



Roundtable Discussion

From the High Seas to the Consumer: Securing Maritime Trade and the Global Economy

Thursday, January 29th, 2026
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 8
New York

Maritime security, once viewed primarily through a geopolitical lens, is now critically recognized as the fundamental guarantor of the global economy and the stability of everyday life. This roundtable discussion, co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN and the Delphi Economic Forum, will move beyond traditional threats to focus on the practical, tangible effects of maritime instability on global supply chains and consumer costs.

Over 80% of global trade is transported by sea. Attacks on critical maritime infrastructure, illegal activities at sea, unsafe and illicit shipping practices, and disruptions in key arteries (such as the Red Sea) have immediate and measurable consequences, translating directly into higher prices for food, energy, and manufactured goods worldwide.

The discussion will focus on the practical imperative of a holistic, coordinated response. Experts will explore innovative strategies and public-private sector cooperation required to enhance maritime domain awareness, secure crucial sea lanes, and build resilient supply chains. The ultimate goal is to define concrete steps that ensure both the safety of seafarers and the economic well-being of the global consumer.

12:30 Arrival of Guests - Light Lunch & Networking

13:15 Welcome Remarks

✓**H.E. Aglaia Balta**, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

✓**Symeon Tsomokos**, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum

Opening Remarks

✓**Georgios Gerapetritis**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic

13:35 Roundtable Discussion

✓**Vasilis Kikilias**, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Hellenic Republic

✓**Steven Wills**, Navalist, Center for Maritime Strategy, Navy League of the United States

✓**Gregory Ehrie**, Chief Security Officer, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

✓**Julia Nesheiwat**, Distinguished Fellow, Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council

Chair: ✓**Fanis Papathanasiou**, Senior Diplomatic Correspondent, Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation

2:30 End of the Roundtable Discussion

✓ Confirmed Speaker