



**Sunday & Monday,  
May 18 – 19, 2025**

**DRAFT AGENDA,  
*April 29, 2025***

## Security & Growth

**Day 1 | Sunday, May 18, 2025**

**The Foundation Hall, Chwarbakh Street, Sulaymaniyah**

12.00 *Registration, Arrival of Guests – Light Lunch*

13.00 **Official Opening**

### **Welcome Remarks**

- ✓ **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

### **Opening Remarks**

- ✓ **H.E. Qubad Talabani**, Deputy Prime Minister, Kurdistan Regional Government

### **Keynote Statements**

- ✓ **H.E. Latif Rashid**, President of the Republic of Iraq
- ✓ **Thodoros Roussopoulos**, President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- ✓ **H.E. Andres Pastrana**, President, Christian Democrat International; President, Republic of Colombia (1998-2002)

*Chair of the Opening Session:*

- ✓ **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

14.15 **In Conversation**

- ✓ **Ali Mohsen Al-Alaq**, Governor of the Central Bank of Iraq

*Chair:*

#### 14.40 **The Middle East in the Global Order: Strategic Alliances and Global Challenges**

*An exploration of the GCC's role in balancing regional and global partnerships and addressing emerging global challenges.*

- ✓ **Ahmet Davutoglu**, Prime Minister of Türkiye (2014-2016); Leader of the Future Party, Türkiye
- ✓ **Dimitris Avramopoulos**, EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs & Citizenship (2014-2019), Greece
- ✓ **Massimo D'Alema**, Prime Minister of Italy (1998-2000), MFA (2006-2008), Italy
- ✓ **General Sir Nick Carter**, UK Chief of the Defence Staff (2018-2021); Hoover Institute and Atlantic Council
- ✓ **Chair: Nik Gowing**, Founder and Director, Thinking the Unthinkable, UK

#### 15.40 **Strategic Pivot: Iraq, the Kurdistan Region, and the Geopolitical Landscape**

*An analysis of Iraq's and the Kurdistan Region's role in regional power dynamics, addressing political and economic partnerships.*

- ✓ **Paul Salem**, President, Middle East Institute; fmr Deputy Director, Carnegie Middle East Center, USA
- ✓ **Xiaoyang Tang**, Chair & Prof., Dept of Int'l Relations, Tsinghua University and China Forum, China
- ✓ **Domenec Ruiz Devesa**, Member of the European Parliament, Spain
- ✓ **Marianna Charountaki**, Senior Lecturer in International Politics, University of Lincoln, UK
- ✓ **Volker Perthes**, Senior Distinguished Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
- ✓ **Chair: Nikolettta Kritikou**, Chief Foreign Affairs Editor, Skai TV; freelancer KATHIMERINI newspaper, Greece

#### 16.40 **In Conversation**

- ✓ **Ivor Ichikowitz**, Chairman, Ichikowitz Family Foundation
- ✓ **Chair: Basil Gavalas**, Managing Partner, Asinin Corporation, Cyprus

#### 17.00 **Strengthening Cooperation Between the Region and the European Union**

*Exploring ways to enhance business relations, trade partnerships, and cross-border cooperation between Middle Eastern and European businesses.*

- ✓ **Dara Rashid Mahmud**, Minister of Planning, Kurdistan Region Government
- ✓ **Haval Abubakir**, Governor of Sulaimani
- ✓ **Anna Diamantopoulou**, President, DIKTIO; EU Commissioner for Jobs & Social Rights (1999-2004), Greece
- ✓ **Nikos Papandreou**, Member of the European Parliament, Greece
- ✓ **Omar Shaban**, Head, PalThink for Strategic Studies Policy Institute; Sen.Advisor, European Inst. for Peace, Palaistine
- ✓ **Chair: Manveen Rana**, Senior Editor, The Times, UK

18.00 **The Role of Iraq and the Gulf in Global Markets**

*Analyzing how Iraq and the GCC are serving as gateways between East and West, with emphasis on trade and market integration.*

- ✓ **Kamal Muslim Saeed**, Minister of Trade and Industry, Kurdistan Regional Government
- ✓ **Shishir Priyadarshi**, President, Global Relations, Adani Group, India
- ✓ **Basil Gavalas**, Managing Partner, Asinin Corporation, Cyprus
- ✓ **Nikos Papandreou**, Member of the European Parliament, Greece
  
- ✓ *Chair:* **Nik Gowing**, Founder and Director, Thinking the Unthinkable, UK

18.50 *Break*

20.30 **Welcome Networking Reception**  
**The Grand Millennium Hotel**

## Security & Growth

**Day 2 | Monday, May 19, 2025**

**The Foundation Hall, Chwarbakh Street, Sulaymaniyah**

10.15 *Arrival of Guests*

11.00 **Opening Remarks**

✓ **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

11.05 **Statement and Discussion**

✓ **Dimitris Skalkos**, Secretary General for International Economic Affairs, MFA, Hellenic Republic

✓ *Chair:* **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

11.20 **In Conversation**

✓ **Bilal Sabah Hussein**, President & Chairman of the Board, Trade Bank of Iraq

✓ *Chair:* **Basil Gavalas**, Managing Partner, Asinin Corporation, Cyprus

11.40 **Business Beyond Borders: Creating Strategic Alliances**

*A showcase of opportunities in key sectors like trade, energy, and infrastructure, followed by targeted matchmaking sessions.*

✓ **Dimitris Skalkos**, Secretary General for International Economic Affairs, MFA, Hellenic Republic

✓ **Layla Omar**, President of the Municipal Council, Sulaimani

✓ **Dhaval Desai**, Senior Fellow and Vice President, ORF, India

✓ **Umberto Tavalato**, Director, Med Or - Leonardo Foundation, Italy

✓ *Chair:* **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

12.30 **Innovation as a Catalyst for Regional Development**

*Discussing how technological advancements, entrepreneurship, and innovation can propel the region into a new era of sustainable growth.*

- ✓ **Byron Nicolaides**, Founder & CEO, PeopleCert Group of Companies, Greece
- ✓ **Nikos Theodoropoulos**, Co-Founder & Vice President, StiQ
- ✓ **Safeen Ghafour**, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister, Kurdistan Regional Government
- ✓ **Erol User**, CEO, Erol User Corporation, Türkiye
  
- ✓ *Chair:* **George Doukidis**, Professor, Athens University of Economics & Business, Greece

13.15 *Networking Break - Light Lunch*

14.00 **Statement**

- ✓ **Ulrich Nussbaum**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs & Energy (2018-2021), Germany

*Introduced by* **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

14.15 **Financing Regional Growth: Investment, Trade and Infrastructure**

*Exploring opportunities and challenges in securing investments for trade and critical infrastructure to enhance regional connectivity.*

- ✓ **Muhammed Shukri**, Chairman of the Board of Investment, Kurdistan Regional Government
- ✓ **Kovan Jalal**, Director General of Industry, Kurdistan Regional Government
- ✓ **Amanj Fayaq**, Director General of Investment, Slemani
- ✓ **Manolis Grafakos**, Sec. Gen. for Waste Management Coordination, Ministry of Environment, Hellenic Republic
- ✓ **Ioannis Golias**, Head of Euginides Foundation, former Minister of Energy & Chancellor of the NTUA
  
- ✓ *Chair:* **Fanis Papathanasiou**, Journalist, ERT, Greece

15.15 **Energy Sovereignty and International Cooperation**

*Discussing the roles of Iraq, the Kurdistan Region, and GCC in securing global energy markets while pursuing sustainability.*

- ✓ **Izzat Sabir**, Deputy Minister of Oil, Republic of Iraq
- ✓ **Admiral Evaggelos Apostolakis**, MP, Hellenic Parliament, Minister of Defense (2019), Greece
- ✓ **Markus Jerger**, President, Council for International Cooperation, Germany
- ✓ **Ulrich Nussbaum**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs & Energy (2018-2021), Germany
  
- ✓ **Chair: Alexia Tasouli**, Diplomatic Correspondent, Greece

16.00 **In Conversation: The Future of War and Peace**

- ✓ **General Sir Nick Carter**, UK Chief of the Defence Staff (2018-2021); Hoover Institute and Atlantic Council with
- ✓ **Greg Mills**, Director, Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa

16.25 **Diplomatic and Economic Alliances: The Path Forward**

*High-level dialogue with political figures from Iraq, GCC, and the EU, discussing economic diplomacy and shared interests.*

- ✓ **Emmanouil Karagiannis**, Reader in International Security (Defence Studies), King's College- London
- ✓ **Luis Ravina**, Dir., Navarra Center for Int'nal Development & Prof. of Int'nal Economy, Univ. of Navarra, Spain
- ✓ **Theo Benos**, Researcher, Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, Türkiye
  
- ✓ **Chair: Alexia Tasouli**, Diplomatic Correspondent, Greece

17.00 **In Conversation**

- ✓ **Khalid Shwani**, Minister of Justice, Republic of Iraq
  
- ✓ **Chair: Manveen Rana**, Senior Editor, The Times, UK

17.25 **Women Empowerment & Leadership: Unlocking the Region's Potential**

*Exploring the role of women in driving regional growth, leadership opportunities, and policy advancements towards gender equality.*

- ✓ **Nuxsha Nasih**, Acting Governor of Halabja
- ✓ **Nina Kasimati**, MP, Hellenic Parliament, Greece
- ✓ **Konstantina Karabatsoli**, MP, Hellenic Parliament, Greece
  
- ✓ *Chair:* **Nikos Efstathiou**, Journalist, Fellow, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

18.10 **Cultural Diplomacy and Business Synergies**

*Roundtable discussions between business leaders and policymakers, focused on trade and investment.*

- ✓ **H.E. Luis Gabriel Franceschi**, Assistant Secretary General, The Commonwealth of Nations, UK
- ✓ **Osama El Gohary**, Advisor to the Prime Minister, Egypt
  
- ✓ *Chair:* **Fanis Papathanasiou**, Journalist, ERT, Greece

18.45 Closing Remarks

- ✓ **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece

20.30 **Arrival of Guests - Official Dinner (*by invitation only*)**  
**The Grand Millennium Hotel Sulaimani**

21.00 Opening remarks

- ✓ **H.E. Qubad Talabani**, Deputy Prime Minister, Kurdistan Regional Government

Keynote Address

- ✓ **H.E. Nechirvan Idris Barzani**, President of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

*Chair of the Official Dinner:*

- ✓ **Symeon G. Tsomokos**, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece