



UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
AND EUROPEAN STUDIES



RESEARCH CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS



International Conference

Greece and Africa: Diplomatic Dialogues, Multilateral Cooperation, and Global South Challenges

University of Piraeus
13-14 May 2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS
Department of International & European Studies
MSc in Energy: Strategy, Law and Economics



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UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
AND EUROPEAN STUDIES
MSc in American Studies:
Politics, Strategy and Economics

May 13, 2026

2:00 PM – Opening Ceremony

Laskaridis Foundation (2nd Merarchias 36 & Aktis Moutsopoulou 185 35 Piraeus)

1:30 PM

Arrival

2:00 PM

Welcome Addresses

Michael Sfakianakis, Professor, Rector of the University of Piraeus

Harry Theocharis, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Member of the Hellenic Parliament

Aristotle Tziampiris, Professor, Chair of the department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus

H.E. Roseline Kathure Njogu, Principal Secretary, State Department for Diaspora Affairs, Kenya Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dimitris Skalkos, Secretary General for International Economic Relations and Extroversion, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Vassilis Takas, President of the Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce

3:00 PM

Session A: Greek-African Relations: Insights from Diplomats I

Moderator

Aristotle Tziampiris, Professor, University of Piraeus

3:00 PM

H.E. Lindiwe Msengana-Ndlela, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa

3:15 PM

Ifigeneia Kontoleontos, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

3:30 PM

H.E. Zaina Benhabouche, Ambassador of the Republic of Algeria

4:00 PM

Session B: Greek-African Relations: Insights from Diplomats II

Moderator

Christos Nikou, Tenured Lecturer, University of Piraeus

4:00 PM

Georgios Petmezakis, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

4:15 PM

H.E. Laurence Auer, Ambassador of the Republic of France

4:30 PM

H.E. Souad Trabelsi, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia

4:45 PM

H.E. Matadi Nee Muteba Mukaji Micheline, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo

5:00 PM
Moderator

Session C: Greek-African Relations & Challenges of the Global South
Eirini Cheila, Professor Emerita, University of Piraeus

5:15 PM

Nikolaos Farantouris, Professor, University of Piraeus, Member of the European Parliament [[pre-recorded](#)]

5:30 PM

Aigli Zafeirakou, Senior Education Technical Advisor–Consultant, World Bank [[online](#)]

Humans and their growing needs in the Africa region: Opportunities for strengthening Africa–Greece partnerships

5:45 PM

George Galanos, Associate Professor, University of Piraeus
Investments and Development in the Global South: Greece’s Position in Africa’s Economic Rise

6:00 PM

Periklis Saragiotis, Senior PSD Specialist Eastern & Southern Africa, World Bank Group [[online](#)]

Economic Transformation of Sub-Saharan Africa

6:30 PM

Buffet



May 14, 2026

**University of Piraeus (Conference Room)
Karaoli & Dimitriou 80, Piraeus, 185 34**

10:00 AM **Session A: Africa in a Troubled World. Geopolitical Challenges and Opportunities**

Moderator **Nikolaos Raptopoulos**, Associate Professor, University of Piraeus

10:00 AM **Angelos Syrigos**, Professor, Panteion University, Member of the Hellenic Parliament

10:15 AM **Michalis Psalidopoulos**, Professor Emeritus, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
Aspects of the economy of Africa: Success cases and fragile states

10:30 AM **Konstantinos Lavdas**, Professor, Panteion University

10:45 AM **John Okumu**, Professor, Kenyatta University

11:00 AM **Despina Sinou**, Maîtresse de conférences Sorbonne Paris Nord
Political conditionality in EU-Africa relations: realities, challenges and limits

11:15 AM **Session B: Multilateral Aspects of Greek–African Relations**

Moderator **Spyridon Roukanas**, Professor, Vice-Rector University of Piraeus

11:15 AM **Vicky Pantazopoulou**, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kenya in Greece
Greeks in Northern Africa. Historical background and future perspectives

11:30 PM **Andreas Diamanteas**, Member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce (IT Fintech)
Beyond Trade: Building a Digital and Financial Corridor Between Greece and Africa

11:45 AM **Vangelis Kamaris**, Member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce (Metlen Energy & Metals)
Connecting Africa and Europe: The Strategic Role of the Global Gateway

12:00 PM **Eleftheria Ftaklaki**, PhD, Advisor for Strategic Foresight at Presidency for Greek Government.
Gendering the African Security Architecture: AU–EU–UN Interactions.

12:30 PM

Coffee



13:00 PM **Session C: Greek-African Relations: Political, Economic and Social Perspectives**

Moderator **Foteini Asderaki**, Professor, University of Piraeus

13:15 PM **Asteris Huliaras**, Professor, University of the Peloponnese
Influence without Power? Networks and discourses in Greek–African Relations

13:30 PM **Dimitris Loukas**, Chairman of the Board, Hellenic-Zambian Chamber
Zambia–Extroversity with Safety

13:45 PM **Konstantinos Zaimis**, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce
(Steelmet Corporate Services)
The challenge of resurfacing the Greek presence in Africa

14:00 PM **Marianna Gavriel**, Honorary Consul of Ghana in Greece and in
Cyprus [\[online\]](#)
Beyond Aid: Investment, Infrastructure and the Future of Greece–Africa Relations

14:15 PM **Nektarios Polychroniou**, Honorary Consul of Botswana in Greece

14:30 PM **Dimitrios Tourikis**, LL.M. (c), MSc, TEP–Founder & CEO of
CALLAMUS , Global Tax & Wealth Advisory
Greece, the Horn of Africa and Somaliland in a New Era of Geopolitical Realignment

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Scientific Committee

CHEILA Eirini, Professor Emerita at the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus, Scientific Coordinator

TZIAMPIRIS Aristotle, Professor and Chair of the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus

ASDERAKI Foteini, Professor and Vice-Chair of the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus

RAPTOPOULOS Nikolaos, Associate Professor of the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus

NIKOU Christos, Tenured Lecturer at the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus

Organizing Committee

CHEILA Eirini, Professor Emerita at the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus, Scientific Coordinator

GOUSSIOS Charalampos, Professor at the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus

RAPTOPOULOS Nikolaos, Associate Professor of the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus

ALIGIZAKI Sissy, Senior Teaching Fellow at the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus

NIKOU Christos, Tenured Lecturer at the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus

List of Participants

ASDERAKI Foteini, Professor, University of Piraeus

AUER Laurence, Ambassador of the Republic of France

BENHABOUCHE Zaina, Ambassador of the Republic of Algeria

CHEILA Eirini, Professor Emerita, University of Piraeus

DIAMANTEAS Andreas, Member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce (IT Fintech)

FARANTOURIS Nikolaos, Professor, University of Piraeus, Member of the European Parliament

FTAKLAKI Eleftheria, PhD, Advisor for Strategic Foresight at the Presidency of the Greek Government

GALANOS George, Associate Professor, University of Piraeus

GAVRIEL Marianna, Honorary Consul of Ghana in Greece and in Cyprus

HULIARAS Asteris, Professor, University of the Peloponnese

KAMARIS Vangelis, Member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce (Metlen Energy & Metals)

KONTOLEONTOS Ifigeneia, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

LAVDAS Konstantinos, Professor, Panteion University

LOUKAS Dimitris, Chairman of the Board, Hellenic-Zambian Chamber

MICHELINE Matadi Nee Muteba Mukaji, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo

MSENGANA-NDLELA Lindiwe, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa

NIKOU Christos, Tenured Lecturer, University of Piraeus

NJOGU Roseline Kathure, Principal Secretary, State Department for Diaspora Affairs, Kenya Ministry of Foreign Affairs

OKUMU John, Professor, Kenyatta University

PANTAZOPOULOU Vicky, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kenya in Greece
PETMEZAKIS Georgios, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic
POLYCHRONIOU Nektarios, Honorary Consul of Botswana in Greece
PSALIDOPOULOS Michalis, Professor Emeritus, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
RAPTOPOULOS Nikolaos, Associate Professor, University of Piraeus
ROUKANAS Spyridon, Professor, Vice-Rector, University of Piraeus
SARAGIOTIS Periklis, Senior PSD Specialist Eastern & Southern Africa, World Bank Group
SFAKIANAKIS Michael, Professor, Rector of the University of Piraeus
SINOUE Despina, Maîtresse de conférences, Sorbonne Paris Nord
SKALKOS Dimitris, Secretary General for International Economic Relations and Extroversion, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
SYRIGOS Angelos, Professor, Panteion University, Member of the Hellenic Parliament
TAKAS Vassilis, President of the Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce
THEOCHARIS Harry, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Member of the Hellenic Parliament
TRABELSI Souad, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia
TZIAMPYRIS Aristotle, Professor, Chair of the Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus
TOURIKIS Dimitrios, LL.M. (c), MSc, TEP–Founder & CEO of CALLAMUS, Global Tax & Wealth Advisory
ZAFEIRAKOU Aigli, Senior Education Technical Advisor–Consultant, World Bank
ZAIMIS Konstantinos, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce / Steelmet Corporate Services