



# Panagiotis Kouroumplis

*Speaker*

**Minister, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy**

Panagiotis Kouroumplis was born in Aitoloakarnania in 1951. He holds a Law degree and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Athens.

At the age of 10 he lost his eyesight from the explosion of a German hand-grenade, a remnant of WW II. After attending the School for the Blind in Athens he became one of the pioneers of the Greek disability rights movement, demanding the enshrinement of the rights of the blind to employment and education.

Mr. Kouroumplis is the first blind person to be elected as a member of the Hellenic Parliament. He has served as an MP from 1996 to 2011 with PASOK and from 2012 until this day with SYRIZA. He has served as Minister of Health, Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction and General Secretary for Welfare in the Ministry of Health. Since November 2016, he holds the position of the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy.

He has received several awards in Greece and abroad for his achievements and social contribution. He is married with two children.



## **Morten Arntzen**

*Speaker*

**Senior Shipping Industry Advisor  
Macquarie Bank**

Morten Arntzen currently serves as Senior Shipping Industry Advisor for Macquarie Bank, assisting the bank to build a world-class shipping finance business. He is also the Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors of Team Tankers International Ltd, a major operator of chemical tankers; and serves on the Board of Directors of TBS Ocean Logistics, a dry bulk shipping company.

He has been involved in the global shipping industry continuously since 1979 in a variety of capacities: credit analyst, banker, underwriter, advisor, investor, board member, CEO and Chairman of the Board. He has worked for or with companies all over the globe, thru several shipping cycles and in all the major shipping segments (tankers, dry bulk, container, cruise, offshore, and gas carriers) He successfully built and reshaped several businesses during his banking and management career. He has served on the Board of Directors of a number of companies and institutions, including Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, Chiquita Brands International, Essar Shipping, IM Skaugen, TBS Shipping and is currently serving on the Board of Trustees of the Maine Maritime Academy and the Maritime Aquarium of Norwalk. Mr. Arntzen received a Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University and a BA from Ohio Wesleyan University.



# Vangelis Asvestas

*Speaker*

**Distribution Account Manager / Cloud & IoT Lead  
Greece, Cyprus, Malta  
Cisco**

Vangelis has been working for Cisco since 2005 in several positions.

Today, he is responsible for the distribution of Cisco products in Greece, Cyprus and Malta and also for building the ecosystem for Cloud and IoT solutions.

In the past, Vangelis has worked as a Channel Account Manager & Territory Market Manager for Cisco, and also as Technical Consultant at Hewlett Packard, Informatics & M. Papasavas AEVE.

Vangelis holds a Computer Engineering Bachelor of Science degree from the TEI of Piraeus and an MBA from Hellenic American University.



# **Greg Atkinson**

*Speaker*

**Director & Chief Technology Officer Eco Marine Power  
Co. Ltd. Fukuoka, Japan  
Managing Director, Ohori Capital Pty. Ltd.**

Greg is the Founder of Eco Marine Power and is responsible for new concept designs, product development, system design, strategic alliances and marketing.

His design or concepts include the Aquarius MRE System, EnergySail, Tonbo Hybrid Ferry, Medaka Solar Eco Commuter Ferry, Aquarius Eco Ship & Aquarius Marine Robotic Vessel (MRV).

Before founding Eco Marine Power, Mr Atkinson spent approximately 12 years in the telecommunications industry where he held senior management roles for a number of major multinational companies in Australia and Japan. During this time he managed several complex technical projects including large national mobile network deployments. He also held positions in areas such as project management, product management, product development, network support and marketing.

Prior to his career in the telecommunications sector, Greg spent 10 years in the Royal Australian Navy in the electronics engineering branch and served onboard the destroyer escorts HMAS Derwent & HMAS Stuart.

Greg holds an MBA, a B.Sc (Elec Eng) an Associate Diploma in Electronic Systems Maintenance and is a qualified radio fitter/mechanic. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (FRINA) and a Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (FIMarEST).

He first started working in Japan in 1997 and after several moves between Australia & Japan, finally settled in Fukuoka in 2007 (having also lived in Tokyo and Yokohama). He is originally from Sydney, Australia.

Greg is also the Managing Director of Ohori Capital Pty. Ltd.



## **Yuri Bender**

***Member of the Organizing Committee***  
**Editor-in-Chief**

**Professional Wealth Management at Financial Times**

Yuri Bender is a journalist covering banking, asset management and capital markets.

He has launched and edited several magazines and websites at the Financial Times group and is currently Editor-in-Chief of the Professional Wealth Management global magazine, website and events hub. He moderates panel discussions on financial, business and cultural issues in Europe, the US and Asia. He has reported from Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine for the FT Wealth magazine and writes regularly for FTfm, the fund management section of the FT newspaper.

He studied Investment Management at the London Business School and International Relations at Cambridge University.



## **Cruise Chi**

*Speaker*

**Executive Manager, Bocomm Shipping Leasing  
(Europe)**

**An affiliate of Bank of Communications Finance  
Leasing Co., Ltd.**

Mr. CHI Chao holds a Master's Degree in Maritime Law from Shanghai Maritime University. He has more than 12 years experiences in Shipping and Financing.

He joined Bank of Financial Leasing Company (Bocomm Leasing) in 2011. Before that, he worked for seven years for another well-recognizable Chinese shipping company, Sinotrans. In 2016, Bocomm shipping financing European Branch was set up in Hamburg. Mr. Chi is the head of the Branch and in charge of the European Market for Bocomm Shipping Leasing. Bocomm Shipping Leasing is an affiliate of Bank of Communications Finance Leasing Co., Ltd.



# **George Christopoulos**

***Speaker***

**Vice Admiral (Engineer) Hellenic Navy  
retired**

After a successful career in the Hellenic Navy, George is responsible for Marine Operations with LAROS platform in Prisma Electronics SA.

During his career, he has served as Operations Manager of the Hellenic Shipyards in Scaramanga under the auspices of the Hellenic Navy; Inspector General of the Hellenic Navy; Chief Technical Officer of the Hellenic Fleet; Frigates Projects Director; Commanding Officer for the commissioning of the new Fast Attack Crafts of the Hellenic Navy at the Elefsis Shipyards, while he has served for several years aboard warships of the Hellenic Navy, mainly on Frigates.

Furthermore, he has taught Gasdynamics, Internal Combustion Engines and Marine Gasturbines in the Hellenic Naval Academy, department of Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture.

He holds a degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from the Hellenic Naval Academy (Piraeus), a postgraduate degree in International Relations, Strategic Planning, Leadership, Management from the National Defense College (Athens) and a Master of Science in Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School (Monterey, California, USA). He is Emeritus Commanding Officer of the Support Command of the Hellenic Navy.



## **Joseph Cippola**

*Speaker*

**Senior Vice President, Wafra Capital Partners Inc.  
& Chairman Maritime Asset Partners S.a.r.l.**

Joseph J. Cippola is a Vice President of Wafra Capital Partners Inc. (“WCP”). Prior to joining WCP, he was in-house counsel at Bridgewater Associates, LP and an associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP. He received his JD, Cum Laude, from New York University School of Law and his AB, Cum Laude, from Princeton University. At WCP, Joseph is a member of the investment committee and focuses on originating, executing and managing strategic transactions and relationships in the transportation and speciality finance sectors.

Wafra Capital Partners Inc., a U.S. registered investment adviser that is indirectly beneficially majority owned by an autonomous agency of the government of Kuwait, provides investment advisory services to its clients and principally focuses on Shari’ah-compliant investments in the asset-based and structured finance arenas.



# **Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Drobetz**

*Speaker*

**President of Corporate Financing and Ship Financing  
Department of Business Administration, University of  
Hamburg**

Wolfgang Drobetz is a full professor of corporate finance and ship finance at the University of Hamburg. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of St. Gallen and completed his Habilitation at the University of Basel.

Wolfgang taught financial theory at the Bucerius Law School, the WHU Otto Beisheim Graduate School, and the IAE Business School. His research interests include corporate finance, corporate governance, asset management, and ship finance. Wolfgang's research has been published in leading academic and practitioner journals.

He is a member of the editorial board of several academic journals, served as co-president of the European Financial Management Association, and is a director of the Hamburg Financial Research Center (HFRC).



## **Duncan Dunn**

### **Incoming Chairman of the Baltic Exchange Senior Director, SSY Futures Ltd.**

Duncan Dunn has worked in the Derivatives industry since 1986 in both broking and fund management roles, at companies including Rudolf Wolff Fund Management Ltd, Union CAL Ltd, and Man Financial Ltd.

In 2004 Duncan joined SSY Futures Ltd and is a Senior Director, responsible for business development, marketing and regulatory compliance.

In July 2009 Duncan was appointed a director of the Baltic Exchange and has additionally served as a director of Baltic Exchange Index Services Ltd and Baltic Exchange Derivatives Trading Ltd (Baltex). In 2017 Duncan became Vice Chairman of the Baltic Exchange Council.

SSY Futures Ltd is a specialist Forward Freight Agreement and Dry Bulk Commodity Derivatives Broker and is part of Simpson Spence Young, the largest privately held shipbroker in the world.

SSY Futures Ltd work with ship owners and operators, charterers, commodity traders, miners and end users and the full range of financial counterparties in the Dry Bulk Derivative Markets. They have been at the forefront of all the major innovations in the market including; screen trading, clearing and options trading. They have around 30 specialist brokers covering Iron Ore, Coking Coal, Steel and Freight Derivatives.

SSY Futures Ltd has all the resources necessary to induct newcomers to the dry bulk derivatives markets and assist them in a successful trading strategy.



# **Dr. Konstantinos Galanis**

***Speaker***

**Director of Operations, Dido Shipping Co SA  
Lecturer Hellenic Management Centre - ICS Greek  
Branch**

Dr. Konstantinos Galanis has 27 years of professional experience. Director of Operations at Dido Shipping Co SA (a worldwide leader in green ship recycling also involved in Asset Play & Ship Management) and Lecturer at Institute of Charterer Shipbrokers, Hellenic Branch teaching Maritime Economics. He is a Commander (ret.) of the Hellenic Navy, Educational Counselor and member of Impact & Crashworthiness Lab for MIT and Founder of Shipping for Kids.

Holds three graduate degrees from MIT, namely MSc in Ocean Systems Management, Naval Engineer and PhD in Naval Architecture, Marine Engineering and Applied Mechanics (the first non-American active duty Officer to receive such title in the history of MIT). He has taught for several years courses related to Naval Architecture & Marine Hydrodynamics. He is a member of ABS European Technical Committee and ClassNK Greek Technical Committee. He has published several papers at International Journals, Conferences and events and has written several technical reports, projects and a book.



## **Christos Giordamlis**

*Speaker*

**CEO**

**Prisma Electronics S.A.**

Born in Alexandroupoli in 1966, Christos Giordamlis studied Electrical Engineering as well as Management & Marketing. Since 1996, he has been the CEO of Prisma Electronics S.A., and a board member of several enterprises focusing on new technologies.

He has been elected President of the Association of Industries and Small Industries of Evros as well as President of the Network of Associations of Industries and Manufacturing Firms of Border Areas.

Since its launch in 1991, Prisma Electronics has carried out hundreds of works in the areas of: IT solutions for industries and businesses in Thrace; IT for public entities in Thrace (municipalities, hospitals and tertiary education institutes); design and implementation of MAN, WAN, Fiber, Wi-Fi as well as Ethernet networks in enterprises and public organisations of the area; software development and implementation of ERP-CRM, MRP, e-business, cost analysis, accounting systems, programming; personnel management systems, website

development; internet applications; mobile applications; design and production of electronic circuits; quality control systems and production of electronics for the Leopard 2, for the Mirage 2000-5, etc.

Christos is actively involved in the development of Prisma Electronics S.A. products that focus on knowledge management. Among them,; PrismaSense IoT (Internet of things), which uses smart-sensor network technology; LAROS, which enables the remote monitoring of vessels focusing on low consumption as well as prognosis and early warning; and XENAGOS, which synthesizes and produces context-aware visitor experiences and guided tours.

He leads the research projects of Prisma Electronics S.A. and is responsible for the cooperation with foreign organisations, including Airbus and CERN.



# **George D. Gourdomichalis**

*Speaker*

**Managing Director**

**Phoenix Shipping & Trading S.A.**

George D. Gourdomichalis was born in 1967 in London. He attended Athens College and went on to graduate from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a BA in International Economics and a BA in Political Science. He further earned an MSc in Ocean Marine Transportation Management from the Maritime Academy of the State of New York. In 1989 he joined Republic National Bank of New York as a management trainee and worked on their trading floor. In 1992 he joined S.S. Maritime Inc. of New York, where he worked as a chartering and S&P broker and was responsible for commercial management of Baltmed Shipping Co.

In 1996 he returned to Greece and co-founded Gourdomichalis Naftiki Eteria S.A. In 2000 he co-founded Free Ships S.A. and in 2003 he co-founded Free Bulkiers S.A. These activities were consolidated and in 2005 were successfully merged resulting in the public listing of FreeSeas Inc. on the NASDAQ Exchange. This shareholding was sold in January 2007 where upon he co-founded G. Bros Maritime S.A.

He is currently CEO of Blue Wall Shipping Limited and MD Phoenix Shipping & Trading S.A. George serves on the RINA

Hellenic Committee, the Board of Directors of the American P&I Club, the Board of Directors of the Piraeus Marine Club, the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping and member of the Baltic Exchange, Intercargo, Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, BHCC, HSSA and BIMCO.



## **Dr. George A. Gratsos**

***Speaker***  
**President**

**Standard Bulk Transport Corp.**

A third-generation shipowner, Mr. Gratsos holds a BSc in Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering from the MIT (USA, 1965) and a PhD in Shipping Markets from the University of the Aegean. Mr. Gratsos was born on 5 December 1942 in Athens, Greece.

George A. Gratsos is Chairman of HELMEPA (Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association) and on the BoD of the Union of Greek Shipowners (UGS) and President of the UGS Maritime Safety and Marine Environment Protection Committee.

Mr. Gratsos was the President of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping (HCS) during 1996-2000 and from 2004 to February 2016.

Mr. Gratsos also is and has been in the past a member of many other boards and organizations. He has served as the President of the U.K. FREIGHT DEMURRAGE AND DEFENCE ASSOCIATION (1999-2002), Vice President of BIMCO (1997-1999) and Vice President of HELMEPA. He is also a Member of the AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING (ABS) New York, the Hellenic National Committee of ABS, the Hellenic Committee of DNV GL, LRS Hellenic Advisory Committee, RINA Hellenic Advisory Committee and other shipping and ship related organizations.



## **Yves Kallina**

*Speaker*

**Senior Vice President Global Loan Syndicate  
HSH Nordbank**

Yves Kallina is a Senior Vice President within HSH Nordbank's Global Loan Syndicate focusing on shipping transactions for the core and the non-core units. He joined the bank in 2014.

He started his ship finance career in 2003 as a relationship manager with Deutsche Schiffsbank in Bremen. In 2009 he took over the role as team head for clients in Western Europe and North America. Following the merger of the ship finance activities of Commerzbank, Dresdner Bank and Deutsche Schiffsbank Mr Kallina was entrusted with setting up the loan structuring and syndication team. After Commerzbank's decision to exit ship finance he worked as a senior specialist in Capital Markets Management where he was a key contact for investors discussing solutions in relation to the wind-down of the portfolio.

Mr Kallina holds a degree in business administration for Banking & Management (diplomierter Bankbetriebswirt) from Bankakademie Frankfurt e.V.

HSH Nordbank is a commercial bank for medium-sized corporate customers. With dedicated product know-how and long-standing experience, the bank is a competent partner for entrepreneurs. The bank enjoys an established, recognized position as a partner for the global maritime industry. HSH Nordbank is also a leading commercial real estate lender in Germany and a strong partner in

the classic corporate clients business as well as in Europe-wide project financing. Besides traditional loans, HSH Nordbank provides its clients with industry-specific as well as complementary bank products out of the area Treasury & Markets and transaction banking. The bank has dual headquarters in Hamburg and Kiel and is incorporated under German law. It currently has five branches in Germany and in selected international representative offices in Luxembourg, Athens, Hong Kong and Singapore.



## **Basil M. Karatzas**

***Chair of the Organizing Committee***  
**CEO**

**Karatzas Marine Advisors & Co.**

Basil M Karatzas is the founder and CEO of Karatzas Marine Advisors & Co., a shipping finance and ship-brokerage firm based in Manhattan, New York.

Mr Karatzas has more than fifteen years of experience in the shipping industry, encompassing a diverse and ever progressing list of roles and assignments, commencing with husbandry agency in the Port of Houston, Texas, and moving on to project cargo and chartering, ship brokerage, vessel valuations and shipping finance. Presently, in his capacity as founder and CEO Karatzas Marine Advisors, Mr Karatzas is leading a team of professionals advising shipowners on financial matters and raising capital and financing in today's competitive world. Recent successful assignments include raising of capital for privately-held independent shipowners, placing vessels from banks with privately-held independent shipowners in structured transactions and management agreements, and exclusive ship-brokerage services on behalf of banks and insolvency administrators. Complimentary services include bespoke shipping asset valuations and expert opinion, market expertise and advisory to institutional investors on maritime matters and deal sourcing and originations. Mr Karatzas and the firm have repeatedly represented and concluded transactions with

reference name accounts in the maritime, banking, financial and investment industries, including Fortune 100 companies.

Mr Karatzas is a frequent contributor to the trade press and speaker at trade conferences, and he has been quoted extensively in the international business press on maritime matters. A member of numerous professional associations, including The Royal Institute of International Affairs, The Baltic Exchange, the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, Mr Karatzas has been educated at Harvard Business School (HBS) and Rice University. Karatzas Marine Advisors & Co is headquartered in the Financial District in Manhattan, New York City, but with a worldwide footprint of clients, primarily in the USA, UK, Greece, Germany, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan representing maritime and shipping, trading, commodities, banking and finance, private equity and asset management.



# Constantine Komodromos

*Speaker*  
**Co-founder & CEO**  
**VesselBot**

Constantine is a Fellow member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA), and has more than 16 years of working experience in a number of multinational organizations including among others Shipping companies.

**In his current role, as CEO and Co-founder** of VesselBot he has been working with a large number of ship owners, charterers, and commodity traders across the globe to transport chartering brokerage into the 21st century. Furthermore, Constantine is a frequent guest keynote speaker and panelist at international trade conferences where he discusses about innovative technologies and their application to the maritime industry.

VesselBot is a digital chartering marketplace for the Bulk Maritime industry which allows Ship Owners and Charterers to identify in an efficient and effective way the optimal counterparty by combining technology and data with the expertise of physical Brokers. Hence, it provides its users with strategic, operational and financial benefits and overcomes the problems that are inherent with the current Brokerage modus operandi.



## **George Laios**

*Speaker*

**Group's Business Development Manager  
NJ Goulandris Maritime Inc.**

George Laios joined NJ Goulandris Maritime Inc in 2017 and is currently the Group's Business Development Manager. Prior to joining NJ Goulandris Maritime Inc, he worked for more than 14 years for the shipping department of the Royal Bank of Scotland – where he last held the title of the Senior Director, Ship Finance.

Since 2015, he is an instructor in the "Shipping Finance" distance learning course of SeaWorks Training & Consultancy in collaboration with the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. Prior to that, George lectured strategy and shipping finance to undergraduate and postgraduate students at the BCA College / London Metropolitan University.

George holds a Bachelor's degree in Shipping Business Administration and a Master's degree (MSc) in International Economics, Banking and Finance.

Since 2013, he has been member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Banking and Financial Executives of Hellenic Shipping, currently holding the position of the Deputy General Secretary.



# **Nigel Lowry**

*Speaker*

## **Greece Correspondent of Lloyd's List**

Nigel Lowry is Lloyd's List's resident expert on Greek shipping and has been covering the industry since the crisis of the 1980s. He has reported on the key Greek shipping community from London and New York as well as Athens and has carried out a range of other assignments for Lloyd's List in other countries.

Nigel wrote the book 'Onassis and his Legacy', published by the Onassis Foundation in 2003, reprinted from a serialisation in Lloyd's List.

He is a regular participant in maritime industry events as chairman, moderator or guest speaker and has often been interviewed for television and other media on shipping topics.

Since 2004, his remit for Lloyd's List includes directing and hosting the annual Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards, a major event in the maritime calendar that draws more than 1,000 guests each year.

Prior to joining Lloyd's List he held senior editorial positions with the Greek Business Review, Naftiliaki magazine, the Newsfront Greek Shipping Intelligence newsletter, and The Athenian, a monthly magazine. He has been a regular correspondent for The European Times, De Lloyd/Lloyd Anversois and Media International, among others.

Independently, Nigel is also founder and director of the Greek Shipping Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is dedicated to recognising outstanding individuals in Greek shipping's history and is a hub of information for new generations as well as a strong supporter of Greek children's charity Hellenic Hope.



# **John Platsidakis**

**Chairman, Intercargo  
Managing Director, Anangel Maritime Services Inc.**

John Platsidakis holds a Bachelor Degree in Mathematics from the University of Thessaloniki (1974), a Master's Degree in Operational Research from the London School of Economics (1976) and a Master's Degree in Economics and Econometrics from the University of Southampton (1977).

Employed from 03/1978 until 12/1987 by Bank of America in ship finance in Athens, Piraeus and London, with the title of Vice President, from 01/1988 until 12/1988 by Marmaras Navigation as Finance Director, and from 01/1989 until presently by Anangel Maritime Services as Managing Director and Director of the Angelicoussis Shipping Group.

Member of the Board of Directors (since 1997) and the Executive Committee (since 2015) of the Union of Greek Shipowners, the Board of Directors (since 1994) and the Executive Committee (since 1998) of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping, the Executive Committee (from 2009 until 2015) and the Council (since 2007) of Intertanko, and Member of the Executive Committee (since 2002), Vice Chairman (from 2004 until 2012) and Chairman (since 2012) of Intercargo.

Founding Member and President of the Society of Greek Alumni of the London School of Economics from 1981 until 2005 and Member of the Advisory Board of the Hellenic Observatory at the European Institute of the London School of Economics from 1997 until 2006.

John has been included in Lloyd's List 100 Most Influential People in the Shipping Industry in 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2017.



# **Dr. Kostas Rokkos**

*Speaker*

Chairman & CEO, TST International S.A



## **Nick Roos**

***Speaker***  
**Managing Director**  
**Maritime Asset Partners (MAP)**

Nick has more than 25 years of structured asset finance and banking experience with Deutsche Bank, Tufton Oceanic and HSBC (Midland Bank). During his 19-year career with Deutsche Bank, in London and Singapore, Nick led advisory and principal finance desks for transportation assets in UK tax leasing, export credit backed debt and structured finance.

Most recently, Nick was Co-Head of Deutsche Bank's Structured Credit Transportation business, leading the structuring, underwriting and on-balance sheet asset management of the bank's global shipping exposures.



## **Dr. Martin Stopford**

*Conference chair*

Non-executive President  
Clarkson Research Services Ltd.

Martin Stopford is a graduate of Oxford University and has a PhD in International Economics from London University. During his 45 years in the Maritime Industry he has held positions as Director of Business Development at British Shipbuilders; Global Shipping Economist with Chase Manhattan Bank N.A.; Chief Executive of Lloyds Maritime Information Services and an executive director of Clarksons PLC. He retired from Clarksons in May 2012 and is now non-executive President of Clarkson Research Services Limited (CRSL) and Director of MarEcon Ltd, his e-learning business.

Dr Stopford is a visiting Professor at Cass Business School in London, Dalian Maritime University in China and Newcastle University. He has an Honorary Doctorate from Solent University. He has received several awards, including a lifetime achievement award from Lloyds List in 2010; Shipping Personality of the Year at the Seatrade Global Awards Dinner in 2013; the Onassis Prize for Shipping in 2015; and the Capital Link Shipping Leadership Award in New York in 2016.

His publications include “Maritime Economics” 3rd Ed, the widely used shipping text book published in January 2009, and many papers on shipping economics and shipping finance.



## **Dr. Kirsi Tikka**

*Speaker*

**Executive Vice President**

**Global Marine American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)**

Kirsi Tikka is Executive Vice President, Global Marine at ABS, responsible for aligning ABS strategic planning, client development and product and service offerings with the industry's technical needs and requirements.

Previously, Tikka served as ABS Europe Division President and as Vice President and Chief Engineer. Before joining ABS in 2001, Tikka was a professor of Naval Architecture at Webb Institute in New York. In addition to teaching, she carried out research on the structural strength of tankers and risk analysis, and she was actively involved in the U.S. National Research Council Marine Board studies on double hull tankers. Tikka has also worked for Chevron Shipping in San Francisco and for Wärtsilä Shipyards in Finland.

Tikka is a native of Finland and holds a doctorate degree in naval architecture and offshore engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree in mechanical engineering and naval architecture from the University of Technology in Helsinki. She is a Fellow of both the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME) and the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA). In 2012, Tikka received SNAME's David W. Taylor Medal, the highest technical honor for naval architecture or marine engineering. She is a Foreign Member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering.



## **George A. Tsavlis**

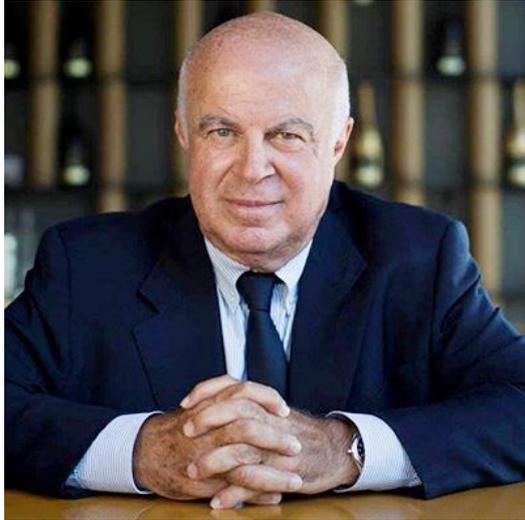
***Speaker***  
**Principal**  
**Tsavlis Salvage Group**

Mr. George A. Tsavlis was born in London. He graduated from Athens College in 1968 and having acquired professional qualifications in Shipping (F.I.C.S., ACI.Arb), he concluded his graduate and post graduate studies in Shipping Law at University College London in 1973, with an L.L.M. degree. In 2009 he was qualified as a Mediator at the ADR Group London and in 2014 was certified as a Mediator by the Greek Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights.

He familiarized himself with the shipping and salvage sectors from a very early age by being engaged in the family business. George is a Principal at “Tsavlis Salvage Group” and represents the business on both a commercial and environmental basis internationally. He holds the position of Past Chairman of INTERMEPA (International Marine Environment Protection Association), Chairman of CYMEPA (Cyprus Marine Environmental Protection Association), which received the “Cyprus Maritime Prize 2007”, as well as member of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Union of Shipowners and Honorary Chairman of the Tsavlis Cultural Foundation. Furthermore, Mr. George Tsavlis was awarded the 2016 Capital Link Greek Shipping Leadership Award, in recognition of his unique and extensive contribution to Shipping and Greece and for his overall outstanding service to the shipping industry made by him individually, as a family and by his

company as a Group.

George is a frequent keynote speaker and panelist at numerous maritime related conferences. He is an avid supporter of various charities, an art and music enthusiast and has completed ten London marathons. He is a father of five children.



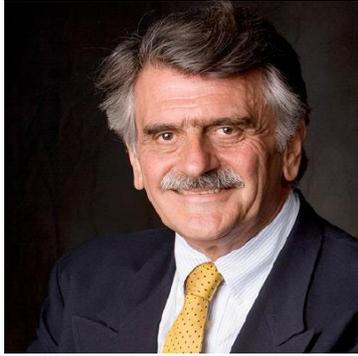
## **Nicolas A. Vernicos**

*Speaker*

**Shipowner, Vernicos Maritime S.A.  
President, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC-  
Hellas)**

Mr Nicolas A Vernicos is the Principal of the eponymous tug and salvage company Vernicos Tugs and Salvage, tracing its origin in Constantinople (today Istanbul) in 1851; he is also associated with several more shipping companies and interests, including tankers and yachts.

Further, Mr Vernicos is active in the tourism, hospitality, real estate and financial industries and serves on numerous corporate and non-profit boards. A firm believer that culture counts, Mr Vernicos is affiliated with several cultural, environmental and philanthropic causes involving Greece and the Greek culture. Mr Vernicos holds M.Sc. in Economics from the Athens University of Economics (ASOEE).



# Emmanouel A. Vordonis

*Speaker*

**f. Chairman & Executive Director  
Thenamaris Ship Management Inc.**

With his roots originating from the centre of the Aegean, the blue sea's life and people have been determining his life since his early childhood.

He majored in Physics focusing mainly in the theoretical realm as well as in philosophy of Science. He continued his post-graduate studies and research in systems analysis, control, cybernetics and complex systems modelling. He participated in cross-disciplinary explorations in the domains of naval architecture, fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, socio-economic simulation and planning.

He joined THENAMARIS SHIPS MANAGEMENT INC. about 40 years ago. As its Executive Director and Chairman, he was a member of its core governance team. He concentrated mainly on the continuous improvement of people, systems, relationships and the overall business and social deliverables of the company. The corporate targets for safety, environmental stewardship, high efficiency and the long-term trust, as the bonding material with its clients, providers, markets, its own people and community, had a top priority in his professional agenda. A component of his assignments was the engagement in local and international fora, where active presence and constructive participation was a company's policy commitment, within the wider sense of its corporate and social responsibility.

He was thus and still is involved in discussions of the wider local and international maritime industry and is active in civic groups of social concern. He has a particular interest in the stimulation of creative thinking, innovation,

and the generation of quality. The resolution of conflict, the building of trust, the improvement of synergies, friendship and peace among diverse stakeholders are highly prioritized in his radar screen.

He has been a member of the INTERTANKO Executive Committee until last November when he resigned at the completion of his term. Just a few years back he was representing the Greek tanker community in the organization, as Chairman of the Hellenic and Mediterranean Forum.

Within the Intertanko quarters, he was the initiator and founder of the creative team, with the mission to spread the vision, values and the enthusiasm of the POSEIDON CHALLENGE. A global action centre created to encourage and support volunteerism, environmental stewardship and companionship within the ranks of the seafarers and the wider maritime family.

On land, parallel to his maritime focus at the corporate level, he was instrumental in big scale real estate development projects which involved the master planning and the business structure for city regeneration schemes within the wider Athens range.

On a personal level, driven by his wider interest for the regeneration of tradition, micro-environments and architectural heritage, his family has created the ECORECREATORS S.A. An organization established to focus on the salvage, preservation and revitalization of deteriorating environmental systems and architectural heritage. The revival of POSEIDONION GRAND HOTEL on the island of Spetses is a materialized dream within this line of activities. The salvage and preservation of traditional classic boats is another focal domain of the preservation initiatives of ECORECREATORS and its individual members.

In the current political and social context he is engaging as a bystander and supporter in positive initiatives of community protagonists or teams. The regeneration of basic Universal Values, as power-energy, to restore economies and society has become a high priority goal and a top mission on his personal agenda.

He is married with two children who are well in the zone of their creative maturity in their professional and family domain.



# **Frithiof Wilhelmsen**

*Speaker*

**Vice President**

**Macquarie Specialised Investment Solutions**

Frithiof Wilhelmsen joined Macquarie Specialised Investment Solutions as a Vice President for ship finance activities in 2017. He has worked with structuring and executing debt solutions (sale leasebacks, senior lending, export credit finance) to the shipping and offshore industries since 2007, previously for NorthCape Capital and Citigroup. Mr Wilhelmsen holds a Masters in Public Administration from Columbia University and a BA from King's College London. Frithiof is a Norwegian citizen, based in Zurich, Switzerland.