



5th EU- Arab World Summit

A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Monday & Tuesday, November 9-10, 2020

DIGITAL

AGENDA



Under the Patronage of the European Parliament



Under the Auspices



Strategic Partner





**The hours are in Greek time (EET)
UTC/GMT +2 hours**

AGENDA

DAY 1 | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

13.45 OPENING REMARKS

Tawfic Khoury, Chairman, Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal Group; Executive Vice Chairman,
Consolidated Contractors Company

Christos Folias, fmr Minister of Development; fmr President, Arab-Greek Chamber of
Commerce & Development, Greece

Faysal Abou Zaki, Deputy CEO, Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal Group

Symeon G. Tsomokos, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum

LEADERS' DISCUSSION

This will be a discussion about future partnerships, the strengthening of relations between the European Union and the Arab World and the challenges that lie ahead.

14.00 Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Hellenic Republic

Chair: John Defterios, Emerging Markets Editor - Anchor, CNN

14.35 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General, The League of Arab States

14.45 EU – ARAB WORLD: STRATEGIC PARTNERS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Discussing the importance of joining efforts to address common and current political, economic, social, and security challenges which threaten the stability, prosperity and well-being of EU, the Arab World and the world at large. Particularly in the fields of conflict prevention, early warning and crisis management issues.

Nikos Dendias, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece

Marina Sereni, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation & Moroccan Expatriates, Morocco
(pre-recorded message)

Chair: Apostolos Mangiriadis, Journalist, SKAI TV, Greece

15.25 IN CONVERSATION

Mohammad Shtayyeh, Prime Minister of the State of Palestine

Chair: Alexia Tasouli, Diplomatic Correspondent, OPEN TV, Greece

Working Language: English

15.45 **IN CONVERSATION**

George Katrougalos, Member, Hellenic Parliament; Minister for Foreign Affairs (2019), Greece

16.00 **WHAT ROLE FOR THE EU AND EU-ARAB COOPERATION ON THE PALESTINE ISSUE?**

A geopolitical landscape in the Middle East seems to have changed recently. The European Union has welcomed this new development and this panel discussion will set the "peace deal" into the context of a changing region and explore the reactions to this in the Arab world and Europe. It will discuss the EU-Arab cooperation in the framework of EU-Arab summits, the Arab Peace Initiative and the UN Security Council and General Assembly.

Shibley Telhami, Anwar Sadat professor for peace and development, University of Maryland, College Park; nonresident senior fellow, Brookings Institution

Ines Abdel Razek, Advocacy Director for the Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy (PIPD)

Haggai Matar, Executive Director, 972-Advancement of Citizen Journalism

Hugh Lovatt, Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations

Chair: **Andrea Dessì**, Head of Italy's Foreign Policy Programme and Senior Fellow, Mediterranean and Middle East programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

17.00 **NEXT STEPS TOWARDS A CLOSER POLITICAL & ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP**

Whatever happens in the Arab World affects Europeans and whatever happens in Europe affects the Arab World. A discussion about joining forces to find common solutions to common challenges and strengthening cooperation on issues that are not crisis related, such as opportunities for young people, education, trade and investments.

Miltiades Varvitsiotis, Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic

Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Qatar (*pre-recorded message*)

Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Malta (*pre-recorded message*)

Chair: **Christos Folias**, fmr Minister of Development; fmr President, Arab-Greek Chamber of Commerce & Development, Greece

17.35 **THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN ARAB WORLD**

Discussing the ways to deal with the economic and social impact of Covid-19 in the Arab World and the mitigation measures several Arab countries have already put in place. Preliminary estimates suggest that the region could lose 42 billion US dollars of gross domestic product. Unemployment rate in the region could increase by 1.2% because of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Zaid Eyadat, Director, Center for Strategic Studies (CSS), Jordan

Tarik M. Yousef, Director, Brookings Doha Center

Chair: **Antonis Papagiannidis**, Managing Director, Economía Publishing, Greece

18.00 **SYRIA: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

Discussing one of the most complex crises of our times. The Syria conflict has to be seen as not only a long-running power struggle in the country itself but also part of a wider geopolitical dispute.

Andrey Kortunov, Director General, Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), Russia

Natasha Hall, Senior Fellow, Middle East Program, Center for Strategic & International Studies

Konstantinos Filis, Executive Director, Institute of International Relations, Greece

Chair: **Angelos Athanasopoulos**, Editor-in-Chief, Politics, To Vima, Greece

18.45 End of first day

DAY 2 | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10**13.45 OPENING REMARKS**

Symeon G. Tsomokos, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum

14.00 DRIVING INVESTMENTS AND INNOVATION

Discussing new ways of investment and innovation through new partnerships. A new investment landscape is emerging, however, many challenges remain and must be tackled effectively if a new economic miracle is to materialise and have lasting effects on both regions.

Adonis Georgiadis, Minister of Development & Investments, Greece

Natasa Pilides, Minister of Energy, Commerce & Industry, Cyprus

Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, UAE

Nevine Gamea, Minister of Trade and Industry, Egypt

Mohammed Mulla Yaqoub, Deputy Director General, Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority

Chair: **Christos Folias**, fmr Minister of Development; fmr President, Arab-Greek Chamber of Commerce & Development, Greece

15.10 BREAK**15.15 ENERGY AND GEOPOLITICS ENTANGLEMENTS IN THE EAST MED:
WHAT WAY FORWARD?**

Tensions in the East Mediterranean have been rising to unprecedented levels in the course of 2020. To what extent are these tensions triggered by energy? What is the real energy potential of the region after all? Is the East Med still an interesting supplier after the fall in gas prices triggered by COVID-19? Instead, could it be that energy is just a victim of tensions rooted in much broader geopolitical shifts? Everything seems entangled: Greek-Turkey disputes in the Aegean Sea; the Libyan, Syrian and Lebanese crises; plans to exploit Israeli, Egyptian and Cypriot gas resources; and Turkey's controversial drilling activities in the East Mediterranean. Domestic politics are a key driver, but so is growing external influence by the US, Russia, EU and Gulf Countries. Question to all: How to move things forward? How can the EU and Arab countries cooperate to reduce geopolitical tensions and allow business to prosper?

Charles Ellinas, CEO, EC Cyprus Natural Hydrocarbons Company; Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

Mehmet Ögütçü, CEO, Global Resources Partnership; Chairman Advisory Board Middle East
Institute Washington D.C.; Chairman of the London Energy Club

Nikos Tsafos, Senior Fellow, Energy and National Security Programme, CSIS

Toula Onoufriou, President of the Board, Cyprus Hydrocarbons Company, Cyprus

Chair: **Luca Franza**, Head of the Energy, Climate and Resources Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Associate Fellow CIEP and Lecturer SciencesPo-PSIA

Working Language: English

16.15 BREAK

16.20 **MARITIME BORDERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN:
THE CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION DESERVES A CIVILIZED SOLUTION**

Roudi Baroudi, CEO, Energy & Environment Holding, Qatar

16.30 **THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS IN THE COVID-19 RECOVERY AND BEYOND**

In collaboration with BCG and The World Economic Forum's Engineering and Construction Industry Action Group, CCC has developed recommendations aimed at helping governments define stimulus packages for infrastructure that support economic recovery and provide relief from the COVID-19 crisis, as well as reach long-term infrastructure objectives. The infrastructure is a powerful vector for social and economic development with 6% of the global GDP and workforce; where Government investment in infrastructure has an annual multiplier effect of 0.4 to 2.2 times GDP. Infrastructure can also help create at least 10,000 total jobs for every \$1 billion invested.

Aref Boualwan, Manager Digital Transformation, Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)

16.45 **FINANCING PROJECTS**

Discussing the ways the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank are using in boosting growth and making economies more competitive and resilient.

Heike Harmgart, Managing Director, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) Region, EBRD
Marina Wes, Country Director, Egypt, Yemen & Djibouti, Middle East & North Africa, World Bank
(pre-recorded message)

Chair: **Maria Nikoltsiou**, Journalist, ALPHA TV, Greece

17.25 **ADVANCING COOPERATION BETWEEN GREECE AND THE ARAB WORLD**

Greece's geographical location can be a key factor in attracting Arab World countries toward a firm relationship with Athens. The location holds major strategic importance in two respects: Greece is an EU member and can thus act as its local allies' political and economic voice in Brussels; and it is adjacent to the Balkan Peninsula. An in depth discussion about tourism and investments and the need for cooperation.

Harry Theocharis, Minister of Tourism, Hellenic Republic

Part 1

Harris Geronikolas, President, Arab-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Development, Greece

Alex Patelis, Chief Economic Advisor to the Greek Prime Minister

John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Research, Gulf Research Center, Saudi Arabia

Part 2

Konstantinos Fragogiannis, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece

Constantine Michalos, President, Athens Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Greece

AbdulRazaq Al-Zuheere, Chairman, Iraqi Chambers of Commerce

Haider Al-Athari, Chairman, Najaf Chamber of Commerce, Iraq

Chair: **Maria Nikoltsiou**, Journalist, ALPHA TV, Greece

18.45 End of the digital conference