



5-7 May 2008 - Athens Hilton, Greece

# The Challenge of Change

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**Athens, 18 April 2008**

**The International forum on Climate Change and Energy Security that will be held in Athens from 5-7 May 2008, constitutes a pioneering attempt to foster a concept of cooperation between the energy industry and the environmental community. Increased hydrocarbon demand does not necessitate the environmental destruction of the planet no more than a lessening of demand would necessitate the impoverishment of hydrocarbon exporting-states.**

**The conference aspires to bring together senior government officials, international civil servants, corporate leaders, financiers, academic and market analysts from all swaths of the energy and environmental communities, in order to forge a common understanding of the challenges facing the area's sustainable development, as well as to provide a unique networking opportunity for all interested parties. It thus constitutes a unique networking opportunity for journalists, environmentalists, energy industrialists and policy-makers.**

**The Athens Summit is organized under the auspices of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic, Dr. Karolos Papoulias, , who will also declare the opening of the conference, while the Prime Minister of Greece, Dr. Kostas Karamanlis will address a welcome speech. The Head of the Opposition and President of the *Socialist International*, Dr. George Papandreou will also participate, while the Minister of Development, Mr. Christos Folias, has invited his counterparts from all European and Mediterranean states, as well as the U.S., Russian and many Arab and Caspian Energy Ministers to join the Athens Summit Event that will conclude to the signing of the Athens Declaration. The Mayor of Athens, Mr. Nikitas Kaklamanis will also participate to the conference.**

**Stavros Demas, the European Commissioner for the Environment, will be a keynote speaker. Important companies such as Endesa, Deloitte & Touche, Sonatrach, Costa Navarino, Wingas, Hellenic Petroleum, DEPA (Hellenic Public Gas Company), DESFA (Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator), PPC Renewables, Petroleum Finance Company, Total Gas, Hercules G.C.Co, BMW and organizations such as International Energy Agency, United Nations Environment Programme, International Energy Forum, European Bank for Reconstruction & Development, European Investment Bank, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, Eurelectric, have accepted to participate in the Summit as sponsors/ speakers. CNN is the conference's exclusive International Broadcast Sponsor, while MEGA is the Local Broadcast Media Sponsor. On the other hand, the dailies TA NEA and HMERISIA are local media sponsors.**

**In addition to the Ministerial Summit that will conclude to the signing of the Athens Declaration on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, other key points of the conference can be spotted:**

**(a) in the special session organized under the auspices of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic, Dr. Karolos Papoulias on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May (10.00 – 12.00) that will focus on Forest Protection issues. Among the keynote speakers will be the Chief of the Fire Corps, Lieutenant Fire General, Mr. Kontokostas, along with the Director of Fire and Aviation of the USDA Forest Service, Mr. Thomas Harbour.**

**(b) in the special session organized under the auspices of the Minister of Development, that will concentrate on Greece's Energy diplomacy in the Southeastern Europe and recent developments regarding the routing of major interstate export pipelines via Hellenic soil.**

**(C) in the special session regarding the implications of Climate Change for Energy Policy scheduled on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May (9.00 -10.30)**

**(d) in the special session focusing on hydrocarbon dependence and evolution of the world economy. Keynote speakers of this session will be high ranking representatives of: Hellenic Petroleum, International Energy Agency, Wintershall/Wingas and Total Gas.**

**(e) in the special session focusing on the role of Renewable Energy Sources with the participation of the crème de la crème of companies developing renewable energy sources such as the European Wind Energy Association, the European Photovoltaic Industry Association and the European Biomass Industry Association.**

**(g) in the special session focusing on the dynamics of new energy and environmental investments with the participation of high ranking executives from international banking and investment houses such as the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank that resides in Thessaloniki, Greece.**

**(h) in the special session focusing on the role the Cities can play against Climate Change with the participation of the Mayor of Athens, Mr. Nikitas Kaklamanis and the Manager of the International C40 Initiative which the Municipality of Athens has recently joined.**

**For further information please visit the Athens Summit web site:  
[www.athens-summit.com](http://www.athens-summit.com)**

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