



AIKATERINI
LASKARIDIS
FOUNDATION

Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation - Tsinghua University Symposium

“China, Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean”

10 & 11 May 2019

The strategic significance of the Eastern Mediterranean region in recent times has been under-estimated. Building on the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation - Tsinghua University Initiative for Civilization Dialogue and the Marilena Laskaridis Visiting Chair for Hellenic and European Studies at Tsinghua University, the Foundation brings together renowned experts from Greece and China for a symposium on the Mediterranean and European dimension of the New Silk Road sounding ways for Greece and China to promote a comprehensive strategic partnership in this region in a period of geopolitical change, technological disruption and global uncertainty.

Friday, 10 May 2019: Registration and first session 16:00-20:00

16:00-16:45 Registration

17:00-18:40 First Session: The Tsinghua – IAL Partnership and the State of Bilateral Relations.

17:00 Welcome-opening remarks Konstantinos Mazarakis, General Director of the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation

17:10 Greetings by Honored Guests

17:20 Greeting and Keynote Speech: ‘China and Greece: Maritime Superpowers’ Panos Laskaridis, shipowner, President European Community Shipowners’ Associations, President of the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation

17:40 ‘China, Greece, past, present and future’ Wendi Chen, Chief of Political and Media Affairs Section, Chinese Embassy in Greece o Athens

18:00 ‘Chinese diplomacy for the new era and its core values’ Zhang Lihua, Professor, director of Research Center for China-EU Relations Tsinghua University

18:20 – 18:40 Discussion. Moderator: Konstantinos Mazarakis

18:40 – 20:00 Informal garden reception



Saturday, 11 May 2019: Second and third sessions 09:00-16:30

09:00-10:30 Second Session: 'The Belt and Road Initiative: A Global and Regional Perspective' Chair/moderator: Konstantinos Arvanitopoulos

09:10 'Sino-Greece Cooperation in the Belt and Road Initiative' Zhao Kejin, Professor, vice dean of the School of Social Sciences Tsinghua University

09:30 "Belt and Road Initiative: Geopolitical and Geoeconomic considerations" Athanasios Platias, Professor of Strategy, Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus.

09:50 "China-Europe cooperation under the 'Belt and Road Initiative': Perception, Challenges and Prospects" Dr. You Nan, Postdoctoral Fellow of the Institute of International Relations Tsinghua University

10:10-10:30 discussion

10:40 – 12:10 Third Session 'Focusing on Eastern Mediterranean: Greece as a Strategic Interpreter between China and Europe?' Chair/moderator: Athanasios Platias

10:50 Charalambos Papasotiriou, Professor of International Relations and Strategic Studies, Department of International, European and Area Studies at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens.

11:10 'One Belt and One Road. Initiative and Cooperation between China and Greece: Impetus, Areas and Prospect.' Song Xiaomin, Associate Research Fellow, Institute of European Studies of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

11:30 Angelos Syrigos, Associate Professor of International Law and Foreign Policy, Department of International, European and Area Studies at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens.

11:50-12:10 Discussion

12:10 – 13:10 Light lunch



13:10 – 14:30 Fourth Session: ‘The Political Economy of the BRI and the Future of the European Project: A Normative & Developmental Dimension’ Chair/moderator: Liu Zuokui

13:20 ‘Greece and China: Economic cooperation and the BRI’ Wendi Chen, Chief of Political and Media Affairs Section, Chinese Embassy in Greece in Athens

13:30 “European Union and China: Economic cooperation and the BRI ” Plutarchos Sakellaris, Professor at Athens University of Economics and Business, Hon. Vice President of the European Investment Bank.

13:50 ‘Fostering Sustainability, Growth and Good Governance: Europe's Funding GAP and PRC's BRI’ Emilios Avgouleas, Chair Professor of Banking Law and Finance, University of Edinburg, Distinguished Visiting Professor University of Hong Kong.

14:10 - 14:30 Discussion

14:40-16:30 Fifth Session: ‘China & Greece: Promoting Regional Partnerships in the Balkans and East Med’ Chair/moderator: Emilios Avgouleas & Zhang Lihua

14:50 ‘The Cooperation of 16+1’ Dr. Liu Zuokui, Senior Research Fellow, Director of the Department of Central and Eastern European Studies, Institute of European Studies, CASS; Director of the Secretariat Office of the “16+1 Think Tanks Network”, CASS

15:10_ ‘Greece and China as security and prosperity providers in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean’ Dr. Thanos Dokos, General Director, ELIAMEP

15:30 “Piraeus Port: Important Project of China - Greece Cooperation ”Mr. Xu Taoran, Piraeus Port Authority SA, Manager of Administration Dept.

15:50 “Greece & China: A Non-Hegemonic Superstructure of Regional Infrastructure” Vasilis Trigkas, Onassis Scholar & Research Fellow, Belt & Road Strategy Center, Tsinghua University

16:10 - 16:30 Final comments / Wrap-up