



## **15th Hydra Shipping Conference Saturday 14th September 2024**

**“Artificial & Emotional Intelligence in Shipping: Will Common Sense Prevail?”**

**The 15<sup>th</sup> Hydra Shipping Conference** organized by the Fraternity of the Athenian Hydriots ([www.aya.com.gr](http://www.aya.com.gr)) was successfully realized **on Saturday Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Conference Hall of the Holy Cathedral of Hydra**, under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Shipping, the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping, The Hellenic Shortsea Shipowners Association ( EENMA ), The Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMΕΡΑ), The Piraeus Marine Club, the Yacht Club of Greece, the Hellenic Offshore Racing Club ( HORC), Project Connect /Adopt A- Ship, A.M.M.I.T.E.C., Energizing Greece, the Hellenic Association of Women in Culture & Tourism, the Hellenic Shipbrokers Association, the Institute of Energy for South East Europe.

**Sponsors included:** Tsakos Energy Navigation, Starbulk, Langlois, Atlantic Bulk Carriers Management Ltd, KPMG.

**Supporters included:** British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, Tsakos Group.

**Participants were:** ABS, Pyli Net, Moore, Nereus Digital Bunkers, V.Ships

**Transportation Sponsor:** Alpha Lines

**Wine Sponsor:** A.I.O.

**Beer Sponsor:** Nissos Beer

**Ice Cream Sponsor:** I love pagoto.

**Communication Sponsors were:** Kerkyra Publications, The Voice of Hydra (Foni tis Hydras), Sailing World (Istioploikos Kosmos), Naftika Chronika, All about Shipping, Crisis Monitor, Elnavi, Maritime, Maritimes.gr, Money – Tourism, Mononews, Media Nafs, Newsfront Naftiliaki, Saronic Magazine and Skipper on Deck.

**Mr. John Sahinis, President of the Fraternity of the Athenian Hydriots**, welcomed esteemed guests and inaugurated the work of the 15<sup>th</sup> Hydra Shipping Conference , informing the audience of the aims of the Fraternity since its foundation in 1890 which are interventions on national issues, preservation of Hydra’s contribution to the nation, the island’s promotion via various activities every year, keeping in touch with philhellenes, charitable donations, protection of the environmental and architectural heritage and attracting Greece’s youth to the nautical profession. Mr. Sahinis advised that

numerous Naval Ministers were Hydriots. The late Admiral Pavlos Kountouriotis who was also Hydriot, President of the Hellenic Republic and hero of the Balkan Wars, together with the Hydriot shipowner and member of the fraternity of the Athenian Hydriots Ghikas Koulouras, were the leaders who inspired the founding of the Union of Greek Shipowners.

**Conference Chairman Mr. George Tsavlis** successfully led the discussion of the conference, highlighting the importance of examining the issues at hand with a view toward realistically and commercially viable solutions. As highlighted by the esteemed speakers, the human factor will be supported with more effective tools and new skills, to best face the challenges of decarbonization and global geopolitical changes.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Panel Discussion addressed the theme of Artificial Intelligence and if common sense will prevail, regarding the new environmental legislations. The discussion was led by **Dr George Pateras, The President of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping**. The speakers emphasized that we must be careful with the use of artificial intelligence so that it does not become a 'murderous' weapon for the maritime sector. The use of artificial intelligence is directly dependent on the human being, and requires correct assessment of leadership skills and the emotional intelligence of the seaman, as **Dr Yiannis Patiniotis** pointed out. Humans must continue to use their judgement and not rely solely on A.I. The esteemed speakers focused on the issue of ethics in all areas of the Medical, the Defense and Shipping sectors, to ensure that technology does not bring confusion to humanity's health and overall survival. In effect, Artificial Intelligence is a tool that increases productivity and cannot replace the human thought process.

**Ms Chrysoula Patrikiou, Business Development Director of POLI NET**, discussed the assessment of our Seafarers. POLI NET has the necessary technical tools, considering seafarers' soft skills, their abilities and behavior. The application entitled, *Soft Screen* was created by **Dr. Yiannis Patiniotis, Financial Director of Carras (Hellas) SA** and evaluates 26 soft skills. The sailor being 'assessed' answers appropriate questions and the system produces a report which is a valuable marine assessment tool. **Mr Spyros Hirdaris, ABS Manager, Global Ship System Center**, discussed the classification sector and the application of Artificial Intelligence models therein.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Panel Discussion addressed the theme: The Impact of Geopolitics with **Mr Costis Stambolis, Chairman & Executive Director of the Institute for Energy of SE Europe (IENE)** acting as Moderator. The issues discussed included Energy, Fuel sources, the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, the Houthi threat and the overall impact of these risks and geopolitical issues on shipping and future charters. During his presentation, Mr Stambolis emphasized that we have entered a period of utilizing clean energy sources. However, he estimated that oil, due to increased energy needs, will continue to be the main fuel. Those who have invested in new fuel sources such as CO<sub>2</sub>, ammonia, and methanol, have excellent potential. Despite the huge global effort for the decarbonization

of the planet, it is scientifically doubtful that this will cease our planet's overheating, stressed Mr Stambolis.

**Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, CEO of Hellenic Shipyards S.A.** conveyed his experience from his term as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, stressing that Europe has lost its orientation and rather than focusing on shipping and railways, it is focused on bicycles and electric cars. This has resulted in Europe losing many shipyards as shipbuilding has moved to the Far East. Fortunately, the recovery fund has provided some financing tools for the modernization of shipyards and shipping mainly in the area of green transition. As the CEO of Skaramagka Shipyards, he assured that he has dynamically entered the field of shipbuilding repairs, offering a wide range of integrated services from dry docking to improving the energy efficiency of vessels.

**Mr Yiannis Triphyllis, Executive Member, Hellenic Chamber of Shipping,** argued that we cannot have rules without principles, emphasizing that the West needs to remain focused on human rights and values, such as peace and justice.

**Mr Yofis Florentin, Founder & CEO, Learning Seaman** spoke about mental health and its importance for the well-being of seafarers.

**Mr George Xiradakis, Managing Director of XRTC Business Consultants,** opened the discussion on geopolitical developments, with a reference to the Former Minister Andreas Andrianopoulos who had predicted the turmoil humanity is experiencing today. **Mr Haris Antoniou, Managing Director of Neptune Maritime Leasing,** noted that in the last years we had a massive exodus of the European Banks from the Shipping sector, due to the stringent regulations of BASLE III & IV and their replacement by financial leasing. It is in this context that Neptune Maritime was founded in Greece, which provides funding to the maritime industry in the form of venture capital.

**Mr Dimitris Patrikios, Chairman of V-Ships,** agreed that shipping is affected by geopolitical developments and by the disturbances in global stability; Albeit however, there are times where uncertainty and sudden changes favor shipping activity. He also pointed out that decarbonization is progressing slowly and oil will remain the main form of energy for many years to come. In any event, we need alternative forms of energy, so that the world does not depend on the powerful interests of the oil producing countries. **Dr Panos Nomikos of Danaos Management,** referred to the latest technological developments and the difficulty in setting standards in Artificial Intelligence, due to the conflict between the Eastern and Western worlds.

**Mr Kostas Konstantinou, Managing Director of Moore Greece,** presented his views, emphasizing that the pace of global developments has accelerated in recent years, forcing banks to review their planning for ship financing and adopting more cautious policies. However, the speakers agreed that if Europe and the US do not finance the shipping of the future, they will then lose a massive strategic weapon they presently hold. In his intervention, Mr Andreas Andrianopoulos, Former Minister who honors the Hydra Shipping Conference and the Fraternity of the Athenian Hydriots every year with his presence,

referred to the Draghi Report which he described as inapplicable and wondered why NATO has not reacted to Turkey's request to join BRICS.

Finally, in Section III, the inspiring motto "TAKE US WITH YOU, CAPTAIN: THE ADOPT A SHIP PROGRAM" took center stage.

At the start of the corresponding Panel, **Ms. Irimi Notia**, founder of **PROJECT CONNECT**, introduced a song written by the students of the 1st Elementary School of Florina and set to music with the help of Artificial Intelligence, thus linking the Conference's theme to the technological advancements in education.

Representatives of the **Hydra High School** shared their experience with the program, which they implemented during the 2023-2024 academic year, describing it as "Adopt A Ship: The Meeting of Education and Shipping." **Mr. Evangelos Pantelis, the school's Principal**, explained that the goal of the program was to transform the traditional learning environment and adopt an interdisciplinary approach to knowledge.

**Dr. Adamantia Spanaka, Educator's Consultant of PROJECT CONNECT**, presented the development of the "Adopt A Ship" program, which has been officially licensed by the Ministry of Education, Religion, and Sports and has been continuously implemented for the past seven years. With over 14,000 students from elementary schools, high schools, and maritime vocational schools across Greece participating, she emphasized the importance of the innovative tools and actions developed by PROJECT CONNECT, such as the CV Platform and the 3D Virtual Shipping Company Tour.

**Ms. Konstantina Loulou, a philologist and program coordinator**, elaborated on the program's implementation process, highlighting various activities aimed at providing students with a deeper understanding of the shipping industry and maritime-related professions.

In conclusion, **student representatives** showcased projects they and their classmates had created.

The Conference ended with the **Honorary Award / Recognition of shipowner Vasilis Pateras, Founder of Axiohellas, Vice President of the Hellenic Frogmen Association and Managing Partner of AlphaOmega Management pte.** Mr Pateras has contributed to the strengthening of our uninhabited islands with infrastructure projects, renovation of outposts and strengthening of health equipment.

He has been honored by the President of the Hellenic Republic with the Golden Cross of the Order of the Palm.

**Mr Emmanuel Vordonis, Former Executive Director of Thenamaris Ship Management Inc**, shared his thoughts, in summarizing the conference discussions, noting that globalization is very important for international security

and peace and that we must not build a world of fear. The solution is neither war nor Artificial Intelligence ; the solution is democracy and positive leadership.

A lunch followed the conference at **Oraia Hydra restaurant**.

For further information, presentations and photographic material, please visit our website, <http://www.aya.com.gr>

**Kerkyras 14, Kastri 14671 | 210-8072826, 6944-242292**

[www.aya.com.gr](http://www.aya.com.gr) [www.facebook.com/AdelfotisYdraiwnAthinwn](https://www.facebook.com/AdelfotisYdraiwnAthinwn) [15hydrashi](https://www.instagram.com/15hydrashi)  
[ppingconference@gmail.com](mailto:ppingconference@gmail.com)



**ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ**  
E C O N O M I C

**eco nomia**  
E C O N O M I A

Βιβλία και λευκώματα  
για την ελληνική οικονομία,  
την επιχειρηματικότητα  
και τον πολιτισμό

ΑΠΟ ΤΟ 1934

**φωνητής**  
Υόρας

ΑΝΕΛΚΡΑΤΗΚ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΥΑΡΚΕ

**‘Ιστοπλοϊκός**  
κόσμος

**ΝΑΥΤΙΚΑ**  
**ΧΡΟΝΙΚΑ**

**ALL**  
**ABOUT**  
**SHIPPING**  
**.co.uk**

**crisis monitor**  
Inight and Inhel before it heat up

**ELNAVI** **MARITIME**

MONTHLY SHIPPING REVIEW

www.elnavi.gr

**maritimes.gr**

**KSD**  
BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

**απρημ**  
**τοσρωας**  
money-  
solution.gr

**mononews**

**MEDIA** **NAFS**

**NEWSFRONT**  
**Naftiliaki**

**SARONIC**  
MAGAZINE

saronicmagazine.gr - facebook.com/saronicmagazine

**ONDECK** SKIPPER