



24<sup>TH</sup> EXCLUSIVE ROUNDTABLE  
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE

**Europe:**

**Reinforcing cohesion in turbulent times**

September 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 • Grand Resort Hotel, Lagonissi, Athens



**hazlis & rivás**

The Economist Events for Greece,  
Cyprus, Malta and southeast Europe

*Programme*

## Preliminary programme

DAY 1- September 15th, 2020

08:30	Registration
09:00	<p><b>THE ECONOMIST'S FORECAST</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Was our world ready to deal with the pandemic crisis?</li><li>• Lessons to be learnt from the management of Covid-19</li><li>• What is the pandemic's impact on the global and European economy?</li><li>• USA-China-EU-Russia: the balance of power in the coronavirus shadow</li></ul> <p>Daniel Franklin, executive and diplomatic editor, <i>The Economist</i> Joan Hoey, regional director, Europe, The Economist Intelligence Unit</p>
09:15	<p>Official opening</p> <p><b>EUROPE: SHAPING A NEW COHESION STRATEGY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will the EU manage to face the challenges related to the pandemic?</li><li>• Transatlantic relations in view of the US presidential elections</li><li>• Social inclusion and migration challenges</li><li>• Europe in an uncomfortable world</li><li>• Brexit: into uncharted waters</li></ul> <p>François Hollande, former president of France Sigmar Gabriel, former vice chancellor of Germany</p>
09:40	Discussion
10:00	Short break
10:15	<p><b>THE GREEK ECONOMY: THE AFTERMATH OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The government's plans: When is growth expected to regain momentum?</li><li>• Recovery: step by step</li><li>• The government's view Christos Staikouras, minister of finance, Greece</li><li>• Europe's view Klaus Regling, managing director of ESM Fabio Panetta, member of the executive board, European Central Bank (video taped message)</li><li>• The banking perspective Pavlos Mylonas, CEO, NBG Group</li><li>• Relieving SMEs: Can the backbone of the economy be saved? An international perspective Shamina Singh, founder &amp; president, Centre for inclusive growth, and executive vice-president, sustainability, Mastercard (via connection)</li></ul>
10:50	Discussion
11:30	Coffee break

12:00

**WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO RESTORE OPTIMISM IN THE FINANCIAL MARKETS?**

- **Rebooting the European financial system**
- **Financing growth: Public and private strategies and their drawbacks**

- **Boosting Greece through the EU's Covid-19 recovery funding**

**Theodoros Skylakakis**, alternate minister of finance, Greece

**Tuomas Saarenheimo**, president, Eurogroup Working Group (via connection)

**Declan Costello**, deputy director-general, Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN), European Commission (via connection)

**Francesco Drudi**, country co-ordinator for Greece, European Central Bank (via connection)

**George Pagoulatos**, director general, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) and professor of European politics and economy, Athens University of Economics and Business

Moderator: **John Papageorgiou**, EU affairs reporter, Athens Municipal Radio, head, *Athens Digest*

12:35

Discussion

13:00

**GREECE AND THE FINANCIAL MARKETS**

- **The Greek state's loans following the coronavirus crisis**
- **QE and fiscal "cushion" versus high public debt**
- **Advantages and disadvantages for the Greek public debt**

**Paolo Fioretti**, mission chief for Greece, European Stability Mechanism (ESM) (via connection)

**Julia Lendvai**, mission chief for Greece, European Commission (via connection)

**Michael Arghyrou**, chairman, Council of Economic Advisers, Greece

**George Chouliarakis**, senior fellow, Harvard Kennedy School, and former alternate minister of finance, Greece

13:30

Discussion

14:00

Networking luncheon

15:30

**THE KEY ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES**

- **Crisis management in the health-care sector: dealing with Covid-19**
- **Public-private partnerships in the health-care sector**

**Vassilis Kikilias**, minister of health, Greece

**Andrzej Rys**, director for public health and risk assessment, Directorate-General for Health and Consumers, European Commission (via connection)

**Adrian van den Hoven**, director general, Medicines for Europe

**Elias Mossialos**, Brian Abel-Smith professor of health policy, head, Department of Health Policy and director, LSE Health (via connection)

**Theodore Tryfon**, president, Panhellenic Union of Pharmaceutical Industries (PEF)

Moderator: **Nikos Vettas**, director-general, Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE)

16:00

Discussion

16:30

Short break

16:45

**CHALLENGES IN THE CYBERSPHERE**

- **What are the EU's priorities for the new digital decade?**
- **How is public administration dealing with digital threats?**
- **The prospects of the 5G technology: Will the great-power tech rivalry escalate?**
- **Big tech companies: A threat for democracy?**
- **Is Greece catching up?**

**Kyriakos Pierrakakis**, minister of digital governance, Greece

**Taavi Rõivas**, former prime minister of Estonia

**Baiba Braže**, assistant secretary-general for public diplomacy, NATO (via connection)

In dialogue with business

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

**Nikos Babalis**, chief information services & transformation officer, WIND Hellas

17:05

Discussion

17:30

Short break

17:45

**YOUNG GREEK ENTREPRENEURS IN 2020**

- **Facing the challenges of digital revolution and climate change**

Roundtable discussion

**Athina Lorentziadi**, president of "Saveat", Athens College, 1<sup>st</sup> prize for "Best Students' Virtual Enterprise 2019"

**Panagiotis Hanios**, public-relations manager, virtual students' enterprise "Trito Biolife", 3<sup>rd</sup> General High School of Livadia

18:00

Discussion

18:10

**TRUTHS AND MYTHS ABOUT FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

- **Which factors define women's leadership strategy?**
- **Do companies run by women perform better?**
- **Overcoming obstacles: family obligations, funding, training, support networks**

Roundtable discussion

**Sophia Kounenaki-Efraimoglou**, president, National Chamber of the Network of Greek Women Entrepreneurs and head, Cultural Center "HELLENIC COSMOS"

**Theodosia Tantarou-Kringou**, chair, Research Center for Gender Equality (KETHI), Greece

**Anna Koukides-Procopiou**, president, AIPFE Cyprus-Women of Europe, Cyprus, gender-equality expert

18:25

Discussion

18:45

End of first day's conference sessions

19:00

Cocktail reception – Jazz quartet

20:00

Opening dinner

Welcome remarks:

**Francois Hollande**, former president of France

*The Economist* in dialogue with:

**Alexis Tsipras**, leader of the main opposition and former prime minister, Greece

DAY 2- September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

08:30

Arrival of delegates

09:00

**THE WESTERN BALKANS BEYOND 2020**

- **EU enlargement and next steps**
- **Reforms to be implemented**
- **Enhancing trade and investment**
- **Which countries are the key players?**

Edi Rama, prime minister of Albania

Zoran Zaev, prime minister of North Macedonia

\* Boyko Borisov, prime minister of Bulgaria (awaiting confirmation)

Dora Bakoyannis, member of the Hellenic Parliament, New Democracy, former Greek foreign minister

George Katrougkalos, former minister of foreign affairs, Greece

09:30

Discussion

10:00

Short break

10:15

**FOREIGN-POLICY CHALLENGES IN THE REGION:  
UNTYING THE GORDIAN KNOT?**

- **Tensions in the eastern Mediterranean: Is diplomacy working?**
- **Evaluating the declaration of an EEZ in the Mediterranean**
- **The EU's role in disengaging the refugee issue from geopolitical objectives**

Nikos Dendias, minister of foreign affairs, Greece

Nikos Christodoulides, minister of foreign affairs, Cyprus (via connection)

Sameh Shoukry, minister of foreign affairs, Egypt

10:35

Discussion

11:05

**SECURITY CHALLENGES: EASING THE TENSIONS**

- **Migration flows, epidemics, geopolitical uncertainty: how are do they affect security?**

Nikos Panayiotopoulos, minister of national defence, Greece

Charalampos Petridis, minister of defence, Cyprus (via connection)

Geoffrey Pyatt, US Ambassador to Greece

Commentator: Antonis Metaxas, managing partner, Metaxas and Associates law firm

11:30

Discussion

12:00

Coffee break

12:30

**UNVEILING GREECE'S ENERGY POTENTIAL**

Kostis Hatzidakis, minister of environment and energy, Greece

\* Yuval Steinitz, minister of national infrastructure, energy and water resources, Israel

In dialogue with business

Nicola Battilana, chief executive officer, Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator (DESFA)

Orestis Omran, partner and head of EU-Greek practice, DLA Piper

\*Konstantinos Xifaras, CEO, DEPA

12:50

Discussion

13:10

**THE EU'S NEW GREEN DEAL AND GREECE'S NATIONAL STRATEGY**

- **Accelerating the energy transition**
- **Energy-markets liberalisation: achievements and drawbacks**
- **Renewable energy: new technologies, new projects**

Alexandra Sdoukou, secretary-general for energy & mineral resources, Ministry for the Environment and Energy, Greece

Athanasios Dagoumas, president, Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE)

Manos Manousakis, chairman & chief executive officer, Independent Power Transmission Operator (ADMIE)

Notis Sardelas, managing partner, Sardelas Petsa Law Firm

13:30

Discussion

14:00

Networking luncheon

15:30

**GREECE'S BUSINESS AGENDA**

- **Large-scale investment projects: the Hellenikon project in motion**
- **The need for a new growth model: lessons from the pandemic crisis**
- **Investment policy tools**

Adonis Georgiades, minister for development and investments, Greece

Anastassios Kallitsantsis, managing director, ELLAKTOR Group

15:45

Discussion

16:00

**GREECE'S INVESTMENT AGENDA**

- **Rebooting the economy through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**
- **Investment migration: a positive economic factor for Greece?**
- **The international investors' perspective**

Nikos Papathanassis, alternate minister of development & investments, Greece

Christian H. Kälin, chairman, Henley & Partners

Demetri Argyropoulos, founder & CEO, Avant Global

16:15

Discussion

16:35

Short break

16:50

**INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Improving the country's networks
- Port development: establishing Greece as a hub
- Road and rail connections in the region
- The Western Balkans corridor and its significance
- What is the country's strategy for physical disasters?

**Kostas Karamanlis**, minister of infrastructure and transport, Greece

**Alexandros Exarchou**, managing director, AKTOR

**Gallina Andronova Vincelette**, director for the European Union countries, World Bank Group (via connection)

17:00

Discussion

17:00

End of conference sessions

19:00

Cocktail reception – Jazz quartet

20:00

Closing dinner

*The Economist* in dialogue with:

**Kyriakos Mitsotakis**, prime minister of Greece (via live connection)

20:30

Dinner to be served

21:00

**CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

*The Economist* in dialogue with:

**Matteo Renzi**, former prime minister of Italy (physical presence)

**Wess Mitchell**, former US assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs (via connection)

\* **Awaiting confirmation**

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