COP 29 GREECE

Greek *SIDE* Events

Complete Agenda

TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2024

10.00 - 10.45

Green Ports for a Sustainable Blue Economy (in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Exploring sustainable maritime infrastructure with a focus on innovations in decarbonization and environmental stewardship. Key topics include alternative fuels, green port infrastructure, shore-to-ship power solutions, and eco-friendly shipping routes to support a sustainable blue economy.

Welcome Address:

Dimitris Skalkos, Secretary General for International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic.

Participants:

Aristotelis Aivaliotis, General Secretary for Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic

James Forsdyke, Managing Director, Maritime Decarbonisation Hub, Lloyd's Register

Damianos Efthymiadis, Business Development Director, Archirodon Group N.V

Bo Cerup-Simonsen, CEO, Fonden Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping

Antonis Michail, Technical Director at International Association of Ports and Harbors, World Ports Sustainability Program

Moderator: **Kasparas Spokas,** Director of Insights and Integration Strategy, CATF

11.00 - 11.45

Green Finance: Overcoming Challenges, Seizing Opportunities (in collaboration with Athens Riviera Forum)

This side event will focus on Green Finance, exploring challenges and opportunities in financing a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. As the world pursues Paris Agreement goals, discussions will cover regulatory and market barriers, green bonds, public-private partnerships, and ESG integration.

Welcome Address:

Aristotelis Aivaliotis, General Secretary for Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic.

Participants:

Harry Boyd Carpenter, Managing Director Sustainable Infrastructure Group, EBRD

Irene Heemskerk, Head of Climate Change Center, European Central Bank (ECB)

Nikolaos Voutychtis, Chief Investment Officer, LATSCO Family Office

Stephen Comello, Senior Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, EFI Foundation; Co-Managing Director, Energy Futures Finance Forum

Dionissis Alissandratos, Chairman and Managing Director, SirecEnergy

Moderator: **Antigoni Lymperopoulou,** CEO, Hellenic Development Bank of Investments (HDBI)

12.00 - 12.45

COP29 Women Leaders for the Environment and Climate

This high-level event gathers women leaders to discuss advancing gender equality in climate action ahead of COP29. The panel will explore how women's leadership can drive climate resilience and sustainable development, addressing gender gaps in climate finance and policy. UN data highlights that women, especially in vulnerable areas, face greater climate risks, yet climate finance remains largely gender-blind.

Welcome Address:

Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic

Participants:

Senator Dr. Joyelle Trizia Clarke, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment, The Government of Sn. Kitts & Navis
Oyun Sanjaassuren, Director of External Affairs, Green Climate Fund

Verena Alice Sturm, Founding Partner, Avestu Capital and Director, Innovation, Technology, and Social Impact at Observer Research Foundation
Theodora Fiora Tsintzou, President, Biopolitics Organization

Jane Burson, CEO, Clean Air Fund, Young Global Leader

Stavriana Delipetrou, Young Leader, European Institute of Law, Science, and Technology
Chryssa Tsouraki, CEO, IN-VR

Moderator: **Dr. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou**, MP, Greek Prime Minister's Envoy for the Oceans

13.00 - 13.45

Greece as Power hub: Telecoms, IT and Energy

This event highlights Greece's rise as a hub for energy, tech, and investments in Southeastern Europe. Government officials will outline economic and environmental strategies, while Enterprise Greece will showcase advancements in telecoms, IT, and energy. A panel with leaders from the Hellenic Development Bank of Investments and Archirodon Group will explore Greece's tech and investment landscape, followed by a Q&A session for deeper insights.

Welcome Address:

Dimitris Skalkos, Secretary General for International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic.
Aristotelis Aivaliotis, General Secretary for Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic.

Keynote Presentation:

Marinos Giannopoulos, CEO of Enterprise Greece

Panel Discussion:

Haris Lambropoulos, President at Hellenic Development Bank of Investments S.A. (HDBI)
Damianos Efthymiadis, Business Development Manager, Archirodon Group N.V.

Moderator: **Kostis Tselenis**, Chairman of the Board, Hellenic Impact Investing Network

15.00 - 15.30

Greece at COP: Leading the Way in Green Economy and Climate Action

This event spotlights Greece's leadership at COP29 in advancing climate action, renewables, and sustainable development. Panelists will discuss Greece's role in regional climate resilience and energy security, in line with the EU Green Deal and COP29 goals.

Participants:

Konstantinos Fragkogiannis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic

Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic

Moderator: **Lee Beck**, Senior Director, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, CATF

16.00 - 17.00

Advancing International Cooperation for Climate Action and Energy Transition (in collaboration with Athens Riviera Forum)

This Ministerial Dialogue will bring together global leaders to enhance climate cooperation and accelerate the energy transition, focusing on shared policies, innovation, and investment to meet Paris Agreement goals

Participants:

Edward Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero of the United Kingdom

Sebastian Ioan Burduja, Minister of Energy, Romania

Miriam Dalli, Minister for the Environment, Energy and Regeneration of the Grand Harbour, Malta

Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic

Jovana Joksimosic, Assistant Minister of Mining and Energy for International Cooperation and European Integration, Serbia

Moderator: **Juan Carlos Monterrey,** Head of Delegation to COP29 & Special Representative for Climate Change of Panama

WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2024

10.00 - 10.30

Prime Minister's Address at the Greek Pavilion

This event opens the Greek Pavilion at COP29, showcasing Greece's recent achievements in climate action and energy transition. Discussions will highlight progress since COP28, with a focus on clean energy, sustainability, and Greece's role in fostering international partnerships for a greener future.

Participants:

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister, Hellenic Republic

11.15 - 12.00

Vertical Corridor: Europe's New Energy Lifeline

This high-level event will highlight the Vertical Corridor's role in regional energy resilience and the REPowerEU strategy.

Opening Remarks:

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

Rumen Georgiev Radev, President of Bulgaria

Project Introduction: **Maria Rita Galli,** CEO of DESFA

Panel Discussion:

Theodoros Skylakakis, Minister of Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic

Vladimir Malinov, Minister of Energy of Bulgaria

Victor Parlicov, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Moldova

Sebastian Ioan Burduja, Minister of Energy, Romania

Moderator: **Cristina Lobillo***,* Director – Head of Energy Platform Task Force in DG ENER

12.15 - 13.00

Resilient and sustainable infrastructure in the Eastern Mediterranean (in collaboration with Archirodon)

With over half the world in cities, infrastructure drives economic growth and development. To meet climate and development goals, we need a new approach that integrates ecosystems with infrastructure to support biodiversity and deliver social and economic benefits. Future engineering must blend natural processes into urban environments to boost resilience, requiring comprehensive strategies to assess, mitigate, and manage impacts on air, water, waste, and biodiversity.

Welcome Address:

Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic

Participants:

Damianos Efthymiadis, Business Development Director, Archirodon Group N.V

Gianpiero Nacci, Director, Sustainable Business & Infrastructure, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Marko Davila, Senior Social Development Specialist, European Investment Bank

Paul Sotiriadis, Director, Laboratory of Electronics-Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering, EBRD

Moderator: **George Karagiannis**, Risk & Resilience Director, International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure

13.10 - 13.50

GR-ean Digital World: Greece and MASDAR in pivotal cooperation on Green, Clean, Digital transformation

This event showcases Greece's cooperation with Masdar as well as good practices towards a sustainable, green and clean way to develop data centers, which de facto consumes a huge amount of energy.

Participants:

Thodoros Skylakakis, Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic

Konstantinos Fragkogiannis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, CEO Masdar

Moderator: **Haris Lambropoulos**, President at Hellenic Development Bank of Investments

14.00 - 14.30

Our Ocean, Our Action

This high-level dialogue will review outcomes from the 9th "Our Ocean" Conference in Athens, discuss priorities for the 10th in Korea, and explore initiatives like "Digital Oceans" to advance sustainable ocean governance and protect marine ecosystems globally.

Participants:

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

Hong Sik Cho, Special Envoy of South Korea to COP29

Sue Biniaz, Principal Deputy Special Envoy for Climate, Office of the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate

Moderator: **Ilana Victor Seid,** Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations

14.45 - 15.15

Fireside Chat: Energy transition: Initiatives with global impact (in collaboration with Herema)

Greece has an integrated plan to accelerate energy transition, ensure energy security, and boost economic growth by expanding solar and wind capacity and advancing Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) projects. Key initiatives include the National Programme for Offshore Wind Farms, designating 23 areas for development, and Greece's first CCS project in the Prinos oil field. In this session, Greece's Minister of Environment and Energy, Mr. Theodoros Skylakakis, will discuss policies and innovations driving decarbonization and climate action.

Participants:

Thodoros Skylakakis, Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic
Javid Abdullayev, Director of Azerbaijan of Renewable Energy Agency

Moderator: **Rikard Scoufias**, Chairman, HEREMA

15.30 - 16.45

Untapping the renewable energy potential of the Mediterranean, co-organized with EU Commission

Transforming the Mediterranean energy system to zero emissions requires abundant green energy, sourced locally and through cross-border trade. The region can both harness local solar and wind power to meet growing demand and become a green energy hub by building infrastructure for renewable energy trade. Projects like grid interconnections and hydrogen pipelines are attracting interest from neighboring countries and investors. This event gathers stakeholders to discuss the Mediterranean's role in the energy transition and project prospects.

Participants:

Panel A'

Ditte Juul Jørgensen, Director General DG ENER
Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment & Energy, Hellenic Republic
Ahmed Mahina, Deputy Minister of Electricity & Renewable Energy, Egypt
Moderator: **Sara Stefanini**, EMEA Climate Policy Editor at Carbon Pulse

Panel A'

Ioannis Karydas, CEO, Renewables and Battery Storage Business Unit, Copelouzos Group
Walburga Hemetsberger, ISMI project, CEO of SolarPower Europe
Aida Sitdikova, Director and Head of Energy Eurasia, Middle East, and Africa, Sustainable Infrastructure Group, EBRD
Andrew McDowell, Director General of EIB Global
Moderator: **Mark Eramo,** Co-President, S&P Global Commodity Insights

17.00 - 17.45

Policies and tools to adapt to a changing climate: building resilience for water resources and critical infrastructure

This event at COP29 will explore policies and practices for adapting water resources and infrastructure to climate impacts. Topics include managing droughts and floods through water recycling, irrigation optimization, rainwater storage, and nature-based solutions, with a focus on the WEFE (Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem) approach. Attendees will share experiences to enhance infrastructure resilience against climate risks.

Participants:

Thodoros Skylakakis, Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic

Jo Tyndall, Director for Environment, Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Jessica Troni, Senior Program Officer and Head of Climate Change Adaptation Unit

Elina Väänänen, Climate Change Specialist, European Investment Bank

Fareeha Iqbal, Adaptation Coordinator, Climate Change Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility

Moderator: Petros Varelidis, Secretary General for Natural Environment & Water, Greece

18.00 - 18.45

Islands of Innovation: Charting a Zero Waste Future (in collaboration with Polygreen)

Participants:

Manolis Grafakos, General Secretary for Waste Management Coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece

Petros Varelidis, Secretary General for Natural Environment and Waters, Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece

Ali Al Dhaheri, MD and CEO Tadweer Group

Athanasios Polychronopoulos, CEO Polygreen

Moderator: **Ollie Lawson**, Corporate, reputation and crisis communications leadership, Tadweer Group

THURSDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2024

09.45 - 11.00

Offshore Wind Power: A Catalyst for Reshaping the Energy Landscape (in collaboration with Herema)

Offshore wind can reshape energy systems by offering a reliable, large-scale renewable source with stronger, more consistent winds than onshore sites. It reduces land-use challenges, making it ideal for land-limited countries like Greece, and is increasingly cost-competitive. This session will highlight Greece's progress in offshore wind, with experts discussing advancements in domestic, European, and global projects, and exploring Greece's potential as a regional supply chain hub.

Participants:

Fireside Chat

Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic
Giles Dickson, CEO, WindEurope
Moderator: **Rikard Scoufias,** Chairman, HEREMA

Panel Discussion (40')

Gonzalo Saenz de Miera, Global Director of Climate Change and Alliances at the Chairman's Area, Iberdrola
Abdulaziz Alobaidli, Chief Operating Officer, Masdar
Astrid Rusås Kristoffersen, Director Group Research & Development, DNV
Konstantinos Mavros, CEO, PPC Renewables

Moderator: **Aris Stefatos**, CEO, HEREMA

11:15 - 12:00 *AI-Era Technologies for Climate and Energy Resilience (in collaboration with Tony Blair Institute)*

Adapting to climate change is a global priority. This panel will explore new climate adaptation solutions, focusing on AI's role in disaster risk reduction and innovative technologies for managing climate challenges.

Participants:
Petros Varelidis, Sec. General Natural Environment and Waters in the Ministry of Environment and Energy
Salama Alawadhi, Director of National Country Value Program (ICV) at Ministry of Industry & Advanced Technology, UAE (TBC)
Alastair Marke, Director-General of the Blockchain & Climate Institute (BCI)
Adam Elman, Director of Sustainability, EMEA, Google
Moderator: **Lindy Fursman**, Director of Climate & Energy Policy, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

13:00 – 13:45

ESG as a Catalyst for SDG Progress: Private Sector Engagement for Global Impact

This panel will examine how ESG practices support Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. As the private sector adopts ESG strategies, experts will discuss how these enhance climate action and sustainable growth, aligning economic progress with resilience and climate awareness.

Participants:

Nawal Alhanaee, Director of Future Energy Department at Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure, UAE

Lame Verre, Director of Net Zero, Crown Estate, UK

Niki Hutson, Head of Sustainable Finance & ESG Advisory, DNV

Maria Flouda, Founder and Managing Director, Sustainability Switch Consultancy

Moderator: **Hager Abunahwa**, WiSER Pioneer (Women in Sustainability, Environment, and Renewable Energy), Masdar

14:00 – 14:45

Mitigating Climate Change and decarbonizing industry through CCS (in collaboration with Herema)

Advancing Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is crucial for Greece's climate goals under its National Energy and Climate Plan and the EU Green Deal. With the EU targeting 50 million tons of CO2 storage by 2030, Greece's first CCS project in northern Greece is a key step, aiming to capture up to 3.5 million tons of CO2 annually. This session will explore CCS's role in Greece's climate strategy, highlighting project progress, challenges, and innovations shaping a low-carbon future.

Participants:

Jarad Daniels, CEO, Global CCS Institute

Dimitris Zevgolis, Head of Multilateral Affairs, DG Clima European Commission, Deputy Head of EU Delegation to UNFCCC

Maria Rita Galli, CEO, DESFA

Nikolas Rigas, Head of Carbon Storage, Energean

Moderator: **Aris Stefatos**, CEO, HEREMA

15:30 – 16:15

Unlocking the Full Potential of Green Energy: The Pivotal Role of Energy Storage (in collaboration with Deloitte)

Highlighting the essential role of energy storage in maximizing the potential of green energy.

Participants:

Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment & Energy, Hellenic Republic
Julia Souder, Chief Executive Officer at Long Duration Energy Storage Council, Chair Global Renewables Alliance
Dimitris Triantafyllopoulos, CEO, Hellenic Hydrogen
Asaf Wassercug, CEO, BL Energy
Alexis Paizis, Deputy CEO, PPC Group

Moderator: **Konstantinos Eleftheriadis**, Partner, Energy, Resources & Industrials Sector Leader, Deloitte Greece

16:30 – 17:15

Riding the Wave: The Race to Build the World's First Net-Zero Fleet (in collaboration with DeepSea)

This session brings together visionary shipping leaders racing to develop the world's first net-zero fleet. Panelists will spotlight groundbreaking projects and bold timelines, featuring industry giants betting on carbon-neutral vessels. We'll explore zero-emission prototypes and cutting-edge tech, like AI, already making an impact.

Welcome Address:

Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic

Participants:

Stefanos Gikas, Deputy Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Hellenic Republic
James Forsdyke, Managing Director, Maritime Decarbonisation Hub, Lloyd's Register
Sebjørn Dahl, COO of Höegh Autoliners
Alkistis Kyriakopoulou, DeepSea Technologies, Chief Business Officer
Moderator: **Eleonor Kramarz**, Global Head, Energy Transition Consulting, S&P Global

17:30 – 18:15

Expanding the Capacity of the Southern Gas Corridor via the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) and the Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (ICGB)

Exploring the strategic importance of these pipelines in enhancing Europe's energy security and diversifying its gas supply.

Participants:

Luca Schieppati, CEO, Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP)
Maria Rita Galli, CEO, DESFA
Christos Basdekis, Head of Gas Sales Commercial Division of DEPA Commercial
Murad Heydarov, Head of SOCAR Regional Office in the Balkans

Moderator: **Theodoros Tsakiris**, Coordinator for International Energy Policy, Greek Ministry for Environment and Energy

18:30 – 19:45

Systemic Pathways to Resilience (in collaboration with Prof. Phoebe Koundouri)

The session will explore sustainable pathways across the energy, land-use, and food sectors, using the latest modelling tools and insights from leading experts. A key focus will be the comprehensive integration of synergies across Integrated Assessment Models, central to the UN Global Climate Hub, whose workings and outcomes will be highlighted during the session. Experts will assess the trade-offs and complementarities that shape economic and social policies, presenting concrete findings from these models. They will also engage in a productive dialogue on leveraging sector-specific results to craft science-driven, human-centered sustainability pathways that promote transformative solutions and support just transitions. Additionally, the

session will report on the transition to building resilience for EU regions, emphasizing on technical and financial schemes that foster transformative adaptation projects in the face of elevated climate challenges.

Participants:

Sergio Fernandez de Cordova, Executive Chairman, PVBLIC Foundation
Hyginus 'Gene' Leon, Executive Director, Development Bank for Resilient Prosperity
Marios Polycarpou, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Director of the KIOS Research and Innovation Center of Excellence at the University of Cyprus
Jeffrey Sachs, President, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network; Professor, Columbia University
Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, UNFCC Global Innovation Hub
Petros Varelidis, General Secretary of Natural Environment and Water, Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece
Wing Thye Woo, SDSN Vice President for Asia, Professor of Economics, University of California in Davis
Christos Zerefos, Secretary General, Academy of Athens

Moderator: **Phoebe Koundouri,** Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business & Technical University of Denmark; President, World Council of Environmental and Resource Economists Associations; Chair, SDSN Global Climate Hub; Director AE4RIA

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2024

10:00 – 10:45

Demand Response and Grid Flexibility: Solutions for Smart Grids (in collaboration with Deloitte)

This event will highlight the critical role of demand response and grid flexibility in creating a reliable and sustainable energy systems.

Participants:

Catherine Vandenborre, CEO a.i. Elia Group
Stathis Anagnostou, Executive Director Strategy, Business Development & Transformation, HEDNO

Roland Roesch, Director, Innovation and Technology Center, IRENA

Jake Oster, Director, Energy, Environment, and Sustainability Policy, Amazon, (Americas)

***Moderator*: Konstantinos Eleftheriadis**, Partner, Energy, Resources & Industrials Sector Leader, Deloitte Greece

11:00 – 11:45

Next-Gen Energy Solutions: Pioneering Technologies for a Green Future (in collaboration with HAEE)

Delving into cutting-edge energy technologies and breakthrough innovations that are shaping the path toward a sustainable, green future, this panel brings together experts to explore the next generation of solutions driving the global energy transition.

Participants:

Bertrand Piccard, Founder & Chairman Solar Impulse

Julia Souder, CEO at Long Duration Energy Storage Council, Chair Global Renewables Alliance

Alberto Toril Castro, Manager, Europe, Breakthrough Energy

Al-Karim Govindji, Global Head of Public Affairs, DNV Energy

Aurora Audino, Climate and Youth Advocate, EU Climate Pact Ambassador

Moderator: **Mark Eramo,** Co-President, S&P Global Commodity Insights

12:00 – 12:45

The role of Technological evolution in meeting the Energy Dual Challenge and securing a Just Transition

Exploring the critical role of technology in addressing the Energy Dual Challenge—ensuring energy security while achieving sustainability. Key discussions will focus on the emerging challenges, such as balancing energy demand with decarbonization goals and addressing socio-economic impacts. The event will highlight how advancements in technology can accelerate the energy transition, and optimize capital investment. It will also showcase cutting-edge applications across industries—such as AI, digitalization, and renewable energy technologies—that are shaping a more resilient, inclusive and fair energy future.

Participants:

Charlotte Wolff-Bye, Chief Sustainability Officer, Petronas

Anthony Watanabe, Chief Sustainability Officer, Indorama Ventures

Olga Rataj, Associate Industrial Development officer, Sustainable & Just Energy Transition Unit, Unido

Ermis Panagiotopoulos, Head of Sustainability Advocacy, EMEA, Indorama Ventures

Moderator: **Katherine Dixon**, Partner, Bain & Co (leads Bain's Global Energy Transition Policy Centre)

13:00 – 13:45 *Geopolitics and the Environment in the Region of SouthcEast Europe (in collaboration with Delphi Economic Forum)*

This session will explore the complex interplay between wars, geopolitics, and environmental issues in the East Mediterranean region, examining how conflicts and power dynamics impact environmental policies and regional stability.

Participants:

Sebastian Burduja, Minister of Energy, Romania

Victor Parlicov, Minister of Energy, Moldova

Geoffrey Pyatt, Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources, United States of America

Iva Petrova, Deputy Minister of Energy, Bulgaria

Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment & Energy, Hellenic Republic

***Moderator*: Grégoire Roos,** Head of Political Dialogue & Policy Innovation, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, France

15:15 – 15:30

"EmpowerMed Women" Launch Event (in collaboration with EMGF)

This event aims to empower women in the Eastern Mediterranean's energy sector by fostering collaboration, professional development, and leadership opportunities. It supports the mission of promoting gender equality and diversity in the industry, advocating for women's representation in decision-making roles, and building a supportive community for networking and mentorship in the gas and energy sectors.

Participants:

Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment & Energy, Hellenic Republic

Osama Mobarez, Secretary General, EMGF

15:30 – 16:15

Gas Industry's Reinvention: Adapting to the Energy Transition (in collaboration with EMGF)

The session highlighted the pivotal role of the Carbon Intensity Certification (CIC) mechanism for developing nations and regional entities aiming to achieve ambitious climate goals while promoting sustainable development. The Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF) is actively positioning itself as a certifier under the CIC framework, which is a significant step for its member countries. This initiative not only allows them to align their energy policies with international standards but also fosters a collaborative environment that prioritizes sustainability. By adopting the CIC, these nations can showcase their commitment to responsible energy practices, ultimately enhancing their credibility in the global market. The event will include the official announcement of the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum's (EMGF) Unified Policy Declaration (UPD) for the Decarbonization of Natural Gas in the region.

Participants:

Dr. Saleh Al Kharabsheh, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan

Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment & Energy, Hellenic Republic

Osama Mobarez, Secretary General, EMGF

Represantitive from Israel (TBA)

Mathios Rigas, CEO, Energean

Moderator: **Carlos Pascual**, Senior Vice President Geopolitics & International Affairs, S&P Global

16:30 – 17:15

Clean energy in transportation: Aviation, Maritime and Land Transport

This event will focus on the decarbonization of the transportation sectors in accordance with the Fit-for-55 objectives. It will provide an overview of the progress achieved so far and explore clean energy solutions and technologies that support the transition to a sustainable and low-carbon transport system.

Participants:

Marie Owens Thomsen, IATA's Senior Vice President Sustainability and Chief Economist
Astrid Kristoffersen, Group Director for Research and Technology based in Oslo, DNV
Jens Hügel, Senior Adviser, IRU Geneva
Moderator: **Andreas Kyrilis,** Senior Partner, Bain & Company

17:30 – 18:15

The EU Clean Industrial Deal – what to expect?

The new European Commission is preparing a Union-wide strategy on clean industry. It aims to enhance the competitiveness of Europe's net-zero industry and accelerate the energy transition. Poland will hold the EU Presidency in the first half of 2025 and shape its agenda. The session organized by Forum Energii will provide an opportunity to explore the elements needed to make the EU Clean Industrial Deal a success. What are the key decisions that will be made next year? What can we expect from the European politics in 2025?

Participants:
Jan Dusík, Deputy Director General, DG CLIMA, European Commission
Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece
Lars Frelle-Petersen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities, Denmark
Robert Jeszke, Deputy Director, Institute of Environmental Protection-National Research Institute, Poland
Rosana Santos, Executive Director, E+, Brazil
Moderator: **Joanna Maćkowiak-Pandera**, President, Forum Energii, Poland

SATURDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2024

10:00 – 10:45

100% RES Islands in the Mediterranean: championing climate diplomacy to accelerate the energy transition

To combat climate change, which affects small islands heavily, we must cut fossil fuel emissions and keep warming within 1.5°C by 2050. At COP28, over 130 countries pledged to triple renewable energy capacity

by 2030, and in 2024, more than 190 countries committed to phasing out fossil fuels. COP29 must focus on funding and action.
Now, regional efforts are key. The Mediterranean could lead with a shared strategy for 1TW by 2030, promoting stability, security, and prosperity. Small islands, especially vulnerable to climate impacts, can serve as 100% renewable energy models. Mediterranean islands are well-positioned to lead this transition, as shown by the 100% RES Islands Initiative, which demonstrates the feasibility and market potential of renewable energy on islands.

The event will highlight island case studies to advance a swift and fair energy transition in the Mediterranean.

Participants:

Gianni Chianetta, Chair, GTI Foundation
Francesco Corvaro, Special Envoy for Climate Change, Italy
Representative from Cyprus
Representative from Egypt
Moderator: **George Kremlis,** Director Circular Economy and Climate Institute, European Public Law Organization

11:00 – 11:50

Skills for the Transition (in collaboration with Prof. Phoebe Koundouri)

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, introducing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets to guide countries toward balanced progress across economic, social, and environmental dimensions. The EU has similarly set ambitious goals for achieving climate neutrality by 2050 through the digital and green transitions, also known as the Twin Transition.
These initiatives emphasize the urgent need to equip the workforce with the necessary skills to meet the EU's sustainability and technology goals. The HUAWEI-White Paper: Twin Skills for the Twin Transition addresses this challenge by identifying the new Green and Digital Skills required for the development and deployment of net-zero technologies. These skills are essential for meeting climate neutrality objectives. The report also highlights how Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems, alongside universities, will play a critical role in closing the skills gap by integrating green and digital skills into educational curricula. Furthermore, the report introduces a classification model based on the European Skills and Competences framework (ESCO) to assess the "Greenness and Digitalization" of occupations This model demonstrates that jobs requiring both green and digital skills have increased significantly in the past decade. To ensure successful implementation of these skills, it is essential to align them with EU sustainability and digital policies, while also considering industry needs and labor market demands.

Participants:

Phoebe Koundouri, Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business & Technical University of Denmark; President, World Council of Environmental and Resource Economists Associations; Chair, SDSN Global Climate Hub; Director AE4RIA
Giorgia Epicoco, Senior EU Public Affairs Manager; Huawei
Semida Silviera, Professor of Practice, Systems Engineering, Cornell University
Binbin Wang, Founder of Climate Future Global Innovation Lab (C Force); Associate Dean and Research Professor, Institute of Carbon Neutrality, Peking University
Moderator: Yannis Ioannidis, Professor National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; President, Association for Computing Machinery; Head of Unit SDSN Global Climate Hub

12:00 – 13:00

The Evolution of Climate Change in Greece – The Exceptional Last Decade

Greece's participation in COP29 aims at reinforcing its commitment to global climate action, aligning with European Union goals, and sharing national strategies for climate resilience. As a Mediterranean country, Greece is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as rising temperatures, droughts, wildfires and extreme weather events. The last decade is characterized by exceptional extreme weather events such as heatwaves, wildfires, floods and Mediterranean Cyclones related to the invigoration of climate change in the region. These challenges threaten biodiversity, agriculture, and tourism—pillars of the Greek economy.

Furthermore, Greece has initiated a two-year program to enhance climate understanding through downscaling techniques, enabling more detailed climate projections at the local level. This initiative will provide better tools to address climate impacts on a smaller scale (e.g., at a 1x1 km² resolution). COP29 offers Greece a platform to showcase its efforts in mitigating these impacts and transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

Greece is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, in line with the European Green Deal, including the phase-out of lignite coal by 2028, expansion of renewable energy sources, and investments in sustainable infrastructure. Certain considerations towards this direction include the importance of energy storage, grid adequacy and interconnections, the role of electrification, CO2 management and infrastructure and the development of relevant lighthouse projects and demonstration activities. Greece will also contribute to global discussions on sustainable tourism, clean energy, and climate adaptation in the Mediterranean region, reinforcing its role as a leader in regional climate diplomacy.

Participants:

George Kremlis, Chairman of the Greek Initiative at UN level on Protecting Cultural and Natural Heritage from the Impacts of Climate Change, President of the Circular Economy and Climate Institute at the European Public Law Organization (EPLO)

Professor Emmanouil Kakaras, NTUA

Professor Phoebe Koundouri, President, World Council of Environmental and Resource Economists Associations; Chair, SDSN Global Climate Hub

Professor Christos Zerefos, Secretary General, Academy of Athens

Ioannis Kapsomenakis, Research Center for Atmospheric Physics and Climatology, Academy of Athens

Stavros Solomos, Research Center for Atmospheric Physics and Climatology, Academy of Athen

Moderator: TBA

15:00 – 15:45

Culture Based Climate Action: from challenges to best practices (in collaboration with Ministry of Culture)

Scaling-up strategies for enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, avoiding maladaptation, and reducing vulnerability of cultural heritage to climate change impacts, through financial and technical support for solutions, capacity building, and policy and practice innovations that promote attention to values, diverse knowledge and support systems.

Participants:

HRH Princess Dana Firas, UNESCO GoodWill Ambassador

Andrew Potts, Community of Practice Director, Preserving Legacies/Heritage and Climate Action Advisor, European Heritage Fund

Sofia Spyropoulou, Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture

Moderator: **Constantinos Cartalis**, Professor of Environmental and Climate Science, University of Athens

16:00 – 17:00

RACC16 Statement: Oceans in Crisis-Impacts and Responses

This session will present an engaging discourse on the state of the global marine ecosystems, with a focus on the main challenges and impacts such as saline ingression with sea level rise, land and food production, rapidly declining yields of fisheries and significant changes across various sectors of the 'blue economy'. Importantly, the session will also address the vulnerable coastal communities around the world, in particular within the Global South and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Panelists will also explore available responses including the Loss and Damage fund, new technologies, social initiatives and policy interventions.

Participants:

Ali Mashayek, Associate Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, UK.

Yuen Yoong Leong, Director, Sustainability Studies, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Asia Headquarters; Professor, Sunway University, Malaysia

Ismail Serageldin, Founding Director Emeritus, The Library of Alexandria; Former Vice President, World Bank.

Ebun Akinsete, Senior Researcher, AE4RIA Network; Co-Chair, SDSN Greece

Jim Falk, Professorial Fellow, School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Melbourne; Emeritus Professor, School for Humanities and Social Inquiry, University of Wollongong, Australia

Moderator: Phoebe Koundouri, Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business & Technical University of Denmark; President, World Council of Environmental and Resource Economists Associations; Chair, SDSN Global Climate Hub; Director AE4RIA.

MONDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2024

15:00 – 15:50

Powering Climate Action: Balancing Ambitious Targets with Effective Mechanisms for Emissions Reduction (in collaboration with the Centre for Climate and Energy Analyses, Poland)

The side event is organized by the Centre for Climate and Energy Analyses (CAKE) – an analytical team operating within the National Centre for Emissions Management in Warsaw, Poland and hosted by Greece in its COP29 Pavilion. The event addresses the development and promotion of the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and carbon pricing mechanisms under the Paris Agreement as effective measures to achieve a climate-neutral economy by 2050. The discussion delves into the potential benefits of linking different ETSs globally, such as increasing market size, reducing compliance costs, and promoting international cooperation. The side event also discusses the evolution of carbon pricing mechanisms outside the EU, with a focus on the opportunities provided by Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which allows countries to trade carbon credits and meet their climate targets more cost-effectively. The event also looks at the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and its implications for international trade (the EU's market protection role) and emissions reduction (encouraging countries outside the UE to raise their climate policy ambition).
The main goal of the side event is to provide scientific insights and stimulate stakeholders' discussion on these key issues at COP29, contributing to the global dialogue on climate policy and emissions reduction efforts. By fostering international cooperation and sharing knowledge, the side event aims to support the development of more effective and equitable climate policies worldwide.

Main topics:

I. ETS as a core instrument of emission reduction actions
II. Address the possibilities and benefits of linking emission trading systems
III. Development of carbon pricing outside the EU, i.e. art. 6 of Paris Agreement

The implementation and implications of CBAM on international trade and emissions reduction efforts.

Participants:

Krzysztof Bolesta, Secretary of State, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland

Kurt Vandenberghe, Director General, DG CLIMA, European Commission

Simone Borghesi, European University Institute, Florence School of Regulation

Robert Jeszke, Deputy Director, National Centre for Emissions Management (KOBiZE)

Moderator: **TBA**

TUESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2024

11:00-12:00

Technological leadership and innovation for the Energy Transition

This event will bring together industry leaders to discuss and showcase cutting-edge energy technologies and the role of innovation and ambition in achieving Net Zero by 2050. Established technologies such as wind and solar, in combination with new developments in hydrogen, energy storage and carbon capture can truly highlight the potential of countries such as Greece to lead the path towards a clean and sustainable energy mix. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, the event seeks to accelerate the adoption of innovative solutions that can drive the energy transition forward.

Participants:

Gianpiero Nacci, Director in the Climate Strategy and Delivery Department, EBRD

Astrid Kristoffersen, Group Director for Research and Development, DNV

Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE (TBC)

Natasha Chatziantoniou, Communications & CSR Senior Manager, DESFA SA – Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator (TBC)

Moderator: **Evangelos Pastras**, CEng, MBA, Senior Energy Storage Consultant, Storage, Energy Systems

16:00-17:00

Child & youth engagement in NDCs, National & Regional Adaptation Strategies: The role of Youth Municipal Councils (in collaboration with UNICEF)

This event will showcase the importance of Youth engagement in the planning and implementation of NDCs, National & Regional Adaptation Strategies, and amplify/strengthen Greece country examples of Youth Municipal Councils.

Participants:

TBA

WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2024

11:00-11:45

Knowledge Transfer and Competencies to Meet Our Climate Targets

The purpose of this event is to identify and discuss key competencies for a sustainable transition, and specifically the importance of knowledge and technology transfer among countries in the EU to achieve our climate targets. Capacity building and upskilling of young professionals will also be discussed as critical components for meeting the needs of the Greek and European private, public and third sectors in the coming decades until 2050.

Participants:
Marco Gervasi, European Youth Energy Network
Paul Jenkinson, President of European Young Engineers, YOUNGO Energy & E-Learning Coordinator
Evangelos Pastras, CEng, MBA, Senior Energy Storage Consultant, DNV
Representative from IRENA (TBA)
Moderator: **Belinda Ng**, Senior Assosiate, ERM

12:00 – 12:45

Strengthening National Systems of Innovation for Collaborative RD&D on Climate Technology

The Paris Agreement stipulates that accelerating, encouraging and enabling innovation is critical for an effective, long-term global response to climate change and promoting economic growth and sustainable development. A key means of achieving this is collaborative research, development and demonstration (cRD&D) for climate technologies. The UN Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN) is delivering cRD&D technical assistance and capacity-building and is currently preparing a cRD&D strategy to strengthen these efforts. This event will showcase the potential of cRD&D and the CTCN's role in fulfilling this potential.

Participants:
TBA

14:00 - 14:45

Unlocking Clean Energy Access: Integrating AI, Distributed Ledger and Smart Technologies in Renewable Energy Community Schemes (in collaboration with BCI)

This side event aspires to demonstrate Real-world Impact by illustrating the outcomes of a groundbreaking feasibility study and demonstration project in Indonesian off-grid communities, to showcase Technological Integration by highlighting the seamless integration of 'smart contract' and AI in deploying solar-powered mini-grids, enabling community households to engage in instant, transparent, and secure transactions through a mobile application, to evaluate Socio-economic Impact by exploring the multifaceted impact of DLTs on mini-grid operations, assessing economic, technological, legal, regulatory, and business model aspects, along with a focus on gender equality in rural communities, and lastly pioneer Sustainable Solutions by emphasizing on the role of DLTs and smart technologies as pioneers in enhancing lives and accelerating access to clean and affordable energy for impoverished households, contributing to broader sustainable development goals.

Participants:
Alastair Marke, Director-General, Blockchain & Climate Institute
Luke Riley, Head of Innovation, Quant Network
Hayden Postle-Floyd, Senior Research Officer, Research Division II (Energy & Environment), Blockchain & Climate Institute
Stephen Mina's, School of Transnational Law, Peking University

Moderator: **Chris Poulloura,** Chief Technology Officer, Blockchain & Climate Institute