

Programme

The Fourth Thessaloniki Metropolitan Summit

**Making pathways to prosperity, solidity
and cohesion for south-east Europe**

September 5th-6th 2024

"Ioannis Vellidis" Congress Centre, Thessaloniki

In partnership with



September 5th 2024, "Ioannis Vellidis" Congress Centre

19:00	Cocktail reception
19:30	<i>Opening remarks</i> Alasdair Ross, countries editor, The Economist-The World Ahead 2024 Apostolos Tzitzikostas, regional governor, Central Macedonia, EU commissioner nominee, first vice-president, European Committee of the Regions
19:45	GALA DINNER TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS AFTER THE US ELECTION • Where is Europe heading after its new mandate • Western Balkans: will EU accession move forward? • Greece's enhanced role in southeast Europe • Tackling the current geopolitical turmoil in the region <i>Guests of honour and keynote speakers:</i> George Gerapetritis, minister of foreign affairs, Greece Sigmar Gabriel, chairman, Atlantik-Brücke, former vice-chancellor, former federal foreign minister, Germany
20:10	Discussion
20:30	Dinner- First course is served
21:00	A GLIMPSE INTO THE UPCOMING US ELECTION CAMPAIGN The Economist in dialogue with: Gus Bilirakis, congressman, U.S. House of Representatives (initial acceptance) (via connection) * Chris Pappas, congressman, U.S. House of Representatives (via connection)
21:20	Main course and dessert are served

September 6th 2024, "Ioannis Vellidis" Congress Centre

08:15	Registration – Welcome coffee
09:00	THE ECONOMIST'S FUTURE OUTLOOK • The US election and its impact on the world • Europe's new landscape: next steps • Where does the UK stand today after its election Alasdair Ross, countries editor, The Economist-The World Ahead 2024 Fotis Kollias, director, Powergame.gr
09:10	Opening remarks Konstantinos Gkioulekas, deputy minister of interior, responsible for Macedonia-Thrace, Greece Stelios Angeloudis, mayor of Thessaloniki
09:20	OFFICIAL OPENING THE FUTURE OF EUROPE: NEW PRIORITIES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES • EU cooperation and Western Balkans accession • US foreign policy after the election: What should we expect? • Is Greece increasing its influence in the region? Keynote address: Martin Schulz, former president, European Parliament, chair, Friedrich Ebert Foundation
09:30	Discussion
09:40	UNITED STATES – SOUTHEAST EUROPE: STRENGTHENING TIES IN THE MIDST OF GEOPOLITICAL TURMOIL • Energy & security: The outlook George Tsunis, US ambassador to Greece Christopher Hill, US ambassador to Serbia Angela Aggeler, US ambassador to North Macedonia Julie Fisher, US ambassador to Cyprus <i>Commentator:</i> Anastasios Chatzivasileiou, MP, Hellenic Parliament, Nea Demokratia Party, first vice-chairman, Parliamentary Committee on European Affairs
10:10	Discussion
10:30	THE GREEK ECONOMY: PICKING UP SPEED Keynote address: * Kostis Hatzidakis, minister of national economy and finance, Greece GREECE'S NEW STRATEGY FOR TAX REGULATION * George Pitsilis, governor, Independent Authority for Public Revenue, Hellenic Republic * Euclid Tsakalotos, MP, New Left, former minister of finance, Greece
10:50	Discussion

11:10	Coffee break
11:40	ENHANCING GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS • The prospects for south-east Europe • Northern Greece as a pillar of stability in a fragile region • Sustainability goals and business growth Takis Theodorikakos, minister of development, Greece George Pagoulatos, ambassador, permanent representative for Greece, OECD • The business response Nico Gariboldi, vice-president, Thessaloniki site lead, Pfizer
12:00	Discussion
12:20	ENERGY LANDSCAPE IN SE EUROPE AND EUROPE'S ENERGY SECURITY • An update on the new energy corridors • LNG and pipelines: An update Theodoros Skylakakis, minister of environment and energy, Greece Matthew Bryza, former US deputy assistant secretary of state for European & Eurasian Affairs, former US ambassador to Azerbaijan, member of the BoD, Overgas Boyana Achevski, secretary-general, Gas Infrastructure Europe George Satlas, executive officer and board member, ICGP AD * Konstantinos Xifaras, chairman of the BoD, DEPA
13:00	Discussion
13:20	OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE DECARBONISATION STRATEGY • How is the region contributing to the green transition? • Decarbonisation-electrification: is the course towards sustainability financially and socially sustainable? • The momentum for just transition in coal regions Alexandra Sdoukou, deputy minister of environment and energy, Greece • The business response Business representatives (names to be advised)
13:35	Discussion
13:50	THE CONTRIBUTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND REAL ESTATE PROJECTS TO A MORE RESILIENT ECONOMY AND SOCIETY Christos Staikouras, minister of infrastructure and transport, Greece • The business response Business representatives (names to be advised)
14:05	Discussion

14:20 HOW SIGNIFICANT IS THE ROLE OF ALEXANDROUPOLIS IN TIMES OF TURMOIL?

- Latest US energy priorities for SE Europe
- Synergies and strategic partnerships in the pipeline
- The US election: Will it affect the current US energy policies?

Keynote address:

Geoffrey Pyatt, US assistant secretary of state for energy resources, Bureau of Energy Resources, US Department of State (via connection)

Konstantinos Chatzikonstantinou, CEO, Alexandroupolis Port Authority, Greece

* **Konstantinos Sifnaios**, vice-president and managing director, Gastrade

14:40 Discussion

15:00 Networking luncheon

16:00 RE-INVENTING THE STATE THOUGH DIGITALIZATION

Makis Voridis, minister of state, Greece

* **Theodoros Livanios**, minister of the interior, Greece

16:15 Discussion

16:30 INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY: A DRIVING FORCE FOR GROWTH

- Tapping into the local talent
- Trends to watch
- What social changes can be expected?
- Policies, resources and incentives

Dimitris Papastergiou, minister of digital governance, Greece

Yanna Andronopoulou, general manager, Microsoft Greece, Cyprus and Malta

* **Haris Broumidis**, CEO, Vodafone Greece

Panayiotis Ketikidis, president, board of directors, Alexander Innovation Zone (AIZ)

Nikos Efthymiadis, chairman & CEO, Thess INTEC

- How do the reforms in higher education affect investment and employment in the tech sector?

Kostas Axarloglou, dean and professor of international business and strategy, Alba Graduate Business School, The American College of Greece

17:00 Discussion

17:20 THE CENTRE- LEFT UPCOMING ELECTION AND THEIR VISION FOR GREECE'S FUTURE

* **Nikos Androulakis**, president, PASOK - Movement for Change

* **Anna Diamantopoulou**, candidate president, PASOK - Movement for Change

* **Haris Doukas**, mayor of Athens, candidate president, PASOK - Movement for Change

* **Pavlos Yeroulanos**, candidate president, PASOK - Movement for Change

(in alphabetical order)

17:40 Discussion

18:00 End of day sessions

* Awaiting confirmation

Last update: August 20th 2024

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