

08.30 Arrival of Guests - Registration

09.00 Welcome Remarks

- ✓ **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Founder and President, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece
- ✓ **John Sotos**, Co-President, The Hellenic Initiative Canada

Opening Statement

09.15 Closer Than Ever?

The Evolving Strategic Partnership Between Canada and the EU

This session explores the deepening political, economic, and security ties between Canada and the European Union. Panelists will analyze the legal and geopolitical boundaries of transatlantic cooperation, assess the long-term potential for unprecedented integration, and highlight joint resilience mechanisms such as the EU's SAFE framework.

- Honourable Victor Fedeli**, Minister of Econ. Development, Job Creation & Trade, Legislative Assembly of Ontario
- ✓ **Nikos Papathanasis**, Alternate Minister of National Economy & Finance, Hellenic Republic

Chair: tbc

09.45 Investing in Transatlantic Economic Cooperation and Trade Frameworks

A focused discussion on bilateral trade relations, strategic economic partnerships, and leveraging foundational agreements like CETA to unlock new commercial pipelines. This panel examines Greece's dramatic transformation from economic pariah to investment success story, while addressing the structural reforms, regulatory updates, and market opportunities that still need to be realized to sustain long-term growth.

Opening statement

Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Industry and Economic Development, Government of Canada

Discussants

- ✓ **Dan Tisch**, President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ **Constantine Katsigiannis**, President, Canada-Greece Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ **Peter Polydor**, Founder & President, Ergo Holdings
- ✓ **Vassileios Tsianos**, President, European Union - Canada Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ **Theo Argitis**, Senior Vice President, Business Council of Canada

Chair: tbc

✓ confirmed speaker

10.45 Networking break

11.30 Inclusive Growth and Innovation The Greek-Canadian Contribution

An evaluation of how diaspora networks can specifically drive sustainable economic growth, inclusivity, and entrepreneurial innovation within the Canadian landscape over the next decade.

Vassilios Vikas, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to Canada

✓ **Harris Lambropoulos**, President, Hellenic Development Bank of Investments

Chair: tbc

11.50 Critical Raw Materials and Global Sustainability

An investigation into the supply chains of earth's critical minerals, balancing the demands of the global energy transition with the imperatives of environmental security and future resource sustainability.

Opening statement

Honourable Tim Hodgson, Minister of Energy & National Resources, Government of Canada

Discussants

George Burns, CEO, Eldorado Gold, Canada

Rahim Suleman, President & CEO, Neo Performance Materials

Tristan Pascall, CEO, First Quantum Minerals

Chair: tbc

12.30 Powering the Future

Small Modular Reactors as Greece's Energy Alternative

As Greece accelerates its transition toward a net-zero grid, Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) offer a highly efficient, base-load alternative to traditional power. This panel highlights Canada's global leadership in nuclear innovation and SMR deployment, exploring concrete pathways for Canadian capital, regulatory expertise, and technology transfers to anchor Greece's future clean energy portfolio.

Steve Lecce, Minister of Energy & Mines, Legislative Assembly of Ontario

✓ **George Christides**, President, Canadian Nuclear Association

Paul Desmarais, CEO, Power Corporation of Canada

✓ **Afroditi Xydi**, Executive Director, Deon Policy Institute

Chair: tbc

13.10 Defending Tomorrow

Security Strategy and Civil Resilience in an Age of Disruption

An examination of how modern defense and civil protection policies must evolve to counter rapid technological, geopolitical and environmental shifts. This topic analyzes how nations can build resilience against unconventional threats—from cyber warfare to supply chain vulnerabilities and from wildfires to mega-disasters—in an increasingly volatile global landscape.

Neil Sweeney, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, De Havilland Canada

✓ **Daniel Lauzon**, Vice President, Global Public Policy, CAE Defense and Security

Pierre Seïn Pyun, Vice President of Government and Industry Affairs, Bombardier

✓ **Nikos Vettas**, Director General, Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research

Chair: tbc

13.50 Networking lunch break

14.50 Fireside Chat

Olga Kefalogianni-Vardinogianni, Minister of Tourism, Hellenic Republic

Chair: tbc

16.10 Bridging Continents

Greece and Canada's Blueprint for Sustainable Tourism Description

This session explores the shared commitment of Greece and Canada to sustainable growth. Experts will discuss bilateral strategies focusing on climate resilience, digital innovation, and tourism investments. Crucially, the panel will highlight how enhanced connectivity—specifically the expansion of direct flights linking Toronto and Montreal with Athens—acts as a catalyst for exchanging data, economic best practices, and educational expertise.

Honourable Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture & Gaming, Legislative Assembly of Ontario

✓ **Effie Triantafilopoulos**, Member of Provincial Parliament for Oakville North-Burlington, Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Chair: tbc

16.30 The Sovereign AI Era

Building Interoperable Stack, Secure Infrastructure, and a Resilient Workforce

This session will explore the intersection of enterprise evolution and macro-digital governance. We will examine how bilateral agreements—like the EU-Canada digital partnership—are paving the way for trustworthy AI standards, secure digital identity wallets, and mechanisms to protect independent media from AI-driven disinformation.

Opening Statement

Honourable Evan Solomon, Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation, Government of Canada

Discussants

✓ **Costas Kapsouropoulos**, Digital and Science Counsellor, EU Delegation to Canada
Karim EL Yaakoubi, CEO, Intralot Canada

Chair: tbc

17.00 Reversing Rural Population Decline in Greece

Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Communities

One of the greatest long-term challenges facing Greece is the accelerating depopulation of its rural communities. Declining birth rates, an aging population, and the migration of young people to urban centres and abroad threaten the economic viability, cultural heritage, food security, and social cohesion of large parts of the country. This discussion explores the economic consequences of rural depopulation, strategies to encourage young entrepreneurs and families to remain in or return to rural Greece, and how the Greek diaspora can contribute through investment, philanthropy, mentorship, and advocacy.

Maira Myrogianni, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad & Public Diplomacy, Hellenic Republic

✓ **Effie Lazaridou**, CEO, New Agriculture New Generation
✓ **Kostis Katsanevas**, Special Advisor, Crestview Strategy

Chair: tbc

Monday October 19, 2026
Vanity Ballroom, Omni, King Edward
Hotel, Toronto

17.30 Strengthening Diaspora Engagement with the Motherland

This panel will explore efforts by the Hellenic Republic to expand engagement with Diaspora communities and identify opportunities and challenges in the relationship with the Greek state.

Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship, Government of Canada

Dimitris Karnavos, Secretary General of Citizenship, Hellenic Republic

✓ **Mike Manatos**, Executive Director, The Hellenic Initiative USA

✓ **John Sotos**, Co-President, The Hellenic Initiative Canada

Chair: tbc

End of Forum