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 UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN MACEDONIA

The Evolving Climate and Energy Landscape in Greece

International Conference

May 25-26, 2026

Venue: John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation
Address: Pallas Athena Building 4 Xenias, Kifisia

Program Agenda

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Day One

May 25, 2026

Arrival

09:00 - 9:30

Welcome Remarks

9:30 - 10:30

Speakers

- Stavros Papastavrou – Minister, Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic
- Alexis Abramson – Dean, Columbia Climate School
- Theodoros Theodoulidis – Rector, University of Western Macedonia (UOWM)
- Stefanos Gandolfo – Director, Columbia Global Center Athens

Session 1: From Global Sustainability Goals to Regional Energy

Decisions

10:30 - 11:45

This session explores how global climate and sustainability agendas translate into concrete transformations of energy systems at national and regional levels. Building on international commitments such as the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal, the discussion will examine how governments and regions are adapting their energy strategies, diversifying energy sources, and reshaping their energy mixes to achieve decarbonisation while strengthening energy security.

Speakers

- Dionysia - Theodora Avgerinopoulou – Prime Minister's Special Envoy for the Oceans, Chair of the Environment Committee of the Hellenic Parliament, Member of the Hellenic Parliament
- Phoebe Koundouri – Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business & University of Cambridge; Founder and Director AE4RIA Research Centers; Co-Chair, United Nations GSDR, President World Council of Environmental Economists; Chair SDSN Global Climate Hub; Co-Chair SDSN Europe
- Alexandra Mavrogonatu – Head of Directorate of Strategic Planning & Coordination of Funds
- Nikos Tsafos – Deputy Minister of Energy, Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic

Moderator

- Alexis Ambrason – Dean, Columbia Climate School

Day One

May 25, 2026

Coffee Break

11:45-12:15

Session 2: Accelerating the Renewable Energy Transition

12:15 - 13:30

This session explores how renewable energy is accelerating the global energy transition and the strategies needed to scale deployment in the coming decade. As countries pursue decarbonisation alongside energy security, technologies such as solar and wind are reshaping energy systems and markets. The discussion will examine how projects are financed, developed, and integrated, addressing key challenges including investment mobilization, grid integration, permitting, and regulation, as well as the role of innovation in enabling large-scale deployment.

Speakers

- Vasilis Antoniades – Managing Director and Senior Partner, BCG’s Client Coordinating Officer for the European Union Institutions
- Andreas Gandolfo – Strategy and Analytics Manager, Pulse Clean Energy
- Richard Hartman – Chief Innovation Officer (CINO), Air Force Office of Energy Assurance (OEA), Air Force Civil Engineer Center
- Vasilis Nikitas – Economic Counsellor, European Commission, Directorate-General Economic and Financial Affairs (ECFIN)

Moderator

- Greeshma Gadikota – Lenfest Earth Institute Chair, Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering at Columbia University, and Director of the Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy

Lunch Break

13:30 - 14:30

Day One

May 25, 2026

Session 3: The Future of Conventional Energy in a Net-Zero Economy

14:30 - 15:45

This session examines the evolving role of conventional energy sources and energy-intensive industries in the transition to a low-carbon economy. While renewables are expanding rapidly, sectors such as oil and gas, refining, cement, and metals remain essential and face complex decarbonisation challenges. The discussion will explore how these industries are adapting through technological innovation, carbon management strategies, and low-carbon fuels, while balancing climate goals with energy security and economic competitiveness.

Speakers

- Kostas Andriosopoulos – Founding Executive Director, HELLENiQ ENERGY Center for Sustainability & Energy @ Alba Graduate Business School
- Helena Athoussaki – Chief Sustainability Officer, Motor Oil Group
- Louis “Tripp” Hornick III – Principal, Quince Street Strategy
- Alexandros Lagakos – Managing Director for Eastern European Region, Molgas
- Alexandra Papalexopoulou – Executive Director, TITAN GROUP

Moderator

- Lefteris Topaloglou – Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering, Polytechnic School, University of Western Macedonia; Head of ENTRA Lab, Director, Institute of Energy Development & Transition to Post-Lignite Era

Coffee Break

15:45 - 16:15

Day One

May 25, 2026

Session 4: Policy Perspectives on the Energy Transition

16:15 – 17:30

This session examines the policy and governance frameworks shaping the energy transition. Bringing together policymakers and institutional leaders, it explores how European and national policies support decarbonisation, energy system transformation, and investment mobilization. The discussion will focus on regulatory design, cross-sector coordination, climate finance, and the role of public institutions in aligning economic development with climate goals while ensuring energy security and stability.

Speakers

- Theodora Antonakaki – Director, Climate Change and Sustainability Centre (CCSC), Bank of Greece
- Anne-Sophie Corbeau – Global Research Scholar, Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University
- Panagiotis Grammelis – Director of Research, CERTH/CPERI
- Nikos Mantzaris – Lead Policy Analyst & co-Founder, The Green Tank
- Natasha Martsekis – EYDAP SA - BOD Member and Chair Audit Committee, Member of the Sustainability Committee
- Stella Tsani – Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Moderator

- Alexander Cooley – Professor of Political Science and Vice Provost for Research and Academic Centers, Barnard College, Columbia University

Cocktail Reception

17:30 - 18:30

End of Day One

Day Two

May 26, 2026

Arrival

09:00 - 9:30

Session 5: Entrepreneurship Driving New Energy Solutions

09:30 - 10:45

This session explores the role of entrepreneurship and innovation in accelerating the transition to a sustainable energy system. Bringing together founders and industry leaders, it examines how startups are developing solutions in areas such as energy management, data analytics, and climate finance. The discussion will highlight how entrepreneurial ecosystems support the scaling of climate technologies, as well as the key opportunities and challenges facing emerging ventures in the energy transition.

Speakers

- Kostis Daniilidis – Founder & CEO, Survey Digital Photovoltaics
- James Lyons – Chief Technologist, Capricorn Investment Group
- Michael Rowley – President, CEO, Director, Stillwater Critical Minerals Corp.
- Anastasis Stamatis – Co-founder & CEO, Dataphoria

Moderator

- Panagiotis Karampinis – Regional Managing Director for Europe & Managing Director, Endeavor Greece

Day Two

May 26, 2026

Session 6: Society, Regions, and Economic Transformation

10:45 – 12:00

This session explores how climate policies and the energy transition translate into socio-economic change at the regional level. As Greece advances its climate goals, particular attention will be given to the impacts on employment, skills, and local economies, especially in regions historically dependent on fossil fuels. Bringing together perspectives from policy, employment, and industry, the discussion will focus on workforce reskilling, the role of public institutions, and how businesses and communities can support a fair and inclusive climate transition.

Speakers

- Yianna Chormova – Governor, Greek Public Employment Service (DYPA)
- Despoina Garani – CEO, Hellenic Company for Just Development Transition S.A. (METAVASI S.A.)
- Eleftherios Ioannidis – Mayor, Municipality of Kozani (2014-2019)

Moderator

- Georgios Christoforidis – Professor of Electrical Power Systems, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Western Macedonia; Vice Rector for Research and Innovation

Coffee Break

12:00 - 12:15

Day Two

May 26, 2026

Session 7: Young Researchers' Session

12:15 – 13:45

A discussion of innovative research by early-career scholars on climate and energy challenges, highlighting fresh perspectives, interdisciplinary approaches, and policy-relevant insights.

Speakers

- Columbia Climate School Graduate Students
- University of West Macedonia Students

Moderator

- Greeshma Gadikota – Lenfest Earth Institute Chair, Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering at Columbia University, and Director of the Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy
- Lefteris Topaloglou - Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering, Polytechnic School, University of Western Macedonia; Head of ENTRA Lab, Director, Institute of Energy Development & Transition to Post-Lignite Era

Closing Remarks

13:45 - 14:00

Speakers

- Greeshma Gadikota -Lenfest Earth Institute Chair, Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering at Columbia University, and Director of the Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy
- Lefteris Topaloglou - Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering, Polytechnic School, University of Western Macedonia; Head of ENTRA Lab, Director, Institute of Energy Development & Transition to Post-Lignite Era
- Alexis Abramson - Dean, Columbia Climate School

Lunch

14:00 - 15:30

End of Day Two

Meet the Speakers



Alexis R. Abramson

Dean, Columbia Climate School

Alexis Abramson is the Dean of the Columbia Climate School and a Professor of Climate. A leading expert in sustainable energy technology, she focuses broadly on thermal transport, from designing nanostructured materials to addressing building energy efficiency. Before joining Columbia in 2025, she was dean of Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering. Abramson also recently served as a Technical Advisor to Breakthrough Energy Ventures, launched by Bill Gates. During the Obama administration, she held the position as chief scientist at the U.S. Department of Energy's Building Technologies Office. Abramson holds engineering degrees from Tufts and a PhD from UC Berkeley.



Kostas Andriosopoulos

Founding Executive Director, HELLENiQ ENERGY Center for Sustainability & Energy @ Alba Graduate Business School

Dr. Kostas Andriosopoulos is the Founding Executive Director of the HELLENiQ ENERGY Center for Sustainability & Energy @ Alba Graduate Business School, Academic Director of the Executive Program in Energy Business at Alba Graduate Business School and Professor of Finance and Energy Management. He previously held academic positions at Audencia Business School (France) as a Full Professor and Founding Director of the Energy Transition & Sustainability Center, as well as at ESCP Business School, where he served as Academic Director of the energy management program. He has published over 50 peer-reviewed papers in leading journals such as Energy Economics, the Journal of Banking and Finance, and Energy Policy, and he is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Energy Markets. Kostas chairs the Energy Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and serves on the boards of the Global Gas Center (World Energy Council) and the Hellenic Association for Energy Economics (HAEE), which he founded. He has organized major international energy fora, including the flagship Energy Transition Symposium in Greece and the Southeast Europe Energy Forum. He has served as Vice-Chairman of the Board of DEPA (2014–2015, 2019–2021), Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Environment & Energy, and Head of the Decarbonization Fund for the Greek Islands. He contributed to shaping national e-mobility legislation and represented Greece in climate diplomacy at COP28 and COP29. In the business sector, he is the Country Manager of Akuo Energy in Greece, and the Co-founder & CEO of Deeprunner.ai, an artificial intelligence solutions company headquartered in Silicon Valley.

Meet the Speakers



Theodora Antonakaki

Director of Climate Change and Sustainability Centre (CCSC), Bank of Greece

Theodora Antonakaki, Director of Bank of Greece's Climate Change and Sustainability Centre, is coordinating BoG's work on climate, sustainability and research at the Climate Change Impacts Study Committee and representing BoG at the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System and at the Eurosystem Climate Change Forum, where she has been appointed Chair for a two-year term (2025-2026). She has worked as an advisor on sustainability and socioeconomic impact, and has lectured at several universities, including Syracuse and Stirling. Her work has received awards from Europa Nostra and Denmark's Foreign Ministry, and she has been awarded the rank of Chevalier in the French National Order of Merit for her contributions to climate and sustainability.



Vassilis Antoniadis

Managing Director and Senior Partner, BCG's Client Coordinating Officer for the European Union Institutions

Vassilis Antoniadis is a Managing Director and Senior Partner of BCG. He serves as BCG's Client Coordinating Officer for the European Union Institutions, covering the European Union Commission, European Investment Bank and European Central Bank in their efforts for a more innovative and competitive European Union. Vassilis has had a key role in the development of the Athens office since joining BCG in 2003, serving also as Head of BCG's Athens Office from 2010-18. He has also been a regional leader of the Financial Institutions practice at BCG in Central Europe, Middle East and Africa from 2014 to 2022. Vassilis was a government-appointed board member of Greece's National Council for Research and Innovation (NCRI) and advises the Greek government on economic growth topics. He serves on the boards of the Bodossaki Philanthropic Foundation and the Benaki Museum. He is a founding member of ExcellenSeas, a Greek NGO granting scholarships for college to top high school graduates from remote Greek islands. He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a B.Sc. magna cum laude in International Finance from Georgetown University.

Meet the Speakers



Helena Athoussaki

Chief Sustainability Officer, Motor Oil Group, Greece

Helena is the Chief Sustainability Officer at Motor Oil Group in Greece. Awarded as the manager of the Year in 2022, Helena is presented by many years of experience in the Energy and Shipping sector focusing on Decarbonization and Sustainable development. During her carrier, Helena held sustainability leadership positions at International corporations, undertaking strategic assignments both for the private and public sector related to Decarbonization, Sustainable Finance and ESG integration. She is an active speaker and participant on various think tanks and working groups. Helena holds an MBA from ALBA, an MA from Middlesex University in UK and completed several executive programs at Oxford Said Business School and London Business School.



Dionysia - Theodora Avgerinopoulou

Prime Minister's Special Envoy for the Oceans, Chair of the Environment Committee of the Hellenic Parliament, Member of the Hellenic Parliament

Dr. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou is the Greek Prime Minister's Envoy for the Ocean and a Member of the Hellenic Parliament. She was the Lead of the 9th Our Ocean Conference. She serves as the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Protection and the Subcommittee of Watercourses. She has also served as a Member of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group; the Chair of the Circle of the Mediterranean Parliamentarians on Sustainable Development in Athens, Greece; the Vice-Chair for the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development of UNEP/MAP; the Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Global Water Partnership Organization in Stockholm, Sweden, and the Head of Water of the Commission on Environment and Energy of the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris, France. She is an attorney-at-law by profession and holds a Doctorate Degree in International Environmental Law from Columbia University School of Law in New York, NY. She speaks Greek, English, French, and Latin.

Meet the Speakers



Georgios C. Christoforidis

Professor of Electrical Power Systems, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Western Macedonia; Vice Rector for Research and Innovation

Dr. Georgios Christoforidis is a Professor in Electrical Power Systems in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at the University of Western Macedonia (UoWM). He currently serves as Vice Rector for Research and Innovation in UoWM. He holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from the ECE Department of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), a Master's degree in Power Electronics & Drives from the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering at the University of Birmingham, UK, and a PhD from the ECE Department of AUTH. His research interests include energy storage systems, applications of Artificial Intelligence in power systems, distributed generation, smart grids, among others. He has lead/participated in over 30 projects in the above fields. He has published 62 papers in scientific journals and 130 conference papers, with ~3000 citations (Google Scholar) and >2100 (Scopus). He is a member of Technical Chamber of Greece, CIGRE, IEEE (senior), ETIP SNET WG3, EERA JP in Energy Storage, and other international organizations.



Alexander Cooley

Professor of Political Science and Vice Provost for Research and Academic Centers, Barnard College, Columbia University

Alexander Cooley is a scholar of international relations whose research examines international order, global governance, and Eurasian geopolitics, with regional expertise in Central Asia and the Caucasus. He is the Claire Tow Professor of Political Science at Barnard College (on leave Spring 2026) and currently chairs the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Columbia Global Center Athens. He previously served as Director of Columbia's Harriman Institute for the Study of Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe (2015–2021) and as Barnard's Vice Provost for Research (2022–2025). He is the author or co-author of eight books, including Dictators without Borders (Yale 2017, with John Heathershaw), Exit from Hegemony (Oxford 2020, with Daniel Nexon), and Dictating the Agenda (Oxford 2025, with Alexander Dukalskis). His commentary appears regularly in Foreign Affairs, and he has testified before the United States Congress, the Parliament of Canada, and the UK Parliament. He holds an MA and PhD from Columbia University and is a Senior Nonresident Fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

Meet the Speakers



Anne-Sophie Corbeau

Global Research Scholar, Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University

Anne-Sophie Corbeau is a Global Research Scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy. She leads the Center's research on hydrogen and natural gas. Anne-Sophie has around 25 years of experience in the energy industry, and is a recognized expert on natural gas and hydrogen. She has authored many publications focusing on gas, LNG, hydrogen, Asia, China, India and Africa, including the book "LNG markets in transition: the great reconfiguration". She is also the co-chair of Gastech's governing body. Prior to joining the Center, Mrs. Corbeau was head of gas analysis at BP where she was responsible for advising the Leadership Team on gas market developments. She served as a member of BP France's Comex (board). She also worked at KAPSARC, the IEA and IHS CERA. She began her career as an engineer working on hydrogen. Anne-Sophie holds two MSc from the Ecole Centrale Paris and the University of Stuttgart.



Kostas Daniilidis

Founder & CEO, Survey Digital Photovoltaics

Dr. Kostis Daniilidis is the Founder and CEO of [Survey Digital Photovoltaics](#), a Greek renewable energy company active in the development, engineering, construction, operation and financing of photovoltaic and energy storage projects. He holds a Ph.D. in Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and has been active in the energy sector since 2006, with extensive experience in utility-scale solar projects, corporate PPAs, energy aggregation and ESCO models for industrial consumers. Under his leadership, Survey Digital Photovoltaics has evolved into one of the most dynamic renewable energy companies in Greece, providing innovative solutions and services for the rapidly evolving energy market, including aggregation services, ESCO projects and corporate PPAs. In 2025, Survey Digital Photovoltaics was selected to join the Allwyn Forward program powered by Endeavor Greece, recognizing the company's strong growth trajectory and contribution to the energy transition.

Meet the Speakers



Greeshma Gadikota

Lenfest Earth Institute Chair, Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering at Columbia University, and Director of the Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy

Prior to her appointment at Columbia University, she served on the faculty at Cornell University and the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She held postdoctoral research associate appointments at Princeton University and Columbia University, and a research associate appointment at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Her PhD in Chemical Engineering and MS degrees in Chemical Engineering and Operations Research are from Columbia University. Her BS in Chemical Engineering and Economics is from Michigan State University. She directs the Sustainable Energy and Resource Recovery Group. Her research is focused on: (i) advancing novel technologies for the co – recovery of sustainable energy carriers and energy critical and relevant metals and (ii) developing sustainable subsurface energy technologies. Her scientific contributions are recognized by the DOE, NSF and ARO CAREER Awards, Sigma Xi Young Investigator Award, Cornell Engineering Research Excellence Award, Inaugural Cornell Rising Women Innovator Award, AIChE Sabie Award for Young Professionals, and ACS Women’s Chemists Committee (WCC) Rising Star Award to list a few notable recognitions.



Andreas Gandolfo

Strategy and Analytics Manager, Pulse Clean Energy

Andreas Gandolfo is Strategy and Analytics Manager at Pulse Clean Energy – a developer, constructor, and operator of grid-scale battery energy storage systems – and a member of the leadership team. He brings over 10 years of experience in the energy sector, with a focus on electricity markets and renewable integration. He is responsible for developing the company's long-term and trading strategies, as well as originating, negotiating, executing, and monitoring the commercial contracts that underpin company revenues. Prior to Pulse Clean Energy, Andreas led the European Power Markets team at BloombergNEF. He holds a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Energy Systems from Columbia University and a Bachelor's degree in Economics and International Relations from Tufts University.

Meet the Speakers



Stefanos Gandolfo

Director, Columbia Global Center Athens

Stefanos Gandolfo has been the director of the Athens Columbia Global Center since June 2024. Previously he was employed at the Office of the Prime Minister of Greece where he worked as a special advisor to the Minister of State responsible for the government's policy on disabilities. Prior to that, he spent more than two years in the Ministry of Education in Greece where as chief of policy he spearheaded efforts to forge global partnerships with universities from around the world. He holds a BA in Economics and Philosophy from Yale University, an MA from Peking University in Chinese Philosophy (taught in Chinese), and PhD from the University of Oxford in East Asian Studies.



Despoina Garani

CEO, Hellenic Company for Just Development Transition S.A. (METAVASIS S.A.)

Mrs. Despina Garani, CEO at the Hellenic Company for Just Development Transition S.A. (METAVASI S.A.), was born in Athens and is a Mechanical Engineer MSc (NTUA). She has over thirty years (30) of professional experience, both in the private sector and in Public Administration. She has participated in the supervision and monitoring of the construction project of the Athens Metro and she was a senior executive in the operation of Athens Metro Lines 2 & 3 company (AMEL S.A.) She was involved in the development of operational and training procedures and in the development of organizational structures and staffing procedures. She has participated in the merging process of the former transport operators of the Athens-Piraeus Electric Railways (ISAP), the Attiko Metro Operation Company (AMEL), and Tram S.A and in the establishment of Urban Rail Transport S.A. (STASY SA) with the aim of saving resources by creating economies of scale and, as regards transports, enabling the complementarity of track-based modes of transport, so as to become the first choice of transport. She has held senior management positions in areas related to administrative and financial management, procurement and contract management as well as commercial exploitation to identify business opportunities in relation to the allocation of advertising space and real estate development. In recent years, she has been held the position of General Manager of Operations at Urban Rail Transport S.A. (STASY SA), with main responsibility the supporting the Company's strategy formulation and contribution to the determination of strategic goals and initiatives related to the operation.

Meet the Speakers



Panagiotis Grammelis

Director of Research, CERTH/CPERI

Dr. Panagiotis Grammelis is Director of Research at the Chemical Process and Energy Resources Institute of CERTH (CERTH/CPERI). He has 25 years of experience in energy production and environmental issues, specializing in the utilization of alternative fuels and low carbon energy technologies. He is leading the Laboratory of Environmental and Energy Transition Technologies and has been the scientific responsible in 178 research projects with a total budget of 64 million euros, funded by the European Commission, the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRI), Regional Authorities and international industries. He manages the erection and operation of the first H2 technology park in Ptolemais – Western Macedonia, funded by the Greek Just Transition Fund. He participates in the coordination committee of ETIP-Bioenergy, the Biomass Panel of the RHC-ETP Platform (Chairman) and the Committees of the GSRI for the Environment and Decarbonisation. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the international journals IJER, IJGW & Energies Journal / Fuels and the scientific committees of international conferences (GCGW, EUBCE, WSED). He is co-author in 438 papers in scientific journals, international conferences, workshops and books, with 5714 citations and h-Index 42 according to Scopus.



Richard Hartman

Chief Innovation Officer (CINO), Air Force Office of Energy Assurance (OEA), Air Force Civil Engineer Center

As Chief Innovation Officer within the US Air Force Office of Energy Assurance, Dr. Hartman is responsible for energy security initiatives for the Air and Space Force. As CINO, he identifies and develops strategies to deploy innovative solutions to enhance energy resilience worldwide with global partners in academia, industry, and government(s) through partnerships to get energy resilience projects approved, solicited, and/or built. He holds a Ph.D. in policy and management and has held adjunct faculty positions at George Washington University and Georgetown University and a board member to various public and private sector boards where he advises start-ups as well as established companies.

Meet the Speakers



Louis "Tripp" Hornick III

Principal, Quince Street Strategy

Tripp Hornick is the Principal of Quince Street Strategy, where he has built the firm's model around delivering measurable client success at the intersection of strategic advisory, operational execution, FP&A, and innovative financing through government grants and incentives. A cross-functional executive, Tripp is known for translating strategy into actionable execution and breaking down organizational silos to drive value creation.

A recognized government funding specialist, Tripp led Quince Street to a record-setting year in 2025, with clients securing more than \$1.4 billion in U.S. government funding and letters of intent to fund in national security supply chain sectors including critical minerals, energy, and defense applications. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and recipient of its Young Alumni Award, he holds a Master of Studies in Law from Fordham Law and has advised and briefed senior U.S. Executive Branch officials across multiple administrations.



Yianna Hormova

Governor, Greek Public Employment Service (DYPA)

Yianna Hormova is an administrative scientist and public policy expert, currently serving as Governor of the Greek PES (DYPA). She holds degrees in Archaeology and Art History from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, a Master's in Public Administration from the same institution, and a Master's in Museum Organization and Management from the University of Leicester, UK. Since 2010, she has held a series of senior positions in public administration, including Deputy Governor of DYPA (2022–2025) and Secretary General for Demographic and Family Policy and Gender Equality (2021–2022). Her expertise spans workforce development, vocational training, and policies supporting vulnerable social groups. She has also represented DYPA as Adviser for European PES Affairs in the European PES Network (2023–2025).

Meet the Speakers



Eleftherios Ioannidis

Mayor, Municipality of Kozani (2014-2019)

He served as Mayor of Kozani from 2014 to 2019. Since 2007, he has been an active member and, since June 2024, president of the Kozani Ecological Movement, and is actively involved in environmental and ecological issues. He ran for Parliament with the Ecologist Greens in 2007 and 2009, mayoral candidate for Kozani in 2010, and a candidate for the European Parliament with the KOSMOS party in 2024. As mayor, he was deeply involved in the Just Transition of Western Macedonia to the post-lignite era. Today, he is an elected member of the Kozani City Council. He holds a bachelor's degree from the Department of Cooperative Organizations and Farms at the Technological Educational Institute of Messolonghi and a master's degree (MBA in Management Information Systems) from the University of Western Macedonia. His thesis was titled: Comparative Evaluation of Just Transition Governance Systems Around the World and Comparison with Western Macedonia, and received a grade of A.



Panagiotis Karampinis

Managing Director of Endeavor Greece and Regional Managing Director, Europe

Panagiotis is the Managing Director of Endeavor Greece. He joined the organization in 2012 and played a pivotal role in shaping the network, supporting leading Greek entrepreneurs such as Workable, FrezyDerm, and Ergon. As Head of Endeavor's Global Food & Beverage Community, he developed collaborations with 80 founders across 30 countries. Since 2018, he has led Endeavor Greece, fostering innovation, collaboration, and Greek entrepreneurship on a global scale. In January 2026 he was also appointed Regional Managing Director for Europe.

Meet the Speakers



Phoebe Koundouri

Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business & University of Cambridge; Founder and Director AE4RIA Research Centers; Co-Chair, United Nations GSDR, President World Council of Environmental Economists; Chair SDSN Global Climate Hub; Co-Chair SDSN Europe

Phoebe Koundouri is a professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business and the University of Cambridge. She serves as President of the World Council of Environmental and Resource Economists Associations and is Co-Chair of the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report 2027. She is also Chair of the UN SDSN Global Climate Hub and Founder and Director of the AE4RIA research centers. Professor Koundouri has published 21 books and more than 800 papers, led over 100 large-scale research projects, and generated impact in more than 120 countries. Professor Koundouri is a renowned economist, highly cited and consistently ranked among the top scientists worldwide.



Alexandros Lagakos

Managing Director for Eastern European Region, Molgas

Alex is the Managing Director for Eastern European region within Molgas, the leading downstream LNG and clean fuels supplier in Europe, present in more than 17 European countries today. In the past, he has held positions within Blue Grid – now member of Molgas Energy Group (Managing Director), Thenamaris Ships Management (Freight Trader and Market Strategist), Shell Energy Europe (Senior Gas Analyst and Business Developer), Gazprom (Risk Analyst) and Mott MacDonald (Energy Economics Consultant). Alex is the founding president of the Greek Energy Forum and a member of the UN Gas Experts of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). He holds an MEng in Electrical Engineering (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and an MSc in Sustainable Energy Futures (Imperial College London).

Meet the Speakers



James Lyons

Chief Technologist, Capricorn Investment Group

Dr. James Lyons entered the venture capital business in 2008 after a 30-year technology career at General Electric. He currently provides technology assessment for the Capricorn Investment Group a leading deep-tech venture capital fund. Jim served the last decade of his GE career as Chief Engineer for Electrical Technologies at GE R&D leading a global technology team and establishing research centers in Bangalore, Shanghai, and Munich. Jim holds 40+ patents and a PhD in EE/CS from Cornell University. He also serves as advisor for multiple NSF/DOE initiatives and academic/industry committees. While Chief Engineer, Jim was the business and technical champion behind the formation of GE Wind Energy and principal company spokesperson for renewable energy. After fully integrating the wind business GE began a joint EV initiative with General Motors. Jim joined Capricorn in 2012 where he is now the lead technologist focusing on energy investments. He's led sector analyzes/investments in batteries, Li-Ion recycling, solid state lighting, solar, fusion power, 4G nuclear, electrified flight, and hydrogen.



Nikos Mantzaris

Lead Policy Analyst & co-Founder, The Green Tank

Nikos holds a Bachelor's Degree (Diploma) in Chemical Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens and a PhD in Chemical Engineering and Materials Science from the University of Minnesota (USA). After postdoctoral studies in Mathematics, he became an Assistant and then an Associate Professor with tenure at the Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering and Biomedical Engineering departments at Rice University (Houston, TX). After returning to Greece, he engaged in political ecology and then worked at WWF Greece as the leader of the climate and energy policy sector. In 2018 he co-founded the Green Tank, the first purely environmental think tank in Greece, which focuses on energy & climate policy, just transition, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development. He is a Member of the National Committee on Climate Change since 2020.

Meet the Speakers



Natasha Martsekis

EYDAP SA - BOD Member and Chair Audit Committee, Member of the Sustainability Committee

Natasha Martsekis chairs the Audit Committee for Athens Water Company - EYDAP, and is also a member of the Strategy and Sustainability Committee. She also sits on the Audit Committee of Fourlis Trade Estates, a company active in real estate in Greece and the Balkans. Previously she has held BOD positions at Helleniq Energy and Cepal Hellas. Profoundly interested in corporate governance, she is a Founding Member of The Non Executive Directors Club in Greece. She has a strong professional experience in dealing with the fund management industry, through her role as Head of Institutional Sales for Alpha Bank for 20 years, where she worked closely with the largest global funds and the Greek corporates. During an extensive international career, she has held senior finance positions in Citibank, Shell Oil and Lehman Brothers in Zurich, New York and London. She holds an MBA Degree in Finance from Columbia Business School in New York where she studied as a Fulbright Scholar. She is a volunteer for female empowerment projects in Greece and a member of the Scientific Committee of Womentors in Greece. She is a frequent speaker on topics regarding corporate governance, ESG, stakeholder engagement and female entrepreneurship and leadership.



Alexandra Mavrogonatou

Head of Directorate of Strategic Planning & Coordination of Funds

Ms Alexandra Mavrogonatou is a Spatial and Urban Planner and Regional Development expert with 19 years of professional experience in the implementation and management of Cohesion Policy Programmes in Greece. Since 2021, she has been actively involved in the formulation of the national Just Transition Strategy (Just Transition Development Plan) and its implementation in the areas affected by the country's energy transition. She has been serving at the Just Transition Special Authority since 2022, initially as Director of the Governor's Office and, since 2024, as Head of the Directorate of Strategic Planning. In this capacity, she contributes to the formulation and coordination of Just Transition policies in Greece, including the effective mobilisation and monitoring of all relevant financial instruments—both European and national—supporting the national strategy. The Just Transition Special Authority is also responsible for the management of the Just Transition Programme under the Partnership Agreement 2021–2027.

Meet the Speakers



Vasilis Nikitas

Economic Counsellor, European Commission, Directorate-General Economic and Financial Affairs (ECFIN)

Vasilis Nikitas joined the European Commission in 2018 as an economic analyst and is part of DG Economic and Financial Affairs' team that is based in Athens. He is part of the team monitoring the implementation of various energy-related reforms and investments as part of the Greek Recovery & Resilience Plan. Vasilis is also following developments in the Greek energy sector as part of the European Semester process. Vasilis is Greek-Swedish and holds a degree in business administration and finance from the University of Halmstad (Sweden) and a master's degree in European political economy from London School of Economics.



Alexandra Papalexopoulou

Executive Director, TITAN GROUP

Alexandra Papalexopoulou is an Executive Member of the Board of Directors of Titan S.A. and Chair of the Board Strategy Committee. Her career began as an analyst for the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and later as an associate at the consulting firm Booz, Allen & Hamilton in Paris in the early 1990s. Joining TITAN Group in 1992, she started out in international trading and business development, then headed Strategic Planning, before becoming Deputy Chair of the Group Executive Committee. Currently she is an independent, non-executive director of Aegean Group, General Secretary of Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) and in the past has served as an independent member of the board in various companies, including Coca-Cola HBC, National Bank of Greece and others. She is also a member of the Board and Treasurer of the Paul and Alexandra Canellopoulos Foundation and serves on the Board of Trustees of INSEAD Business School. She holds a BA in Economics from Swarthmore College, USA, and an MBA in Business Administration from INSEAD, France.

Meet the Speakers



Stavros Papastavrou

Minister, Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic

Stavros N. Papastavrou is Minister of Environment and Energy of Greece. He served as Minister of State from June 2023 to March 2024. He is an attorney-at-law, with postgraduate studies at Harvard Law School, Harvard University. He has worked for more than three decades as a legal advisor in the private sector, specializing in corporate law and capital markets, both in Washington D.C. and Athens. He was appointed as Head of the Prime Minister's Office of European Affairs and International Relations and served as chief negotiator of the Greek state with the European partners and the International Monetary Fund, in 2012-2015. He served as Secretary of International Relations and the European Union of New Democracy Party (2004-2012). He was elected Chairman of DEMYC (Democrat Youth Community of Europe, 1997-2001), he was a founding member of the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP) and a member of the Political Council of the European People's Party.



Michael Rowley

President, CEO, Director, Stillwater Critical Minerals Corp.

Michael is a mining industry executive with over 30 years of experience in the exploration, development, mineral testing, and mine environmental industries, including capital markets and operations. His primary role since 2017 has been CEO, President and Director of Stillwater Critical Minerals, which he co-founded in 2006. At Stillwater he led the acquisition and advancement of the Stillwater West project in Montana, USA which the company is advancing with a focus on American supply chains of critical minerals, including engaging Glencore as a strategic investor and technical partner. He is on the Board of Advisors for the Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy (LCSE) at Columbia University, holds several patents relating to novel environmental and waste treatment technologies based on mining industry techniques, and is active in other private and public mineral industry companies including as co-founder of the Metallic Group of Companies.

Meet the Speakers



Anastasis Stamatis

Co-founder & CEO, Dataphoria

Anastasis Stamatis is the co-founder and CEO of Dataphoria, an impact startup turning ESG into a growth engine for businesses and financial institutions. Starting his career as a UK civil engineer focused on climate resilience, Anastasis has advocated for environmental action since the age of 18. His leadership includes serving as an EU Climate Pact Ambassador, Curator for the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Athens Hub, and co-leading "Let's Do It Greece" to mobilize 1% of the nation for climate action.



Theodoros Theodoulidis

Rector, University of Western Macedonia (UOWM)

Professor Theodoros Theodoulidis is the Rector of the University of Western Macedonia, where he also serves as a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He holds a PhD (1997) and a Diploma (1992) in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. An internationally recognized expert in Non-Destructive Evaluation (NDE), his research focuses on the theoretical and experimental study of electromagnetic fields, particularly eddy current testing. He has authored over 100 scientific articles and is consistently ranked among the top 2% of scientists worldwide according to the Stanford University list. Throughout his career, he has been a visiting researcher at prestigious institutions, including Iowa State University (USA) and CEA Saclay (France). Under his leadership, the University has championed the "Green University" initiative, aiming to lead Western Macedonia through its post-lignite transition. Beyond his academic achievements, Professor Theodoulidis is a distinguished chess master, often integrating the strategic thinking of the game into his vision for academic excellence and innovation.

Meet the Speakers



Lefteris Topaloglou

Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering, Polytechnic School, University of Western Macedonia; Head of ENTRA Lab, Director, Institute of Energy Development & Transition to Post-Lignite Era

Lefteris Topaloglou is Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering, Polytechnic School, University of Western Macedonia, specializing in Energy Transition and Development Transformation Policies. He is Director of the Institute of Energy Development & Transition to the Post-Lignite Era (UCRI TEMENUS) and Head of the Laboratory of Energy Transition and Developmental Transformation (ENTRA Lab). He also serves as a Member of the European Commission's DG REGIO Academic Sounding Board for Cohesion for Transitions (C4T). His research focuses on just energy transition, spatial justice, place-based development, and governance aspects of energy transition. Since 2001, he has taught continuously in undergraduate and postgraduate programs. He has participated in more than 30 research projects funded mainly through European Commission programmes, including FP5, FP6, FP7, Horizon, INTERREG, ERASMUS+, and ESPON, often serving as scientific manager. His academic work includes co-edited books, chapters in collective volumes, journal articles, and numerous peer-reviewed conference publications.



Stella Tsani

Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Dr Stella Tsani is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, with expertise in energy and natural resource economics, sustainable development, and economic policy, applying systems-based and quantitative approaches to sustainability transitions. She is the 2025 EUSEW Women in Energy Award winner, recognized by the European Commission for her contributions to Europe's energy transition. She actively engages at the science-policy interface, contributing to major international processes such as IPBES, UNEP GEO-7, and UNESCO's 8th Science Report. She has also contributed to the work of the IPCC and international organizations such as the IEA. She is a member of international scientific networks, including the Global Young Academy and the Young Academy of Europe.

Meet the Speakers



Nikos Tsafos

Deputy Minister of Energy, Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic

Nikos Tsafos serves as Deputy Minister of Energy in the Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic, a role he assumed on March 15, 2025. He previously spent almost three years as the chief energy advisor to Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Mr. Tsafos has worked in energy since 2006, primarily in the United States, and is a widely recognized expert in market analysis, due diligence, and the intersection of energy and geopolitics. He spent over a decade as a consultant specialized in natural gas, working with major energy companies such as ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell, Total, Eni, and many others. He also spent around four years advising the Alaska State Legislature on the landmark Alaska LNG project. From 2016 to 2019, he was an adjunct lecturer at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Between 2018 and 2022, he worked at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, one of the world's premier think tanks. In 2021, he was appointed to the James Schlesinger Chair for Energy and Geopolitics, a position he held until returning to Greece in 2022. Mr. Tsafos has testified before the U.S. Senate on natural gas issues and the Canadian House of Commons on critical minerals. In 2021, he was selected for the Climate Advisory Committee of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, on which he served until his return to Greece. For several years, he has been one of approximately 100 peer reviewers for the World Energy Outlook, the most authoritative assessment of the global energy market, published annually by the International Energy Agency. He holds a B.A. in international relations and economics from Boston University and an M.A. in international relations from Johns Hopkins SAIS.