

Ilia Forum 2026

“Ilia in the World: Entrepreneurship, Tourism, Innovation, Culture”

AGENDA

Aldemar Olympian Village

Ilis Congress Center

June 5 & 6, 2026

Programme Manager: **Elena Kyparissi**, Senior Event Manager & Consultant
Conference Coordinator: **Lambros Rodis**, Journalist, Editor-in-Chief, Insurance World
Last Update: **June 4, 2026**

FRIDAY JUNE 5 | DAY 1

09.00-10.00 REGISTRATION - OPENING

10.00-10.10 **WELCOME ADDRESS**
Konstantinos Ouzounis, CEO, ethosGROUP

10.10-10.30 GREETING ADDRESSES

- **Ioannis Andrianos**, Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Food
- **Christos I. Bouras**, Rector, University of Patras
- **Dimitris Avramopoulos**, Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Former European Commissioner, Former Minister of the Hellenic Republic

10.30-11.10 **OPENING SESSION | LOCAL GOVERNMENT** **Strategic Alignment of Municipalities & Region – The New Narrative of Ilia**

Moderator: Myron Flouris, Business Consultant
Speakers:

- **Nikolaos A. Korovesis**, Vice Regional Governor, Ilia Regional Unit
- **Andreas Nikolakopoulos**, Member of Parliament for Ilia – Former Deputy Minister of Citizen Protection, New Democracy
- **Michalis Angelopoulos**, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, KEDE

11.10-11.20 **SPEECH**
Christos Christodoulopoulos, Mayor of Ilida

11.20-11.30 **SPEECH**
"Ilia 2030: Reconstruction Centered on Ancient Olympia"
Dionisis Nikolaou, General Manager, diaNEOsis

11.30-12.10 **SESSION 1 | GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT** **Geopolitical Changes as an Opportunity for the Greek Periphery and Ilia**

Moderator: Haris Ntigrintakis, Journalist at Alpha 98.9 / Eleftheros Typos / Newsbeast.gr, Director at Tourismtoday.gr

Speakers:

- **Dimitris Avramopoulos**, Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Former European Commissioner, Former Minister of the Hellenic Republic
- **Alexandros Kostopoulos**, President, U.S. Greece Trade & Investment Council - Founder & CEO, FORESIGHT
- **Andrei Covatariu**, Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center (*Online participation*)

12.10 -12.40 NETWORKING – COFFEE BREAK

12.40-13.30 SESSION 2 | TOURISM

Olympia as a Global Asset – Ilia as an Integrated Tourism Destination

Moderator: Haris Ntigrintakis, Journalist at Alpha 98.9 / Eleftheros Typos / Newsbeast.gr, Director at Tourismtoday.gr

Speakers:

- **Angeliki (Angela) Varela**, President, Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO)
- **Alexandros Angelopoulos**, Vice Chairman, Aldemar Resorts
- **Nikos Diamantopoulos**, General Manager, Marketing Greece
- **Dr. Georgia Zouni**, Assistant Professor of Tourism Marketing, Department of Tourism Studies, University of Piraeus & Hotelier
- **Sophie F. Katsigiannis**, Lawyer PhD, LLM Tourism Law

13.30-13.40 SPEECH

Ioannis Lentzas, Mayor of Andravida-Kyllini

13.40-14.20 SESSION 3 | SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Ilia as a Model of Sustainable Urban Development

Moderator: Lambros Rodis, Journalist, Editor-in-Chief, Insurance World

Speakers:

- **Ioannis Lentzas**, Mayor of Andravida-Kyllini
- **Dionysios Panagiotaras PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Environment, Ionian University
- **Dr. Ioannis Pappas**, MENG MECH. ENG., Ph.D., C.PH.D., Senior Sustainability Advisor - European Climate Pact Ambassador
- **Ioanna Fanariotou**, (M.Sc, Ph.D), Head of the Managing Authority of "Western Greece" Programme
- **Triantafyllia (Rozy) Charitopoulou**, Dr.-Ing. (Environmental Engineer), Thematic Vice President of Alternative Management and Innovation, Hellenic Solid Waste Management Association, Management Organisation Unit of Development Programmes, Expert Team for Mountainous, Disadvantaged, Remote & Island Regions

14.20 -15.00 NETWORKING – LUNCH BREAK

15.00-15.30 **SESSION 4 | ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE**
Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience in Ilia

Moderator: Myron Flouris, Business Consultant

Speakers:

- **Dr. Efthymios Bakogiannis**, Secretary General for Spatial Planning and Urban Environment, Ministry of Environment and Energy – Associate Professor, NTUA
- **Dr. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou**, Chair of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Protection and the Subcommittee of Watercourses, Member of the Hellenic Parliament for Ilia, New Democracy
- **Ioannis Androulakis**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Green Fund
- **Christos Georgakopoulos**, President, Technical Chamber of Ilia

15.30-15.40 **SPEECH**

Christos Dimas, Minister of Infrastructure & Transport (*Online participation*)

15.40-16.10 **SESSION 5 | INFRASTRUCTURE**
New Connectivity as a Driver of Growth

Moderator: Kyrela Petrou, Journalist, Financial & Business Editor, ethosMEDIA

Speakers:

- **Konstantinos Leventis**, President, Ilia Chamber of Commerce
- **Alexandros Angelopoulos**, Vice Chairman, Aldemar Resorts
- **Konstantinos Nikoloutsos**, President of the Pyrgos Municipal Port Fund (Katakolo)
- **Ioannis Kostopoulos**, CEO and Co-Founder, Sammy PC

16.10-16.30 **FIRESIDE CHAT**

- **George A. Papandreou**, Former Prime Minister of Greece (2009-2011) - President of the International Olympic Truce Centre (IOTC)
- **Alexandros Angelopoulos**, Vice Chairman, Aldemar Resorts

16.30-17.10 **SESSION 6 | DIGITAL INNOVATION/TRANSFORMATION**
Smart Ilia: Digital Transformation & Innovation

Moderator: Kyrela Petrou, Journalist, Financial & Business Editor, ethosMEDIA

Speakers:

- **Dr. Spyros Arsenis**, Head of Innovative Entrepreneurship Development | NBG Business Seeds, Operational Strategy, Startups and Partnerships Division of the Bank and the Group
- **Dr. Haris Lambropoulos**, President, Hellenic Development Bank of Investments SA (HDBI, ex TANEQ), Member of the Board of Directors, European Investment Bank (EIB) & European Investment Fund (EIF)
- **Katerina Saridaki**, Director–Capsule T Travel & Hospitality Accelerator
- **Elias Tsaldaris**, Founder, Innovation Group | Metaverse Architect & AI Content Strategist
- **Korina Chatzigeorgiou**, CEO, Agrinow

17.10 CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE (DAY 1)

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SATURDAY JUNE 6 | DAY 2

09.00-10.00 REGISTRATION - OPENING

10.00-10.20 KEYNOTE SPEECH | BRAND ILIA
How a Regional Brand is Built in the 21st Century
Peter Economides, Brand Strategist

10.20-11.20 SESSION 7 | CULTURE
Olympia is a Global Asset

Moderator: Myron Flouris, Business Consultant
Speakers:

- **Roula Alikaki – Tzanetou**, Deputy Mayor for Culture of the Municipality of Pyrgos
- **Dr. Maria Argyropoulou**, Cultural Sociologist, Teaching & Research Staff Member, Department of Tourism Management, University of Patras
- **Fr. Ioannis Kapsomenakis**, Principal Researcher, Center for Atmospheric Physics and Climatology Research, Academy of Athens
- **Ioanna Lourida**, President, “OLYMPIADA” Women’s Entrepreneurship & Development Association of Ilia
- **Pantelis Panteloglou**, Artistic Director, Olympia International Film Festival for Children and Young People & President, European Children’s Film Association

11.20-11.50 SESSION 8 | SPORTS
Sports and Tourism: Synergies and Prospects

Moderator: Themis Mantas, Journalist

Speakers:

- **Christos Christodoulopoulos**, Mayor of Ilida
- **Ioannis Papadopoulos**, Treasurer of the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA), Vice President of the European Muaythai Federation & President of the Mediterranean Muaythai Federation, President of the Pahellenic Muaythai Federation (PMF) & CEO of companies specialising in private aircraft and yacht management
- **Nikos Tzanakos**, Member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, International Children's Games Organization (ICG)

11.50-12.00 **SPEECH**

Dr. Evangelos Bekiaris, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Director of the Central Directorate, Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)

12.00-13.00 **SESSION 9 | AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT - GASTRONOMY**

Ilia: Agrifood, Hospitality & Gastronomic Identity

Moderator: Kyrela Petrou, Journalist, Financial & Business Editor, ethosMEDIA

Speakers:

- **Georgios Salachas**, Professor, Dept. of Agriculture, Internal member of Governing Council, University of Patras
- **Kosmas Vidalis**, Professor, Vice Chair, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Patras
- **Nikos Karaflos**, Owner & Imagineer, Dexamenes Seaside Hotel
- **Sotirios Biliris**, Entrepreneur, Municipality of Ilida
- **Diatsenta Fanou - Fouskarini**, Home Economics and Dietetics Scientist, Career Guidance Consultant
- **George Chatzopoulos**, Operations Executive Chef, Aldemar Resorts

13.00 CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE (DAY 2)

13.00-14.00 NETWORKING – LIGHT LUNCH

ILIA FORUM 2026 AMBASSADORS

Dimitris Avramopoulos, Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Former European Commissioner, Former Minister of the Hellenic Republic

Alexandros Angelopoulos, Vice Chairman, Aldemar Resorts

Konstantinos Leventis, President, Ilia Chamber of Commerce

Ioanna Lourida, President, "OLYMPIADA" Women's Entrepreneurship & Development Association of Ilia

Christos I. Bouras, Rector, University of Patras

George A. Papandreou, Former Prime Minister of Greece (2009-2011) - President of the International Olympic Truce Centre (IOTC)