

11th Business Forum Greece-Sweden
Europe 2026: Resilience, Innovation & Competitiveness

Friday 25 September 2026
Divani Caravel Hotel, Olympia Hall, Athens, Greece

In an era defined by structural realignments in global trade, accelerating technological disruption and renewed geopolitical fragmentation, the boundaries between economic policy, industrial strategy and strategic autonomy are increasingly dissolving. Europe finds itself at a pivotal moment where competitiveness is no longer determined solely by scale or efficiency, but by the ability to integrate innovation, security, sustainability and financial depth into a coherent long-term vision.

The Business Forum Greece–Sweden convenes senior representatives from government, industry and the financial sector to examine how bilateral cooperation can evolve into a more integrated framework of strategic alignment. Across sectors ranging from defence and energy to digital transformation, capital markets and design-driven innovation, the forum aims to highlight how partnerships between like-minded economies can translate into industrial capability, investment flows and future-ready ecosystems.

Agenda

08:15 - Registration & Welcome Coffee

Master of Ceremonies

Maria Akrivou, Senior Editor, Fortune Greece

09:00 – Opening Remarks

George Georgakopoulos, Chairman, Hellenic-Swedish Chamber of Commerce

09:10 – Opening Remarks

H.E. Håkan Emsgård, Ambassador of Sweden to Greece

09:20 – Opening Address

Kostas Hatzidakis, Vice President of the Government

09.30 – Session 1| Capital Markets & Banking

Financial systems today sit at the core of Europe's capacity to finance transformation, absorb shocks and allocate capital toward long-term strategic priorities. In an environment shaped by monetary realignment, fiscal constraints and shifting investor expectations, the role of banks and capital markets is being fundamentally re-examined. This session brings together leading voices from central banking and financial institutions to discuss the evolving architecture of European financial stability, the balance between regulation and competitiveness, and the mechanisms required to ensure that capital flows effectively toward productive investment and sustainable growth. Attention will be given to the interplay between macroeconomic governance and financial sector resilience in an increasingly complex global context.

09:32 Keynote Address

Harry Theoharis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

“Turning Trust into Growth: Greece's Extroversion Strategy and the Greece - Sweden Opportunity”

09:42 - Panel discussion and Q&As

Panelists:

- **Stefan Ingves**, Former Swedish Central Bank Governor, Chairman Toronto Centre
- **Yiannis Stournaras**, Governor of Bank of Greece

Expert Panel Moderator:

- **George Georgakopoulos**, Chairman, Hellenic-Swedish Chamber of Commerce
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10:15 - Coffee Break

10:45 Session 2 | Defence, Security & Dual-Use Innovation

The contours of economic strength, technological leadership and national security are becoming increasingly interconnected. As geopolitical competition intensifies and emerging technologies reshape the global landscape, governments and industries alike are reassessing how resilience, innovation and strategic capability can be cultivated in an era defined by complexity and uncertainty. Against this backdrop, defence and dual-use innovation have moved beyond their traditional domains to become catalysts for industrial transformation, advanced manufacturing, digital infrastructure and long-term competitiveness. This session will examine how public institutions, industry leaders and innovation ecosystems can align strategic priorities with technological advancement, while fostering partnerships capable of generating both security outcomes and sustainable economic value. Through the lens of Greece-Sweden cooperation and broader European ambitions, the discussion will explore the frameworks, capabilities and investments required to navigate a rapidly evolving strategic environment.

10:46 Keynote Address I

Prof. Kjell Engelbrekt, Dean of the Swedish Defence University

10:56 Keynote Address II

Dr. Thanos Dokos, Secretary General for National Security

"National Security in an Era of Political and Technological Complexity"

11:06 Keynote Address III

Michalis Katrinis, Member of Parliament for Ileia District, Head of the Parliamentary Sector for National Defense of PASOK

11:16 Keynote Address IV

Fredrik Gustafson, Vice President and Head of Group Business Development, Saab AB

"Defence Innovation at the Speed of Relevance"

11:26- Panel Discussion and Q&As

Panelists:

- **Magnus Schöldtz**, Director and Senior Advisor, Wallenberg Office, former Ambassador
- **Anna Psaroulis**, Head of the Executive Management Office, Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency
- **Spyridon Papageorgiou**, General Secretary for the Protection of Critical Entities, Ministry of Citizen Protection
- **Johan Brisfors**, Director and Head of Sales Submarines, Saab Naval
- **Allan Charles**, Head of Defense EMEA, Ericsson
- **Dimitris Skalaïos**, Executive Director & CRO, Hellenic Aerospace Industry S.A. / Chairman, Hellenic Aerospace, Security & Defense Industries Group (HASDIG)

Expert Panel Moderator:

Marina Kapetanaki, Senior Partner, KPMG in Greece

12:15 - Session 3 | Energy, Infrastructure & Industrial Transition

As Europe navigates a complex recalibration of its energy architecture and industrial base, the transition toward cleaner, more efficient and technologically advanced systems has become a defining strategic priority. Energy security, industrial competitiveness and decarbonization are no longer parallel agendas but increasingly interdependent dimensions of the same transformation. This session brings together leading actors from the energy and industrial ecosystem to explore how established infrastructure, refining capacity, marine technologies and advanced engineering can adapt to a rapidly shifting global environment. The discussion will focus on the reinvention of industrial value chains, the optimization of energy systems and the role of next-generation technologies in enabling both environmental performance and long-term competitiveness.

12:16 Keynote Address

Kyriakos Rotidis, Local Business Manager Motion, ABB Greece

***“Powering Competitiveness in the Age of Electricity:
How Technology and Energy Productivity Drive Growth and Resilience”***

12:26 – Panel Discussion and Q&As

Panelists:

- **Ioannis C. Karydas**, Chief Executive Officer Renewables, Energy Storage & Interconnections, Copelouzos Group & Managing Director, ELICA INTERCONNECTOR SA
- **Konstantinos Chatzifotis**, EU Affairs Manager, Motor Oil Group
- **Christos Skarlatakis**, Commercial Leader Electrification, ABB Greece
- **Theodore Tzouros**, Executive General Manager, Chief Corporate & Investment Banking, Piraeus Bank Group

Expert Panel Moderator:

Dimitris Poulos, Managing Director, Alfa Laval Greece

13:15 – Networking Lunch

14 :30 - Session 4 | AI, Digitalisation & Productivity

Artificial intelligence and large-scale digital transformation are redefining the foundations of productivity, operational efficiency and organizational design across all sectors of the economy. What was once viewed as a technological evolution has now become a structural shift in how value is created, measured and scaled. This session examines how digital intelligence, data-driven decision-making and automation are reshaping service industries and financial operations, while also challenging traditional models of workforce capability and institutional agility. With a focus on practical implementation and systemic impact, the discussion will explore how digital ambition can be translated into measurable productivity gains and long-term competitive advantage.

14:32 Keynote Address

Mikael Bäck, Vice President and Corporate Officer, Technology & Strategy Unit, Ericsson
“Shaping the AI communication world”

14:42 - Panel discussion and Q&As

Panelists:

- **Alexandros Manos**, Chief Commercial Officer, Netcompany
- **Alexandra Fatsea**, Deputy Managing Director, Intrum Hellas / Managing Director, Intrum REO Solutions
- **Elias Vyzas**, Partner, Head of Consulting, EY Greece - Data, Analytics & AI Center of Excellence Leader - AI & DATA Leader, Europe Central
- **Thodoris Georgakopoulos**, Columnist, Kathimerini Greek, Founder 1830 Lab

Expert Panel Moderator:

Spyros Xanthopoulos, Partner, Consulting Services, EY

15:30 – Session 5| Swedish Design, Innovation & Sustainability

Good design enables a good life. This has been the guiding principle for modern Swedish design from the era of “Swedish Grace”, to mid-century modern, broadly accessible flat-pack furniture, to today’s focus on innovative and sustainable production practices. Beyond aesthetics, Swedish design functions as a driver of engineering efficiency, product durability and manufacturing productivity; principles reflected in sectors ranging from automotive and industrial components to consumer goods and hospitality.

15:32 - Panel discussion and Q&As

Panelists:

- **Ewa Kumlin**, Senior Project Manager, International Projects, Svensk Form
- **Eirini Sdralli**, Visual Merchandiser Executive, Housemarket-IKEA
- **Martin Olofsson**, Founder & Co-Owner, Myran Scandinavian Design
- **Dimitris Kampanis**, Chief Commercial Officer, Oceanbird

Expert Panel Moderator:

Rania Patsiopoulos, Managing Director SKF Hellas

16:30 - Closing Remarks

George Georgakopoulos, Chairman, Hellenic-Swedish Chamber of Commerce

16:45 – Networking Drinks at Juju Bar - Ground floor