



ATHEXGROUP
Όμιλος Χρηματιστηρίου Αθηνών

Press Release

28 June 2018

Event at the Athens Stock Exchange: The Value of Corporate Governance

*Keynote speaker: **George Serafeim***

Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School

An event was held today at the **Athens Stock Exchange** on the subject of: “The value of corporate governance”. Alexis Haritsis, Deputy Minister of Economy and Development, honoured the event with his presence, while keynote speaker was the Associate Professor of the Harvard Business School, **George Serafeim**.

The purpose of the event was to shed light on the adjustments which should be made in the business world, both as regards companies and their executives, in order to achieve their long-lasting competitiveness, both at Greek and international level, guided by successful business examples and international practices.

In this context, the **Chairman of the Athens Exchange Group** and **Chairman of Piraeus Bank**, Mr. **Giorgos Hantzinikolaou**, at the opening of the event noted that: *“The Stock Exchange, being the core of the stock market, can and must play a key role in the development and reinforcement of the capital market. The promotion of a strong corporate governance system is a prerequisite for the attraction of new - Greek and foreign - investors, with positive effects both on the businesses and the economy of our country”*.

The **Deputy Minister of Economy and Development, Alexis Haritsis**, in his address noted that during his contacts with American and international investors in the USA, he concluded that the interest for investments in Greece is growing and expanding to sectors other than the traditional ones. Mr. Haritsis noted that the Greek Investment Road Show 2018 coincided with the Eurogroup’s important decision for the Greek debt and the country’s imminent exit from the MoUs, and the fact that discussions revolved around the Greek economy's priorities for the day after. He further focused on the international recognition of Greece as a pillar of stability and growth in the broader region of South-eastern Europe.



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The first part of the event included a speech by the **Professor of the Harvard Business School, George Serafeim**, on the subject of: **“The Value of Corporate Governance”**. His speech revolved around the main points of highlighting corporate governance as a powerful tool for attracting investors, improving the valuation and increasing the confidence in the capital market. Special weight was put on the manner in which the improvement of corporate governance can lead to better access to financing, higher valuation and a better corporate performance.

The second part of the event included an **award ceremony** for **Members** of the Athens Stock Exchange, based on their transactions in the Stock Market, the Derivatives Market, the Bond Market and the XNet Network, with the aim of reinforcing and growing the Capital market. There were parallel **prizes** awarded to the leading **Research Departments of Members**, based on the results of EXTEL's “Greek Research” category of for 2018, as well as the leading **Investor Relations Departments** of the Athens Stock Exchange Listed Companies.

The following awards were awarded per category:

Best Member in Stock Market (ATHEX/FEAS), 2017

1st prize - EUROBANK EQUITIES S.A.

2nd prize - PIRAEUS SECURITIES S.A.

3rd prize - EUROXX SECURITIES S.A.

Best Member in Fixed Income (ATHEX/FEAS), 2017

1st prize - INVESTMENT BANK OF GREECE S.A.

2nd prize - ALPHA FINANCE S.A.

3rd prize - NBG SECURITIES S.A.

Best Member in Derivatives Market (ATHEX/FEAS), 2017

1st prize - INVESTMENT BANK OF GREECE S.A.

2nd prize - PIRAEUS SECURITIES S.A.

3rd prize - EUROBANK EQUITIES S.A.

Highest Turnover in XNET Network, 2017

1st prize - MEGA EQUITY SECURITIES & FINANCIAL SERVICES PUBLIC LTD

2nd prize - HELLENIC AMERICAN SECURITIES S.A.

3rd prize - THE CYPRUS INVESTMENT & SECURITIES CORPORATION LTD

ATHEX Members, Best Country Research Team, 2018

1st prize - EUROBANK EQUITIES S.A.

2nd prize - PANTELAKIS SECURITIES S.A.

3rd prize - NBG SECURITIES S.A.

ATHEX Listed Companies, Best IR Team, 2017

1st prize - MYTILINEOS S.A. GROUP OF COMPANIES

2nd prize - OPAP S.A.

3rd prize - TITAN CEMENT S.A.



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Among others, an address was delivered during the event **by Debora Wince – Smith, President & CEO of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC)** who handed out one of the prizes and stressed the importance of competition for companies in the new digital era, and also congratulated the Athens Stock Exchange for its cooperation as a Member of the GFCC. At the same time, **Ms. Debora Wince - Smith**, underlined the necessity for putting in place programmes that develop the skills of companies and foster their extroversion, such as the ROOTS programme designed by the Athens Stock Exchange in cooperation with leading representatives of the global capital market ecosystem.

At the closing of the event, the **CEO of the Athens Stock Exchange, Sokrates Lazaridis** remarked that: *“The Athens Stock Exchange makes a dynamic contribution in supporting the Greek economy in every phase of its cycle. The Athens Stock Exchange Group, with the initiatives it has undertaken through time, is working towards speeding up the integration and utilisation in Greece of the international developments in the operation of the global capital market in order to achieve substantial results for the development prospects of Greek enterprises.”*

The event was attended by more than 200 people, including members of investment firms, listed companies, representatives of agencies of institutional and private investors, as well as representatives of companies participating in the Greek capital market ecosystem.

Attachments:

- Presentation of Associate Professor of the Harvard Business School, **George Serafeim**.
- Photographs

Brief Curriculum Vitae of G. Serafeim

George Serafeim is the **Jakurski Family Associate Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School**. He has taught courses in the MBA, executive education and doctoral programs. His research focuses on long-term competitiveness and the management of businesses that also create economic and social value for shareholders, employees, customers and the community in general. He has delivered speeches and lectures in over 60 countries around the world and is one of the most popular business authors on management issues. His research on how the business sector can contribute in addressing climate change and social inequalities has been cited in speeches of heads of states and international organisations. He is a member of the Boards of Directors of companies and NGOs.



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He earned his **doctorate** in business administration at Harvard Business School and received a **master's degree** in accounting and finance from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

He grew up in Nea Smyrni, Athens, and graduated from the **Department of Banking and Financial Management** of the **University of Piraeus**,

About the Athens Exchange Group

The **Athens Stock Exchange**, since its establishment in 1876, has been consistently participating in the financial and business developments in the country.

The Athens Exchange Group (ATHEX Group), supports the growth and organisation of the Greek Capital Market. It operates the organized equities and derivatives markets, the alternative market and performs clearing and settlement of transactions.

The Athens Stock Exchange, through its markets, offers solutions and financing tools to businesses, expands investor choice by providing a safe, stable and convenient environment in full alignment with international practices and the European regulatory framework.

In a period when the role of stock markets in exploring alternative ways of financing business, at a European level, is significantly enhanced, the Athens Exchange Group has taken a series of initiatives to highlight the attractiveness of the Greek Capital Market and to promote Greek companies to the international investment community.

The Group's stocks are listed on the Main Market of the Athens Stock Exchange (Symbol: EXAE).

Summary information on the market and the Athens Exchange Group can be found at this [link](#) and the website of www.athexgroup.gr.

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