

## Dr. Vasilis Gregoriou, President of the NHRF participated in the Economist Sustainability Summit for Southeast Europe and the Mediterranean entitled “Adapt or Die”, Athens 30.11.2016



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Dr. Vasilis Gregoriou, President and Director of the Administrative Board of the NHRF participated in the Economist Sustainability Summit for Southeast Europe and the Mediterranean, among significant and distinguished speakers from Greece and abroad. The Economist Sustainability Summit for Southeast Europe and the Mediterranean entitled “Adapt or Die”, took place in Athens, Greece, on 30 November 2016, under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

World’s prospects for ending poverty, protecting the planet and achieving prosperity for all through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were among the topics addressed at the Summit. The Summit also considered progress towards the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into the European Union’s (EU) priorities. Other topics included discussions on USA strategy towards world development following the presidential elections, as well as exploring challenges and opportunities formed through combined policies in the areas of technology and the environment.

The Greek Minister of Environment and Energy George Stathakis, Greek Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy Sokratis Famellos, Greek Head of energy, environment & climate change sector on behalf of New Democracy party Konstantinos Skrekas, Deputy

Executive Director, UNEP, Assistant Secretary General, United Nations Ibrahim Thiaw, Commissioner, COP22, Abdeladim Lhafi, Deputy Secretary General, OECD Rintaro Tamaki, Secretary General, Club of Rome, Graeme Maxton, Professor of architecture Haim Dotan were only some among many keynote speakers from Greece and abroad who participated in the Summit within a framework of open dialogue aiming to solutions and answers in a critical moment when humanity should select its course.

During his speech on “The State of Climate Diplomacy Following the US Presidential Election”, Dr. Gregoriou mentioned that investments in “clean” energy have increased worldwide, from 62 billion dollars in 2004 to 329 billion dollars in 2016, thus highlighting the dynamics in a “key” sector of sustainable development.

Dr Gregoriou also stated that regardless what one believes on climate change, the progression to a lower carbon, more resilient future, is where the global economic battles of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are being fought.

In his final point Dr Gregoriou said “The United States and the rest of the world must not divert from this course and all together, Asia, Europe the US, continue to “decarbonise” their economies and invest in this new energy economy”.

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Watch Dr Gregoriou on “The State of Climate Diplomacy Following the US Presidential Election”: <http://www.livemedia.gr/video/264496>