

Horasis India Meeting

15-16 September 2024, Athens, Greece

a Horasis leadership event

Co-host:
Hellenic-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Economy

Report



Inspiring our future

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Upcoming Horasis events:

Horasis Global Meeting Vitória, Brazil, 25-26 October 2024

Horasis is a global visions community dedicated to inspire our future. (www.horasis.org)

Horasis India Meeting

15-16 September 2024, Athens, Greece

Hotel InterContinental Athenaeum Athens

a Horasis leadership event

■ **Co-host:**

Hellenic-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Economy

■ **Partner Organizations:**

All India Management Association (AIMA)

India SME Forum

TCS

■ **Co-chairs:**

Vineet Agarwal	Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India, India
Vanitha Datla	Managing Director, Elico Healthcare Services, India
Aditi Haldar	Director, Global Reporting Initiative, India
Fokion Karavias	Chief Executive Officer, Eurobank, Greece
Rajive Kaul	Chairman, Nicco Group, India
Nasser Munjee	Chairman, Tata Motor Finance, India
Spiro Pappas	Chairman, Atlas Iron, Australia
Ameya Prabhu	Founder, NAFA Capital, India
Shishir Priyadarshi	President, Chintan Research Foundation, India
Preetha Reddy	Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals, Past President AIMA, India
Murat Seitnepesov	President, Greater Caspian Association, Switzerland
Niraj Sharan	Chairman and CEO, Aura – a JCBL Group Company, India
Preity Ūpala	Founder, The Omnia Institute, India
Rupa Vasudevan	Chancellor, BEST Innovation University, India

Programme

Schedule 15-17 September 2024, Athens, Greece



Saturday, 14 September <i>Hotel InterContinental</i>	Sunday, 15 September <i>Hotel InterContinental</i>	Monday, 16 September <i>Hotel InterContinental</i>	Tuesday, 17 September <i>Hotel InterContinental</i>
		<p>From 07.00 Registration – Morning contemplation</p>	
		<p>08.00 – 09.00 Sessions – Judging AI applications – Positive Gen-Z cohort – Diversity in C-suite – Digital transformation</p>	
		<p>09.30 – 10.30 Plenary Economic outlook</p>	<p>09.00 – 14.00 City tour – Discovering Athens</p>
		<p>10.30 – 11.00 Plenary Tamil Nadu</p>	<p>17-19 September – Optional Tour</p>
		<p>11.00 – 12.30 Dialogue Sessions – Sustainable Tourism – Greece-Cyprus gateway – Developing SMEs – India: global growth engine – Influence of Indian diaspora – Education for the future</p>	
	<p>12.30 – 14.00 Welcome Lunch Virtual ribbon cutting</p>	<p>12.30 – 13.30 Lunch</p>	
	<p>14.00 – 15.30 Dialogue Sessions – Fighting climate change – Greek’s future infrastructure – The long bi-lateral journey – New supply chains – India’s transformation</p>	<p>13.30 – 14.30 Plenary Digitalization</p>	
	<p>15.30 – 16.30 Plenary India blossoms post-election</p>	<p>14.30 – 16.00 Dialogue Sessions – Investing in Greece – Real Estate – Low-carbon growth – Mentoring leaders – Fountains for humanity</p>	
	<p>16.30 – 17.00 Contact Break</p>	<p>16.00 – 16.30 Contact Break</p>	
	<p>17.00 – 18.00 Plenary Vision of technological growth</p>	<p>16.30 – 18.00 Dialogue Sessions – Looking to the future – Heritage and innovation – Building smart + green cities – Indian success strategies – Positioning start-up nations – Impact investing</p>	
	<p>18.00 – 19.00 Plenary Clearer implementation of ESG</p>	<p>18.00 – 19.00 Plenary Cross-border relations</p>	
<p>20.00 – 22.00 Reception Welcoming all to the meeting</p>	<p>19.00 – 22.00 Opening Dinner 75 years of joint relations</p>	<p>19.00 – 22.00 Closing Dinner Greek-Indian Relations</p>	



The 2024 Horasis India Meeting was held in Athens



Registering participants



The Horasis India Meeting 2024 is about to start



Rajive Kaul, Chairman, Nicco Group, India, during the Opening Ceremony



Arrival of Kostas Fragogiannis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece

Summary

*By Frank-Jürgen Richter,
Chairman, Horasis, Switzerland*

The 16th Horasis India meeting took place in Athens, the capital of Greece over 15–16th September, 2024 co-hosted by the Hellenic-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Economy.

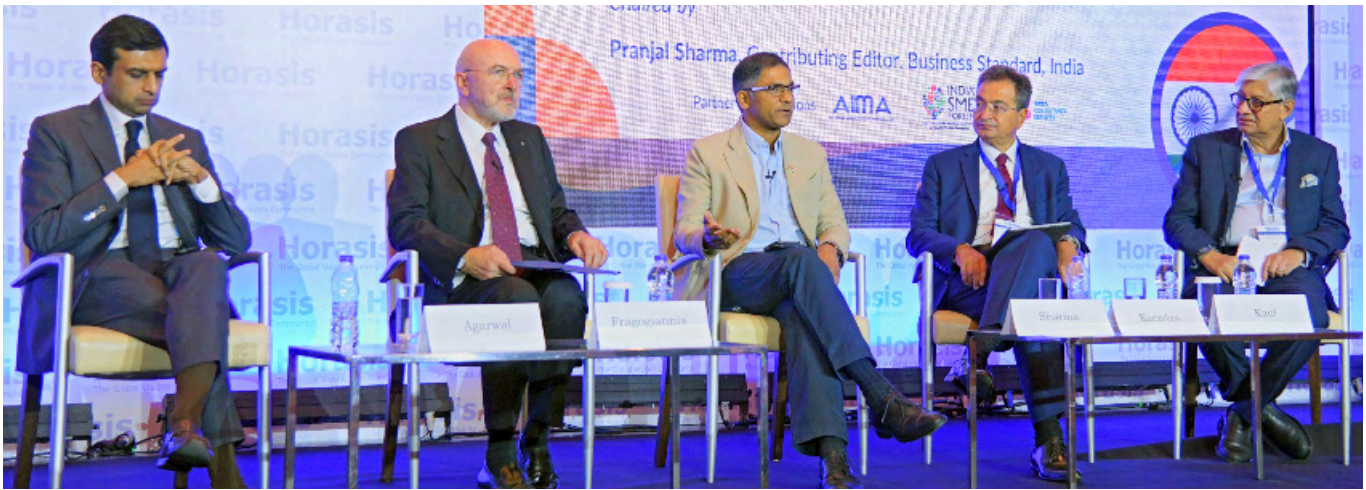
The Horasis India Meeting has become the foremost annual meeting of Indian business leaders and their global counterparts to discuss a wide range of issues related to the Indian economy. This year's meeting offered an ideal platform for over 300 senior business leaders from India, Greece and the rest of the world to explore and foster cooperation, impact investing, and sustainable growth.



Fokion Karavias, Chief Executive Officer, Eurobank, Greece, making a point during the Opening Plenary

The main thematic pillars of the meeting are international economic cooperation, impact investing and sustainable growth. The aim of the meeting was for participants to present innovative ideas and interesting proposals via discussion panels, plenary sessions and informally regarding the development of ESG strategies, the future of infrastructure in Greece and India, and the development of SMEs. Of particular interest were the discussions on the broader prospects of the economies, the long-term bilateral relations between Greece and India, and the transformation of Athens into an emerging business investment hub in Europe: India's position as a global growth driver will be analysed.

Angelos Tsavdaris, President, Hellenic-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Economy, Greece opened the meeting at the Welcome Lunch Reception, affirming the meeting's aim is to develop our trade and economic relations. Greece and India, since 2019, have pushed ahead to forge closer relations. Both countries consider each other ideal and reliable partners with India identifying Greece as an excellent partner to promote its commercial aims in the European Union. Effectively, New Delhi wants Greece to become its 'Gateway to Europe.'



Opening Plenary – India Blossoms after its Elections



Timothy J. Nichol, Dean,
Liverpool Business School,
United Kingdom



Sophia Kounenaki-Efraimoglou,
President, Athens Chamber of
Commerce and Industry, Greece



Richard Rekhy, Former CEO
of KPMG in India

The Horasis India Meeting serves as a strategic convergence hub between key actors in the public sphere. Constituting an ideal framework for multi participatory dialogue, the meeting will see a constructive exchange of views. **Kostas Fragogiannis**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece opined that Greece stands as a pillar of stability and prosperity in the wider Southeast Mediterranean region and serves as a significant gateway to the European market. For instance, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a better North-South connectivity was thought necessary. To this end, the Three Seas Initiative (3SI) between the Baltic, Black and Adriatic Seas was created by many Central and Eastern European states representing a third of the European Union. They will concentrate upon purpose driven innovation projects. The 3SI Innovation Fund will facilitate further accords in the areas of transport, energy, military mobility, and digitalization within the Three Seas region and beyond – with regional, transatlantic partners and now, Indian partners. Its standing in the 3SI accord and in the newer IMEEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor) is supported by the two Heads of State – Prime Minister Kyrrios Mitsotakis when he visited India last February and by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he visited

Greece in August 2023. They have both avowed that the Middle East conflict will not holdup developments within IMEEC – yet a resolution of that conflict is needed since Haifa port in Isreal, owned by Adani Group, is seen as an important eastern Mediterranean service point.

In ancient times, trade in silk, spices and gold flourished between the Indian subcontinent and Greece. The Greeks invaded South Asia several times, starting with the conquest of Alexander the Great (327 BC) and later with formation of the Indo-Greek Kingdom (180 BC–10 AD) promoted exchanges of goods and agricultural knowledge and religious rites. Later, Greek merchants settled in Bengal in early 18th Century, but modern



Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy,
Greece



Kostas Fragogiannis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece on the emerging Greek-Indian partnership



Preetha Reddy, Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals, India – one of the summit co-chairs



Angelos Tsavdaris, President, Hellenic-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Economy, Greece

diplomatic relations did not begin until 1950. **Takis Theodorikakos**, Greece’s Minister of Development agree that ‘Greece and India are two democratic countries, the oldest and the largest. The responsibility for decision-making and response belongs to our democracies.’

It is unsurprising, yet pleasing that the ancient maritime prowess of the Greeks is presently seen through its present maritime presence. The capacity of the Greek merchant fleet, at more than 5,000 vessels, makes Greece the largest ship owning nation, and its shipping sector (including ships that are Greek owned and Greek managed) collectively accounts for 20 percent of global deadweight tonnage. **Vineet Agarwal**, Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India, India noted India is on the cusp



Summit co-chair Vineet Agarwal, Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India

of massive change – it will be a lifetime opportunity. It is investing 3.5 % GDP on infrastructure / yr which will have a large trickle-down effect – it will be a good attractor for Greek firms to come in larger numbers.

It is Greece that holds the promise of being a strong hub and gateway into Europe for a variety of commercial activities further enhancing their present trade interchanges. The governments of Greece and India have drafted a partnership agreement with the goal of doubling their bilateral trade from nearly USD \$ 2 billion in 2022-2023 to USD \$ 4 billion by 2030. **Fokion Karavias**, Chief Executive Officer, Eurobank, Greece informed the meeting that Eurobank Group is a strong banking group with total assets of €81.3 billion and 10,622 employees. Greece is good at networking for the flow of goods (IMEEC), for data (there are new venture in long distance phone / data links) and via the developing data centres, and for the exchange of knowledge. He noted that Cyprus is also welcoming Indian firms as it presents many business attractions. To help these innovations we must ensure that all Chambers of Commerce talk to each other. An opinion emphasised by **Pranjal Sharma**, Contributing Editor, Business Standard, India as the chairperson of the



Sabine Kapasi, Advisor to Global Strategy Team, United Nations, USA



Brajindar Mohan Singh, Member of the Board, Anant Raj Limited



Nobumitsu Akai, Director, JFR Group, Japan



Spiro Pappas, Chairman, Atlas Iron, Australia



Plenary Panel – Coherent Technological Growth Needs Vision



Thanos Paraschos, Managing Director, Startup Greece

Opening Plenary: India Blossoms after its Elections said we ‘must be more aware of each other’ as the world becomes more digital, instability and cybersecurity risks are growing rapidly. The pace of digitisation in the government, businesses and the wider society is faster than the ability to secure against new forms of cyber threats. Thus, while data collected from space and other sensors can benefit a wide range of business interests, both by strengthening financial performance and by supporting compliance we should focus on transparency and cooperation.



Volker Friedrich, Managing Director, GBP International, Germany

There are significant complementarities in trade between the two countries: the main export items from India to Greece are organic chemicals, electrical equipment, aluminium, iron and steel, fish and crustaceans, ceramics, and clothing; the main Indian imports from Greece are mineral fuels and distillation products, scrap aluminium, wood pulp and recovered paper, as well as fruit and nuts, cotton and minerals. Trade is anticipated to broaden in scope and double every five years, and its trajectory will be fuelled by the growing people-to-people connections and the reinforcing of bilateral economic ties.



Parag Amin, Chief Mentor and Founding Director, iCreate, India

In the second plenary discussing *Coherent Technological Growth Needs Vision*, the chair, **George Karayiannis**, Managing Partner, Karayiannis Energy Law Consultancy, Greece stressed the need to utilize cross-disciplinary approaches to address policy, strategic and operational issues with strong team players, with demonstrated ability to lead cross-functional, multi-national teams under challenging conditions. **Spiro Pappas**, Chairman, Atlas Iron, Australia stressed ‘firms in trade corridors should help prepare our citizens to reskill.’ That was agreed by **Preetha Reddy**, Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals; Past President AIMA, India who works closely with over 13,000 clinicians within the organization. She introduces contemporary protocols to continuously enhance clinical outcomes.



Takis Theodorikakos, Minister of Development, Greece



Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Prime Minister's Envoy for the Ocean, Greece



Niraj Sharan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Aura – a JCBL Group Company, India



Meeting co-chair Nasser Munjee, Chairman, Tata Motor Finance, India

And she is convinced that technological advancements like AI can alleviate long-standing issues in the healthcare sector, such as the lack of skilled workforce, in order to help improve access to healthcare. Referring back to points made by George Karayiannis, **Niraj Sharan**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Aura, India emphasized ‘trade corridors increase shared knowledge – develop all sectors including human benevolence.’ And there is a need to educate divisional sales-staff about the services provided by divisions other than their own; to motivate them to cross-sell; and to create intra-division confidence to facilitate cross-selling. ‘This is especially needed when there is a shift to multi-modal logistics which will reduce high logistics costs,’ concluded **Vineet Agarwal**, Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India.



George Karayiannis, Managing Partner, Karayiannis Energy Law Consultancy, chairing the panel 'Coherent Technological Growth Needs Vision'

India’s strategic location in the Indian Ocean and Greece’s position as a gateway to Europe make collaboration between their ports essential. And also, to enable processes and policies to make oceans cleaner and more sustainable said **Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou**, Prime Minister’s Envoy for the Ocean, Greece, as the Chairperson of the Circle of the Mediterranean Parliamentarians on Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) she works between developed and developing nations – emphasising the idea of shared commonalities and shared responsibilities: like financing ‘loss & damage’ funds and ‘resiliency’ funds. In creating compromises, we must move beyond differences. She noted that governments implemented regulations but they did not take many measurements – and this is what ESG is now causing us to do and to a common standard. Greece, as a huge maritime nation, has developed ESG specifically for the global shipping and supply chain sector. **Hemakiran Gupta**, Regional Head, Banking and Financial Services Europe, TCS, Belgium, leading the plenary addressing progress ‘Towards a Clearer Implementation of ESG’ reminded us that ‘outdated legacy systems stand in the way of progress. Legacy was at the heart of the business, but it was built for a different era’ and went on to stress that we must have



Roopen Roy, Founder and CEO, Sumantrana, India



Vidyottama Sharma, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Only Women, India



Christophe Eck, Partner, Gide Loyrette Nouel, France



Plenary panel – Towards a Clearer Implementation of ESG



Elena Panaritis, Member of the Greek Parliament

strong leadership Commitment: Sustainability initiatives in universities / institutions / corporates that must start with the Board and Presidents committing to a sustainable vision. The strong leadership process was outlined by **Nasser Munjee**, Chairman, Tata Motor Finance, India – we have a stated sustainability objective ‘of being a socially responsible corporate aiming to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.’ When Tata was set up it said 50% of profits will go to trusts to help communities, however, ESG is not in our DNA, we have to work to fully achieve its aims, not just to be compliant. We must review the role of the Chairman and the methods of board member selection. The top guys need the skills and will to make changes for a better future. And the shareholders need to demand much more accountability from the Board (and that goes for a government too) as the top of the organisation gives direction for all subsequent behaviour.

they live in a green oasis in an arid land. This develops measurable success. **Aditi Haldar**, Director, Global Reporting Initiative, India agreed that ‘The silos of environment, social and governance need more interconnectivity. The GRI provides the vital interchange between report creators and report users so that sustainability reporting can move not only a business entity, but also an economy towards prosperity with responsibility.’ Eventually, the global ESG standards will trickle down to their SMS and getting them initially compliant, then to think their business in terms of ESG.



Kim Andrews, President, Nova Cash Flow Finance, Australia

Rupa Vasudevan, Chancellor, BEST Innovation University, India also emphasized the need to manage ESG from the top, noting how her young university that was specializing on human capital across the agricultural sector. They have created a 50-year road map incorporating ESG in their business model and in their teaching, and co-opted teaching into community life – so



Rupa Vasudevan, Chancellor, BEST Innovation University, making a point on a plenary panel



Bindeshwari Prasad, Executive Director, Axplore Travel



Plenary – India, Greece and the World Economic Outlook

When the plenary panellists were discussing India, Greece and the World Economic Outlook they noted points written above – that Greece, India and the rest of the world need to be compassionate and look towards sustainable growth as well as open bi-lateral accords. Earlier, and outside this meeting, the Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis has spoken about Greece’s relationship with India as ‘a partnership between the world’s oldest democracy and the world’s largest democracy,’ highlighting a key historical and ideological connection between the two nations. This sentiment is entirely inline with the plenaries’ discussions. The chair of the plenary **Jessica Kantor**, Journalist and Director of Communications, USA said ‘we need inspiring narratives from ideas to implementations in order to create



Session chair Hemakiran Gupta, Global Head, Sustainability Practice, TCS

powerful storytelling and scalable social justice.’ Developing these lines, she persuaded her panellists to evolve discussions on economic outlooks.

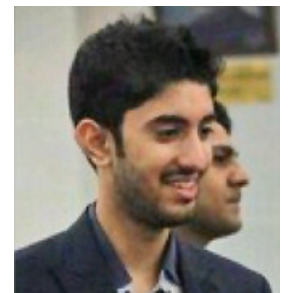
Shishir Priyadarshi, President, Chintan Research Foundation, India worries that there is still too much left-over influence of the British Raj mindset – ‘it would be better to elevate local voices, support a culture of self-reliance and indigenous frameworks.’ And taking up the hopes of Nasser Munjee, he hopes the local mind-set will incorporate ESG parameters in their business plans. More broadly the reciprocal visits between Greek and Indian heads indicate a new strength in the political will. First, in terms of making IMEEC work, ports have to be developed beyond a logistics center to one of being a center of economic development. They must have good infrastructure and also be hubs for energy flows (not just the old fossil fuels, but the new green sectors including Hydrogen). Second, considering them as technology hubs looking to the future welcoming an influx of Indians willing to be innovators and entrepreneurs. Third, the ports also have to open up to the general immigration of migrants (with legal pathways) – as there are 450 million people worldwide on the move. Upon this, India and Greece can play a lead, being democra-



Bernhard Bauhofer, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Sparring Partners, Switzerland



Harsha Marigowda, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, mVerve, India



Anuj Chauhan, Founder, Yellow Sapphire Technologies, India



Aditi Haldar, Director, Global Reporting Initiative, India



Shishir Priyadarshi, President, Chintan Research Foundation, India



Jessica Kantor, Journalist and Director of Communications, USA, chairing the Economic Outlook Panel



Amit Jain, Co-founder, Ashika Global Family Office, India

tic and willing to observe international law. Their strengths could address the flows, not only into the EU from mainly Syria / Afghanistan / Africa, but in Asia, and in the Americas.

Dimitri Avramopoulos, Former EU Commissioner, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece said ‘Managing these migratory flows cannot happen in a one-size-fits-all manner.’ People who have the right to claim asylum, must be allowed to exercise it. But those who abuse the asylum system or come illegally without a valid right to stay, should be sent back. This must be clear. Schengen is one of the greatest achievements of European integration: the best way to combat illegal migration is to set up a regular immigration framework and not a ‘Fortress Europe’, yet the EU’s external borders must be policed effectively. Greece/India must work at global regional and bi-lateral relations... but they have to begin somewhere. The intergovernmental accords open doors. For instance, Greek shipping can share its broad knowledge. Accords must be strengthened and made workable. To develop a strong trust beyond change of governments. To make these effective we need new institutions covering new zones of influence. It is up to governments to enact these developments multi-laterally.

Anil Wadhwa, Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; India illustrated how strongly the Indian government is supporting its growth agenda. He noted some while ago that Reforms have been enacted in the mining, health care and pharmaceuticals, IT, infrastructure, defence, space, agriculture, medium and small enterprises, financial and banking sectors. India has launched production-linked incentive schemes in 13 sectors, which aim to achieve a minimum production worth more than \$ 500 billion in five years. And in a landmark legislation last week, India abolished retrospective taxation, bringing about predictability and stability in the investment environment. India is now focused on labour and land reforms, and boosting healthcare. It is trying to modernise its food processing and



Sofia Karadima, Head of Community Engagement, Actum Group, UK



Pankaj Choudhary, Founder, Let's Do It India Foundation, India



Almas Jiwani, Chief Executive Officer, Almas Jiwani Foundation, Canada and Dimitri Avramopoulos, Former EU Commissioner, Greece



Dimitris Papastergiou, Greek Minister of Digital Governance



Anil Wadhwa, Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; India



Tasos Anastasatos, Chief Economist, Eurobank, Greece

grains storage technologies, as well as dairy sector and trying to provide clean drinking water, electricity and digital connectivity to its villages. There is a movement towards a self-reliance and less dependence on China. Looking towards the US and its elections, he suggested India is indifferent to the outcome of the US elections being more self-reliant than formerly; while the EU has a strong ‘trans-Atlantic relationship’ presently it will be altered after November, no matter the incoming president. **Tasos Anastasatos**, Chief Economist, Eurobank, Greece reminded us that the global economy is undergoing swift changes – inflation is generally reducing. But growth has slowed, especially in Euro-zone, though no deep recessions are expected, though fiscal debts will remain high. There is a relative decline

of western power and near-shoring production will increase for a variety of reasons (some being described as due to national security reasoning.) India has invested in human services so long-term growth looks assured. There is a lot of scope for joint accords leading, hopefully, to focussed projects, not waffle.

Throughout the meeting there were many discussions about AI and the state of digitisation. In the plenary **Accelerating the State of Digitalization** led by **Litsa Panayotopoulou**, Founder and CEO, E.VI.A Intelligent Performance, Greece, said she was pleased that Greece now has a Ministry of Digital Governance – which suggests portents for the future. Yet **Dimitris Papastergiou**, Minister of Digital Governance, Greece described the reforms of the Greek bureaucracy, ‘...which has plagued generations of Greeks and provided material for countless plays and movies and which could only be considered a scene from... science fiction.’

From zero % cover of fibre across Greece a few years ago much progress has been made. Greece is now rapidly digitizing, and entering dynamically into the era of Artificial Intelligence, noting that ‘the citizen will access the government... from his mobile



Joe Honan, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, ULedger, USA



Maria Tsiadi, Chief Executive Officer, Impacta Consulting, Greece



Litsa Panayotopoulou, Treasurer, American-Hellenic Chamber of Greece, Greece



Arvind Uppal, Chairman, Whirlpool India, India



Plenary panel – Accelerating the State of Digitalization



Phoebe Koundouri, Chair, United Nations SDSN Global Climate Hub, Greece

phone.’ Minister Papastergiou has launched the Digital Assistant to permit all aspects of Greek public service to be reached digitally. And, as in India, he has launched the idea of a Personal (reference) Number for all Greeks. Though in India it is now an operational fact. India has created the world’s most ambitious national identification system, which uses biometric data to assign every citizen over the age of 18 a unique digital identity. Using their 12-digit number card, the 1.4 billion Indians using Aadhaar can access government services, pay taxes and open bank accounts.



Vijay Sambamurthi, Founder and Managing Partner, Lexygen, Singapore

He accepts that Artificial Intelligence is a bigger accelerator compared to previous revolutions. Skillsets will change, new professions will emerge, but care must be taken for people who are at an age for whom it is hard to make this transition. And at the same time, technology should be accessible so that one does not feel that times have changed and they have been left behind. It must be inclusive – and can be inclusive (as in India).



Anita Gupta, Senior Vice President, DHL, Germany

Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu, India explained that Tamil Nadu has the second largest economy of a State in India, targeting double

digit growth rates and making it India’s ideal investment destination. Digitalization in particular has been leading to employment generation and enhanced economic development.

Vanitha Datla, Vice Chairperson & Managing Director, Elico Healthcare Services, India is a champion of diversity, inclusion, and women empowerment. She noted how digitisation has freed up much of her home life – if she has forgotten an ingredient for making dinner, she only needs to access the Web for almost instant delivery directly to her home. However, this is in Hyderabad, a city with approximately the same population as the whole of Greece. IT is more penetrating in India than Greece as it started



Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu, keynoting the Horasis India Meeting



Vinod Kumar Wuthoo, President, India SME Forum, India – SMEs are India’s growth engine



Nikos Stamou, Director Investment Promotion, Enterprise Greece on Investing in Greece



Michael A. Johnson, Advisory Board Member, Black Sky Aerospace, Australia chairing the panel on startup nations

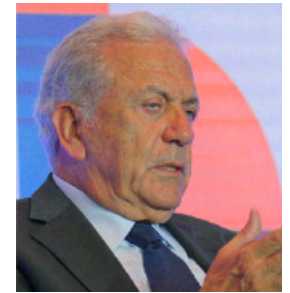
earlier. To set up a new firm most states permit a fully digital set up, and can further aid SMEs learn new modes of work. But more job creators are needed especially in India. But Greece could help in this through a more active immigration policy – liking India’s IT prowess to Greek needs to create and out-reach technological hubs, to develop data centres and cyber systems.

Vinod Kumar Wuthoo, President, India SME Forum, India says that the missing 1.4 billion people need many services. These are the people missed, for many reasons from Aadhaar. Perhaps they are extremely poor, infirm or simply old and do not comprehend the nature of a smartphone. They must be digitized to enable the flows of all services. To permit connection to

those left out of digitization India has set up 400,000 remote service centers serving the 65% of population which is rural, and so the relatively deprived are helped: each new interaction in the service center will create a new digitization (and aid) for the previously unconnected person, so enabling access to all the digitized state aid.

Since only a few people are now outside of tax and payments in India, many services are running through a QR code system – cash is disappearing. An airport taxi driver might agree to any mode of cashless payment ‘... just read my QR code to pay.’ Consequent to Aadhaar about 250 billion transactions/month are exchanged directly from bank to bank, not via the Visa/Mastercard intermediaries. And this also cuts out delays due to intermediaries from government or other businesses.

Ameya Prabhu, Founder, NAFA Capital, India has multiple jobs: he is the Managing Director of New Age Financial Advisors Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture with IFFCO which is the world’s largest farmers’ co-operative organisation, focussing on investment banking and Agri investment. Also, he is a trustee of Manav Sandhan Vikas Sanstha, an NGO focused on skill training and skill development in rural and semi urban India



Dimitri Avramopoulos, Former EU Commissioner, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece



Siddharth Shah, Partner, Khaitan & Co, India



Dora Bakyannis, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece speaking during the Closing Dinner



Nupur Tron, Founder and Director, Foundation Frison Horta, Belgium



Chrysilios Pelekanos, Chairman, Cyprus India Business Association, Cyprus; Foivos Karzis, Journalist, Greece; Ameya Prabhu, Founder, NAFA Capital, India



Avrutti Sharma, Director, Only Women, India

with an emphasis on job creation for women and the under privileged classes. He thinks India has reduced bureaucracy and so increased democracy through its total digitization. In comparison with the US with its manual voting system, India has been digitized for 25 years. Even if a remote rural person has had to travel through forest for 3 days, their vote is digitally registered and available for instant aggregation. And with all this IT India can say it is now truly democratic and far less corrupt.



Sameer Poladia, Co-Founder and Partner, Dhanesh & Sameer, India

Rhett Power, Forbes Columnist & Chief Executive Officer, Accountability Inc, USA led the closing plenary on **Supporting Cross-border Entrepreneurship**. He noted how the root of many problems within our companies can often be found within ourselves. As leaders and decision-makers, our choices and actions can profoundly impact the organization. Acknowledging this reality is the first step towards effectively addressing and resolving these challenges. This was a sentiment echoed by **Sri Krishnaji**, Co-founder, Ekam–World Centre for Enlightenment, India who works across 100 nations and people from round the world who come to India to learn from Ekam. He said we ‘...should



Abhishek Kulkarni, Chairman, Urbane Jets Aviation, India

move away from the my-pleasures (working for oneself) to being purposeful (for others). And move from being competitive to cooperative (being competitive keeps one in me-ism). Thus, we should disengage from one’s ego to be free of me-ism and thus become responsible towards others.’

Preity Üpala, Founder, The Omnia Institute, India believes there is a great opportunity arising from this meeting as both Indians and Greeks realise how similar they are based on thousands of years of history – AI: ancestral intelligence. Greece is a natural gateway to Europe and India is a gateway to the global north/south. They are developing good connectivity. And



Preity Üpala, Founder, The Omnia Institute, India



Rhett Power, Forbes Columnist & Chief Executive Officer, Accountability Inc chairing the closing plenary



Benjamin J Butler, Writer, Futurist, and Philosopher reasoning about the Civilizational Fountains for Humanity



Bhimaraya Metri, Director, Indian Institute of Management Nagpur, India

while IMEEC holds a key, it could be a choke point if the Middle East conflict remains unresolved or escalates. Thus, India and Greece could profitably share security data needs upon counter terrorism, cybersecurity and AI (developing common threat data). And furthermore, mutual investment will help each other. **Murat Seitnepesov**, President, Greater Caspian Association, Switzerland reflected on decisions about three years ago when we decided that we should do something good for our region looking beyond Turkmenistan where I was born. We decided that ‘Caspian’ will promote the greater region to the whole world. Presently, the Trans-Caspian Trade and Transit Corridor is key for promoting European and Asian connectivity. It has its own general culture that is antagonised by the Russia/Ukraine and the Taliban problems. He explained ‘I see many



Murat Seitnepesov, President, Greater Caspian Association, Switzerland

opportunities for Greece to benefit from new partners in the Caspian; and by extension, India as well.’

Rajive Kaul, Chairman, Nicco Group, India in a sense, summarized the meeting. He affirmed the Indian and Greek governments and businesses need to engage and encourage cross-border collaboration raising investments through their Chambers of Commerce since both nations have good niche start-ups. Many aspects of Indian / Greek accords must comply with the EU if the trade from India is to pass into Europe through a Greek hub. There are few global firms who would be willing to maintain two product lines – one for Greece and the other for Europe. Mr Kaul is inclined to a full Indian/EU accord which does not fully exist: this is a large political issue, so remains a big problem for manufacturing. In reverse he notes that the EU is somewhat complacent, stating that if firms wish to trade with the EU they must agree to European norms, and most likely will wish to adopt those for the whole of their product lines no matter in which country they are traded. He suggested travel Visa are the main issue as without one travel is impossible. India demands the e-visa whilst Greece issues a Schengen visa. However, Web research notes the Greek (EU) passport



Sri Krishnaji, Co-founder, Ekam – World Centre for Enlightenment, India



Dimosthenis Manginas, Managing Director, Manginas & Associates, Greece



Shaline Serpes, Director, Holiday Crafters, India



Lou Marinoff, Professor of Philosophy, The City College of New York, USA, chairing a panel



Vanitha Datla, Vice Chairperson & Managing Director, Elico Healthcare Services, India



Pranjal Sharma, Contributing Editor, Business Standard, chairing the Opening Plenary



Minal Karanwal, Civil Servant, Government of Maharashtra, India

permits visa-free travel to 146 countries, while the Indian passport permits only 57 visa-free destinations. Clearly there is some catching up to be done by the Indian authorities to permit their entrepreneurs greater freedom to engage with Greece, for instance.

He agreed with Preity Üpala that direct flights increase tourism – a source of money for several actors in the sector; and also, of enlightenment – learning about other cultures. Both delegates noted medical tourism of which India is foremost player. Indian people need to know the quality of Greek medical prowess which needs to be marketed more extensively as there are 100 m Indians who can afford to travel. And lifting visas restrictions could also increase student exchanges.



Nicolas Michelin, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Asia Intelligence Advisory, France

His final words – the meeting comprised 5 ministers and other dignitaries, and about 250 people from 25 nations... there were 26 panels and 7 plenaries. The main takeaways suggest it is clear that both nations wish to accelerate partnerships – in shipping/logistics, IT/AI, start-up eco systems, tourism (including medical) and each can act as regional hubs. India is one of the world’s growth centres and Greece is fastest in Europe.

And finally, **Dora Bakyoannis**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece who had the honor of being elected World Mayor in 2005 addressed the closing inner: **Celebrating Greek-Indian Relations**. She said Greece invented democracy and at the same time invented populism. We now have to be honest, open, transparent and determined



Akshat Pande, Managing Partner, Alpha Partners, India



Dora Bakyoannis in discussion with Pranjal Sharma and Dimitris Melas



Closing Plenary – Supporting Cross-border Entrepreneurship

to get the Greeks and everyone else out of their crises: ‘Today in Greece we are working together closely for a stable and progressive southeast Europe; and we cooperate in every major international challenge, from Afghanistan to natural disasters.’ These broad views were also upheld by **Dimitris Melas**, Secretary General, Hellenic-Greece Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Greece who reminded us that the arrival of Alexander the Great into the fringes of the Indian world was the first encounter between East and West, so becoming one of the most fruitful cases of intercultural communication which fashioned the unique cultural amalgamation of Indo-Greek kingdoms. Moreover, the birth and

evolution of Graeco-Buddhism was a cultural achievement, spiritually present for many centuries and regarded as one of the most emblematic examples of cultural syncretism between Hellenism and Eastern traditions. Thence, India has been a point of reference for Hellenism, present in every historical phase and likely to continue well into the future.

The Horasis India Meeting has illustrated how cooperation between the host nation, Greece, and India is developing synergies for the future. Horasis looks forward to welcoming you again next year to an equally fruitful edition of the Horasis India Meeting.



Fabian Tan, Director, Asia Bridge Connections, Singapore



Yolian Ivanov, Executive Director, The Collins Group, Bulgaria



Dimitris Papastergiou, Minister of Digital Governance, Greece with his panellists



Brahmidevi Swamiji, President, Satguru Foundation, India



Pranjal Sharma, Contributing Editor, Business Standard and Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Prime Minister's Envoy for the Ocean, Greece



Summit co-chair Ameya Prabhu, Founder, NAFA Capital, India



Demetris Eliades, Eurobank Cyprus; Samrendra Mohan Kumar, Managing Director, MitKat Advisory, India; Elias Neocleous, Managing Partner, Elias Neocleous & Co, Cyprus



Kalpana Rane, Features Editor, Dainik Saamana, India



Vikram Limaye, Senior Advisor, Brunswick Group, former CEO, National Stock Exchange, India



Ashish Kumar Gupta, Chief Growth Officer, HCLTech, United Kingdom



Indronil Sengupta, Chief Executive Officer, Invesify, Vietnam



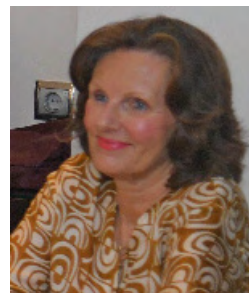
Ani Chahal Honan, Founder, Yunity, USA



Cristian Citu, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Qurator, Sweden and Motaher Chowdhury, Head of India Desk, Elias Neocleous & CO LLC, Cyprus



Stelios Mantzaris, President, The Lemnos' Friends of ANZAC Association; Anastasios Konstantaros, CEO, Rhodes Tourism Board; Stylianos Bekiras, Air Arabia



Petra Becker, President, International Art Advisory, Switzerland



Rishi Mehra, Chief Executive Officer, Wishfin, India



Frank-Jürgen Richter welcoming participants



Horasis community building

India-Greece Relations Take Center Stage Ahead of Horasis Meeting in Athens

Ahead of the Horasis India Meeting held in Athens on 15-16 September, Dr. Frank-Jürgen Richter, the founder and chairman of Horasis, shared his insights with Modern Diplomacy.

Modern Diplomacy., September 15th

Ahead of the Horasis India Meeting held in Athens on 15-16 September, Dr. Frank-Jürgen Richter, the founder and chairman of Horasis, shared his insights with Modern Diplomacy. The meeting, which is co-hosted by the Hellenic-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Economy, promises to bring together some of the most prominent thought leaders from both countries.

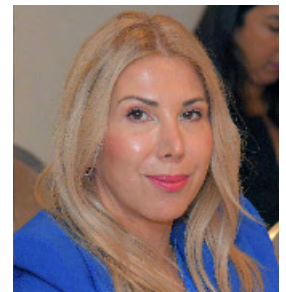
We've seen several high-level diplomatic interactions between Greece and India recently, with Modi's trip to Athens in August 2023 and Mitsotakis' visit to New Delhi this February. Does this increase in diplomatic activity herald closer ties between the two countries?

Yes, we've seen both prime ministers of Greece and India meet twice in the past

year, which has sparked a series of strategic and business-level engagements. On the strategic front, the two countries are aligning their geopolitical interests, with India supporting Greece in Mediterranean affairs and Greece backing India's potential bid for a seat on the United Nations Security Council. On the other hand, we have Turkey and Pakistan where there is a clear alignment with both countries. India and Greece are exploring deeper ties, particularly in foreign direct investment (FDI). Indian companies are looking to invest in Greece, while Greek companies, especially in the shipping industry, are also seeking opportunities in India. The Greece-India shipping sector is highly competitive, and there is great potential for collaboration, particularly around Greek ports and Indian trade routes. This growing relationship is progressing on multiple levels.

In what areas do Greece and India's strategic interests most closely align?

Greece and India align on both strategic and business fronts. On the business side, we're seeing growing investment opportunities as well. Major Indian companies like TCS (Tata Consultancy Services), Infosys, and Wipro are considering Greece as a hub for their IT delivery centers. Greece, similar



Nelly Kouvelaki, Founder, Phaos, Greece



Raghav Kanoria, Partner, Anchor Group, India



Rhea Rane, Manager, QYOU Media, India



Greece-Cyprus – Gateways of India to Europe



Tarun Anand, Chancellor & Founder, Universal AI University, India, asking a question



Ted Souder, Founder, Wiggs Holding, USA

to India, has a young, well-educated population eager for employment, making India’s investment in IT a natural fit for fostering economic cooperation. Mitsotakis has sought to position Greece as ‘India’s gateway to Europe’.

What qualities does Greece have that would make it an attractive ‘gateway’ for India? How might India act as a gateway to Asia for Greece?

Most large Indian companies had their European headquarters in London. However, with Brexit, they are now seeking a stronger presence within the European continent. Greece is competing with other European countries, but it has strong potential to benefit from this shift, positioning itself as an attractive destination for Indian companies

looking for new bases in Europe. The two prime ministers have discussed Greece’s role as a gateway for India, enabling Indian companies to access the broader European market but also to the Middle East and Africa. And this kind of gateway function, I think, is the most discussed approach now. This explains why the Horasis India Meeting has attracted such a high-level delegation of Indian business leaders seeking new opportunities in Greece. And how might India escape into Asia for Greece? The other way around, of course, India could serve as a gateway for Greek companies into Asia, particularly South Asia and Southeast Asia. Greece could leverage India’s position to expand into neighboring countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, and even Southeast Asian markets such as Myanmar, using Indian cities like



Ann D’Silva, Author & Social Change Activist, Türkiye



Riccardo Lambiris, Partner, Falcon Capital, Greece



The benefits of reaching out to old friends



Planting the Seeds of Low-carbon Growth

Kolkata as stepping stones. This concept of mutual gateway opportunities is now being actively explored by businesses in both countries.

Many international relations scholars and practitioners have identified India as a rising great power. Do you agree with this assessment and what does it mean for the rest of the world?

I fully agree. India has significant ambitions and growing confidence, especially after years of slower economic growth. It's clear that India's time has come, and it is emerging as a global soft power. This soft power extends to various areas, particularly the movie industry. Bollywood, much like Hollywood, influences global audiences, enhancing India's cultural reach. This soft



power is a key factor in India's rise. India is also making significant strides diplomatically, with new think tanks and institutions positioning the country as a major player on the international stage. It's a kind of renaissance for India. Historically, India was a major power over 150 years ago before British colonization led to its decline. Now, India is reclaiming its position. As the world's most populous country, India is undeniably a great power. In the past, we saw the dominance of the U.S., with Russia and then China as counterparts. Today, India is a rising great power. However, India distinguishes itself by not positioning itself as a counterpart. Instead, it follows a non-alignment philosophy, striving to maintain good relations with all nations. This approach, along with India's democratic governance, is a significant advantage. While democracy may slow decision-making compared to China's top-down system, it ensures long-term stability by involving the people. This will bolster India's continued rise as a global power.

What can attendees expect at this year's Horasis India Meeting in Athens?

This year, we have around 220 speakers participating, with about 60% of them being either from India or Indian profes-



Atul Temurnikar, Executive Chairman, Global Schools Foundation, Singapore



Niyatee Shinde, Managing Director, TurmericEarth Art Projects, India



Nikolaos Mavridis, Startup Mentor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA



Coherent Technological Growth Needs Vision



Vasso Sourla, Strategic Advisor, Switzerland

sionals living abroad. Many Indian leaders are at the helm of multinational companies due to their high level of education. We also have large Indian corporations, like the Transport Corporation of India, and Apollo Hospitals, India’s largest healthcare chain, represented at the CEO level. In addition, venture capitalists and private equity leaders will be attending, along with a key political figure – the Minister of Digital Affairs from Tamil Nadu, one of India’s most promising states. Greek representation is equally strong, with top companies such as Eurobank and others participating. The Greek government is also actively involved, with two ministers and two deputy ministers attending. Our local partner, the Hellenic India Chamber of Commerce, has been instrumental in organizing this summit, creating a dynamic

platform for collaboration between the two nations.

How has Horasis helped to foster global cooperation on important economic and social issues since its foundation in 2005?

We started in 2005, initially focusing on China with our first meeting. Over the years, we expanded our scope and now host five meetings annually. We believe strongly in dialogue and global engagement, aiming to break down cultural barriers and foster understanding. For example, during a meeting in the UAE, we had an Indian minister and a Pakistani minister on the same panel. It was a productive discussion, as both sides discovered more commonalities than differences. These kinds of initiatives help people better understand one another



Thanos Mitrelias, Chairman, Cambridge BioMagnetics, United Kingdom



Sandra Colhando, Co-founder, TransforME Learning & Leadership Solutions, Australia



Girish Bhagat, Chairman, Saleri India; Wolfgang Lehmacher, Operating Partner, Anchor Group; Tasos Oureilidis, Chief Executive Officer, Xenios Blockchain Group



Vaggelis Kteniadis, President, V² DEVELOPMENT, on Greek real estate and opportunities for Greek investors



Alexander Athanassoulas, CEO, Stirixis, Greece and Frank-Jürgen Richter

and, ultimately, promote investment and cooperation. Our approach is rooted in the belief that enhancing economic well-being contributes to peace and reduces the risk of conflict.

What sets Horasis apart from other think tanks with similar areas of focus?

What distinguishes Horasis is our commitment to neutrality. We aim to stay impartial, acting as a platform for dialogue and collaboration. In this sense, we embrace a ‘Swiss’ approach – focusing on neutrality without pushing our own agenda. Instead, we provide a space for our members to voice their thoughts and share their insights

with the global community. Additionally, Horasis is not just a conference organizer. We’re more of a hybrid between event hosting and a think tank. This combination allows us to emphasize the importance of research behind decision-making while actively driving collaboration and initiatives. We’re not just a ‘Think Tank’ – we see ourselves as a ‘Do Tank,’ fostering real-world action. Our focus is heavily on emerging countries. While many other think tanks concentrate on the U.S. or Europe, we believe the future lies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Our global outlook is centered on these regions, as they hold immense potential for shaping the future



Yuri Van Geest, Co-founder, Naluna, The Netherlands



George Atsalakis, Associate Professor of Technological Forecasting, Technical University of Crete



Members of the delegation of Women Only



Ramesh Datla, Chairman, Elico, India



India & Greece – Reaffirming 75 years of Joint Relations



Erifili Gounari, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, The Z Link, United Kingdom



Spiritual Leader Padma Shri Sadguru Brahmehsanand Acharya Swamiji



Nalin K. Singh, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Orbit Future Academy, India



Sushma Morthania, Founder and President, Women Entrepreneurs Forum, India



Prabir Haldar, Founder, Fitness2Wellness 360, India



Christine Heinze, Advisory Board Member, Bunton, Germany



Raghav Podar, Chairman, Podar Education, India



Yannis Alexis Zepos, Vice Chairman, Global Visa Center World (GVCW), Greece



A typical Horasis moment



Apostolos Tzikas, Chief Executive Officer, Innovius Solutions, Greece



Bharat Lal Meena, Co-founder, BEST Innovation University, India



Jacques Tourel, Chairman, World Trade Center Warsaw, Poland



Achal Khanna, Chief Executive Officer, SHRM India, APAC & MENA, India



Siddhaant Mohta, Consultant, Dentons, India



Welcome Reception – with view of the Acropolis



Participants arrive at the summit hotel



Participants gather prior to a session



Discovering Athens, on the day after the Horasis India Meeting



Sharing a light moment



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