
Speakers



Elias Spirtounias
President
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

After graduating from the School of Mathematics, University of Athens, Elias Spirtounias completed his graduate studies at the School of Electrical Engineering (M.Sc. degree and pre-Ph.D. studies) at Boston University. During his residence in the United States, he participated as a Research Engineer in several research programs in cooperation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in fields of analog and digital electronics, circuits design and applications. He returned to Greece in 1992 and after completing his military service in 1994, he held the position of Technical Director for the subsidiary of the Italian company Citec SpA, a company specialized in the design, production and application of voice and image processing systems.. From 1997-February 2009, he worked for the Foundation of the Hellenic World, a major Greek private non-profit cultural organization, starting as a Construction Supervisor and continuing as a Managing Director of the brand new then Cultural Center, Hellenic Cosmos, an innovative, based on new technologies, theme park. During his tenure, he contributed significantly to the expansion, development, and operation of the Center and its establishment as one of the most known technology-driven theme parks in Greece and abroad. From March 2009, he holds the position of Executive Director of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Along with his colleagues and in cooperation with the Board have managed, in the midst of the economic crisis, to increase significantly the number of activities, undertake important initiatives, retain in high level memberships, foster advocacy, expand further the presence of the Chamber in the US and contribute to the evolution of the Chamber into one of the leading dynamic and reliable business organization in Greece.



Nikolaos Bakatselos
President
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the President & CEO of Pyramis Metallourgia A.E. and Pyramis Deutschland GmbH. He was a member of the Board of Directors and Deputy Managing Director of Northern Greece Publishing S.A. He has held the position of Managing Director of Imperium AEX and a Member of the Board of Directors of Egnatia Bank Securities S.A. He was a member

of the Board of Directors of Attica Bank from February 2014 until June 2016. He was a member of the Steering Committee of the International Hellenic University from 2006 until January 2014 and Member of the Board and President of the Northern Greece Committee of EEDE. He is a Member of the Committee Support CERTH, Trustee of Anatolia College, Member of the Board and Member of the Steering Committee of SVE and Honorary Consul of Belgium of Northern Greece. After being a Member of the Board of Directors of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce for several years, in June 2010 he was elected Vice President of AmCham Greece and President of the Northern Greece Committee and since June 2019 he is the President of AmCham Greece. In October 2019 he was elected President of HEDNO by the General Assembly of HEDNO. He holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Reading and a MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University Business School.



Pakis Papademetriou
Manager, Corporate Quality
Athens International Airport

Pakis Papademetriou has been serving Quality and Sustainability since 1994. He received a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Master's degree in Industrial Engineering, both from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is certified in Business Sustainability Management from the University of Cambridge (CISL). Since he joined Athens International Airport in 1999, he has been engaged in the development and application of diverse management systems focusing on quality, sustainability, and corporate administration. Currently, he holds the position of Manager, Corporate Quality reporting to the CFO. He is Chair of the Corporate Responsibility Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and member of the Steering Committee of the UN Global Compact Network Hellas.



Markus Hipp
Member of the Board
BMW Foundation

Markus Hipp studied philosophy and Catholic theology in Munich. Upon graduation, he spent two years as a lecturer in German and philosophy at the Czech Universities of Budweis and Brno, before taking up positions in the marketing and publishing industry in Munich and in Augsburg. In 1998, he joined the Robert Bosch Foundation in Stuttgart as Assistant to the Executive Director. In 2000, he became the Foundation's Deputy Chief Executive for Central and Eastern Europe,

before being appointed to establish the Berlin office of the Robert Bosch Foundation in 2002, which he directed until August 2006. Since then, he has been Board Member of the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt. The married father of four is the Supervisory Board Member of the Museum of Tomorrow International and Advisory Board Member of betterplace.org and the Quadriga University in Berlin. Moreover, he lectures at the European Business School and is founder of MitOst e.V., an association for language and cultural exchange in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe.



Virginie Helias
Chief Sustainability Officer
Procter & Gamble

With more than thirty years in brand management and innovation, Virginie Helias has broad experience across multiple categories which has built her skills in global to local

brand management. She has worked on several of P&G's multi-billion dollar brands, including: Pantene, Ariel/Tide and Pampers. She has extensive international experience, having been based in France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and the United States. Today, Virginie serves as P&G's Chief Sustainability Officer where her mission is to develop the company's strategies and goals on sustainability and operationalize them across businesses and regions. Previous positions held at P&G include: Vice President, Global Sustainability, 2016, Global Sustainability Brand Director, 2012, Sustainability and Digital Director, Household Care, Europe, 2011, Marketing Director, Western Europe Ariel Franchise Innovation, 2005, Marketing Director, Fabric Care, France/Benelux, 2003, Marketing Director, Feminine Care, Western Europe, 2001, Marketing Director, Global Strategic Planning, Laundry, 1997, Marketing Manager, Broadening Assignment, Sales Organization, 1996, Marketing Manager-Hair Care Portfolio, France, 1994, Brand Manager, Health and Beauty Care, Pantene, Europe, 1992, Brand Manager, Camay, Vidal Sassoon, and Biactol, France, 1990, Assistant Brand Manager, Ariel, Pampers, France, 1988. She graduated from Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales, Paris in 1988. She is a Non-Executive Board Member and Chair, Sustainability Committee, Verallia. She serves as Advisory Board Member for the Sustainable Brands Organization and at the HEC Business School – Sustainability Master Class.



Louise Kjellerup Roper
CEO
Volans

Louise Kjellerup Roper is the CEO of Volans, an experienced leader and passionate advocate for business as instrumental in driving positive change. Since joining Volans with a brief to 'shake it up' and exponentially increase its impact, Volans has reshaped to form a constellation of the best associates and partner organizations focused on systems and market shifts and business transformation. Volans runs the successful Tomorrow's Capitalism Inquiry, supported by Aviva Investors, Unilever, Covestro, Ecovadis, The Body Shop and Scottish Environment Protection Agency. This year Volans launched the Green Swans Observatory and the Bankers For NetZero Initiative, while continuing to advise a select group of leading businesses in their transformation journeys, including Acciona, Neste and Novartis. Louise has always worked at the bleeding edge of innovation. She started her career in the tech industry with leaders such as Cisco, Logitech, IBM, and Check Point Software Technologies. Since then she has been successfully launching, running, and advising cradle-to-cradle and circular economy brands across Europe. She launched the Method brand into Europe, and was European Managing Director at gDiapers, the first cradle-to-cradle certified FMCG product, amongst other ground-breaking initiatives. Other roles include representing niche brands as 'Emerging Innovator' members of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's CE100 network, working on accelerating the circular economy with other innovators including Nike, HP, H&M, Veolia, WRAP. Louise is a firm believer in the need to support the next generation, and lectures at Cranfield University's Centre for Design, Innovation and Sustainability and at Exeter Business School, where she is on the Industrial Advisory Board. She is also on the Advisory board of the Global CO2 Initiative and The Good Growth Company. Louise is Danish, lives in London and has a degree from Oxford University in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. When she is not passionately advocating for business as a powerful force for good, she can be found throwing a ball for Volans' Chief Happiness Officer, Flossie.



Dimitrios Dimopoulos
Director, Sustainability Unit
Piraeus Bank

Dimitrios Dimopoulos received his bachelor degree in biology and his PhD from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Since 1989, he has been involved in nature conservation and sustainable development working for ARCHELON, an environmental organization, currently serving on its

Board. In 2006, he joined Piraeus Bank to work in the environment department and coordinate EU co-funded projects. Today he is the Director of the Sustainability Unit. He represents the Bank at UNEP FI, where he is currently serving on the Banking Board. He was involved in creating the Principles for Responsible Banking as member of a UNEP FI core group. He also participates in the EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform, a forum for dialogue and policy interface to discuss the links between business and biodiversity, as well as in the IUCN Incubation for Nature Conservation project to explore ideas for financing protected areas.



Maya Hennerkes
ESG Sector Lead for Financial Intermediaries
EBRD

Maya Hennerkes leads the ESG work of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) with

financial institutions and private equity funds. She promotes the integration of environmental and social risks and opportunities including climate change in investment decisions and investment management. Maya designs and supervises environmental and social risk management and safeguard frameworks for a portfolio of EUR 3.3bn new approvals per year. She also runs EBRD's ESG training program for financial institutions and private equity funds. Maya is a sustainable finance expert with over 15 years of experience, with previous positions at the Inter-American Development Bank Group in Washington DC and Bloomberg L.P. in London. She is a member of the Club of Rome's Think Tank 30 and serves on the Advisory Board of SustainableFinance.Live. She studied economics, political science and Latin America studies in Germany and Spain and holds an Executive Masters in Public Management from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany.



Courtney Lowrance
Managing Director,
Sustainable Banking and
Corporate Transactions
Citi

Courtney Lowrance leads Citi's Sustainable Banking and Corporate Transitions team for Europe, Middle East, and

Africa. The team provides in-house environmental and social expertise for clients and supports the bank in sustainable finance and product innovation. She has 20 years of experience in sustainable finance, including a previous role as the global head of Citi's Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) group. In this capacity, she served as a technical resource for clients in

improving their environmental and social management systems. Recently, Courtney spent two years in Beijing as the Principal Environment Specialist for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). In this capacity, she oversaw AIIB's ESG strategy and helped develop the Bank's first ESG enhanced fixed income fund focused on emerging markets in Asia.



Achilles Hekimoglou
Corporate Communications
& Media Relations
Professional
Vodafone

Achilles Hekimoglou was born in Thessaloniki in 1979. He studied journalism and carries

15 years of professional experience in media – mainly covering the transportation and telecommunications sectors. In 2016 he joined Vodafone Greece as a corporate communications and media relations professional. He is a father of a daughter.



Yiannis Kantoros
CEO
Interamerican Group

Yiannis Kantoros, CEO of INTERAMERICAN Group of Companies was born in Athens in 1966. He has graduated with a bachelor degree in chemical engineering from the National

Technical University of Athens and afterwards he accomplished his MBA studies at the Cardiff Business School. After his academic studies, he started his professional career as Sales Management Executive in multinational companies, such as Bausch & Lomb and Rhone Poulenc Hellas. In the insurance sector, he entered 17 years ago, when he took charge as Marketing Manager and afterwards as Marketing and Sales General Manager by INTERAMERICAN Group of Companies in 2000. In April of 2015, he was appointed in the position Chief Operations Officer of INTERAMERICAN. He executed his duties until November of 2016, when he was promoted as CEO. At the same time, he participates in the Board of Directors of the following insurance companies: INTERAMERICAN Life Insurance Company S.A., INTERAMERICAN Property & Casualty Insurance Company S.A., INTERAMERICAN Road Assistance S.A. & Athinaiki Clinic S.A. Furthermore, he is also selected as member of Management Committee of Auxiliary Fund Insurance of Liability Arising out of Motor Accidents. In the context of his professional education, he has participated in the Executive Management Program at the Ashridge Business School, as well as the Achmea Senior Leaders Program at the Bled School of Management.



Ulrich Schwoerer
General Manager
Roche Diagnostics Hellas

Dr. Ulrich Schwoerer is passionate about catalyzing transformation through expansion of consciousness, a curious participant of science, arts and humanist psychology and an evolving leader, coach, and change agent. Since 2017 he is the General Manager of Roche Diagnostics Hellas in Athens, Greece. From 2011-2017 he was Senior Leader EMEA/LATAM for Roche Diagnostics in Rotkreuz, Switzerland. From 2008-2011 he served as Head of Global Marketing and International Business Leader at Roche 454 Life Sciences in Branford, Connecticut. From 2002-2007 he was Head of Consulting Solutions of Roche Diagnostics in Mannheim, Germany. He served as Manager of UGW Consulting in Wiesbaden, Germany from 2000-2002. He received his PhD in 2001 in Biology from University of Bayreuth.



Melissa Luongo
HR Director, CEE Multi-Country
Microsoft

Melissa Luongo is a HR Director in Microsoft, leading the CEE Multi-Country region which is comprised of 24 diverse countries. Melissa holds a Master's degree in industrial Relations and Human Resources (MIRHR) from the University of Toronto and a Honours Bachelor Degree in Industrial Relations and History from York University. She is Canadian and has been living and working in Milan, Italy for over 8 years. Melissa started her career as a graduate hire and her career/experience within Microsoft has been truly global spanning from Canada, Italy, EMEA, Chief of Staff for the global HR CVP to her most recent role within CEE. As the HR Director in CEE Multi-Country, Melissa is responsible for driving the HR strategy and geographical HR model for the organization, working across 24 countries (800+ employees). Melissa thrives on the diversity and complexity that comes with global roles and different geographies and is particularly passionate about implementing consistent employee experiences, building capability in managers, and attracting and developing talent with a strong focus on diversity.



Anna Mamalaki
Organizational
Transformation & HR
Consulting Director
The Human Aspect

Anna Mamalaki is an Organizational Transformation and HR Consulting Director, at BizHuman Aspect in the San Francisco Bay Area and Member of the Board of the National HR Association in the Silicon Valley Affiliate. She has multicultural management experience of 20+ years in global corporate & consulting roles of different of large global corporations of different industries & diverse geographies in four continents. She is included in the Top Women B2B Thought Leaders to follow in 2020 of Thinkers360 list and in the Global Top Ten of HR and Change Thought and Influence leaders. She is broadly experienced in translating the strategic business goals into organizational capabilities and drives organizational transitions of the people-related processes, systems and organizational design within companies.



George Kalamitsis
Chair
Prometheus - Hellenic Liver
Patients Association

George Kalamitsis is a founding member and Chair of the Hellenic Liver Patients Association "Prometheus" since 2012 and a founding member of Greek Patients Association. He is also President of Liver Patients International (LPI). He is engaged in Health Policy, specialized in the public health sector. His work is related to providing support to people living with Viral Hepatitis, advocating for their rights, and providing evidence-based policy actions. Recently, he was assigned as Member of the Central Board of Health (2019) and as President of the Committee Protecting the Rights of Recipients of Health Services (Greek Ministry of Health 2017). He has been working extensively with multiple stakeholders, focusing on patients' rights as well as building communication channels with organizations and stakeholders, on a national and international level.



Dimitris Kontopidis
Co-Founder & General
Director
Humane

Dimitris Kontopidis, 38, is a graduate of the Graphics Department of the Technological Educational

Institute, and a senior in the School of Architecture of the National Technical University of Athens, with a specialization in social entrepreneurship. During the last 10 years, he's been actively involved with the Civil Society and especially in the development of healthcare policy regarding chronic diseases as a patient advocate, while at the same time as a social entrepreneur aims at empowering people with disabilities. As a Vice President, President of the Hellenic Cystic Fibrosis Association and General Director of it since 2012, he has achieved to shift the map of the disease in Greece, through a successful strategy making in patient advocacy. In 2019, he was honored with the "Patient Advocate of the Year Award 2019" from the European Cystic Fibrosis Society (ECFS), as a European recognition of his contribution to Cystic Fibrosis. Today, he is the Honorary President of the Hellenic CF Association, Board Member of the European Cystic Fibrosis Association and Vice President of the Greek Patient Association. In 2016 he founded the social enterprise that aims to empower people with disabilities "Humane", that combines design, social marketing, and new technologies. Humane provides innovative solutions for the health, care, and social integration of vulnerable groups through the activation of society, achieving national and international recognitions from the initial year of operation. Apart from his activity through the Humane network, he is participating as an evaluator, mentor, and board member of competitions within the wider ecosystem of social enterprises, startups and various social projects.



Kostapanos Miliarexis
Co-Founder
Ethelon

Kostapanos Miliarexis is enthusiastic and multipotentialite, characterized by his passion for innovative ideas, social impact, and entrepreneurship. He is co-Founder of Ethelon, an

organization promoting volunteering in the Greek society and creating the adequate framework for cooperation between volunteers, NGOs and companies, aiming for a more active and equal society. Through his work, he has collaborated with top Fortune 500 companies, received international recognition from the Ashoka Foundation as a Changemaker, spoke in TEDx events, featured in the Forbes 30 Under 30 list, in the category of Social Entrepreneurs, received a Fellowship from the United States Department of State, and has been chosen from

Adecco Group in the Top Entrepreneurs List of Central, Eastern Europe. He has traveled to 47 countries and been part of initiatives in the 11 of them. Currently, he is pursuing his MBA degree focused in Social Innovation at Gabelli Business School of Fordham University in New York, answering his calling to move from linear to exponential, while empowering the corporate global philanthropy and employee giving back initiatives of AbbVie in North Chicago.



Maria Vasli
Marketing & Communications
Lead
Covid-19 Response Greece

Maria Vasli is a law graduate with a Master in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Macedonia. After

participating in various projects in the startup ecosystem, she is currently working as a freelancer Marketer. During the Covid-19 outburst she joined the "COVID 19 Response Greece" volunteer initiative as a member of the Administrative Committee, responsible for the Marketing & Communications team.



Sofia Mavrantza
Journalist
CNN Greece

Sofia Mavrantza is a journalist, specializing in Business. Her work has appeared in several Greek publications, online as well as offline (newspapers and

magazines). She has 13 years' experience in writing and conducting interviews on a variety of topics. She has been working for CNN Greece since 2015, writing articles on finance, tourism, and investments. As a multimedia journalist she is eager to tell stories in a way that captivates audiences of varied backgrounds while also shedding light on important current issues. She lives in Athens. When she is not writing, Sofia enjoys spending time with her dog.



Chrysoula Diakatou
Public Affairs &
Communications Strategist

Chrysoula Diakatou is a multidisciplinary professional with more than 16 years of diverse experience in the field of Public Affairs and

Communications. She has worked in politics and business, with national & international organizations across industries, holding company and consulting roles both at the agency and the corporate side. She is a sustainability enthusiast and an advocate for purpose-driven business

with deep knowledge in the field of corporate citizenship and employee engagement. Chrysoula is a member of the Corporate Responsibility Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce since 2016. She holds an MA in International Law and Diplomatic Studies from Panteion University and a BA in Politics and International Relations from the University of Kent.



Manos Iatrelis
Senior Account Manager
V+O Communications

Manos Iatrelis is a member of the Corporate Responsibility Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce since 2018. He has extensive experience in Corporate Communications and Corporate Responsibility specializing in sustainability capabilities management, reputation management and public affairs. Prior joining V+O Communications, Manos was a Manager in Athenian Brewery responsible for Corporate Responsibility and a contributor in various Industry Associations.



Alexia Macheras
Corporate Communication &
Sustainable Retail Manager
AB Vassilopoulos

Alexia Macheras has been working at AB Vassilopoulos as Corporate Communication and Sustainable Retail Manager for the past 15 years. In charge of the company's Sustainability Strategy, she also coordinates External and Internal Corporate Communication activities at local and group level. Previously to that, she worked for ten years in advertising agencies such as Publicis, UpSet! and Lowe Athens, on accounts such as L'oreal, Vodafone, Dixons and Unilever. She has studied Law at the University Paris II-Assas and has a BA in International Relations from the American University of Paris.
