



This issue of the magazine is quite different from the others before it. The loss of our beloved long-standing friend and associate Raymond Matera has shocked all of us in the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce family.

As most of you—the readers—know, Raymond was the editor of the Chamber's Business Partners magazine for many years, and he contributed enormously to its development and wide recognition as one of the top business magazines in Greece today. The Chamber deeply acknowledges what Raymond has offered not only to Business Partners magazine but also to other publications, projects and activities as well. The Chamber will honor Raymond Matera through several initiatives that we will announce and launch in the near future. As a start, this issue hosts a special feature for Raymond Matera with quotes from some of the people he had worked and collaborated with.

But without further words, as Raymond certainly would have wanted, we must continue forward.

In the past two months, our Chamber organized a large number of events and activities related to many important issues in the economy and the business environment: corporate governance, intellectual property rights, rule of law, defense and security. Without underestimating the importance of any of these events, the foremost among them was the Greek Investment Road Show in the USA, organized by the Chamber and the Athens Stock Exchange in cooperation with Enterprise Greece. A delegation of Greek businesses led by the Greek Minister of Economy and Development and the US Ambassador had the opportunity to meet with several prominent US business associations, company representatives and administration officials. Our goals—to highlight Greece's potential, present investment and business opportunities and further foster economic and trade relations between the US and Greece—were successfully accomplished, and we have set the framework for other missions to follow. A framework in which both the state and the private sector, complementing each other and working as one front, present and promote the country as it should and always ought to be done.

The main theme of this issue is education. The Chamber considers education as a fundamental pillar for the sustainable future of our country and the turnaround of the Greek economy. The implementation of a strategic plan for education, taking into account global modern trends and future demands as well as the country's special advantages, is a must. No country can achieve sustainable growth and a secure, friendly environment for its citizens without a serious and modern educational infrastructure.

In closing, on behalf of the Chamber, I would like to wish all of you a joyful and restful summer vacation.

ELIAS SPIRTOUNIAS
Executive Director

THE AMERICAN-HELLENIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A DYNAMIC, PROACTIVE CHAMBER

The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce was established in 1932 and is one of the largest, most active, and dynamic American Chambers in Europe. Virtually all American companies that do business in Greece and Greek companies that engage in trade with the United States are members of the Chamber.

The Chamber's membership is comprised of more than 1,000 proactive companies that seek to expand business horizons, create new business partnerships, and take advantage of trade and investment opportunities in today's global economy.

The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce is an active mem-

ber of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington D.C. and the European Council of American Chambers of Commerce (ECACC).

MISSION STATEMENT

The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce strives for continuous improvement of American-Hellenic commercial and financial relations, through increased membership and through the organization of top-quality events, exhibitions, fora, seminars, and congresses on both sides of the Atlantic.