



Sofitel Brussels Europe Hotel - Paul-Henri Spaak

Thursday, November 6, 2025

## AGENDA

### 08.45 Registration and Coffee

### 09.30 Welcome

- ✓ **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Delphi Economic Forum
- ✓ **Ioannis Vrailas**, Permanent Representative of Greece to the European Union, Belgium

### 10.00 European Foreign Policy in a World of Conflict

The panel highlights the challenges in Europe's external actions and relations within a global environment marked by ongoing conflicts and fundamental changes in European foreign policy.

- ✓ **Taneli Lahti**, Deputy Managing Director for Global Issues, European External Action Service (EEAS), Belgium
- ✓ **William Drozdiak**, Global Europe Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, USA
- ✓ **Ian Lesser**, Distinguished Fellow & Adviser to the President, The German Marshall Fund of the US, Belgium
- ✓ **Bart M.J. Szewczyk**, Visiting Senior Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Belgium
- ✓ **Loukas Tsoukalis**, President of the Board, ELIAMEP, Greece
- ✓ *Chair: Henry Foy, Brussels Bureau Chief, Financial Times*

### 10.45 Fueling Europe's Future:

#### Securing Critical Raw Materials for the Green and Digital Transition

This panel examines the pivotal role of critical raw materials for Europe's green, digital, and defense transitions. Supply chain vulnerabilities from high import dependency and geopolitical risks will be addressed.

- ✓ **Rolf Kuby**, Director General, Euromines, Belgium
- ✓ **Paul Ferneyhough**, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Eldorado Gold Corporation
- ✓ **Panos Lolos**, General Manager of Copper Segment, ElvalHalcor S.A., Greece
- ✓ *Chair: Nektaria Stamouli, Eastern Mediterranean Correspondent, POLITICO Europe*



### 11.30 Public-Private Collaboration For a Resilient and Inclusive Europe: Unlocking the Potential of “Made In EU”

✓ **Kostas Salvaras**, South-East Europe Cluster Area Vice President, Philip Morris International, Romania  
with

✓ *Chair: **Odin Linardatou**, Chief Editor, TO VIMA ENGLISH EDITION, Head of Communications ELIAMEP*

### 12.00 European Trade Strategies in a Tariff War Era

This panel explores how the European Union is developing and implementing its trade strategies specifically in response to the current global climate marked by increasing tariff disputes and protectionist measures.

✓ **Gerassimos Thomas**, Director-General, DG for Taxation & Customs Union, European Commission, Belgium

✓ **Markus J. Beyrer**, Director General, BusinessEurope, Brussels, Belgium

✓ **Anny Podimata**, EU Affairs Director, VIOHALCO, Vice President, European Parliament (2011-2014), Greece

✓ **Karel Lannoo**, CEO, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, Belgium

✓ *Chair: **Odin Linardatou**, Chief Editor, TO VIMA ENGLISH EDITION, Head of Communications, ELIAMEP*

### 12.45 Presidency of the Council: Navigating European Challenges

Discussions will focus on how Cyprus & Greece plan to address key European challenges, foster unity among member states, and advance crucial policy agendas during their respective Presidencies.

Keynote Statement

✓ **Costas Kadis**, Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, European Commission, Belgium

Discussion

✓ **Ioannis Vrailas**, Permanent Representative of Greece to the European Union, Belgium

✓ **Georgios Ioannides**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU, Belgium

✓ *Chair: **Alexandra Voudouri**, Brussels Correspondent & Research Fellow, Kathimerini, DW Greek & ELIAMEP*

### 13.20 Break

### 14.00 In Conversation

✓ **Margaritis Schinas**, Vice President (2019-2024), European Commission, Belgium

with

✓ **Nicholas Vinocur**, Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, Europe, POLITICO Europe, Belgium

### 14.30 Powering Europe Through Cooperation: Energy Security, Circular Future & the East Mediterranean

The Panel will explore how Europe, with a focus on the East Mediterranean and Southeast Europe, can ensure energy security through regional cooperation and strategies for accelerating energy independence and sufficiency while respecting the green transition.

- ✓ **Tomas Anker Christensen**, Cabinet Expert, Senior Advisor to European Commissioner Dan Jørgensen, Belgium
- ✓ **Geoffrey Pyatt**, Assistant Secretary of State, Energy Resources (2022-2025), USA
- ✓ **James Watson**, Director General, Eurometaux, Belgium
- ✓ **Theodore Tzouros**, Executive General Manager, Chief Corporate and Investment Banking, Piraeus Bank, Greece
- ✓ **Charles Ellinas**, CEO, EC Cyprus Natural Hydrocarbons Company Ltd, Republic of Cyprus

✓ *Chair: Nik Gowing, Co-Director, Thinking the Unthinkable, United Kingdom*

### 15.30 Rearming Europe's Defence: The Response to a Multipolar World

The discussion explores the significant financial, military, and political investments Europe would need to make, and the strategic repercussions it would face, if it had to assume primary responsibility for its own defense in a scenario with reduced U.S. military commitment.

- ✓ **Agnieszka Bartol**, Permanent Representative of Poland to the EU
- ✓ **Guntram Wolff**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel, Professor of Economics, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
- ✓ **Burkard Schmitt**, Director for Defence & Security, Aerospace, Security & Defence Industries Association of Europe, Belgium
- ✓ **Benedetta Berti**, Secretary General, NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Belgium
- ✓ **Yannis Maniatis**, MEP, Vice Chair, S&D Group in the EP, Belgium, f. Minister of Environment, Energy & Climate Change, Hellenic Republic

✓ *Chair: Angelos Athanopoulos, National and Regional Press Director, European People's Party - EPP, Belgium*

### 16.15 Enlarging The Union: Regaining Momentum

EU enlargement is a geopolitical necessity, not just for the Union, but for the candidate countries themselves. It strengthens the collective security and stability of the entire region, benefiting both current member states and aspiring ones.

- ✓ **Gert Jan Koopman**, Director General for Enlargement & Eastern Neighbourhood, EU Commission, Belgium
- ✓ **Nemanja Starović**, Minister of European Integration, Republic of Serbia
- ✓ **Megi Fino**, Deputy Foreign Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Republic of Albania
- ✓ **Predrag Zenović**, Chief Negotiator for Montenegro's Accession to the EU
- ✓ **JUDr. Miroslav Lajčák**, National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister, Slovak Republic
- ✓ **Elena Lazarou**, Director General, ELIAMEP, Greece

✓ *Chair: Maria Tadeo, Head of EU News and Correspondent, Euronews*

### 17.15 Revamping Europe's Economy: Investment, Innovation, And EU Convergence

Analyzing the economic growth prospects for Southeast Europe, exploring strategies to attract investment, foster innovation, and achieve greater economic convergence with the European Union.

- ✓ **Luc Tholoniaf**, Director, Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs, EU Commission, Belgium
- ✓ **Maria Demertzis**, Economy, Strategy and Finance Center Leader, Europe, The Conference Board, Belgium
- ✓ **Nikos Vettas**, General Director, IOBE, Greece
- ✓ **Elias Korosis**, Global Investment Partner, Federated Hermes Private Equity, Chair, Invest Europe, Belgium
- ✓ **Konstantinos Diamantouros**, Head of Brussels Office, SEV, Permanent Delegate to BusinessEurope, Belgium
- ✓ **Gemma Webb**, CEO RetuRO SGR, Romania

✓ *Chair: **Nektaria Stamouli**, Eastern Mediterranean Correspondent, POLITICO Europe*

### 18.10 Talent, Demographics, and Diaspora: A New Agenda for Developmental Resilience

The Panel will explore strategic plans of EU's member states, such as Greece, to current population shifts, including the critical role of diaspora engagement and targeted policies to attract, retain, and facilitate the reintegration of skilled workers. Cultivating this robust, globally connected talent pool is essential for securing Europe's economic and social vitality.

- ✓ **Beate Gminder**, Director General, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission, Belgium
- ✓ **George Pagoulatos**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Greece, OECD, France
- ✓ **Christos Staikouras**, MP, Prof. AUEB, Minister of Finance (2019-2023), Minister of Infrastructure & Transport (2023-2025), Hellenic Republic
- ✓ **Achim Schmitten**, Lead Economist for Social Policy, World Bank, Belgium
- ✓ **Philippe Kotsaridis**, Vice President, European Hellenic Foundation
- ✓ **Angelos Pagratis**, Founder and Honorary President, ALLILON

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

### 19.00 End



Sofitel Brussels Europe Hotel - Roy Jenkins Room

Thursday, November 6, 2025

**13:30 – 16:30 Closed Side Event**

Organized by diaNEOsis & ELIAMEP

**Greece in the European Spotlight:  
Policies and challenges towards 2027**

**16:30 - 17:15 Workshop**

**Strategic Partnership:**

**Forging a Two-Way Relationship with the Greek Diaspora**

This workshop discussion will explore Greece's inaugural comprehensive strategic plan designed to forge a substantive and reciprocal relationship with the global Hellenic Diaspora. We will analyze the plan's holistic framework, emphasizing its focus on the new generation through enhanced digital inclusion and sophisticated technological instruments. Key themes include the digital transformation of consular services, the strengthening of Greek language and studies worldwide, and the introduction of experiential programs for youth reconnection. The session will also address pivotal reforms, such as postal voting, that are instrumental in formally recognizing and enhancing the Diaspora's essential contribution to the Hellenic Republic.