and distinctions given in recognition of his support for the integration of South-Eastern European countries to NATO and the EU.

Mr. Georgiou studied Law in the University of Athens, European Law at the "Université Libre de Bruxelles" in Belgium and International Law at the Academy for International Law in The Hague, Netherlands. He is married to Aliko Mitsakos and has one son.

**H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic**  
***President of the Republic of Croatia***

**Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović** is a Croatian politician serving as President of Croatia since February 2015. From 2011 to 2014 she served as Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy at NATO under secretaries Anders Fogh Rasmussen and Jens Stoltenberg. She is the first woman ever to be appointed to the position.



In 1992, Grabar-Kitarović became an advisor to the international cooperation department of the Ministry of Science and Technology. In 1993 she joined the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ). In the same year she moved to the foreign ministry, becoming an advisor. She became the head of the North American department of the foreign ministry in 1995 and held that post until 1997. That year she began to work at the Croatian embassy in Canada as a diplomatic councilor until October 1998, and then as a minister-councilor. She remained in Canada until 2000.

In 2001 Grabar-Kitarović became minister-councilor to the ministry of foreign affairs. Two years later, she was elected to the Croatian Parliament from the seventh electoral district as a member of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) in the 2003 parliamentary elections. With the formation of the new government led by Ivo Sanader, she became Minister of European integration, which entailed the starting of negotiations for Croatia's ascension to the European Union. In 2005 Grabar-Kitarović was nominated to become the minister of foreign affairs. She was confirmed by parliament and sworn in on 17 February 2005. Her main task as foreign minister was to guide Croatia into the European Union and NATO.

**Dr. Mary Greenwood Johnson**  
***Ass.Professor, Bishop Seabury Academy, Kansas***

Dr. Mary Greenwood Johnson received her B.A. in French from Mt. Holyoke College. She spent the next two years in France studying and teaching as a Fulbright scholar at the Sorbonne, and as Fulbright lecturer at the Université de Lille. She received her doctorate in French literature from the University of Wisconsin (1987), and has taught French literature, language and culture in universities throughout the United States, including Douglass College in New Jersey, William Jewell College in Missouri, the University of Kansas, and Moorhead State University in Minnesota. Her last position was as Chair of French at Bishop Seabury Academy in Lawrence, Kansas, where she created and taught the four-year French program. She has spoken at numerous professional conferences and published several articles on the plays of French author Marguerite Duras. Dr. Johnson has also co-directed Study Abroad programs in Paris and Bordeaux, France, and organized and led many student trips abroad to France, Italy and Greece. She is a member of the American Association of Teachers of French, the Alliance Francaise, and the American Translators' Association. Now retired from full-time teaching, Dr. Johnson is an active English to French translator, leads a bi-monthly French conversation group, and teaches French to children at the local Montessori school.

**Dr. Theodore Johnson, Jr.**  
***Professor Emeritus of French and Humanities, University of Kansas***

J. Theodore Johnson, Jr. is Professor emeritus of French at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A. He was a Fulbright student at the Université de Poitiers and the Centre d'Études Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale in France (1958-60), and he earned a PhD in French from the University of Wisconsin in 1964. He was Instructor and then Assistant Professor of French at Princeton University (1964-68). At the University of Kansas (1968-2001), Professor Johnson taught courses and seminars in French grammar, literature, and civilization at both

undergraduate and graduate levels. For the department of Humanities and Western Civilization he taught the core course on the interrelations of the humanities and the arts and French literature in translation. In the spring of 2000 he conducted a class “Studies in Light” in which 18 professors from different disciplines gave presentations. He also conducted interdisciplinary Freshmen Honors Tutorials. Professor Johnson’s research and publications deal with the works of the French writer Marcel Proust and the visual arts. He worked extensively with the Proust manuscripts in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, he founded and edited the Proust Research Association Newsletter (1969-1986), and he is currently preparing a book to be called Marcel Proust et les arts visuels to be published in Paris.

**Michelle Le**  
***Vice President, International and Alumni Programs***

Michelle (Jeffress) Le is a two-time alumna of The Fund for American Studies. She attended the Institute on Political Journalism (IPJ) in 1995, interning with the Military District of Washington as a staff reporter. The following year, she participated in the American Institute on Political and Economic Systems in Prague (AIPES). In 1997 she returned to TFAS again, this time serving as a program assistant for the international programs. In 1998 she joined the TFAS staff fulltime. Le currently works as the vice president of international and alumni programs for TFAS.

Le is originally from Independence, Mo. She earned her bachelor's degree summa cum laude in political science with minors in history and French from Missouri State University. She completed her master's degree in international economics and European studies at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. She spent her first year of graduate school overseas in Italy, studying at the SAIS Bologna Center. During her undergraduate and graduate studies, she completed a foreign policy internship in the office of John Ashcroft, then U.S. Senator of Missouri, as well as a print media internship with Inside Report, Evans & Novak. Le also worked as a political researcher for a member of the government in the British Parliament in London, United Kingdom.

**Dr. Panos Livadas**  
***Secretary General, National Tourism Organization of Greece***

Panos Livadas graduated from Athens College and obtained his Bachelor degree in Business Administration and Political Science at Hofstra University, New York, and at the University of Florida, Florida. He completed his postgraduate studies at the University of Athens (Master in 1996 and Ph.D. in 2007) on “Electoral Behavior.”

From 1987 to 2004 he worked as a technocrat in the private sector. In March 2004, Panos Livadas was appointed Secretary General of Information of Greece’s Ministry of State and later Secretary General of Information of Greece’s Ministry of Interior. During the 2004 Athens Olympics, Mr. Livadas was director of the Zappeion Olympic Press Center. Among other duties he has reorganized the Press and Communication offices of Greece abroad. Panos Livadas has also worked on issues related to the promotion of Greece in China, energy deals with Russia, Bulgaria, Italy and the global communication campaign for the inauguration of the New

Acropolis Museum. He is married and has 3 children.

**Prof.Dr. Fabrizio Lucioli**  
***President, Atlantic Treaty Association***

President of the Atlantic Treaty Association and President of the Italian Atlantic Committee, Fabrizio W. Lucioli is Professor of International Security Organizations, Military Policy, and National Security Policy at the Center for High Defense Studies of the Italian Ministry of Defense.

He is a regular lecturer in various national and international, military, and academic institutions. Coordinator of Training Courses for military officers and diplomats in the Western Balkans and Middle East, he is Director and promoter of NATO and EU cooperation projects in Central and Southeastern Europe. Prof. Lucioli is also a Consultant on foreign affairs and security matters to various Members of Parliament. He is the author of several papers and articles published in national and foreign journals.

**Barbora Maronkova**  
***Program Officer, Engagement Section, Public Diplomacy Division, NATO HQ***

Ms. Maronkova graduated at the University of Economics, Bratislava, Slovak Republic at the Faculty of International Relations in 2002. She established and headed a Slovak based NGO Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs to contribute to a public and academic debate on Slovakia's membership to EU and NATO from March 2003-February 2006. Since 2003 to 2005 she was actively involved with the Euro-Atlantic Security Study Group, PfP Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes, Garmish-Partnenkirchen, Germany. Since September 2006, she works with the Public Diplomacy Division of NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium - she started as a programme coordinator to raise awareness and public information about NATO and its policies and was promoted to programme manager in September 2010. She is responsible for designing, planning and executing strategic communication campaigns in a number of NATO member states and in the Western Balkans. In addition, she works on NATO's enlargement policies and advises aspiring nations on public diplomacy and campaigning.

**Dr. Alik Mitsakos, M.D., Ph. D.**  
***Co-Founder & Dean, The International Center for Leading Studies, Chairperson, Education and Science Committee, Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation***

Alik Mitsakos studied Medicine in Belgium, San Diego, the U.S.A., and the University of Athens, Greece, subsequently specializing in Anaesthesia - Intensive Care and Pain Management. She holds a Ph.D., cum laude, in Pharmacology. She has worked at all levels and eventually Director of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Unit keeping simultaneously a Private Practice, in Greece and abroad, including Stanford University in California and other Centers in the U.S.A.; London, England; Moscow, Russia; and Cape Town, South Africa. She has taught at the University of Athens, the Institute of Vocational Training, and at many international advanced programs.

She has been actively involved in promoting the academic and clinical advance of medicine and the welfare of anesthesiologists. Has served on the Board of the Hellenic Society of Anaesthesiologists, founded the related Association that set the standards of the specialty, has served as the National Delegate at the Monospecialist Committee for Anaesthesia and Reanimation of the European Union (U.E.M.S.), on the European Board of Anaesthesiology, as well as numerous Hellenic and International Societies, including the European Academy and the European Society of Anaesthesiology.

Besides her professional career, she has also been an active member of Civil Society with a particular focus on Youth and Women, on issues related to International Relations, Security, and Education, for the past 25 years and more. She has been active in Soroptimist International, served as President of the Union of Greece, served as President of the Parents Federation of the Arsakeion Schools of Greece, is founding member and Secretary General of the Greek Association for Atlantic & European Cooperation, and president of Women In International Security - Hellas. She has also served on the Board of Advisors of the International Institute for Political & Economic Studies of the Fund for American Studies and Georgetown University. She has created a unique International Educational summer program for teenagers (aged 15 – 18 years of age) the “Kernels of our Future”, based on non formal / informal education methods, (pilot in 2004), on issues of affecting the broader responsible civil society building and public spirit. The International Center for Leading Studies was founded through G.A.A.E.C. in 2012, and she serves as Dean.

She has participated in over 100 major Conferences and meetings all over the world, including the U.N. initiative on the question of Palestine, is member (founding member in most) to a number of women international networks, has delivered numerous addresses, and published many articles to scientific journals and the press on her related interests. Her recent publications relate to the experience acquired on the current concepts in the learning approach and processes, as well as those of soft diplomacy.

**Dr. Georgios Panos**

***Reader in Finance and a Postgraduate Programmes Convenor, Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow***

Dr. Georgios Panos (born 1980) is a Reader in Finance and a postgraduate programmes convenor at the Adam Smith Business School of the University of Glasgow. He was previously a senior lecturer and a lecturer at the University of Stirling and at the University of Essex. He has served as a consultant to the World Bank in multiple occasions (in six occasions for a total of some ten years, working on the finance and private sector development unit and the poverty assessment unit) and has been affiliated with EU-funded projects (on work and well being, health at work, and socioeconomic inequalities of the older workforce).

His areas of expertise are on the areas of intersection between financial and labour economics, and international development. His research has been featured in outlets such as the Journal of Financial Economics, the Journal of Banking and Finance, the Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society, inter alia. Georgios' current research interests are on financial literacy, applications of behavioural economics and finance, labour and personnel economics, and the economics of entrepreneurship.

Georgios holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Aberdeen (2010), a MSc Economics from the University of Warwick (2004) and a Ptychio in Economics from the University of Ioannina (2002).

**Alex Pattakos**

***Political Scientist, Co-founder, The OPA! Way®***

Alex Pattakos, Ph.D., is a political scientist and co-founder of The OPA! Way®, a new paradigm for Living & Working with Meaning uniquely inspired by Greek philosophy and culture.

He is the author of the international best-selling book, Prisoners of Our Thoughts, which is based on the wisdom of his mentor, the world-renown psychiatrist Dr. Viktor Frankl, who personally urged him to write it. The book is available in 20 languages and multiple formats.

A pioneer in the personal transformation area, he is passionate about helping people realize their highest potential and find authentic meaning in their life and work, as well as helping organizations in all sectors and industries create meaningful workplaces and deliver products and services that make a positive difference and are truly meaningful.

Proudly describing himself as a pracademic (i.e., linking practice and theory), he has worked closely with all levels of government, including the White House under three presidents, on health, education, human services, economic development, and other policy matters, as well as has served as an adviser to the Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

A U.S. Army veteran, he is also a former therapist and mental health administrator, political campaign organizer, and full-time university professor of public and business administration. He was one of the initial faculty evaluators for the Innovations in American Government Awards Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

He is one of the founding members of the Board of Directors of the Boston Global Forum, an international nonprofit network of thought leaders, both academic and practitioners hosted at Harvard

University, who collaborate on-line and in person for the purposes of identifying, discussing, and proposing meaningful, innovative, and practical solutions to issues of global concern.

**Prof. Dr. Stefano Pilotto**

***Director, International relations MIB School of Management, University of Trieste, Italy***

Professional Experience: Coordinator of International Relations, Lecturer in International Relations, Director of Origini Programme, MIB School of Management. Lecturer, History of Treaties and International Politics and History of European Integration, University of Trieste. Lecturer of the History of International Relations, Bordeaux School of Management, Bordeaux, France. Lecturer, International Politics, European and Central-Eastern Europe Integration, various European Institutions (Madrid, Ljubljana, Warsaw, Zagreb).

Interests: History of International Relations; International Politics; European Integration; Central-Eastern European Countries; Geo-political analysis and analysis of country risk

### **René Repasi**

***Appointed Scientific Coordinator, European Research Centre for Economic and Financial Governance (EURO-CEFG), Universities of Leiden, Rotterdam and Delft (Netherlands)***

René Repasi studied law at the Universities of Heidelberg and Montpellier. During his legal clerkship, he used to work for the European Commission and at the European Court of Justice. From 2007 to 2014 he has been employed as Assistant Professor at the University of Heidelberg and senior researcher at the Institute for German and European Corporate and Economic Law. In 2014 he joined the European Research Centre for Economic and Financial Governance (EURO-CEFG) of the Universities of Leiden, Rotterdam and Delft as scientific coordinator. He was furthermore appointed as ad hoc legal expert for the committee for economic and monetary affairs of the European Parliament on the banking union and wrote studies on the role of the European Central Bank (ECB) and of the Eurogroup in EU Economic Governance and on a fiscal capacity for the Eurozone. He currently works on behalf of the European Commission on a feasibility study of a European unemployment benefit scheme. Moreover, Repasi supported the Spinelli Group in drafting the chapter on the Economic and Monetary Union in the proposal for a “Fundamental Law of the European Union”. He published in several English, French and German law journals on legal issues relating to the European Economic Governance. The Brussels based think tank “Centre for European Policy Studies” (CEPS) appointed him as member of its High-Level Group on EU Institutional Reforms. Repasi is furthermore actively involved in German and European politics. He was a candidate for the most recent European Parliament elections in 2014 for the German SPD and is member of the Commission on European Affairs of the German Socialdemocrats. René Repasi is a known lecturer who teaches on behalf of NGOs, political foundations and public institutions. He gained his first lecturing experiences as a student for the German Institute for Civic Education. His latest series of lectures was on the origin of the Euro crisis and on possible ways out of the crisis.

### **Anton Nikolaevich Shkaplerov** ***Cosmonaut, Russia***

Anton Nikolaevich Shkaplerov is a Russian cosmonaut. Shkaplerov completed Yak-52 flight training at the Sevastopol Aviation Club in 1989. After graduation from Sevastopol High School in 1989, he entered the Kachinsk Air Force Pilot School graduating in 1994 as pilot-engineer. In 1997 he graduated from the N. E. Zukovskiy Air Force Engineering. After graduation Shkaplerov served as a senior pilot-instructor in the Russian Air Force. He has piloted Yak-52, L-29 and MiG-29 aircraft. He is a Class 2 Air Force pilot-instructor. He is also an Instructor of General Parachute Training, and has performed more than 300 parachute jumps. In May 2003 Shkaplerov was selected as a test-cosmonaut candidate of the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center Cosmonaut Office. From June 2003 to June 2005 he attended basic space training and was qualified as a test cosmonaut in 2005. From April–October 2007, Shkaplerov served as Director of Operations, Russian Space Agency, stationed at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Anton was assigned as the back-up commander for Expedition 22.

**Dr. Ivan Velimir Starčević**  
***Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the Hellenic Republic***

Ph. D. from Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb, thesis „Peace Operations in the Postmodern Era“,2012

Diplomatic Academy of MFA of Croatia, 1998

Master's Degree from Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, 1986

Batchelor's Degree from Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, 1977

- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Croatia to the Hellenic Republic, present

- Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Directorate for Security and International Organizations, Department for International Security, 2011

- NATO-led operation ISAF in Afghanistan, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Feyzabad, Deputy Head for Civilian Affairs, 2010,

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, Directorate for Security and International Organizations, Department for International Security, 2007 - 2010

- NATO-led operation ISAF in Afghanistan, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Feyzabad, Deputy Head for Civilian Affairs, 2005-2006,

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, Analytical Department, 2005,

- Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Minister Plenipotentiary, 2001-2005,

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Department for Neighboring Countries, 2000,

- Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Belgrade, Serbia, Minister Plenipotentiary, 1999,

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Head of Department for Northern America, 1997-1999,

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Head of Department for Western Europe, 1997,

- Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Athens, Greece, Counsellor and Minister Counsellor, 1993-1997,

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Counsellor for OSCE affairs, 1992-1993

- Press, media and culture Counsellor at the Embassy of SFRY in New Delhi, India, 1991,

- various positions on the Staff of the Croatian Parliament, 1978-1990,

- Judge trainee at the Municipal court in Zlatar, 1978.

**Prof. Giorgos Stathakis**  
***Minister of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism, Greece***

Giorgos Stathakis is a Greek politician. On 27 January 2015 he was appointed the Minister of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism in the government of Alexis Tsipras. The responsibility of Stathakis is to oversee tourism, transport and shipping.

Before Stathakis was appointed minister, he was professor of political economy at the

University of Crete.

Giorgos Stathakis, graduated from University of Athens in 1976 with degree in Economics. In 1978 he received M.A. in Economics from Newcastle University Ph.D. in Economics from the same University.

He was a visiting researcher at Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, City University of New York (1987/88) and a visiting scholar at Center for European Studies, Harvard University (1992/93).

In 1988 he became a professor of political economy at the University of Crete (lecturer in 1988, associate professor in 1992 and professor in 1997).

### **Marwan Emil Toubassi**

#### ***Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Hellenic Republic***

Ambassador Marwan Emile Toubassi received his BBA in Economics from Birzeit University in Ramallah, while he started his career as a Commercial manager in several Palestinian Investment and trading Companies, he held the position of the President of the Arab Christian Orthodox Church in Ramallah from 1998-2006.

In 2000 he was appointed Director General at the Ministry of Waqf and Religious Affairs of the Palestinian National Authority and in 2003 was promoted to Assistant Deputy Minister for Christian Affairs. In 2006 H.E. was appointed as Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and 4 years later, in 2010, he was appointed Governor of Tubas and the Northern Valley Governorate. In the summer of 2013 President of the State of Palestine H.E. Mahmoud Abbas appointed him Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Hellenic Republic.

### **Jessica Townsend - Teague**

#### ***Educator, Entrepreneur, President of Imagi-Nation, LLC***

Jessica Townsend Teague is an educator and entrepreneur. She holds the position of Professorial Lecturer in Political Leadership at The George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management, Washington, DC, and serves as President of Imagi-Nation, LLC a consulting firm with offices in the Washington DC area and Sarasota, Florida.

Ms. Teague's professional life and presidency of Imagi-Nation, LLC, Advancing Personal and Global Potential through Leadership Development Initiatives, Assessments and Strategic Illustration Services, blends 35 years of work within the fields of personal and organizational development with institution, civil society and democracy building initiatives, electoral process projects and the design and implementation of leadership education programs. She has conducted stateside and overseas work in these arenas, teaming with education associations, non-governmental organizations and the U.S. Departments of State, Education, Commerce and Defense, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the International Red Cross, by whom she was awarded a National Service Citation. CBS News correspondent, Dan Rather, featured her pioneering volunteer work with adolescents and parents on his "48 Hours", television program.

Ms. Teague participates in the management of bi-partisan advocacy initiatives, identifying and convening stakeholder groups to generate legislative and prospective funding partnership



components. Recent work has included leadership roles on the staff of the congressional Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program and with the United States Public Service Academy exploratory committee.

After years of “doodling” action outlines and explanations of complex theory for her own purposes, Ms. Teague now offers strategic illustration/graphic facilitation services to enhance participation, innovation and right brain retention of important, meeting generated ideas and information. An investment in art and imagination has made a difference for many of her clients, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The National Security Agency, Capital One and a host of non-profit agencies and educational institutions. She captures data and discourse in real-time, creating 4’ x 8’ “maps” that can later be shared as print and laminate ready jpeg files - extending the life, intent and enthusiasm for an event and its’ derivative action items. That’s where the “strategic” part comes in.

Whether working with the leaders of an influential multi-national organization or a high school full of multi-national influences, Ms. Teague has her eye on elements of interdependence and reactivity, coaching individuals toward excellence, through both introspective and system wide appreciative inquiries into what success looks like.

Her approach to the topic of leadership is interactive - integrating personal awareness, affirmation, accountability and action oriented units of study with real time, systemic impact studies of leadership, on national and international levels.

Ms. Teague received her M.S. in Organization Development from The American University, Washington, D.C., a B.S. in Education, Political Science, History and French from The University of Kansas, Lawrence, and a 2e Degre, Diplome D’Etudes Francaises, L’Universite de Bordeaux III, Bordeaux, France. She holds a certificate from Georgetown University and the Fund for American Studies’ Institute on Comparative Political and Economic Systems, an organization for which she long served as faculty. She holds certification in a range of psychometrically valid and reliable leadership instruments and has been affiliated with the post graduate studies program in Society’s Emotional Process at the Georgetown Family Center. She is a member of the International Education Board of Visitors for the University of Kansas and the advisory board of The International Center for Leading Studies (TICLS) for the Greek Association of Atlantic and European Cooperation (GAAEC).

**Prof. Dr. Panayotis J. Tsakonas**

***Associate Professor, International Relations and Security, Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean***

Panayotis J. Tsakonas is Associate Professor of International Relations and Security, Director of the MSc Program “Political, Economic and International Relations in the Mediterranean”, and Head of the Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece. Professor Tsakonas studied political science, international relations and security studies at the Panteion University of Athens and Reading University, Great Britain. He has been Research Fellow at the Institute of International Relations (Athens, Greece), NATO Research Fellow, post-doctoral fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University and Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Macmillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University. He was one of the members of Ad Hoc Greek committee, preparing the

establishment of the International Institute for Political and Economic Studies (IIPES), where he taught courses on conflict resolution and regional security (1997-2002).

He has worked as Chief International Affairs Analyst for the weekly New Europe (1994-96), as Advisor on defense and strategic issues at the Hellenic Ministry of National Defense (1996-1998) and as Special Advisor at the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs on security issues and on Greek-Turkish relations (1999-2003). He served on the Scientific Board of the Hellenic Center for European Studies (EKEM) and he currently serves on the Executive Board of the Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), the official think-tank of the Ministry of the Citizen's Protection. He is also Research Associate at the Hellenic Institute for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), co-director of the book series: International and European Studies (Gutenberg Publications) and co-editor of the academic journal: Etudes Helléniques/Hellenic Studies.

Professor Tsakonas has published books, monographs and articles on International Relations theory, regional security issues (particularly on Mediterranean security issues), foreign policy analysis (FPA), Greek foreign and security policy and Greek-Turkish relations. His articles, book reviews and contributions in edited volumes have been published in several European countries, Canada, the United States and New Zealand, and in professional journals, including: Etudes Helléniques, Journal of Turkish Studies, Journal of Modern Hellenism, Journal of Southeast Europe and Black Sea Studies, Millennium, Politics, Security Dialogue, The Hague Journal of Diplomacy etc.

His books/monographs include: National Security Strategy. Building the Greek Model for the Twenty-First Century (Papazissis, Athens, 2005, with Th. Dokos), Multilateralism and Security Institutions in an Era of Globalization (Routledge, London and New York, 2007, co-editor), European Security Institutions and Interstate Conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean. Parochial, Necessary or Insufficient? (Hellenic Center for European Studies Paper No. 10, September 2007, Athens), and The Incomplete Breakthrough in Greek-Turkish Relations. Grasping Greece's Socialization Strategy (Palgrave-Macmillan, Basingstoke and New York, 2010).

**Dr. Petros Vamvakas**

***Chair, Department of Political Science, Associate Professor of Political Science Emmanuel College, Boston***

He likes to think of himself primarily as a teacher, because "he who teaches learns and he who learns teaches." He teaches all of the comparative politics courses as well as courses in political theory and the introductory courses in international relations. He is also the advisor to the Emmanuel College Model United Nations club.

He teaches courses in Comparative Politics, International Relations and Political Theory in the Department of Political Science, and has developed a number of courses in the subfields of International Relations, Comparative Politics and Political Theory, among them Street Democracy, European Politics, International Law and Organizations, and a Travel Course: In the Steps of Thucydides. Prof. Vamvakas has also taught in the RISE program at Emmanuel every summer term since 2007. He served as the Co-Coordinator of the Global Studies and International Affairs program since 2009 and as Academic Advisor to the Emmanuel College Model United Nations Club since 2004. He sits on a number of faculty committees, to include Academic Affairs, Curriculum, Scholarship & Fellowship and more recently has been elected by

peers to be President of the Faculty Senate, a committee on which he has served since 2007 as a member. In the summer of 2010 Prof. Vamvakas applied for and was accepted to be Coordinator of the new ecEdge program, aimed at increasing retention and academic success for first generation college students.

**Anastasios Vamvoukas**  
***Mayor of Chania***

Tasos Vamvoukas was born in Chania on 1957. He is the son of Demetrios Vamvoukas and Athena Ksenaki-Vamvouka.

Graduate of the Pharmacy school of Camerino University, Italy.

An active member of the student community, he served as president of the Greek students in the city where he studied Pharmacy.

One of the instigators of the idea of “School students week”, leded the group that organized this event in Chania which later became a cultural tradition, not only locally but nationwide.

In addition to running his pharmacy in the city of Chania, Tasos Vamvoukas, has developed other business activities as well.

Upon his return to Chania, since the beginning of his career, he has been an elected member of the executive board of the Chania Pharmacists’ Association and he served as a President of the Executive Board for three consecutive terms.

President of the Chania Pharmacists’ Cooperative Union since 1991.

Elected Executive Board member of “Chania Cooperative Bank”

Executive Board member of “Cretan Properties, S.A.”

Founding member of Organic produce consumer cooperative “Gaea” (Gaea means earth in ancient Greek)

Leader of the municipality movement “City of active citizens” participated as a leader of this party at the Mucinipal Council from 2011-2014.

In 2014 was elected Mayor of Chania.

Married with Lia Kalaitzaki, attorney at law. They have two children, Athena who is studying pharmacy and Demetrios who is studying finance.

**Dr. Dimitris Xenakis**  
***Associate Professor, University of Crete***

Dimitris K. Xenakis was born in Heraklion Crete. He studied International and European Politics (BA, MA, PhD) and his doctoral thesis Transforming Regional Orders: The Helsinki and the Barcelona Processes Compared (University of Exeter, 2000) was awarded with the European Studies Prize (2002) by the Hellenic University Association for European Studies. Since March 2003 he teaches International Relations as Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Political Science at the University of Crete, in which he was unanimously elected as Lecturer in International Politics in October 2006 and Assistant Professor in 2012. He has also taught at the National School of Public Administration (2003-4), the Department of International and European Studies at Athens Panteion University (2005-6), the Department of Mediterranean Studies at the Aegean University (2006-7), and the Program of Business Administration (2009-

2010), Greek Open University. Since 2010 he teaches in the Program in European Cultural Studies, Greek Open University and the National Security Academy. Since 2009 he was appointed Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Policy Unit in the Hellenic Center for European Studies (Foreign Ministry), and in Vice-Chairman of the Center for Security Studies (Ministry of Citizen Protection) as well as, member of the Scientific Board at the Defence Analyses Institute (Ministry of National Defence). In the past he has served, among other, as Research Fellow and Head of the Mediterranean and Middle East Studies Unit (2007-9) at the Athens based Institute of International Economic Relations; Advisor at the Hellenic Parliament (2004-7); International Relations and Organizations Expert at the General Secretariat for Financial Planning and Defence Investment of the Hellenic Ministry of Defence (2003-4); Strategic Analyst at the Defence Analysis Institute (2002-3), and Research Fellow at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (2001-2). He has participated in numerous international academic conferences and policy seminars, as well as, in summits and informal meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the European Unions's Defence Ministerial Meetings, as well as in the workings of the European Affairs and Foreign and Defence Policy Committee's of the Hellenic Parliament. He has contributed in international research projects and he is member in various research networks and groups, as well as, referee and/or member of the Editorial Board in various international and Greek academic journals. His publications have been appreciated with more than 200 references in major international editions, while some of them are used as basic textbooks in undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in Greece and abroad.

**Konstantinos Xifaras**  
***CEO, National Natural Gas System Operator (DESFA) S.A.***

Konstantinos D. Xifaras is the chief executive officer of DESFA, the Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator. Prior to his appointment, he held leadership positions in both private and public sector organisations.

Mr Xifaras was head of the deputy minister's cabinet at the Ministry of Development, Competitiveness, Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, responsible for the management of the implementation of National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 and the design of the new programming period 2014-2020.

Previously, Mr Xifaras served as a special advisor for the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and the Ministry of Development. He also has extended experience as a researcher and business consultant

Mr Xifaras holds a degree in Production and Management Engineering from the Technical University of Crete and is specialized in Operational Research. He is the vice president of the National Association of Production Engineering & Management.

**Dr. Constantin Zopounidis**

***Professor, Financial Engineering and Operations Research, Technical University of Crete***

Constantin Zopounidis is Professor of Financial Engineering and Operations Research, at Technical University of Crete (Greece), Distinguished Research Professor in Audencia Nantes, School of Management (France), and Senior Academician of both the Royal Academy of Doctors and the Royal Academy of Economics and Financial Sciences of Spain. He is Editor-in-Chief of Operational Research: An International Journal (Springer), The International Journal of Multicriteria Decision Making (Inderscience), The International Journal of Financial Engineering and Risk Management (Inderscience), The International Journal of Corporate Finance and Accounting (IGI Global), The International Journal of Food and Beverage Manufacturing and Business Models (IGI Global). He is Series Editor in Multiple Criteria Decision Making and Cooperative Management (Springer). He is also Associate Editor in International Transactions in Operational Research (Wiley), New Mathematics and Natural Computation (World Scientific), Optimization Letters (Springer), International Journal of Banking, Accounting and Finance (Inderscience), International Journal of Data Analysis Techniques and Strategies (Inderscience), and the European Journal of Operational Research (Elsevier). He is also elected President since early 2012, of the Financial Engineering and Banking Society (FEBS).

In recognition of his scientific work, he has received several awards from international research societies. In 1996 he received the Gold Medal and Diploma of Social and Human Sciences from the MOISIL International Foundation, for his research in multicriteria intelligent decision support systems and their applications in financial management. In 2000 he received the Best Interdisciplinary Research Paper Award from the Decision Sciences Institute and in 2010 he received the highly commended paper award from the Emerald Literati Network. The European Journal of Operational Research has awarded him the Best Reviewer Award in 2010, the Certificate of Excellence in Reviewing in 2012 and the Editors' Award for Excellence in Reviewing in 2015. Also, in 2012 he was the recipient of the Long-lasting Research Contribution Award in the field of Financial Engineering & Decision Making by ESCP Europe. In 2013 he received the Edgeworth-Pareto prestigious Award from the International Society of Multicriteria Decision Making.

In 2015, the Audencia Nantes School of Business and the Centre for Financial and Risk Management has awarded him by the recipient of his outstanding contribution in the fields of Management Science and Decision Making.

He has edited and authored 80 books in international publishers and more than 450 research papers in scientific journals, edited volumes, conference proceedings and encyclopedias in the areas of finance, accounting, operations research, and management science.

He is a frequent invited speaker in international conferences and he has given several invited lectures as Visiting Professor in many European universities.

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**National Tourism Organisation**



**Consolidated Contractors Company**

**Public Gas Corporation S.A.**



**Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator S.A.**



**European Research Center for Economic and Financial Governance**



**Anonymous Shipping Company of Crete S.A.**



**Sotiris Kyriazopoulos private heritage**

**We would like to express our gratitude to all professors and staff for their dedication to the educational programs for the last 20 years**