TO BHMA

DELPHI ECONOMIC FORUM

THE COUNCIL
GREECE IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS
Founded in 2018

"Europe in Danger?"

Athens, King George Hotel
Monday - Tuesday
December 7 & 8, 2026

Monday, December 7

10.00 Arrival of Guests - Registration

10.30 **Welcome Remarks**

- ✓ **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Delphi Economic Forum
- ✓ **Yannis Pretenteris**, Publisher, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece
- ✓ **Athanasios Platias**, President, Council for International Relations, Greece

10.45 **Opening Remarks**

- ✓ **Nikitas Kaklamanis,** President of the Hellenic Parliament

11.00 **In Conversation**

The New European Reality: Finding the Path Forward

Addressing Europe's evolving challenges, this session explores strategic solutions, political adaptation, and economic resilience required to shape a sustainable path forward.

- ✓ **Kostis Hatzidakis,** Vice President of the Government, Hellenic Republic

- ✓ *Chair:* **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Delphi Economic Forum

11.20 **The Greek EU Presidency of 2027**

With Greece assuming the Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2027, this panel will serve as a strategic preview. What will be the key priorities on Greece's agenda? This session will explore the opportunities and challenges for a member state that has journeyed from economic crisis to a central geopolitical actor.

- ✓ **Tasos Chatzivasileiou**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic

- ✓ *Chair:* **Angelos Athanasopoulos,** Journalist, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece

11.40 **Keynote Address/ In Conversation**

✓ **Nikos Christodoulides**, President, Republic of Cyprus

✓ *Chair:* **Yannis Pretenteris**, Publisher, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece

12.05 **In Conversation**

US Midterm Election Results: Implications for Europe, European Policies, and Electoral Contests

This session directly examines whether the outcomes of the US midterm elections will impact Europe, its policy directions, and upcoming European electoral contests. It explores the potential shifts in transatlantic relations and security cooperation, while assessing how American political trends might influence domestic European political strategies and campaigns.

✓ **Panagiotis Pikrammenos**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic (2019-2023)

✓ *Chair:* **Niki Lymperaki,** Journalist, To VIMA Newspaper, MEGA TV, Greece

12.25 **The Transatlantic Populist Crack?**

European Politics After the U.S. Midterms

Following the Republican defeat in the U.S. midterms, this session analyzes the geopolitical and ideological fallout on the European political landscape. As mainstream and populist parties react to the shifts in Washington, we explore whether the populist wave in Europe is hitting its limits, how the balance of power within the EU is shifting, and what a divided America means for the future of transatlantic political alliances.

✓ **François Heisbourg,** Special Adviser, IISS, Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique, France
✓ **Constantine Arvanitopoulos**, Professor of Int. Politics, Panteion Univ.; Director, Konstantinos G. Karamanlis Foundation, Greece
✓ **Nikola Dimitrov**, Foreign Minister of North Macedonia (2017-2020)
✓ **Slawomir Sierakowski,** President of the Program Board, ImpactCEE, Poland

✓ *Chair:* **Paschos Mandravelis,** Journalist, To VIMA & TA NEA Newspapers, Greece

13.15 **Greece 2030: From Scapegoat to Role Model of Economic Growth?**

A discussion on Europe's economic recovery, fiscal reforms, and the shifting narrative of member states from economic vulnerabilities to models of resilience.

✓ **Yannis Stournaras,** Governor, Bank of Greece

✓ *Chair:* **Pavlos Tsimas,** Journalist, Radio and TV Host, MEGA TV, Greece

13.35 **Greece 2030: From Scapegoat to Role Model of Economic Growth?**

A discussion on Europe's economic recovery, fiscal reforms, and the shifting narrative of member states from economic vulnerabilities to models of resilience.

✓ **Dimitris Papalexopoulos**, Chair, TITAN Group, Greece
✓ **Kostas Kostis**, Professor Emeritus, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

✓ *Chair:* **Christos Dogas,** Editor in chief, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece

14.00 **Navigating Chaos: Europe and Major Global Disruptions**

An exploration of how Europe navigates geopolitical turmoil, technological advancements, economic shifts, and global crises, examining strategic resilience, policy adaptations, and key international partnerships required to maintain stability amid worldwide uncertainty.

✓ **Loukas Tsoukalis**, President, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy, Greece, Professor, Sciences Po, Paris
✓ **Tanja Fajon**, Deputy PM, Minister of Foreign & European Affairs of Slovenia (2022-2026), Strategic Advisor, EU Affairs, Partner vBeustColl
✓ **Grégoire Roos**, Director, Europe, Russia & Eurasia, Chatham House, UK

✓ *Chair:* **Niki Lymperaki,** Journalist, To VIMA Newspaper, MEGA TV, Greece

14.45 **Break**

15.15 **In Conversation**

✓ **Antonis Samaras**, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic (2012-2015)

Chair: **Constantine Arvanitopoulos**, Prof. of Int. Politics, Panteion Univ.; Director, Konstantinos G. Karamanlis Foundation, Greece

15.40 **Squeezed in the Middle: Europe in the Era of Trump, Xi and Putin**

How can the EU maintain its geostrategic priorities and diplomatic weight when caught in the crossfire of three aggressive, competing superpowers?

✓ **Margaritis Schinas**, Minister of Rural Development & Food, Hellenic Republic
✓ **Anna Wieslander**, Director, Northern Europe Office, Atlantic Council, Sweden
✓ **Kristi Raik,** Director, International Centre for Defence and Security, Estonia
✓ **Konstantina Botsiou**, Professor of Political History and International Relations, University of Piraeus, Greece

✓ *Chair:* **Athanasios Platias**, President, Council for International Relations, Greece

16.20 **Strategic Autonomy: Aspiration vs. Geopolitical Necessity**

Is true strategic autonomy a realistic objective for Europe, or an expensive illusion that the continent cannot afford to implement in a fractured world? The discussion will cover the definition of autonomy and supply chain independence.

✓ **Marco Buti,** Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa Chair, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute, Italy
✓ **Ioannis Maniatis,** MEP, Vice-President, Group of Socialists & Democrats, Minister of Environment, Energy & Climate Change (2009-2015)
✓ **Nikos Vettas**, General Director, Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research; Professor, AUEB, Greece

✓ *Chair:* **Marilia Papathanasiou,** Journalist, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece

16.55 **The Fragmentation Trap: Restoring European Competitiveness**

Dismantling barriers within the single market to spark genuine innovation and growth in an age of fierce great power economic competition.

Setting the Stage:
✓ **Inês Domingos,** Secretary of State for European Affairs, Portuguese Republic
✓ **Claudia Schmucker,** Head of Geoeconomics Center**,** German Council on Foreign Relations, Germany

✓ *Chair:* **Ino Afentouli,** Senior Policy Advisor & Head, Observatory of Geopolitics & Diplomacy, ELIAMEP

Speakers:
✓ **Nikos Christodoulakis**, Minister of Economy and Finance (2001-2004), Hellenic Republic
✓ **Giorgos Chouliarakis**, Advisor to the Governor, Bank of Greece, Alternate Minister of Finance (2015–2019), Hellenic Republic
✓ **Christos Hadjiemmanuil**, Monetary Policy Council Member, Bank of Greece; Professor, University of Piraeus, Greece
✓ **Anny Podimata,** EU Affairs Senior Director, VIOHALCO SA, Member of the European Parliament (2007-2014), Greece

Chair:

18.10 **In Conversation**

The corrosive institutional & political deficit of the European Union in the field of Foreign & Security Policy

Examining the structural weaknesses in EU foreign policy, this discussion explores how decision-making deadlocks and institutional deficits impair unified global action.

✓ **Prokopios Pavlopoulos**, President of the Hellenic Republic (2015-2020)

✓ *Chair:* **Grigoris Tziovaras,** Journalist, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece

18.40 **Far-right in Power: The EU's Response?**

As nationalist and far-right parties gain governmental power across member states, the fundamental values and cohesion of the EU are being tested. This panel will debate the Union's response: Can Brussels effectively counteract illiberal policies without alienating national electorates?

Setting the Stage:

✓ **Tassos Giannitsis**, Emeritus Professor, UOA, Minister of Labor and Social Security (2000-2001), Hellenic Republic

Speakers:

✓ **Rosen Plevneliev**, President of Bulgaria (2012-2017)
✓ **Theodoros Rousopoulos**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2023-2026), Greece
✓ **Nikos Papandreou**, Member of the European Parliament
✓ **Marietta Karamanli**, Deputy of the French National Assembly, France
✓ **Lamprini Rori,** Associate Professor in Political Analysis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

✓ *Chair:* **Tania Bozaninou,** Managing Editor, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece

20.00 **End of day 1**

Tuesday, December 8

08.45 Arrival of guests

09.30 **The Next Frontier: EU Enlargement in 2026**

An in-depth analysis of the successes, failures, and geopolitical necessity of integrating Ukraine, Moldova, and the Western Balkans into the Union.

Setting the Stage:

✓ **Georgios Gerapetritis**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic

✓ *Chair:* **Angelos Athanasopoulos,** Journalist, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece

Speakers:

✓ **Nicolas Kassianides**, Ambassador of the French Republic to the Hellenic Republic
✓ **Othon Anastasakis**, Director, South East European Studies, Oxford, Senior Research Fellow, St Antony's College, Univ. of Oxford, UK
✓ **Angelos Syrigos**, Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Hellenic Republic
✓ **Marilena Koppa**, Professor of Comparative Politics, Dean of the School of Int. Studies, Communication and Culture Panteion University

✓ *Chair:* **Symeon G. Tsomokos,** Delphi Economic Forum

10.30 **In Conversation**

Anchoring the Eurozone: Industrial Resilience and Tech Sovereignty in a Multi-Polar World

This session examines safeguarding the Eurozone against geoeconomic fragmentation. It analyzes how the Eurogroup can drive Europe's economic sovereignty by bridging the industrial and technological gap. The discussion will focus on how Europe can transform supply chain vulnerabilities and technological dependencies into opportunities to secure critical infrastructure, foster breakthrough innovation, and build a highly competitive, integrated market.

✓ **Kyriakos Pierrakakis**, Minister of Economy and Finance & President of the Eurogroup, Hellenic Republic

✓ *Chair:* **Pavlos Tsimas,** Journalist, Radio and TV Host, MEGA

10.55 **In Conversation**

The role of Judicial Institutions in safeguarding Democracy, Fundamental Rights and the Rule of Law in Europe

✓ **Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, President of the Hellenic Republic (2020-2025)

✓ *Chair:* **Ioanna Mandrou,** Journalist, TO VIMA Newspaper, MEGA TV, Greece

11.20 **In Conversation**

Digital Sovereignty or Digital Dependency? Securing Europe's Future in the AI Era

Examines whether European technological dependence threatens democracy and state resilience, and how national digital transformation models—like Greece's rapid modernization—can safeguard European sovereignty.

✓ **Dimitris Papastergiou,** Minister of Digital Governance and Artificial Intelligence, Hellenic Republic

✓ *Chair:* **Dimitris Elafropoulos**, Journalist, ToVima.gr, Greece

11.40 **Turkey: Part of the European Security Architecture or an External Challenge?**

Analyzing Turkey's complex relationship with the West, this panel evaluates whether it has a role to play within European defense frameworks or not, examining the geopolitical dynamics, policy differences, and security frictions involving the country and affecting regional stability.

✓ **Evangelos Venizelos**, Dep. Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs (2013 –2015), Prof. Emeritus, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
✓ **Dora Bakoyianni**, MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on National Defence & Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic
✓ **Christos Rozakis**, Emeritus Prof. UoA, Dep. Minister of Foreign Affairs (1996-1997), VP European Court of Hum. Rights, Greece
✓ **Soli Özel,** Visiting Lecturer, Koç University, Turkey

✓ *Chair:* **Odin Linardatou**, Chief Editor, TO VIMA International Edition, Greece

12.30 **The AI Macro-Shift: Labor, Growth, and Europe's Economic Crossroads**

Mapping the real-world impact on global jobs, GDP growth, and capital concentration. Can Europe leverage AI for productivity without lagging behind US & Chinese tech dominance, or will labor displacement & regulation stymie growth?

Setting the Stage:
✓ **Niki Kerameus,** Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hellenic Republic
✓ **Nikos Papathanasis**, Alternate Minister of National Economy and Finance, Hellenic Republic

Speakers:
✓ **Sandra Parthie,** President, EESC Employers' Group, Belgium
✓ **George Papaconstantinou**, Chair, Int'l Political Economy, Florence School of Transnational Governance, EUI, Italy

✓ *Chair:* **Ioanna Soufleri,** Managing Editor, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece

13.15 **Break**

13.30 **In Conversation**

From Chokepoints to Corridors:
Redefining South-East Europe & Mediterranean Connectivity Under Geopolitical Pressure

Regional turmoil and maritime threats are challenging traditional trade passages, forcing a radical rethink of European transit. This panel addresses how the South-East Europe & Mediterranean can bypass volatile chokepoints by accelerating multimodal infrastructure, upgrading critical port networks, and building high-capacity land corridors to guarantee uninterrupted flow of goods and strategic autonomy.

✓ **Apostolos Tzitzikostas,** Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, European Commission, Belgium

Chair:

13.55 **Building a Sovereign European Defence - Greece's Evolving Role in European Defense**

As Europe strives for defense sovereignty through joint procurement and command, the panel will examine whether national fragmentation will persist, while highlighting Greece's transformation from a security consumer into a vital regional security provider.

✓ **Yves Leterme**, Prime Minister of Belgium (2008, 2009-2011), Leterme Consultancy BV, Board Member of NGIC, Belgium
✓ **Jeffrey Reynolds**, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Center for Strategy & Security, Transatlantic Security Initiative, Atlantic Council, USA
✓ **Andreas Kindl**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Hellenic Republic
✓ **Thanos Dokos,** Secretary General for National Security, Presidency of the Government
✓ **Anna Diamantopoulou**, President, DIKTIO–Network for Reform in Greece and Europe, Greece

✓ *Chair:* **Grégoire Roos**, Director, Europe, Russia & Eurasia, Chatham House, UK

15.05 **Navigating in Dangerous Waters: Europe's Maritime Security Strategy in an Era of Turmoil**

The discussion will explore Europe's evolving maritime security strategies, safeguarding critical sea routes, defending infrastructure, and building resilience against growing geopolitical and hybrid threats.

Vassilis Kikilias, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Hellenic Republic
✓ **John C. Lyras**, Member of the BoD, Union of Greek Shipowners; CEO, Paralos Maritime Corporation S.A., Greece

✓ *Chair:* **Aris Ravanos**, Journalist, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece

15.50 **In Conversation**

East Med Energy and the contribution to the European Union Sovereignty

Examining Eastern Mediterranean energy resources, this session highlights their pivotal role in strengthening EU strategic autonomy, enhancing regional energy security, and reducing external dependencies through key infrastructure and innovation.

Stavros Papastavrou, Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic

Chair:

16.10 **In Conversation**

Shielding Europe's Internal Security

Europe is increasingly confronted with non-traditional security challenges that bypass conventional military defense. From highly coordinated cyberattacks and vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure to foreign interference, systematic disinformation campaigns, and cross-border organized crime, the continent's internal stability is under constant pressure. This discussion will explore how European law enforcement and internal security agencies can build robust defense mechanisms and modern resilience to counter these rising, unpredictable dangers.

✓ **Michalis Chrysochoidis**, Minister of Citizen Protection, Hellenic Republic

✓ *Chair:* **Vasilis Sfinas**, Managing Editor, ToVima.gr, Greece

16.30 **In Conversation**

Can the New European Pact on Migration & Asylum Respond to Future Migration & Demographic Challenges?

Does the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum balance strict border governance with Europe's shrinking labor force, or does it prioritize short-term deterrence over long-term demographic realities?

✓ **Thanos Plevris**, Minister for Migration and Asylum, Hellenic Republic

✓ *Chair:* **Aris Ravanos**, Journalist, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece

16.50 **In Conversation**

✓ **H.E. Kyriakos Mitsotakis**, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic
with
✓ **Yannis Pretenteris**, Publisher, TO VIMA Newspaper, Greece

17.35 **End of conference**