

GAAEC NEWSLETTER



Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation

*Educational Programs
1995-2015*

20th
ANNIVERSARY

**20th Anniversary, Educational
Programs 1995-2015:
Keep the date!**

The International Center for Leading Studies, the new platform for all educational programs of the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation, faculty and staff of the International Institute for Political and Economic Studies, along with its partners and supporters over the years, are happy to remind that the upcoming year of 2015 marks the 20th Anniversary of our educational programs.

Dear Alumni,

As you probably remember, you participated in one or more various programs with different partners from Europe and America.

To mention some of the valuable partners: the Atlantic Council of the United States, to the Atlantic Treaty Association, to the Fund for American Studies, to the Youth of Euro-Defense, YATA, Atlantic Association of Young Political Leaders and many others. We hope that you have good memories of your participation in the International Institute for Political and Economic Studies, TRY 21 "Transatlantic Youth for the 21st Century", the Kernels for Our Future, the Euro-Mediterranean Journalism Institute, Gutenberg Program in Strasbourg, Youth Dialogue Greece-Turkey and many others.

Since 2013, all our educational programs operate under the new platform The International Center for Leading Studies, www.ticls.org.

Our Alumni have chosen various paths in life, but as many of you inform us that IIPES, Kernels, TIAAS or other programs, were turning points in your lives.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Readers,

I would like to wish you and your families all the best in the New Year 2015.

With this newsletter, we would like to inform our Members and Friends about all the activities of the past year 2014 and to announce some of the major activities to come in 2015.

We are very proud to run programs under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense. All of them were made possible through the generous support of international organizations, companies and individuals, and a lot of work of senior and junior volunteers.

The year 2015 marks the 20th Anniversary of the institutionalization of the educational programs. It is extremely important for us, as the education of the young generation is our first priority.

Approximately 5000 individuals from 50 countries worldwide participated in numerous annual programs for the last 20 years.

This year, we would like to organize an Alumni Reunion, which is planned for July 22nd - 28th, combined with the Chania-Med Forum taking place 23rd - 26th July.

I do hope that many of you will join us in Chania, Crete for a "Greek Summer," full of memories and reflections.

Yours Sincerely,

Theodosis Georgiou

This is the time to be together again during the celebrations of the 20th Anniversary and to share your stories, experience and memories and more...

The Alumni re-union will take place in Chania, Crete, at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, which has been hosting us for the 15 years, on **22 July - 28 July 2015**.

All Alumni will also have a chance to participate in Chania-Med Forum, www.forum.ticls.org, a 4-days high-level symposium, in which we will discuss issues of Power, Politics, Economy and Energy. Various packages will be prepared, offering our Alumni a great chance to spend an unforgettable time and live it all once again.

You can stay at MAICH dormitories or our travel agency can offer different kinds of accommodation for you and your partners.

Please inform us about your intentions, because it depends on the number of participants to design different events. Please, see the registration form [here](#).

Mark in your calendar July 22-28, 2015!

Upcoming summer programs:

**THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FOR
ADVANCED STUDIES (TIAAS)
19 July - 7 August 2015**

**Designed for university students and young
professionals, interdisciplinary course, developing
leadership potential of participants.
More info and online application at www.tiaas.org**

**CHANIA-MED Forum
on Energy, Economy, Politics & Power
23 - 26 July 2015**

**4-day conference focusing on most important
issues of today globalized world.
Visit www.forum.ticls.org for more!**

**LEADERS FOR OUR FUTURE (LFOF)
14 - 31 July 2015**

**Prepared for youngsters aged 15-18 years old.
www.lfof.ticls.org**

All programs take place in Chania, Crete, Greece, in the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania.

JANUARY 2015

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GAAEC

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GAAEC Mourns...

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

It is with a big regret
that the Greek
Association for
Atlantic and
European

Cooperation
announces the sad
news that **Adelaide
Mitsakos**, the wife



of Admiral Vassilios Mitsakos, Honorary Head of the Military Committee of GAAEC, Veteran of the WW II, and the mother of Dr. Aliko Mitsakos-Georgiou, the Founder and the Dean of The International Center for Leading Studies, passed away on September 23rd 2014. She will be deeply missed by all of us.

22nd International Annual Symposium

European Defense, NATO and EU: The Challenges Ahead



On **April 11th, 2014**, the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation (GAAEC) organized the International Symposium on European Defense. President of GAAEC, Mr. **Theodossis Georgiou**, opened the Symposium by welcoming the speakers and introducing the audience to the work of the **Eurodefense Network**. Mr. Georgiou, among others, pointed out that “Europeans do not really care whether it’s EU or NATO that provides security and defense for them as long as they feel safe and secure.” He continued by saying that “effectiveness is hence the most important criterion on



NATO-EU cooperation. And effectiveness depends on political leadership, an efficient and flexible decision-making process and resources that can be mobilized for the sake of common actions. Therefore whenever we debate the EU-NATO relationship we should accept the premise that Europe, and indeed the whole transatlantic area, needs both organizations [...] Today we are far from the time when questions “ESDP and NATO are companions are

competitors” but we need to define the rules of the game...

Mrs. **Despina Afentouli**, Information Officer for Greece at NATO PDD, affirmed in her remarks that the security environment in Europe has changed since March, after Russia’s annexation of Crimea, putting at the center of the debate what CSDP should be about.

Mr. **Konstantinos Tsiaras**, President of the National Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee, reaffirmed the great importance and impact of the arc of instability (from Ukraine to the coasts of Northern Africa) on trade, energy supply routes, tourism and on sustainable development. He also presented some of the conclusions of the recent FAC meeting in Brussels regarding the situation in Ukraine, saying that Ms. Catherine Ashton.

The U.S. Ambassador to Greece, H.E. **David D. Pearce**, in his speech referred to the crisis in



Crimea, and in relation to the security of the whole Europe. Mr. Pearce also clarified that turning inward is not an option for the U.S.A. thus the Alliance should look beyond 2014 and prepare for future challenges to international peace. To that direction, keeping alliances in good repair, improving partnerships and interoperability is of U.S. greatest priorities, along with reshaping U.S. forces aiming to a properly sized, balanced and flexible force. The Ambassador concluded his speech referring to the Greece-U.S. relations and to the indisputable fact that the U.S. treats Greece as a precious ally and stability factor in Southeastern Europe and in the region of eastern Mediterranean.

Mr. **Andreas Lykourantzou**, Member of the Hellenic Parliament, former Minister of Health and former Vice Minister of Education, chaired the “NATO-EU: A Strategic Partnership?” section of the Symposium. Moreover, Mr. Lykourantzou expresses his deep wish for Ukraine and Russia to end the crisis between the two nations and

highlighted that education is one of the pivotal aspects in promoting security.

The rest of panels of the Symposium were: “Smart Defense Initiative, Pooling and Sharing: The European Defence in the Age of Austerity”, “Security and Stability of energy Resources and Pipeline Transport”, “Security of the Mediterranean” and “Public Opinion and Concept of Security”, with different personalities and experts from EuroDefense and ATA Networks presenting their views and participating in discussions. Also, an intervention by the Ambassador of Ukraine, H.E. **Volodymyr Shkurov** was read out.



Ms. **Maria Karaklioumi**, quantitative researcher and former Vice Governor of Attica region, talked about a need for more public debate in Greece about public institutions and a necessity to educate citizens about the fact that “apart from having advantages of being a member of international institutions, we also have obligations”. Mrs. **Aliki Mitsakos**, Dean of the International Center for Leading Studies, closed the Symposium with her remarks on the importance of the media, especially among the young generation, and that

“security” and “defense” are not just military terms, but they have “a broader meaning – they touch human existence”. She specifically underlined the fact that the human factor should be taken into account in all discussions on defense and she explicitly put an emphasis on the dimension of human security. Any issues of energy security, climate change and national security, as well as the aftermath are all interconnected.

The International Academy for Advanced Studies 2014

Commencement Ceremony for this year’s bright participants of The International Academy for Advanced Studies was held on 6 August, closing the intensive period of learning and opening a new path of awareness.

This year, The International Academy for Advanced Studies hosted a diverse group of young bright participants from countries ranging from Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, through Georgia, Albania, FYROM, Kurdistan Region of Iraq and South Korea. This diversity prompted most interesting and vibrant discussions during not only the lectures and workshops, but also during all hours, whether at night owl discussions or outings to the picturesque town of Chania, and its seaside. TIAAS program was organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of National

Defense of the Hellenic Republic. Starting with an introduction to the objectives of the program, the past experience of GAAEC presented by Mr. **Theodossis Georgiou** and Dr. **Aliki Mitsakos**, Professor **Jessica Townsend-Teague** of the Imagi-Nation, LLC (*Using Graphic Illustration to Facilitate Civil Society Building & Organization Development*) was creating the strategic illustration of The International Academy for Advanced Studies and The International Center for Leading Studies. The strategic illustration is a visual system that captures information, ideas and documents and interactively supports group process and therefore a powerful tool that enables groups of people to work together in highly effective, collaborative ways.

Following a presentation of the long history of Crete and its present culture, The Academy begun with



a very interactive set of workshops on Leadership conducted by Jessica Townsend-Teague, Professorial Lecturer in Political Leadership at The George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management,



Washington, DC, as the first member of the Faculty (and member of TICLS Board), through which the students had the opportunity to capture and illustrate what it means to be a leader in today's world and what personal journey one has to undertake to become one.

Throughout the program lectures and seminars followed by prominent academicians coming to Chania, and the MAICH campus, from many parts of the world, only to share their knowledge with TIAAS students.

Geopolitics course by Dr. **Petros Vamvakas** from Emmanuel College Boston, MA, introduced the student to the complexity of international state system and the domestic and international priorities that define competing national interests and formulate foreign policy. Moreover, it introduced the student to the current conundrum of Liberal-Democracy.

Seminars on NATO structures and International Organization by Ms. **Barbora Maronkova**, Program Officer at NATO Public

Diplomacy Division, Brussels, gave our students a deep, unique, first-hand insight into the workings of the most important international organizations and their place on the international scene in the context of current geopolitical situation.

International Development by Dr. **Georgios Panos** from the University of Stirling, UK, was a course that emphasized the complexity of the development process and seeks to provide students with the basic tools needed to make sense of economic development and social change.

Conflict Management taught by Dr. **Arthur Romano** from the School of Conflict Resolution and Analysis, George Mason University, MA, introduced the students to interdisciplinary theories and analytical frameworks of conflict to support them in effectively engaging in the analysis and resolution of conflict. Most importantly, the course sought to sharpen student's skills for critical thinking when embedded within or entering live conflict dynamics through the use of experiential activities.

International Economy by **Antonia-Oana Colibasanu** from the Academy of Economic Studies, University of Bucharest encouraged students to analyze the current dependencies that form the World Economy, relating them to risks and opportunities arising for the international, global actors. It was extremely valuable for our

students to learn and practice to assess dependencies at a global scale and recognize the differences between supra-national and international problems affecting development and stability.

History and Politics by Dr. **Dusan Batakovic** Former Ambassador and Director of Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences, was a unique time for the students to not only listen to one of the most distinguished historians, but also to engage in a very open discussion during after class hours, when Dr. Batakovic very kindly answered any questions students still had.

One extra session was devoted to the United Nations Global Compact, about which Dr. **Donna Chung**, Policy Officer and Special Assistant to the Executive Director United Nations Global Compact Office, tutored the students with again, first-hand experience in the field.

Moreover, participant had a great opportunity to attend a guest lecture by Dr. **Panos Livadas**, Secretary General, National



Tourism Organization of Greece, who despite his busy schedule came to Chania to have lecture and a long discussion with students on "Tourism as a Vehicle of Development and Growth."

However, TIAAS 2014 did not only mean classroom sessions, but also gave our students a great chance to see the most important sights of Crete; the Knossos Palace, the ancient center of the Minoan Civilization, the newly opened Heraklion Archeological Museum, The Tomb of Nikos Kazantzakis in Heraklion, and Venizelos graves, where a traditional picture of the students were taken with a Greek flag in the background, as well as the beautiful city of Rethymno. Moreover, participants visited NAMFI NATO Missile Firing Installation, where they were briefed about the workings of the sight and its impact on security. The visit was followed by an elegant official dinner at the Officers' Club overlooking Souda Bay with an exceptional Cretan sunset in the background. Besides the special events and field trips, our participants enjoyed the company of the faculty during numerous evenings in picturesque



surroundings of the MAICH campus and the city of Chania. All this unforgettable experience would not be possible without our generous sponsors: National Tourism Organization of Greece, NATO Public Diplomacy Division, Mermeren Kombinat AD Prilep, Alpha Bank Romania, Tirana Bank, Piraeus Bank, the Sotiris Kyriazopoulos private heritage, our supporters: ANEK Lines, NAMFI Missile Installation and partners: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania. The organizer and participants would like to express their gratitude for the support and generous contribution.

2nd Chania-Med Forum on Energy, Economy, Politics and Power

Apart from the numerous classroom hours of **The International Academy for Advanced Studies 2014**, our participants and other guests, including our Alumni from previous years, Erasmus students of MAICH, and local communities, amounting to more than 100 participants, enjoyed 3 day **Chania-Med Forum on “Energy, Economy, Politics and Power”**. This event, which this year took place 24-27 July, is a transformation of the traditional Ambassadors' Forum. The conference features sessions on diverse subjects always followed by very lively discussions with participants, by the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Greece, H.E. Mr. **Jan Theophile Versteeg**, Vice-Speaker and MP of Chania **Marcogiannakis**, MP **Konstantinos Manousos**, NATO PDD Officer **Barbora Maronkova**, professors and other distinguished personalities of the world of politics and the academia. The current Mayor of Chania,



*Participants of the 2nd Chania-Med Forum with the
Special Guest Ambassador of the Netherlands H.E.
Jan Theophile Versteeg*

Manolis Skoulakis, and the newly elected Mayor of Chania, **Anastasios Vamvoukas** and other representatives of the local government of Crete and the Attica greeted participants, and contributed to the overall success of the event.



GAAEC and AWEPA organize Parliamentary Dialogue at the hall of Senate of the Hellenic Parliament

The **Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation**, the partner association in Greece for **AWEPA (European Parliamentarians with Africa)**, which is an Association based in Amsterdam, with more than 2000 members - politicians and parliamentarians from Europe - organized a **Parliamentary Dialogue** on March 20-21 on the margins of the Hellenic EU Presidency.

Greek Parliamentarians, AWEPA members from Greece and European countries, as well as African and European Ambassadors met in a parliamentary dialogue Thursday, 20 March, **in the Parliament of Greece at the hall of Senate**. They discussed the importance of strong democratic institutions as an essential prerequisite for development. With this in mind, the two themes of the day, migration and agriculture, were addressed in the setting of parliamentary committees, to qualitatively improve parliamentary performance in terms of legislation, oversight and outreach.

AWEPA Governing Council member and contact person at the Greek Section, **Mr. Theodossis Georgiou**, also President of the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation, who has been engaged with AWEPA since the 1980s, welcomed the participants and looked back at the period when the then-named Association of West European Parliamentarians against apartheid (AWEPA) fought to counter racial segregation in South Africa. Mr. Georgiou chaired the whole session.

In his opening words, **Hon. Mr. Ioannis Tragakis**, first Deputy Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament, said "I would like to congratulate AWEPA for its devotion to Africa, in facilitating parliamentary dialogue. These efforts must carry on and intensify".

Minister of State and AWEPA President **Ms. Miet Smet** informed the audience about the 30th Anniversary of AWEPA. She talked about managing migration and sustainable development. Ms. Smet noted that, although AWEPA is aware of the high sensitivity associated to the topic of migration, "it is, however, an important and topical element also within the African continent, because of large intra-African migration flows".

Further interventions were made by the Presidents of the Committees on National Defense and Foreign Affairs, **Hon. Mr. Kostas Tsiaras**, the Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights, **Hon. Ms. Katerina Papakosta** and member of the Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice, **Hon. Mr. Kostas Tzavaras**. They addressed the issues of unemployment, poverty and migration, which are currently at the center of debates in the Hellenic parliament. Hon. Ms. Papakosta said "Africa would need our support; it needs our support at the level of parliamentary cooperation".

ATTENDING 60TH ATA COUNCIL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

VISITING MONTENEGRO, ALBANIA AND SERBIA

At the end of May 2014, Mr. **Theodosis Georgiou** went for a week trip in three countries and four cities. The main reason he visited Montenegro was the **ATA Council Meeting** at the occasion of the **60th ATA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT** and **2BS Forum “NATO in the 21st century: New Threats and new theaters”** that was held in Budva. This year’s Council Meeting gathered hundred of representatives from 36 members of ATA (ATA and YATA leaders).

The decision we have made in consensus by Presidents of the Atlantic Councils and Associations, are to elect Prof. Dr. **Fabrizio Lucioli** from Italy as the next President of the ATA and Mr. **Jason Wiseman** as the next Secretary General of ATA.

Among the speakers and guests were the President



of Montenegro, H.E. Mr. **Filip Vujanović**, U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro and the President of the Parliament, all Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense of countries in the region and the Assistant Secretary General of NATO, Mrs. **Kolinda Grabar**.

2BS Forum is an annual high-level conference dealing with global, transatlantic issues, as well as the issues in the South-Eastern Europe.

ALBANIA

On Saturday and Sunday, on a special invitation, Mr. Georgiou visited Tirana, Albania, where he participated in the Inauguration of the Orthodox Cathedral, Resurrection of Christ, which was build with the efforts of **Archbishop of Albania, Anastasios**. The **Ecumenical Patriarch**

Bartholomew and heads of the Orthodox Church from numerous countries including Greece and Russia were presents as well as the Patriarchs from Jerusalem, Serbia, Romania and Archbishops from Athens, Cyprus, Warsaw, Alexandria, Antioch, Moscow, Sofia and Tbilisi. The President of Albania, the Prime Minister, President of the Parliament as well as the Opposition Leader and many Ministers and MPs from Albania and a lot of foreign diplomats were also present there.

MONTENEGRO, SERBIA

On Monday, Mr. Georgiou went to Podgorica, the capital of Montenegro, visiting different entities, including the Greek Embassy, where he had a meeting with H.E. Mr. **Ilias Fotopoulos**. On Tuesday, he went to Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, where he met Ambassador of Greece, H.E. Mr. **Economides Constantine**. Mr. Georgiou had a great chance to present to both Ambassadors the educational program of GAAEC – The International Center for Leading Studies and The International Academy for Advanced Studies. He also had different meetings at the Mediterranean University and the Public Policy Institute in Podgorica.

In Belgrade Mr. Georgiou had meetings with Deans and professors of Belgrade State University and Megatrent University as well as in the NATO Liason Office in Belgrade on the way to recruit students and invite professors for the International Academy for Advanced Studies in Chania this summer.

Mr. Georgiou also had a meeting with Professor dr. **Negoslav P. Ostojić**, Executive Director of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace/ European Center for Peace and Development. Also he participated in a session on economic crisis in Cyprus. He had a chance to meet and discuss various issues with CEOs and Presidents of both Greek and multinational companies and banks in order to raise their interest in TICLS as our future sponsors in the three countries.

In most of these meetings in Belgrade there was present Prof. Ambassador Mr. **Dusan Batakovic**, who has been affiliated with our programs and the member of our Educational Board for a long time.

Mr. Georgiou also met many alumni of our educational programs in all of these capitals.

High Level Seminar, South Africa



Mr. **Theodossis Georgiou**, long-standing member of AWEPA Greece went to Johannesburg, to attend events celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA) and a High Level Seminar organized by the Pan African Parliament (PAP). It was hosted on **October 2-3, 2014**, at the **PAP in Midrand, South Africa**. The objective of the meeting was to frame the “African-European Parliamentary Dialogue on Migration and Development”.

Mr. Georgiou, the only European speaker, gave a speech on the panel “Ongoing Cooperation in Initiatives on Migration”. His speech was a case presentation on Greece of a title “Greek’s response to migration within the broader European context.” In his speech, Mr. Georgiou

referred to the complexity of the issue as it is political, as President of AWEPA, Mrs. **Miet Smet**, pointed out. Also, it is extremely sensitive as Ms. **Graça Machel** noted.



On Mr. Georgiou’s special invitation, globally known human rights advocate and the lawyer of Nelson Mandela, Mr. **George Bizos** also attended the events. Mr. George Bizos is without any doubt a legendary personality for the fight of human rights both in South Africa and worldwide.

Moreover, Mr. Georgiou attended the Governing Council Meeting of AWEPA on October 4th, during with the Executive Committee’s for the next 5 years was elected. AWEPA’s Governing Council is comprised of some 40 representatives from AWEPA’s Sections from European countries. Mr. Theodossis Georgiou continues to represent Greece in the Governing Council of AWEPA for the next 5 years.



INFORMING GLOBAL LEADERS AND STUDENTS ABOUT TICLS

When Mr. **Theodossis Georgiou**, President of the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation, visited the South of the world, travelling to Johannesburg, he met two world Leaders, who dedicated their lives to RECONCILIATION, UNDERSTANDING and PEACE:

- Mrs. **GRACA MACHEL**, the chair in the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), widow of **Nelson Mandela**.

Her worlds are a true source of inspiration: “Preventing the conflict tomorrow means changing the min-set of youth today...”

- Dr. **GEORGE BIZOS**, world-know advocate and advisor of Nelson Mandela, founder of the **SAHETI School** in Johannesburg, also motives us incredibly by saying: “If you want to please

me, build a school...”

With George Bizos, the founder of the SAHETI School, one of the most important schools not only in South Africa but in the whole Africa, with students of about 35 nationalities.

We have visited together classrooms

and discussed with students about the possibility to be this summer in the program of “Leaders For Our Future”, in July 2015 in Crete, Greece.



Please visit www.ticls.org to find out how you can contribute to our vision.

**INFORMING FOREIGN
AMBASSADORS IN GREECE ABOUT
The International Center for
Leading Studies**

Since the middle of October, Mr. **Theodossis Georgiou**, has been visiting foreign Ambassadors to Greece informing them about **The International Center for Leading Studies**.

Mr. Georgiou has already seen Ambassadors of Georgia, H.E. Mr. **David Bakradze**, who has been recently moved for a position of Deputy Minister for Transatlantic Integration of Georgia, Moldova, H.E. Mr. **Valentin Ciumac**, Albania, H.E. **Dashnor Dervishi**, and Ukraine, H.E. **Volodymyr Shkurov**. Mr. Georgiou discussed various ways of recruiting students from these countries, but also presented them The International Academy for Advanced Studies 2014, in which students from these countries contributed greatly to the overall success of the program.

Mr. Georgiou's meeting with H.E. Mr. Shkurov was extremely engaging because the two gentlemen discussed the situation in Ukraine, and stressed the importance of international education of the Ukrainian youth.

Moreover, Mr. Georgiou has also visited H.E. Ambassador **Jan Versteeg**, Ambassador of the Netherlands, who already knew our Center from his visit to the Chania-Med Forum during the Academy 2014, where he gave a speech on a special Ambassadors' panel and engaged in a very interesting discussion with our students.

Besides that, Mr. Georgiou, with his aim of establishing relations with various parts of the world, met Ambassador of Sudan, H.E. **Abdelmoniem Ahmed Alamin** and is on the way to run the meetings with other

Ambassadors, creating the space for dialogue between the world of diplomacy and the future students and alumni of The International Center for Leading Studies.



*Mr. Theodossis Georgiou with His Excellency
Ambassador of Ukraine to Greece
Mr. Volodymyr Shkurov.*

GAAEC WELCOMES ...

With the beginning of March one young academic joined the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation. Ms. **Ava Ratajczak** arrived from Poland and works for GAAEC through the European Voluntary Service program of the European Union. Ava holds MA in American Studies from the University of Warsaw and she chose GAAEC as the place to develop not only her academic interests but also to gain the valuable experience of working for non-profit, non-governmental organization.

Moreover, Ms. **Lelde Mencendorfa**, previously International Events Director, decided to go back to Latvia and she now works for the Latvian Transatlantic Organization (LATO) in Riga, while still remaining as a non-resident junior fellow of GAAEC.

Round table discussion “EU and NATO after the UK Summit, Relations with Russia from a German perspective”

On Monday, 3rd of November 2014, the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation (GAAEC), in collaboration with **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung** Greece Office, organized a round table discussion with a special guest invited by Mr. **Theodossis Georgiou**, President of GAAEC, Dr. **Karl Lamers**, Vice-President of NATO Parliamentary Assembly, President of the Atlantic Treaty Association. The meeting, under the title of “EU and NATO after the UK Summit, Relations with Russia from a German perspective”, was held in the premises of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office.

The event was attended by Members of the Hellenic Parliament, high-ranking Diplomats, Professors and Experts.

Director of the KAS Greece Office, Mrs. **Susanna Vogt** welcomed the guests with warm words of introduction of Dr. Lamers as well as the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation, Board Members of which were present at the event. Mrs. Vogt mentioned the great importance of GAAEC’s activities, especially educational programs on security policies.



The floor was then given to Dr. Lamers. The main purpose of his visit in Athens, was a conference in the Hellenic Parliament organized by the Hellenic Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in the Hall of Senate of the Hellenic Parliament. Dr. Lamers thanked the

President of GAAEC, Mr. Theodossis Georgiou, for his great work and recalled the years when Mr. Georgiou himself was the President of ATA. This presidency, according to Dr. Lamers, was very successful with a lot missions in many countries and theatres of operation of NATO on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.



Discussions, under Chatham House Rule, were on the topics of situation in Ukraine, Crimea, decisions of the NATO UK Summit, Relations of the EU and NATO, tendencies in the Mediterranean, energy problems, Syria and Iraq and others.

The meeting was attended by Dr. **Aliki Mitsakos**, Dean, The International Center for Leading Studies, Founding and Board Member of GAAEC, Mr. **Evrpidis Stylianidis**, MP, former Minister, Head of the Greek delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Mrs. **Marietta Giannakou**, former Eur. MP, former Minister, Ambassadors ad. hon Mr. **Ioannis Bourloyannis-Tsagarides** and **Ioannis-Alexis Zepos**, Mr. **Dimitris Koutsogiorgas**, Economist, former MP, Member Executive Committee, Euro-Defense Greece, **Argyris Makris**, Head, Directorate for Common Foreign and Security Policy, MFA,

Mr. **Christos Panagopoulos**, Journalist, former President ERT, Founding and Board Member of GAAEC, Mr. **Theodoros Psalidopoulos**, former Vice-Mayor, Kalithea, Member, Executive Committee of GAAEC, President, Hellenic-Russian Association, Mrs. **Maria Karaklioumi**, Political Analyst, former Vice-Governor, Attica Region, Executive Committee

of GAAEC, Mr. **Grigorios Zafiropoulos**, former Mayor, Chalandri, Mr. **Panagiotis Makryiannis**, Economist, Member, Executive Committee, GAAEC, Mr. **Charis Papasotiriou**, Professor of International Relations, Panteion University, Mr. **Athanassios Ellis**, Columnist, Ekathimerini, daily newspaper.



NATO Parliamentary Assembly Meeting in the Hall of Senate of the Hellenic Parliament

Chaired by Dr. Karl Lamers

Mr. Theodossis Georgiou's intervention on the role of the Atlantic Treaty Association

Between November 4 and 6, 2014, the Hellenic Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and its Head, Mr. **Evrpidis Stylianidis**, MP, former Minister, organized a conference with the Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group and the Sub-Committee on NATO Partnerships of NATO PA in the Hall of Senate of the Hellenic Parliament.



The Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr. **Evangelos Meimarakis**, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Evangelos Venizelos**, the Minister of Public Order, **Vassilis Kikilias**, and other Political Personalities and Experts, introduced a wide agenda of issues, from the development of the MENA region, foreign and security issues, as well as issues on economy and energy security. Problems of migration were also a subject of introduction and discussion.

The conference was chaired by the Vice-President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Dr. **Karl Lamers**, also a President of the Atlantic Treaty Association. In addition, Mr. **Evrpidis Stylianidis**, the Host of the event, played an integral role on presentations and discussions.



The President of the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation, Mr. **Theodossis Georgiou**, former President of the

Atlantic Treaty Association, has been invited by the organizers to introduce the role of Non-Governmental Organizations of NATO, namely the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA). In his intervention in the closing session, Mr. Georgiou presented **the role that ATA has played in the last 60 years** and pointed out the contribution of Atlantic Associations to spread the message of the Alliance to the public through information, education and transparency. He



also added that with these efforts, ATA contributes to the public support, which is essential to provide legitimacy for the Alliance.

On the other hand, Mr. Georgiou informed the audience about the efforts of ATA to establish Associations, or even antennas in the Mediterranean Countries, something that is very productive to eliminate the misunderstanding and mistrust between the Mediterranean and the Alliance partners.

The meeting was attended by a lot of Parliamentarians from all NATO countries.

MR. GEORGIU VISITS TBILISI, GEORGIA BUILDING THE BRIDGE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN GEORGIAN INSTITUTIONS AND GAAEC/TICLS

Mr. **Theodossis Georgiou**, President of the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation,



came back from Tbilisi, Georgia, yesterday, where he participated in the **NATO Advanced Research Workshop “The Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure Against Emerging Security**

Challenges”, organized by the Atlantic Treaty Association and Atlantic Council of Georgia, supported by NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme.

The Workshop was attended by many Members of the Georgian Government and other distinguished guests both from Georgia and abroad. From Greece, besides Mr. Georgiou, another guest has been invited, representing **DEPA Gas Corporation**, Mr. **Dimitris Manolis**, International Projects, Deputy Division Head. DEPA Gas Corporation is a supporter of the work of GAAEC. Mr. Manolis gave a very interesting presentation on gas energy; the important roles of DEPA and Greece in terms of security of supply and gas market in South-Eastern Europe. According to Mr. Manolis, Greece is well prepared to transit gas from the Caspian, the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean to Europe through TAP and ITGI pipelines.

As the most senior participant from ATA, Mr. Georgiou greeted participants of the workshop during the formal dinner and thanked the Ambassador Mr. **Vasil Sikharulidze**, President of

Atlantic Council of Georgia, former Minister of Defense, for his great contribution to the Trans-Atlantic map road of Georgia. Also, Mr. Georgiou recalled his first meeting with Mr. Sikharulidze and other Georgian Personalities in order to establish the Atlantic Council of Georgia, on September 11th 2001, a crucial day for the world.

MEETINGS WITH UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

During his visit to Tbilisi, Mr. Georgiou visited many universities and other educational institutions on the way to inform them about GAAEC and educational center of TICLS, laid foundations for and examined possibilities for future cooperation and opportunities for professors, experts and students to come to Greece for study programs.

Mr. Georgiou also paid a visit to the Greek Embassy to meet His Excellency Mr. **Eleftherios Proios**, and discuss with the Ambassador possibilities of cooperation, opening space for and building the bridge between the world of diplomacy and future students of The International Center for Leading Studies.



Mr. Georgiou had a meeting in the **Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University** with the Rector Academician **Vladimer Papava** and **Tea Gergedava**, Head of Department of Foreign Relations of the oldest University in Georgia and the biggest in the whole Caucasus region. They examined the possibilities the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University could be one of the partners of TICLS. In the same university, he visited the **Institute of Classical Philology, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies** and met with the Head of the Institute and Member of the Georgian Academy

of Sciences Professor **Rismag Gordeziani**, as well as many other Professors of the Faculty.

Mr. Georgiou also met **Mariam Sutidze**, Director of International Relations Department of the **Caucasus University**.

Mr. Georgiou paid a visit to the **International Black Sea University**, in which he met the Rector, Mr. **Ilyas Chiloglu** and acting Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, **Baia Ivaneishvili**, Ms. **Ivanna Machitidze**, Coordinator of the International Relations Bachelor Program.

Mr. Georgiou also gave a lecture for more than 60 students, in which he spoke about GAAEC and TICLS programs and answered many questions from students about the political and security situation in Europe and the Caucasus.

As it is already a tradition to meet Alumni of our programs, Mr. Georgiou met Alumni of this year's The International Academy for Advanced Studies, Ms. **Nino Samkharadze** and Mr. **Gigisha Kalandadze**, student of the University of Georgia.

Moreover, Mr. Georgiou was invited for a meeting by Alumna from 2002, Ms. **Ketevan Bochorishvili**, who now has a position of Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. They had a working dinner, in which they explored possibilities for students and experts from Georgia to come to Greece.

Ms. Bochorishvili also accepted the invitation for **Chania- Med Forum 2015** for next July to be a speaker on the panel on economy.





THE 60th GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ATA SPECIAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS

**& THE 20TH INTERNATIONAL EURODEFENSE CONFERENCE IN BERLIN
1-5 DECEMBER 2014**

ATA ASSEMBLY BRUSSELS

At both events, the **Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation**, was represented by the President Mr. **Theodossis Georgiou**.

NEW PRESIDENT OF ATA

At the Assembly, the President of the Italian Atlantic Committee “Comitato Atlantico Italiano”, Prof. Dr. **Fabrizio Luciulli**, Professor



of International Security Organizations, Military Policy, and National Security Policy at the Center for High Defense Studies of the Italian Ministry of Defense, was

elected the **President** of the Atlantic Treaty Association for the years 2014-2017. Prof. Dr. Luciulli succeeded the Member of the German Bundestag Dr. Karl Lamers.

ATA embraces the Atlantic Committees from all NATO member states and partners. The General Assembly adopted a number of initiatives, including a program of strategic communication on Atlantic security issues and of training for civilian and military personnel in

Ukraine and Georgia. The strengthening of cooperation activities with countries in the Mediterranean and the Gulf has also been foreseen. “The return of an Italian representative to the ATA leadership is a significant acknowledgment for the international cooperation programs conducted by the Italian Atlantic Committee on security issues in the Balkans, the Mediterranean and the Middle East”, Luciulli noted (ANSA).



Also, Dr. **Arnold Kammel**, Secretary General of the Austrian Atlantic Treaty Association and Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy, and Mr. **Artur Jorge Girão**, Secretary General of the Commissao Portuguesa do Atlantico, were elected Vice-Presidents of the Atlantic Treaty Association.

GAAEC fully supports the election of the three gentlemen and Mr. Georgiou would like to congratulate them and wish fruitful work to the benefits of our common goals.

NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF ATA

In the 60th General Assembly of ATA, Mr.



Jason Wiseman was unanimously elected Secretary General of the Atlantic Treaty Association. Jason is a young professional from Canada, and it is the first time that a Canadian citizen is the

Secretary General of ATA.

GAAEC supports his nomination in the late May 2015 in the ATA Council Meeting in

Budva, Montenegro. Mrs. **Maria Karaklioumi**, a Member of Political and Educational Committee of GAAEC, got a majority of votes in the last year elections, however the election was postponed for the year 2014 and so Maria did not participate again, because of her other priorities and she herself supported Mr. Wiseman.



Mr. Georgiou told the New Secretary General that despite his age, he is very promising and said: "I am confident that you will walk in the steps of and the legacy

of the Great Secretaries General of our Atlantic Treaty Association, such as Dr. **Antonio Borges de Carvalho** and the late Ambassador **Alfred Cahen**."



Jason Wiseman has been with the ATA Secretariat since 2012 and worked as a National Security Analyst with the NATO Council of Canada from 2011-2012. He holds an MA in Government with a Specialization in Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security and a BAH in Political Science. His areas of expertise include Counter-Terrorism, State Failure and Transnational Organized Crime.

THE 20TH INTERNATIONAL EURODEFENSE CONFERENCE IN BERLIN 1-4 DECEMBER 2014

Between the 1st and the 4th of December, Mr. **Theodossis Georgiou**, President of the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation, attended the **20th International EuroDefense Conference "CSDP: Success and Challenge"**, which took place in Berlin. Mr. Georgiou is also the President of EuroDefense Greece.

EuroDefense Conferences are held few times a year. In April this year, Greece was hosting the Presidents' Council and the EuroDefense Conference, which took place within the framework of the **22th International Symposium "European Defence, NATO and EU: The Challenges Ahead"**

in the Conference Hall of the Secretariat General of Mass Media and Information and Communication of the Hellenic Republic.

President of the hosting organization EuroDefense Germany, Mr. **Lutz Feldt**, Vice Admiral ret. and Mr. **Jean Guinard**, General Secretary of the EuroDefense network, opened the conference and greeted the participants.

Following the greeting remarks, the results of the working groups were presented. The working groups were led by France, Spain, United Kingdom, and Germany.

On the next day, a very interesting meeting in the **Federal Ministry of Defense of Germany** took place, under the title of "**Germany's ambitions for an engagement in the framework of CSDP and NATO**". Rear Admiral **Thorsten Kahler**, Director of the Security Policy, gave a very interesting presentation about the position of Germany on



the European Defense.

Following the meeting, the conference continued in the

Government Offices Vertretung des Landes Schleswig Holstein beim Bund. Speeches by German Military Officials were given: **Prof. Dr. Holger May**, Head of Advanced Concepts, Airbus Defence and Space, **Rear Admiral Jurgen Ehle**, Military Committee NATO, EU and WEU, and **Colonel Stefan Drexler**, German Air Force, and discussions followed.

Moreover, the EuroDefense Network Presidents' Council also took place, with Presidents of almost all EuroDefense branches attending.

This newsletter was edited by Ava Ratajczak, Project Assistant through the European Voluntary Service.

