



Speaker invitation  
for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Economist Government  
Roundtable

20TH ROUNDTABLE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE

# EUROPE: SHAKEN AND STIRRED? GREECE: A SKILFUL ACROBAT?

Brainstorming with world leaders

JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup>-23<sup>RD</sup>, 2016 • GRAND RESORT LAGONISSI, ATHENS

**20TH**  
ANNIVERSARY



**hazlis & rivas**

The Economist Events for Greece,  
Cyprus, Malta and southeast Europe

**Maroš Šefčovič**  
**Vice President**  
**European Commission**  
**Leading the "Energy Union" project team**

April 13th, 2016

Dear Mr Šefčovič,

### **Europe: Shaken and Stirred?**

European citizens are paying close attention to the leadership at the helm of the European Union as they tackle the migrant crisis. The United Nations estimates indicate that over one million people have entered Europe with the intention of claiming asylum. On a global level, UNHCR has stated that the number of forcibly displaced people reached almost 60 million in 2015, an increase of some 40% since 2014. The EU member states now have an opportunity to strengthen their collaboration and solve the refugee question with consistency. Will they succeed in overcoming this challenge? At the same time, a key factor shaping Europe's political future in the decades to come is the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

In relation to growth, the European Investment Plan aims to unlock public and private investments in the real economy of at least € 315 billion over the next two years which will - hopefully - break the vicious cycle of continued low growth and high unemployment in Europe. How can the plan live up to Europe's expectations and boost growth?

On the economic forefront, we are witnessing EU member states breaking away from economic stagnation and emerging stronger from the crisis. Following Ireland and Portugal, Cyprus is the third Eurozone country to leave the international bailout program this year.

### **Greece: A skilful Acrobat?**

Without a doubt, 2016 is set to be crucial for Greece's future as the country still faces many challenges to stabilize its economy, maintain the momentum of structural reforms and return to the path of competitiveness and growth after signing a revised programme with its creditors. What are the government's policy priorities for the next coming months and what role will the newly elected opposition leader play in Greece's political arena?

With an enviable reputation for excellent and editorial integrity, The Economist aims to deliver a first class programme once again featuring leading thinkers and cutting edge insights. It is within this context, Mr Šefčovič that we cordially invite you to join us as a Keynote Speaker on Thursday June 23rd, 2016 on "**Energy Alliance in the Mediterranean and North Africa: Unlocking the Full Potential**".

Distinguished personalities from around the world will once again join us in this year's annual 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Economist Government roundtable scheduled to take place in Athens on **June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016** to brainstorm, debate and put forward new proposals on all the issues that this high profile event will once again be addressing. The **Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras and the Leader of the Main Opposition, Kyriakos Mitsotakis** are expected to join us as keynote speakers while key Ministers from the Government including Ministers of Finance and Economy, **Euclid Tsakalotos** and **George Stathakis**, respectively, will be invited to join our prominent speakers from abroad for an open discussion on Europe's future and Greece's economic stability in an effort to restore Greece into a resilient and global player in the coming decades.

The US presidential election will be a major political event during 2016. Will the next US President be able to restore the US as a global force for stability? Europe needs to step up its ability to deal with emerging security challenges in the region, to tackle the migration crisis and boost the European economy. Greece's progress, public sector reforms, financial markets, investment schemes, energy, entrepreneurship, technology and innovation are but a few of the key topics to be covered over the two day 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Economist Government roundtable in Athens.

Enclosed please find the provisional conference programme for your convenience indicating the topics as well as the remaining speakers. Please note, an indication of your "proposed participation" is also included in the agenda.

We sincerely hope to have the pleasure of hosting you at our prestigious Economist Government roundtable in Athens which is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and has been established as an institution, having hosted heads of state, ministers, Nobel laureates, financial heads, academia and prominent business leaders from around the world. More than 1.400 people attend this annual event each year.

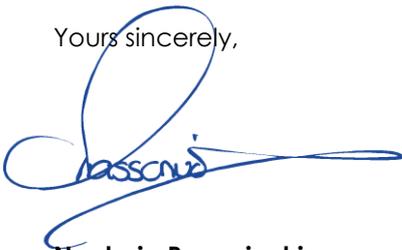
Your participation, will, undoubtedly contribute significantly to the analysis and evaluation of the current situation prevalent in Europe and will seal the much needed leadership strategy for Europe's future and Greece's revival and roadmap to recovery and growth.

We are pleased to announce that CNN International shall be the official broadcast partner.

The Executive Editor of The Economist, **Daniel Franklin** and **Joan Hoey**, Regional Editor, Europe of The Economist Intelligence Unit shall be chairing the Government roundtable.

In anticipation of your positive reply, I remain at your utmost disposal for any further details.

Yours sincerely,



**Nectaria Passarivakis**

President & CEO

The Economist Events for Greece, Cyprus

Malta and SE Europe

