

**Programme**

# **Natural Disasters Management Summit**

**Protecting lives - Building resilience**



September 13th 2023

“Ioannis Vellidis” Congress Centre, Thessaloniki

In partnership with

**HELEXPO**



**hazlis & rivas**  
Economist Impact Events for Greece,  
Cyprus, Malta and south-east Europe

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| 08:30 | Registration and coffee   |
| 09:00 | Introduction:<br><b>Alasdair Ross</b> , countries editor, "The World Ahead", <i>The Economist</i><br><b>Kyriakos Pozrikidis</b> , CEO, HELEXPO, Greece  |
| 09:10 | Welcome:<br><b>Voula Patoulidou</b> , vice governor of Central Macedonia - Metropolitan Area of Thessaloniki  |
| 09:20 | Welcome:<br><b>Vasilis Moisidis</b> , appointed city councilor for Civil Protection, Municipality of Thessaloniki   |
| 09:30 | <b>Keynote opening address:</b><br><b>PRIORITIES FOR THE RESTORATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS FOLLOWING THE FLOODING RAINS FROM STORM DANIEL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Next steps to be taken</li><li>• EU funding and relief packages</li></ul> <b>Christos Staikouras</b> , minister of infrastructure and transport, Greece   |
| 09:45 | <b>Keynote opening address:</b><br><b>NATURAL DISASTERS MANAGEMENT AFTER THE RECENT FLOODS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Next steps to take</li></ul> * <b>Makis Voridis</b> , minister of state, Greece (via connection)   |
| 10:00 | Discussion  |
| 10:15 | <b>NATURAL DISASTERS IN OUR TIMES: ESTIMATING THE REAL IMPACT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate crisis: exploring the blurred lines between natural and man-made disasters</li><li>• Urbanisation and demographic changes: how are they engaged to the management of natural hazards?</li><li>• How is disaster risk reduction connected to a sustainable growth model?</li><li>• The significance of international co-operation</li></ul> <b>Costas Synolakis</b> , president, Athens College, professor, Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California, NAE (via connection)<br><b>Reimund Schwarze</b> , professor, The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), head of the research group 'Climate Change and Extreme Events', board member, DKKV, Germany (via connection) |
| 10:30 | Discussion  |

10:45 **CIVIL PROTECTION IN 2023 AND BEYOND: PRIORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **The role of legislation and governance in addressing natural risks**
- **EU funding at the service of civil protection**
- **How can citizens get involved?**
- **Sharing experience from abroad**

**Patricia Gaspar**, state secretary for civil protection, Portugal

**Hans Das**, director for emergency management and rescEU, DG ECHO, European Commission (via connection)

**Romain Royet**, deputy director general of civil protection and crisis management (DGSCGC), France

**Michalis Katrinis**, parliamentary representative, PASOK-Kinima Allagis

Co-chair: **George Boustras**, special advisor to the President of the Republic of Cyprus in Civil Protection and Crisis Management, professor in risk assessment, school of sciences, European University Cyprus

11:20 Discussion

11:40 Break

12:10 **NATURAL DISASTERS MANAGEMENT AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

- **Emergency management**

**Jacob Wimisberg**, director, strategic cooperation and assistance division, National Emergency Management Authority, State of Israel

**Anastasios Gerasimatos**, managing director, H.C.D.M.I., member, International Crisis Management Association, crisis management certified specialist

12:25 Discussion

12:40 **REDUCING DISASTER RISKS**

- **The important role of the public and private sector**
- **How can the insurance industry's expertise contribute to safe communities?**
- **The private sector in action**

**George Ferentzanis**, vice-president, Hellenic Organization of Agricultural Insurances

**Ioannis Gitas**, professor, department of forestry and natural environment, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

12:55 Discussion

13:10 **FORCED MIGRATION DUE TO NATURAL DISASTERS**

- **Climate change and disaster displacement**
- **Environmental refugees: how can they be helped?**

**Sofia Voultepsi**, deputy minister of migration and asylum, Greece

**Laurent Alfonso**, senior adviser for civil protection, Union for the Mediterranean

**Achilleas Tzemos**, general director for Greece, Médecins Sans Frontières

**George Mitri**, professor of environmental sciences, director, Land and Natural Resources Program, Institute of the Environment, University of Balamand, Lebanon

**Mikael Ribbenvik Cassar**, chair, management board, Andan Foundation, EUAA, former director general, Swedish Migration Agency

13:40 Discussion

14:00 **CLIMATE CRISIS AND NATURAL DISASTERS: DO THEY INTERRELATE?**

- **Following the optimum strategy**
- **The significant role of prevention**

\***Nikos Tagaras**, deputy minister of environment and energy, Greece

\***Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou**, MP, chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Protection

**Manolis Plionis**, professor, director and president of the Board of Directors, National Observatory of Athens, coordinator of CLIMPACT

**Fay Makantasi**, research director, diaNEOsis

14:20 Discussion

14:40 **REASSESSING OUR RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS**

- **The role of education and training in disaster preparedness**
- **The significance of research: How do big data and AI reshape disaster management?**
- **Social and ethical aspects of disaster management**

**Gerassimos Papadopoulos**, seismologist, member of the BoD, Hellenic Mediterranean University

**Kalliopi Sapountzaki**, professor and dean, School of Environment, Geography and Applied Economics, Harokopio University

**Ioanna Triantafyllou**, seismologist, Center for Security Studies, Ministry for the Citizen Protection

- **The role of the volunteers: What new needs have emerged in 2023?**

**Serafeim Tsiougkris**, president of the board, Hellenic Volunteer Firefighters Association

**Miltiadis Athanasiou**, environmental scientist (via connection)

15:00 Discussion

15:20

### **SMART SOLUTIONS INTO CIVIL PROTECTION**

- **How 5G, AI and other technologies support the Civil Protection services**

*In dialogue with The Economist:*

**Alexandros Bregiannis**, CEO, Nova ICT

15:30

### **Closing session**

### **BUILDING RESILIENCE: TURNING RISKS INTO OPPORTUNITIES**

- **The economic aspect of disaster management**
- **Investing in safety: promoting future growth and social cohesion**

**Eli Pushkarewicz**, portfolio manager for Europe and Israel, FEMA (via connection)

15:40

Discussion

15:45

Networking luncheon

16:30

End of conference

\*Awaiting confirmation

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