

14th Athens Tax Forum

The Chamber and its Taxation Committee held the 14th Athens Tax Forum on April 19, 2018, at the Athenaeum InterContinental Hotel in Athens. Titled “Tax Policies Against Shadow Economy,” the conference brought together distinguished state officials, taxation experts, high level finance executives, accountants, consultants, academics, attorneys, decision and policy makers, members of the Greek business community, and members of the press.

In their addresses, Chamber President Simos Anastasopoulos and Chairman of the Chamber’s Taxation Committee Stavros Kostas stressed the importance of shaping a taxation framework that supports productivity and competitiveness, contributes to job creation and sets the foundations for combatting the shadow economy, while Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister Dimitris Liakos underlined the importance of fair and competent justice and banking systems in attracting investment. These themes were echoed by the event’s speakers, who shared their insights and discussed the reality of the shadow economy in Greece and the various measures and tactics—including increased use of digital technologies and even use of social media platforms—to tackle it. Secretary General for Public Revenue Giorgos Pitsilis noted that the Independent Authority for Public Revenue plans to use Facebook to identify suspicious transactions and illegal trade, and announced plans to address the situation of thousands of taxpayers whose bank accounts have been frozen as a result of unpaid debts to the tax authority. The 14th Athens Tax Forum was sponsored by Deloitte, EY, Grant Thornton, KPMG, PwC, Crowe SOL. It was further supported by Dryllerakis & Associates, Zepos & Yanopoulos, Hellenic Petroleum, KG Law Firm, Papastratos, Stavropoulos & Partners, and Air France–KLM and Delta Air Lines.

SIMOS ANASTASOPOULOS, STAVROS KOSTAS



GEORGE PITSILIS

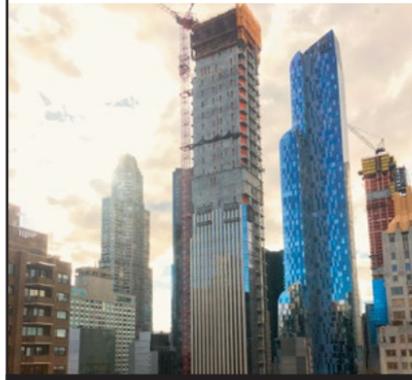


PROKOPIS CHATZINIKOLAOU, DIMITRIS LIAKOS, CHRISTOS HARPANTIDIS, KONSTANTINOS KOLLIAS, AND SIMOS ANASTASOPOULOS



TRADEUSA CONSTRUCTION MISSION, NY

The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and its international trade department, TradeUSA, organized the 2nd TradeUSA Construction Mission to New York City, which took place March 26-30, 2018. The mission was tailored to meet the needs of the participating company, which is an internationally-active company operating in the field of green energy solutions, with a focus on energy-efficiency, energy-efficient aluminum systems, and renewable energy solutions. The Greek company’s delegate was informed on the current state and business opportunities of New York’s construction industry and participated in B2B meetings (organized by the TradeUSA team) with major development, design and construction companies operating in the area. The delegate had the opportunity to tour two construction sites, in Brooklyn and in Upper West Side Manhattan, and participated in an EMBCA-hosted panel discussion that attracted New York City’s experts in the field. Making a number of key industry connections, the delegate submitted bids to provide supplying solutions to two projects and made the most of the opportunities to promote and further expand the company’s activities in the United States construction industry.



3rd Tourism Conference

The 3rd Tourism Conference took place on May 10 at the I. Vellidis Conference Center in Thessaloniki. Titled “Quality in Mass Tourism: The Recipe for Success,” the conference was convened by five bilateral Chambers: the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, the British-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, the French-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the German-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Italian-Hellenic Chamber of Thessaloniki. It focused on tourism education and training, the development of modern infrastructure and networks, the optimal design and equipment of tourism facilities, and the competitive advantage gained by specialized know-how and the use of technological means.

The event brought together several hundred businessmen, members of the five Chambers, representatives of the tourism and banking sectors, consultants, academics, students, local authority officials and high ranking executives of the relevant administrative authorities.

The event’s grand sponsors were Crowe Sol and the National Bank of Greece. The event was also sponsored by Alpha Bank, the American College of Thessaloniki, Ellinair, the Met Hotel, and Vimar. It was further supported by Athens International Airport, Deda & Architects, Hill International, ICAP, Lufthansa, Salfo & Associates, Samaras & Partners, the Thessaloniki Port Authority, and TIF HELEXPO. The Luxury Hotels, Macedonian Thrace Brewery, and TUVUNU. The Conference was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism and the Greek Tourism Confederation (SETE).

NIKOLAOS BAKATSELOS, GEORGIOS TZIALLAS, MARIA VOZIKI



STEFANOS TZIRITIS



GRIGORIOS TASIOS



GEORGE SARANTAVGAS, DIMITRIS CHRISTOU, ILECTRA KALDI, JOHN MOYSOGLU AND DIMITRIS KARAVASILIS

TRADEUSA WORKSHOP, LESVOS

On May 14, 2018, the TradeUSA Department of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce held its 2nd “Prepare – Plan – Execute” TradeUSA Workshop for 2018, in Mytilene, Lesvos. The workshop was attended exclusively by F&B entrepreneurs, representing the island’s key products: EVOO, ouzo and table olives. Presentations by field experts offered delegates the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and key insights into current trends in the U.S. food industry and its consumers’ behavior, providing plenty of crucial information on practical issues such as barcoding systems and credit insurance. The workshop’s agenda included talks on U.S. consumer trends, successful penetration strategies and how companies can better craft their plans, and adjustments a company should make to successfully place its products with U.S. retailers. Technical specs and regulations were also discussed, with a focus on USFDA compliance, GS1 barcoding, and credit insurance with the support of experts such as Atradius. Team TradeUSA and its partners aim at continuously educating Greek companies through workshops that offer in-depth knowledge, analysis and insights into critical trade issues and trends in the U.S. market.

ExpoSec DefenseWorld

The 6th annual ExpoSec DefenseWorld Conference, titled “Defense & Security in a Digital World,” took place on May 15, 2018, at the Hellenic Armed Forces Officers’ Club (LAED) in Athens. It was organized by the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Symeon G. Tsomokos S.A. and held under the auspices of the Ministry of National Defense and the General Directorate for Defense Investments and Armaments (GDDIA). The conference was marked by great success and drew unprecedented participation from across the country’s defense and security sector.

More than 300 distinguished guests attended speeches and presentations by pre-eminent members of the political, diplomatic, academic and business communities. Speakers and delegates expressed their concerns regarding today’s challenging defense and security environment. The role of the Greek defense industry as an important asset in implementing key programs of the Hellenic Armed Forces, as well as its role as a valuable partner in international programs, were among the issues examined during the conference.

ExpoSec DefenseWorld has once again proved its position as a leading forum for constructive dialogue between experts, representatives of international organizations, national decision makers and other industry stakeholders and as a platform for in-depth analysis of key issues relating to the defense and security sector that generates important proposals and puts forth solutions to major defense and security issues. Held annually since 2013, the conference has previously focused on topics such as building strategic alliances, meeting future challenges in policy, shaping national strategy, and the crucial role of Greece at the center of geopolitical changes and migration flows in Southeast Europe.

SIMOS ANASTASOPOULOS



PANOS KAMMENOS



NIKOLAOS TOSKAS



GEOFFREY R. PYATT



JO DEBLAERE

EIE COMMITTEE BREAKFAST

The Education, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (EIE) Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce organized a private breakfast discussion with Jo Deblaere, COO of Accenture and Chairman of the BoD of JA Europe on Thursday March 29, 2018 at the NJV Athens Plaza. Addressing the breakfast participants, Jo Deblaere spoke about our duty to “do everything we can to help, prepare and inspire young people to succeed in a global economy” and the ways in which we can do this. He shared his confidence in the boundless potential of young people and presented his own efforts to harness young people’s desire for collaboration and create opportunities for hands-on learning.

CHAMBER CALENDAR

Mid-June Athens, ATHEX, 3rd MIW Awards Ceremony

June 7 Athens, Metropolitan Expo Center, “Trading in U.S. Waters: Priorities and Solutions” Seminar at Posidonia Exhibition

June 10-12 New Orleans, USA, IDDBA (International Dairy Deli Bakery Show)

June 11-12 Athens, Athenaeum InterContinental hotel, 17th HealthWorld Conference

June 14 Athens, Athineo, 1st Sustainable Talks, CSR Committee

June Athens, 7th Corporate Governance Conference