

...in the news

AB VASSILOPOULOS IN THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS AWARDS



AB Vassilopoulos is a contender in the 2017/18 European Business Awards (EBA), in the Social Responsibility and Environmental Awareness award category, thanks to its “Love Food” CSR initiative through which it donates food to NGOs and local institutions throughout Greece. The company is also featured in EBA’s “Ones to Watch” list, which recognizes businesses that have demonstrated exceptional achievement and reflect the program’s core values of innovation, success, and ethics.

METADRASI NAMED NGO OF THE YEAR

METAdrasi was honored with the NGO of the Year award, in the ‘Society’ category, at the Hellenic Responsible Business Awards 2018, held on February 15, 2018, at the Hellenic Motor Museum in Athens. Candidates in this category were evaluated based on their innovative contribution to society, the impact of their work, their long-term commitment and their efficacy. Founded in 2010, METAdrasi is a Greek NGO that helps facilitate the reception and integration of refugees and immigrants in Greece, primarily through interpretation services and the protection of unaccompanied children. The award was received by Markos Komondouros, member of the Board of Directors, who stated that “It is very touching for us to see our daily efforts all over Greece recognized.” Noting that social responsibility is a matter that concerns all of us, METAdrasi President Laura Pappas, stated: “Every instance of recognition and support of our work helps us do even more.”

CARDIFF METROPOLITAN VISITS PERROTIS COLLEGE

A group of postgraduate students from Cardiff Metropolitan University in Wales spent a week at Perrotis College at the American Farm School in Thessaloniki. The 38 students, who traveled to Greece accompanied by Cardiff Business School Dean Dr. Mukul Madahar, attended lectures and presentations by leading businesspeople as well as Perrotis College academic staff, visited industrial units and business premises, and enjoyed a tour of Thessaloniki and other key locations in Central Macedonia. Perrotis College offers undergraduate and postgraduate programs in agrifood that are accredited by Cardiff Metropolitan University.

EUROBANK ERGASIAS NXD APPOINTED TO BOARD OF CRH



RICHIE BOUCHER

Former Bank of Ireland boss **Richie Boucher** has been appointed to the board of FTSE100 company **CRH plc** as a non-executive director. Boucher, who is also a consultant for Fairfax Financial Group, is also a non-executive director of Athens-based Eurobank Ergasias SA, a bank with operations in Greece and several other European countries.

NEW HEAD FOR HERACLES GROUP

Dimitris Hanis has been appointed **CEO of Heracles Group**, a subsidiary of LafargeHolcim. Hanis has been with the Group since 2003, holding a series of executive positions. Heracles Group is the largest cement producer in Greece, with more than 100 years of presence in the market. It operates a network of 33 production and commercial facilities in the country.

WYNDHAM HOTEL GROUP APPOINTS GREEK MD FOR EMEA



DIMITRIS MANIKIS

Wyndham Hotel Group has appointed **Dimitris Manikis** to the role of **President and Managing Director for EMEA**, based out of the Group’s London offices. Manikis has an MSc in Tourism Marketing and has previously served as VP of Business Development for RCI EMEA.

NEW ECONOMY MINISTER



YIANNIS DRAGASAKIS

Deputy Prime Minister **Yiannis Dragasakis** took on the additional role of **Minister of Economy and Development** after a limited cabinet reshuffle in February, assuming responsibility for implementing structural economic reforms and strengthening the country’s efforts to attract foreign investment.

ERMIS AWARDS FOR CREATIVE COMMUNICATION

The Newtons Laboratory was named Ad Agency of the Year while Thessaloniki-based Beetroot won Design Agency of the Year at this year’s Ermis Awards 2017, held on March 13, 2018. Heavyweights McCann Worldgroup and OgilvyOne Worldwide, Athens won PR Agency of the Year and Digital Agency of the Year respectively, and communications agency Adminie made a splash with 2 Grand Ermis and 20 Ermis Awards. First organized in 2002, and awarded by the Hellenic Association of Advertising-Communication Agencies (EDEE), the Ermis Awards are the leading event of Greece’s advertising and communication industry, awarding outstanding creativity in communication.

MAKEDONIA PALACE WINS TOP GREEK HOTEL

Thessaloniki’s Makedonia Palace was named Top Greek Hotel at the Greek Hospitality Awards 2018 held on February 23, 2018, at Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso. The ceremony was attended by over 400 guests, including Minister of Tourism Elena Kountoura, and celebrated the country’s best hotels in the key categories Best Greek City Hotels, Best Greek Resorts, Best Greek Hotel Facilities, and Special Awards. The winners included Rodos Palace for Best Greek Hotel Conference Center, Avra Imperial Hotel for Best Greek Green Resort, and Aquila Rithymna Beach for Best Greek Family Resort. Amada Colossos Resort and Sani Dunes both won gold awards for Best Greek New Resort, while Grecotel Hotels & Resorts, and Novotel Athens won the gold award for Best Greek Hotel Brand and Best International Hotel Brand respectively.



BRIDGES OF COOPERATION IN THESSALONIKI



In the first of many parallel events that will take place this year in Thessaloniki leading to the United States’ participation as Honored Country in TIF2018, the U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki hosted a discussion on the lasting impact and legacy of the Marshall Plan, on January 22, 2018. The event showcased the book Bridges of Cooperation: The Marshall Plan and Greece by Alexandros Costopoulos, which was released in November by Ikaros Books. U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey R. Pyatt and AmCham President Simos Anastasopoulos participated in the panel.

MARATHON VC DOUBLES DOWN WITH EQUIFUND

Athens-based investment firm Marathon VC has announced an increase to their fund with the addition of funds from the European Investment Fund, the National Bank of Greece and other key players under the new Equifund program, with the latest closing raising Marathon’s fund to €32 million. In total, Equifund, the fund of funds, is set to disburse up to €260 million through at least eight new funds, and there is speculation that the National Bank of Greece will partner with the majority of Equifund offshoots. Equifund was launched in December 2016 by the Greek government and the European Investment Fund, aiming to unlock the equity potential in the Greek market and boost entrepreneurship.

AFS STUDENTS BRING HOME 8TH AWARD IN SIX YEARS

The 8th award in six years was just added to the collection of awards and distinctions earned by the Film Club of the American Farm School general and vocation high schools. The club participated in a competition organized by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and the Jewish Museum of Greece to create a short film on the topic of “The Holocaust and Greek Jews.” For their entry, the club’s 11 members wrote the script, directed, acted in, and edited a short film titled “The Chase.”

SPEAKERS CORNER

CHANGE

The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.

—AMELIA EARHART

TAXES

Taxation is the price which we pay for civilization.

—OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, JR.

EXCUSES

I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse.

—FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

RESPONSIBILITY

If you’re in the luckiest one per cent of humanity, you owe it to the rest of humanity to think about the other 99 per cent.

—WARREN BUFFET

POTENTIAL

Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one’s courage.

—ANAÏS NIN