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## Athanasios Liagkos

Chairman of the BoD of Hellenic Port Association and Executive Chairman of the BoD & Managing Director of ThPA S.A.

## The prospects of the Maritime Industry for 2023

**T**he year 2023 will be pivotal for the port industry in Greece. A number of ports namely Igoumenitsa, Kavala, Heraklion and Volos are, currently, at different stages of a privatization process, as developed by the Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund (HRADF) within the framework of its strategy for the development of the country’s port infrastructure held in its portfolio.

Multiple investors and consortia are bidding for these strategically important assets, attracting investment and creating multiplier value for people and the economy.

Furthermore, international investors already invested in the Ports of Piraeus and Thessaloniki are implementing significant investment plans aiming to upgrade existing infrastructure and enhance service for both commercial cargo and passengers.

Collaboration with the Hellenic State Authorities and the competent Ministries, including the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy is efficient and fruitful. In this framework, connectivity projects with airports, railways and road networks, both planned and underway, related to many Greek ports, secure increased access and connectivity to passengers and cargo in Greece, the Mediterranean and Southeast Europe.

At the same time, Greek Ports are in a phase of dynamic transition, addressing the main challenges they face, namely green and digital transition. We actively participate internationally, promoting the use of renewable and other forms of clean energy by all stakeholders in the port ecosystem, and, of course, the provision of onshore power supply, as well as the adoption of ‘smart port’ strategies with positive ramifications for the environment, energy consumption and port operation optimization.

The Hellenic Ports Association is comprised of all Greek Port Authorities, including those under state control and those with private investor majority, as well as the most prominent Port Funds. We regularly contribute and participate in the formulation of policy proposals and legislative initiatives.

Our Association constantly promotes and supports Hellenic port positions on a national, European and international level, always targeting to enhance economic growth and job creation with a special focus to local communities, regions and societal needs.

**Athanasios Liagkos,**  
Chairman of the BoD of Hellenic Port Association  
and Executive Chairman of the BoD & Managing Director of ThPA S.A.