

**Training Emerging Leaders
for the new Geopolitical Challenges
in the Mediterranean**



ELIAMEP – ACG Summer Academy 2023

*Training Emerging Leaders for the
New Geopolitical Challenges in the Mediterranean*

Olympia, Greece, Monday 3 - Saturday 8 July 2023

The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) is Greece's leading independent European and foreign policy think tank. Together with the Institute of Global Affairs of The American College of Greece we are organising the 3rd ELIAMEP – ACG Summer Academy on “Training Emerging Leaders for the New Geopolitical Challenges in the Mediterranean”.

The Summer Academy is a transnational educational programme that brings together young high-potential representatives from the Mediterranean region and Europe. Distinguished academics, diplomats, policy makers, business leaders, and experienced journalists will assist the participants in analysing and better understanding the challenges that emanate from the current global and regional socioeconomic and geopolitical shifts. The Summer Academy includes training sessions for soft skills development, working groups and panel discussions addressing topics such as the main drivers of instability and opportunities for cooperation in the region, competition between regional and external powers, socioeconomic developments, energy and climate change, as well as the European Union's role in its Southern neighbourhood.

AGENDA

MONDAY 3 JULY 2023

Arrival of participants and seminar registration at the International Olympic Academy

19.30

Opening Ceremony

Konstantinos Georgiadis, Honorary Dean of the International Olympic Academy

Laying of wreaths at the stele of Pierre de Coubertin, French educator and historian, founder of the [International Olympic Committee](#), “the father” of the modern [Olympic Games](#) and at the commemorative monument of John Ketseas and Carl Diem, pioneers of the establishment of the International Olympic Academy

20:30

Welcome Dinner

TUESDAY 4 JULY 2023

Introductory Remarks

08:30 – 08:45

Welcome Remarks

Maria Gavouneli, Professor of International Law, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens; Director General, ELIAMEP

Claudia Carydis, Vice President of Public Affairs, The American College of Greece (ACG)

08:45 – 09:00

Introduction to the Programme

Spyros Blavoukos, Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business; Senior Research Fellow and Head of the ‘Ariane Condellis’ European Programme, ELIAMEP

Constantinos Filis, Director, Institute of Global Affairs, The American College of Greece

09:00 – 09:15

Briefing on Activities

Ronald Meinardus, Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP

09:15

Commemorative photo

Session I: The European Union in the Mediterranean

09:30 – 11:30	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Christian Berger, Ambassador of the EU to Egypt Carl Hallergard, Deputy Managing Director Middle East and North Africa, EEAS</p> <p>Moderator: Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head, Mediterranean Programme; former Deputy Foreign Minister and former EU Ambassador</p>
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 13:00	Sessional Working Groups
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break

Session II: The Legacy of Arab Uprisings

14:00 – 16:00	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Carl Hallergard, Deputy Managing Director, Middle East and North Africa, EEAS Omezzine Khelifa, Executive Director, Apolitical Academy Global, Apolitical Foundation</p> <p>Moderator: Ronald Meinardus, Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP</p>
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Functional Working Groups</p> <p>Social Media, Documentation, News Coverage</p>

Agora Chat I

19:00 – 20:00	<p>George Papandreou, Former Prime Minister of Greece and MP, with Katerina Sokou, Theodore Couloumbis Research Fellow, ELIAMEP</p>
20:00	Dinner

WEDNESDAY 5 JULY 2023

08:30 – 08:45	Briefing on Activities
08:45 – 09:30	Presentation of Functional Working Groups

Session III: Geopolitical Developments in the Mediterranean

09:30 – 11:30

Panel Discussion

Mustafa Aydin, Professor, International Relations, Kadir Has University;
President, International Relations Council Turkey

Constantinos Filis, Director, Institute of Global Affairs, The American College of Greece

Arad Nir, Head of Foreign News Desk & International Commentator, Israel's Channel 12

Katerina Sokou, Theodore Couloumbis Research Fellow, ELIAMEP

Sofia Tiplidou, Assistant Professor, Panteion University

Moderator: Spyros Blavoukos, Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business; Senior Research Fellow & Head of the 'Ariane Condellis' European Programme, ELIAMEP

11:30 – 12:00

Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:00

Sessional Working Groups

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch Break

Session IV: Soft Skills Development I

14:00 – 16:00

Negotiation Analysis and Techniques

Spyros Blavoukos, Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business, Senior Research Fellow and Head of the 'Ariane Condellis' European Programme, ELIAMEP

16:00 – 17:00

Functional Working Groups

Agora Chat II

18:30 – 20:00

Nickolay Mladenov, Director General, Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy; former UN Secretary General's Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process with

Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head, Mediterranean Programme; former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and former EU Ambassador

20:00

Dinner

THURSDAY 6 JULY 2023

Introductory Remarks

08:30 – 08:45	Briefing on Activities
08:45 – 09:30	Presentation by Functional Working Groups

Session V: Management of the Global commons

09:30 – 10:30	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Thomas Achimastos, Vice President, Copelouzos Group</p> <p>Tassos Vamvakidis, Commercial Manager, Piraeus Container Terminal S.A</p> <p>Moderator: Cleopatra Kitti, Senior Policy Advisor, ELIAMEP; Founder of the Mediterranean Growth Initiative (MGI)</p>
10:30 – 11:15	<p>Reflections: Promoting a Positive Agenda in the Mediterranean</p> <p>Cleopatra Kitti, Senior Policy Advisor, ELIAMEP; Founder of the Mediterranean Growth Initiative (MGI)</p>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee Break

Session VI: Soft Skills Development II

11:45 – 13:00	<p>Media Training and Public Speaking Workshop</p> <p>Apostolos Mangiriadis, News Anchor of the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT)</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 17:00	Media Training and Public Speaking Workshop (continued)
17:30 – 20:00	<p>Social Activities</p> <p>Guided visit to the archaeological site and the museum of Ancient Olympia</p>
20:00	Dinner

FRIDAY 7 JULY 2023

08:30 – 10:00 | **Functional Working Groups: Session and Presentations**

Session VII: Soft Skills Development III

10:00 – 11:30 | **Conflict Management: The case of Syria**
Carsten Wieland, Senior Researcher and Fellow, Peace Research Institute (PRIO)

11:30 – 12:00 | **Coffee Break**

Session VIII: Economic Developments in the Mediterranean

12:00 – 13:00 | **Discussion**
Manos Matsaganis, Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP, Professor, Politecnico di Milano with
Cleopatra Kitti, Senior Policy Advisor, ELIAMEP; Founder of the Mediterranean Growth Initiative (MGI)

13:00 – 14:00 | **Lunch Break**

Closing Remarks

14:00 – 15:00 | **Evaluation, Future planning and Award of Certificates**
Spyros Blavoukos, Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business, Senior Research Fellow and Head of the 'Ariane Condellis' European Programme, ELIAMEP
Constantinos Filis, Director, Institute of Global Affairs, The American College of Greece
Ronald Meinardus, Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP

16:00 – 20:00 | **Social Activities: Excursion to the beach (tba)**

20:00 | **Farewell Dinner by the sea (tba)**

SATURDAY 8 JULY 2023

07:00 | *Departure from Olympia to the Athens International Airport by bus*

Speakers

ACHIMASTOS Thomas

Group Vice Chairman, Chief Business Development & Strategy Officer, Copelouzos Group

Thomas I. Acheimastos is currently vice chairman of Copelouzos Group and chief business development & strategy officer. He has held various managerial positions in the private sector in the field of Energy, Technology, Finance and Gaming. He holds MSc. in Mechanical Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens, and he has completed his Doctoral Studies at the NTUA and at German Universities. He carried out research activity with emphasis on the field of Energy and Technical measurements. His research was funded by European research organizations in Greece and in Europe. He has numerous publications in Scientific Journals and Conferences since 1994.

AYDIN Mustafa

Professor and President International Relations Council of Turkey

Mustafa Aydın is a Professor of International Relations at Kadir Has University, and the President of the International Relations Council of Turkey. Previously, he worked at Ankara University and Economy and Technology University and served as the Rector of Kadir Has University between 2010 and 2018. He was a guest researcher at Michigan (1998), Harvard (2002), and Athens (2003) universities, as well as at the Richardson Institute for Peace Studies (1999), the EU Institute for Security Studies (2003), and the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (2018). He is a Coordinator of the Global Academy, Co-Coordinator of the Greek Turkish Forum, and a member of the International Studies Association, Turkish Atlantic Council, European Leadership Network, and European Academy of Art and Sciences. Prof. Aydın's areas of interest include international politics, foreign policy analysis, and security issues related to Eurasia, the Middle East, and Turkey.

BERGER Christian

Ambassador of the European Union to Egypt

Christian Berger currently holds the position of EU Ambassador to Egypt. In previous positions he served in 1986 as operations officer with the Austrian UN-Peacekeeping Battalion on the Golan (UNDOF); from 1989 to 1994 with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Gaza and Jerusalem; from 1994 to 1996 at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna. In 1997 he joined the European institutions in Brussels; until 1999 at the Committee of the Regions, and as of 1999 with the European Commission where he was responsible for relations with Syria; from 2001 Political Advisor on Middle Eastern issues; from 2005 to 2006 EU-Representative to the Middle East Quartet; from 2006 to 2008 Head of Crisis Response & Peacebuilding; 2008 - 2011 EU Representative / Head of Delegation in Jerusalem; 2011 - 2016 Director/Deputy Managing Director for the Middle East and North Africa in the European External Action Service. From 2016-2020 he served as EU Ambassador to Turkey and Turkmenistan.

BLAVOUKOS Spyros

Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business, Senior Research Fellow and Head of the 'Ariane Condellis' European Programme, ELIAMEP

Spyros Blavoukos is Professor at the Department of International and European Studies, Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB). He is an AUEB graduate with further studies at Master and Doctoral level at the Department of Government, University of Essex. His Ph.D. Thesis analysed the Greek role in the negotiations of the EU enlargement with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. He is the Director of the Jean Monnet Network on EU-UN Relations (EUN-NET) and the Post Graduate Program in International Negotiations of AUEB.

He has participated in many international research projects and has (co-) authored and (co-)edited eight books and more than twenty articles in international, peer-reviewed, academic journals. His main research interests focus on the analysis of international multilateral negotiations. His latest publications examine the international role and representation of the EU in other International Organizations, especially the United Nations.

CARYDIS Claudia

Vice President of Public Affairs of Deree, American College of Greece

Claudia Carydis Benopoulou has been Vice President of Public Affairs at The American College of Greece since June 2012. Her responsibilities include cultivating mutually beneficial relations with key stakeholders of both the private & public sectors. She is the ACG liaison with government officials, public authorities and foreign missions in Greece. Under her leadership, in 2020, ACG was awarded the Gold STARS rating by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education in recognition of sustainability best practices implemented in 5 categories (Academics, Operations, Planning & Administration, Social Engagement, Leadership & Innovation). Claudia has been working at ACG since 2005 and was initially the Executive Director of Alumni Relations. She serves as an ex-officio member on the Academic Advisory Board of the ACG Institute of Global Affairs, is an elected member of the Board of Directors of the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) for a second term (2022-2025) and a member of the AMCHAM Education, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Committee since 2017.

FILIS Constantinos

Director, Institute of Global Affairs, The American College of Greece

Upon completing his PhD, Dr. Filis was elected Senior Associate Member at St Antony's College, Oxford University (2007-2009), and completed a research fellowship at Southeast European Studies at Oxford (SEESOX), Oxford University (2008-2010). He heads the Russia, Eurasia and Southeast Europe Centre at Panteion University's Institute of International Relations, of which he was formerly Executive Director (2019-2021) and Director of Research Programs (2012-2019). He is also board member of the Advisory Board at the same institute. He lectures at the Hellenic Naval Staff and Command College (since 2012), at the Hellenic National Defense College (since 2016), at the Hellenic

War College (since 2020) and at the National Security School (since 2019). He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Piraeus Asset Management; the Greek-Turkish Forum; the Institute of Energy for South-East Europe; and the Delphi Economic Forum. He is also President of the Foundation of Thracian Art and Tradition and Director of the International Olympic Truce Centre and a member of the Hellenic Olympic Committee; energy and geoeconomics advisor to the Hellenic Entrepreneurs Association and Advisory Board member of DiaNEOsis Research and Policy Institute.

Dr. Filis is the Director of the ACG Institute of Global Affairs and an Associate Professor at the American College of Greece, where he teaches courses in International Relations and European Affairs. His most recent books/monographs are: “Assertive Patriotism,” “Greece in its neighborhood,” “A Closer Look at Russia and its Influence in the World,” “Turkey, Islam, Erdogan,” and “Refugees, Europe, Insecurity.”

GAVOUNELI Maria

Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens,
Director General, ELIAMEP

LL.M. (Cantab), Ph.D. (Cantab) (Guggenheim Prize); Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law & Athens Public International Law Center – Athens PIL, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens; Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London (2005-2019); Fulbright Scholar – Greece at the University of California Berkeley (2018-2019); Senior Policy Advisor, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy – ELIAMEP (2020-2023).

Recipient of multiple research grants: ORCID id: 0000-0002-4509-9513; SSRN: top 10%. Visiting professor and lecturer in several universities and research institutions, including the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), the British Institute of International & Comparative Law (BIICL), Tulane University (USA), the University of Edinburgh (Brodies Lectures in International Law), the University of Glasgow, the University of Manchester, Utrecht University; member of several academic societies: currently co-convenor of the LAWSEA Interest Group of the European Society of International Law, having served as co-chair to the LOSIG of the American Society of International Law; member of the International Law Association Committee on SeaLevel Rise as well as the Committee on Cables and Pipelines (President’s appointee); President of the ILA Hellenic Branch; Vice-chair of the Hellenic Society of International Law & International Relations.

Author of four monographs, including Pollution from offshore installations (Martinus Nijhoff 1995 – Prix Paul Guggenheim), State immunity and the rule of law (Athens 2001), Functional jurisdiction in the Law of the Sea (Martinus Nijhoff, 2007), Energy installations at sea (2016 – in Greek); editor of seven volumes; numerous chapters and articles; coeditor-in-chief: Yearbook of International Environmental Law (OUP); member of the board of several law journals.

President of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights; member of the Board, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions – ENNHRI; member of the Bureau, Global Alliance of

National Human Rights Institutions – GANHRI. Head of the Greek delegation at the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions and member of the Management Group; and at the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) at the Council of Europe; member of the Expert Group on Corruption of the European Commission.

Attorney-at-law, Athens Bar; Managing Partner, Gavouneli Micha Law Firm. Arbitrator under ICC rules, other domestic rules and Greek law; counsel, legal advisor and consultant in energy and environmental matters; arbitrator with the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) and the European Organization for Arbitration and Mediation (EODID).

HALLEGARD Carl

Deputy Manager Director of MENA, EEAS

Carl Hallergard took up his functions as Director, Deputy Managing Director Middle East and North Africa in June 2020. Between 2016 & 2020, Carl Hallergard was the Deputy Head of Delegation to the United Nation in Geneva. Between 2012 and 2016, he was Head of Political and Security Council Affairs at the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York.

From 2006 to 2012 he served in the Cabinet of High Representatives Javier Solana and Catherine Ashton with responsibilities focusing mainly on Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans.

Earlier assignments include service in the European Community Humanitarian Office from 1996, as well as in the Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit at the Council of the European Union from 2000, which included a stint as Head of Cabinet of the EU Special Representative in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2001-2002. Mr Hallergard is married with two children and holds Master Degrees from the Stockholm School of Economics and the College of Europe in Bruges.

KHELIFA Omezzine

Executive Director of Apolitical Academy, Global Apolitical Foundation

Omezzine Khelifa the Executive Director, Apolitical Academy Global at the Apolitical Foundation. She is the founder and CEO of Mobdiun – Creative Youth, a social impact organization that empowers youth to lead change and help build a peaceful democracy in Tunisia. Mobdiun works with young people in marginalized communities targeted by violent extremists and provides them with opportunities to build skills and gain access to resources and networks to foster their creativity as peaceful builders of Tunisian society. Through a community-based, youth development-centered approach, Omezzine and a group of sociologists collect and analyze data from youth living in areas traditionally targeted for recruitment by extremist groups. The data collected serves as a basis for a series of conversations with youth and the outcomes of these discussions are used to initiate a dialogue with multiple stakeholders, including government, the private sector, and civil society organizations to inform policy to counter radicalization. Trained as an engineer, Omezzine was living and working in Paris prior to the Tunisian revolution and returned to Tunisia to support the country during this period of transition. She ran for political office and later served as a senior advisor in the

Ministry of Finance before founding Mobdiun. She received her master's degree in engineering from the École nationale supérieure d'informatique et de mathématiques appliquées de Grenoble in France.

KITTI Cleopatra

Senior Policy Advisor, Founder of the Mediterranean Growth Initiative

Cleopatra is founder of the Mediterranean Growth Initiative (MGI), the only real time data analysis, forecasting and benchmarking platform for the economies of the Mediterranean region.

For over 30 years, Cleopatra has been a consultant to leaders in business, government and international organizations, in Europe, Middle East, Africa and the US on global public affairs, risk and reputation management, market entry and inward investment. As a Certified Independent Director, INSEAD, she works to bring experience and knowledge on international corporate governance to businesses and investors seeking to succeed in competitive, mature and emerging markets. She currently serves on the boards of companies with international and regional portfolios. In her longstanding international advisory board role with the International Crisis Group, she has volunteered in conflict zones to understand the root cause of conflict and the drivers for peace.

KOURKOULAS Dimitris

Head, Mediterranean Programme; former EU Ambassador

Dimitris Kourkoulas was the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, responsible for European Affairs and Economic Diplomacy, from June 2012 till January 2015. During his mandate he was also responsible for the Greek Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the EU in the first semester of 2014. He has served as EU Ambassador in Lebanon (1997-2001), the first ambassador of the EU after the end of the war, Bulgaria (2001-2006), during the period of the negotiations for the accession of Bulgaria into the EU and Bosnia & Herzegovina (2006-2010), the third largest EU Delegation in the world. From 2010-2012 he was Director in DG Enlargement of the European Commission, responsible for the EU strategy and policy of Enlargement in the Western Balkans, Turkey, and Iceland. From 1992 to 1997 he was Head of the European Commission's Political Relations Department for Central and Eastern European countries. He graduated from the Law School of the University of Athens and continued his postgraduate studies at the Universities of Bonn and Cologne in Germany.

MANGIRIADIS Apostolos

News Anchor, Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT)

Apostolos Mangiriadis is the News Anchor of Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT). Previously he worked as a Political Correspondent for SKAI TV and SKAI Radio and as a News Anchor for the network's nightly newscast. He was the Editor-in-Chief of "Histories" for SKAI TV, the country's leading current affairs TV program, and worked as a political correspondent/columnist for TA NEA newspaper, Greece's historic daily. He also worked as a Political Correspondent for MEGA TV. He is

a frequent contributor to newspaper and magazine publications. He conducts media training and coaching workshops for senior executives of big companies and moderation at corporate events. Mr. Mangiriadis holds a Master in International Affairs from Columbia University in New York and a BA in Political Science from the Athens Law School. He was born and raised in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1979.

MATSAGANIS Manos

Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP, Professor, Politecnico di Milano

Professor of Public Finance at Polytechnic University of Milan. Prior to this, he worked at the Athens University of Economics and Business (2004-2016), where he founded and directed the Policy Analysis Research Unit. Earlier he had been a lecturer at the University of Crete (1996-1999 and 2001-2004), a special adviser at the Greek Prime Minister's Office (1997-2001), and a researcher at the London School of Economics (1990-1993). He holds degrees from the Athens University of Economics and Business (BSc 1986), the University of York (MSc 1988), and the University of Bristol (PhD 1992). He has collaborated with international organizations such as the European Commission, the OECD, UNICEF, and the World Bank. He was a member of the Expert Group on Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion, on the invitation of European Commissioner László Andor (2012-2014). He was Fulbright Scholar at Harvard University (2014) and University of California, Berkeley (2015), Visiting Scholar at Boston University (2017, 2018), and Visiting Professor at University of Vienna (2019). He is currently Head of the Greek & European Economy Observatory at the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy ELIAMEP in Athens (since 2021).

MEINARDUS Ronald

Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP

Ronald Meinardus is a political analyst and commentator. Brought up in Egypt and Greece by globetrotting parents, he has followed their paradigm. He earned his Ph.D. from Hamburg University with a thesis on Greece's foreign policy vis-à-vis Turkey. Meinardus started his professional career in journalism at Germany's international broadcaster – first as economics' producer, later as Head of Deutsche Welle's legendary Greek radio program. A passion for liberal politics and advocacy took him to the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) and assignments in Greece, South Korea, the Philippines, Egypt, India and Turkey. Apart from managing political projects in various parts of the world, writing commentary and analytical papers, Meinardus is a qualified facilitator and consultant focusing on strategic planning and political communications. His current research interests center around Greek-Turkish issues, EU-Turkey relations, the role of Germany in the region and developments in the Arab world.

MLADENOV Nicolay

Director General, Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy

In this role, he oversees the projects in the department, which contribute to domestic and

international debates on issues relevant to the UAE's foreign policy and diplomacy, and act as an impactful source of analysis for the UAE government. With a career spanning over 20 years in Middle East and European politics, H.E. served as the UN Secretary General's Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Envoy to the Middle East Quartet between 2015 and 2020. In 2013 H.E. was appointed as United Nations Special Representative for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). H.E. Mladenov was active in Bulgarian politics, both in government and opposition. He served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2010 to 2013 and as the Minister of Defense from 2009 to 2010. H.E. was also a Member of the European Parliament from 2007 to 2009. He also led the EU Election Observation Mission to Ghana for the parliamentary and presidential elections in 2008. In February 2021, he was awarded the Grand Star of the Order of Jerusalem by President Mahmoud Abbas. H.E. Mladenov was educated at King's College London, where he obtained an MA in War Studies and prior to that he graduated from the University of National and World Economy in Sofia, where he majored in International Relations.

NIR Arad

Head of Foreign News Desk and International Commentator, Israel's Channel 12

Arad Nir is Senior International Affairs Correspondent, Commentator and head of the Foreign News Desk for Israel TV News Company - Channel 12 News, the largest news provider in Israel. In this capacity he undertakes assignments all over the world. Covers international politics and diplomacy, ethnic conflicts, natural disasters and man made catastrophes. Arad also focuses on Israel's regional and international relationship, has a unique interest in European and in Turkish Affairs which he follows intensively. He interviews opinion leaders and senior politicians in Israel and all over the world.

PAPANDREOU George

Former Prime Minister of Greece, MP

Minister for Foreign Affairs since 18-02-1999 to 10-03-2004. Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs, 25-09-1996 to 18-02-1999; Minister for Education and Religious Affairs (1988-1989 and 1994-1996); Deputy Minister for Culture (1985-1987); Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (1993-1994). Member of the PASOK Central Committee since 1984. Vice-president of the Centre for Research and Self-Learning. Sits on the Boards of the Mediterranean Research Foundation and the Georgos Papandreou Foundation. Founding member of the Helsinki Citizens Assembly, and co-ordinator of the campaign to win the 2004 Olympic Games for Athens. Received awards from the Botsis foundation for his struggle for free radio stations, 1988; from "SOS Racism" for his contribution in the fight against racism and xenophobia, 1996. He also received the Ipektsi Prize for his activities towards Greek-Turkish rapprochement (as Minister for Education (1995-1996). Proclaimed a Great Crusader of the Order of Orthodox Crusaders of the Holy Sepulchre, and awarded the Grand Cross by Diodoros I, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Published (in Greek): 1974-1990: The Orbit of History, and The Tree and the Forest (1996).

SOKOU Katerina

Non-Resident Senior Fellow, ELIAMEP and Atlantic Council

Katerina Sokou is a Research Fellow, who has been awarded the Research Fellowship on “Greek-American Relations” in memory of Theodore Couloumbis. She is the Washington DC correspondent for Greek daily newspaper Kathimerini, where she is also a columnist, focusing on transatlantic relations, foreign policy, and financial diplomacy. She is a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Europe Center, a member of the advisory board at the Society for Hellenism and Philhellenism, and a board member at The Hellenic Initiative Canada. As a visiting scholar at George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs (2017- 2018), she researched the US role in the Greek debt crisis and its impact on bilateral relations, presenting her research in universities across the U.S., Canada, and Greece. Before that, she was a member of the editorial board and a contributor at the Washington-based European Institute (2016-2017). She has organized and participated in public events, seminars, workshops and private strategy sessions, produced reports, and provided analysis for the Atlantic Council, DiaNEOsis, the Delphi Economic Forum, and ELIAMEP, among others. Katerina majored in History (BA with First Class Honors, University of Ioannina) and holds postgraduate degrees in International Studies (MA, University of Warwick, UK) and in Journalism from Columbia University, where she was a Knight-Bagehot Fellow in Economics and Business Journalism (2012-2013). She started her career as a financial reporter at To Vima newspaper, covering Greece and the Eurozone, and was International Financial News editor at Kathimerini during the global and then the Greek financial crises (2008-2012). She interviewed prominent economists and key policymakers, while providing commentary and analysis for international news media. Before she became Washington correspondent, she took an internship at the Washington Post. Katerina speaks Greek, English, French, and has studied German and Turkish.

TIPALDOU Sofia

Assistant Professor, Panteion University

Sofia is a Welcome Trust ISSF fellow at the University of Manchester for the project “Viro-populism”: How far-right populists spread fake-news on COVID-19 across Europe. She recently completed a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship at the University of Manchester for the project Russian Nationalism and the Ukraine Crisis: The Impact of Nationalist Actors on Russian Foreign Policy (RUSNAT). She has an interdisciplinary background with a B.A. in Economics from the University of Piraeus, an M.A. in European Studies from the European University Viadrina, and an M.Phil. and PhD in International Relations from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Sofia researches nationalism, populism and far-right mobilization using ethnographic and mixed methods. Her research interests lie within the fields of international relations, with a focus on how non-state actors influence foreign-policy, comparative politics, with an area study focus on Russia and Greece, and social movement studies. Her work has been published in Europe-Asia Studies, European Societies, Demokratizatsiya and Revista CIDOB d’Afers Internacionals. Her first monograph, Nationalist Opposition in Putin’s Russia, is under contract with Manchester University Press.

VAMVAKIDIS Tassos

Commercial Manager, Piraeus Container Terminal S.A

Tassos Vamvakidis was appointed Commercial Manager of Piraeus Container Terminal (PCT), Greece, in 2009. Tassos has a vast experience as a Shipping agent, since he activates in this field since 1973. In 1990, he was appointed Commercial Manager of Balkan & Black Sea Company, in Greece, representative of the National Bulgarian Company namely NAVIGATION MARITIME BULGARE and as of 1995, Tassos hold the position of General Manager in this Company, until his transfer to the COSCO group. From 2000 until 2009, he was an elected member of the Board of the International Maritime Union, an association representing Shipping Agents of major Shipping Liner companies, while from 2003 he held the position of Vice President dealing with issues related to the Container Terminal of Piraeus Port. In 2017 he has been elected in the Piraeus Chamber of Commerce & Industry as member of the Administrative Council. Since 2019 he is also a member of the steering committee of Hellenic Ports Community System.

WIELAND Carsten

Senior Researcher and Fellow, Norwegian Peace Research Institute (PRIO)

Dr. Phil. Carsten Wieland is a German diplomat, former senior UN consultant, Middle East and conflict expert with high-ranking mediation experience. Currently, he works as a Senior Policy Adviser for the Middle East in the Green Party Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag. He is also a senior researcher at the Middle East Center at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and an Associate Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). From 2014 till 2019, he served with three UN Special Envoys for Syria as Senior Expert for Intra-Syrian Talks and senior political advisor. Wieland also worked in the Syria team of the Foreign Office in Berlin and as director of the German Information Center for the Arab World in Cairo. Wieland also taught conflict and conflict resolution at New York University (NYU) Berlin. He was also a fellow at the Public Policy Institute at Georgetown University, Washington, DC. Wieland has published articles and books on Syria, nationalism, ethnic conflicts in the Balkans and in South Asia, on Islamism and secularism. His latest book "Syria and the Neutrality Trap: The Dilemmas of Delivering Humanitarian Aid through Violent Regimes" was published in July 2021.