



Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics

Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics On the Road to European Ideals

Monday, 9 February 2004

Symposium Programme

Morning Session

Office of the European Parliament

Greetings, introductions meeting the Press

- ▶ Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, B.I.O. President and Founder
- ▶ George Cassimatis, Director, European Parliament Representation in Greece
- ▶ Yigit Alpogan, Ambassador of Turkey
- ▶ Professor Rusen Keles, Ankara University
- ▶ Professor Constantine Stephanou, Panteion University
- ▶ Professor Nicholas Markatos, f. Rector, National Technical University of Athens
- ▶ Panayotis Koutsikos, President, Hellenic-Turkish Chamber of Commerce

Afternoon Session

National Bank of Greece

Chairs

- ▶ Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, B.I.O. President and Founder
- ▶ Professor Rusen Keles, Ankara University

International cooperation & bio-diplomacy

- ▶ Lefteris Antonacopoulos, Chairman and CEO, Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation
- ▶ Yigit Alpogan, Ambassador of Turkey
- ▶ Nicholas Papageorgiou, President, Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO
- ▶ Alejandro Diaz, Ambassador of Mexico
- ▶ Jannie Momberg, Ambassador of South Africa

Environmental education

- ▶ Professor Christos Halkias, Dean, Athens Information Technology Center
- ▶ Professor Zafer Erturk, Rector, Eastern Mediterranean University
- ▶ Professor Ersi Abatzi Kalfoglou, Istanbul University
- ▶ Professor Berna Alpogut, Faculty of Letters, Ankara University

Business and the media

- ▶ George Ioannidis, Managing Director, OTENet
- ▶ Panayotis Koutsikos, President, Hellenic-Turkish Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Stefanos Kostopoulos, President, Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Constantine Kanonis, President, Hellenic-Russian Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Stathis E. Nazos, CEO, ABN AMRO Asset Management

Agriculture and rural development

- ▶ Professor Ilhami Unver, Faculty of Agriculture, Ankara University
- ▶ Professor Umit Erdem, Director for Environmental Studies, Aegean University, Izmir

An environmental vision in governance

- ▶ Professor Kelly Bourdara, Deputy Mayor of Athens
- ▶ Fahri Yucel, Governor of Edirne
- ▶ Hasan Canpolat, Governor of Sivas
- ▶ Iris Senturk, Mayor of Antakya
- ▶ Professor Constantine Stephanou, Panteion University



Opening session at the Office of the European Parliament

On the road to European Union ideals

George Cassimatis
Director, European Parliament
Representation in Greece

The European Parliament, which I have the honour of representing here in Greece, hails and supports this meeting within the framework

Greece has benefited greatly from European integration and we wish Turkey every success.

of the general spirit of Hellenic-Turkish friendship and cooperation. All initiatives promoting this friendship must be commended and supported.

Cooperation in environmental issues is a particularly fruitful ground

Professor Rusen Keles
Ankara University

Principle 9 of the Rio Declaration emphasises the need to strengthen capacity building for sustainable development by improving international understanding through an exchange of scientific and technological knowledge. In fact, there are vast opportunities for closer cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, Greece and Turkey, in the field of the environment, since we both share similar geographic, historical, economic, social and environmental features. B.I.O. has always been one of the NGOs that, apart from its immediate specialised concerns, contributed greatly to the enhancement of a sustainable friendship between the peoples of Greece and Turkey. I believe that the only justification for me having the privilege and honour of sharing the Abdi Ipekci Special Peace Prize in 1993 lies exclusively in the constructive work of B.I.O.

Two years after the first B.I.O. Hellenic-Turkish symposium, the Rio Declaration advised that nations cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and the integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. B.I.O. had already launched its worldwide programme for international cooperation to safeguard natural assets and the historical heritage of mankind.

Sustainable development can be achieved only by increasing the governing ability of the state. In fact, sustainable development is not attainable without a sustainable state, which can undertake the responsibility to steer society towards sustainable development, and to plan

for the development of international understanding. Experience has shown that global and regional environmental problems have no borders and, as such, they cannot be solved on a national level only. Greece and Turkey can work together in finding the right solutions.

This place has a great symbolic meaning, as it represents the success of 50 years of European integration and is a tribute to those whose efforts have made this integration possible. Modern Greece has benefited greatly from European integration and we wish Turkey every success.

and implement towards this end. It is often asserted that wide-spread globalisation, with its policy directives of liberalisation, deregulation and privatisation, tends to favour the overall interests of society as a whole, including environmental values through the maximization of private interests. But recent experience in most Mediterranean countries suggests that, in order to achieve the policy objectives of sustainable development, we will

require, for a long time, considerable public intervention in environmental matters, so as to harmonise the long-term interests of society with those of the present generations.

With all these considerations in mind, I believe that our generation is faced with an important ethical responsibility for ensuring respect for all the biotic and non-biotic elements on Earth, and that B.I.O. will continue to contribute in the future, as in the past, to the happiness of the peoples in our region and in the entire world.

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Civic leaders, business executives, scholars and diplomats from Greece and Turkey met in Athens, on February 9, 2004, to discuss important issues in international cooperation. The initiative was themed "Hellenic-Turkish Cooperation in Biopolitics – On the Road to European Union Ideals" and was organised by the B.I.O. President, Dr. Agni Vliavianos-

Arvanitis, under the auspices of the Ambassador of Turkey, Mr. Yigit Alpogan. The meeting convened with great success at the Office of the European Parliament and the National Bank of Greece.

Following the success of previous conferences and symposia in Istanbul (1992), Ankara (1997), Trabzon (1989, 1993), Adana (1995) and Athens (1990), which focused

Yigit Alpogan
Ambassador of Turkey

Over the last four years, Turkey has been assisted by Greece in complex and complicated EU matters, and there has been extensive collaboration in many and diverse fields within the framework of the European Union. There is a sustained process of negotiations between the two countries, in order to resolve past differences, and, once both sides are ready to overcome dividing issues, bilateral relations will improve and there will hardly be any issue left for politicians or technocrats to ponder over. The only thing left will be to further Greek and Turkish cooperation.

One important issue that Greece and Turkey have been discussing is the transportation of natural gas from Turkey to Greece and then to Europe. Two agreements were signed very

recently concerning the construction of a pipeline which has already begun in Turkey and is also about to start in Greece. We will connect our natural gas systems and then we will be in a position to supply gas to the European Union, thus conveying a message that Turkey and Greece are helping each other and cooperating, not only for their own benefit but also for a larger cause, namely being suppliers of natural gas to Europe.

Our Minister of Transport was here about ten days ago, and another historic agreement was signed concerning the Egnatia highway.

"When the UN Commission on Environment and Development, headed by Prime Minister Brundtland, made public its discovery of the method of sustainable development in 1986, we, as the founders of B.I.O., were already discussing its implications for our nations in Athens. When the first B.I.O. Hellenic-Turkish meeting took place in 1990, the UN Summit in Rio de Janeiro had not yet happened. It is not too unrealistic now to express the hope that the next Hellenic-Turkish symposium will take place at a time when both Greece and Turkey appear as full members of the European Union."

Professor Rusen Keles, Ankara University

The highway is now being connected to Turkey; the portion between Thessaloniki and Istanbul will be joined and, hopefully, this will be of assistance to the European Union as well. We will complete it together; therefore this huge network of roads in Greece will not end at the Turkish border, but will be connected to Turkey and will also provide Turkey with a highway system to reach Europe.

In the field of business, tax cuts have created new opportunities for the business communities in both countries. In the field of the envi-

Biopolitics is a very modern and new science, and the Turkish scientific community will have a lot to gain from it.

ronment, universities are developing many and diverse joint projects. This event is an example of the constructive cooperation between the two countries.

I would like to express my appreciation to Madame Arvanitis who is the real driving force behind this meeting. Without her help or contribution, none of these events would have materialised. At the conclusion of this meeting, we hope that Turkey will become a member of the European Union as well. Within the framework of the European Union, cooperation in Biopolitics will contribute to this end. Biopolitics is a very modern and new science, and the Turkish scientific community will have a lot to gain.

From left to right: Ms. Iris Senturk, Mayor of Antakya; Dr. Hasan Canpolat, Governor of Sivas; Mr. Yigit Alpogan, Ambassador of Turkey; Mr. George Cassimatis, Director of the European Parliament Representation in Greece; Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, B.I.O. President and Founder; Mr. Fahri Yucel, Governor of Edirne; Professor Rusen Keles, Ankara University.

Biopolitics On the Road to European Union Ideals



on Hellenic-Turkish cooperation and strengthened the friendship between the two countries, B.I.O. held this event in an attempt to promote bio-diplomacy, education, and environmental governance as the needed vision for the future.

The B.I.O. President thanked Ambassador Alpoğan and expressed the hope that the meeting would provide a forum for the promotion of

dialogue and cooperation in the most consequential task, that of preserving the environment and bios - life - on our planet.

"Arrogance and disrespect have led humanity to the edge of a cliff. International cooperation and bio-diplomacy, as proposed since 1985 by B.I.O., can inspire a new vision in society and lead to a future of hope. New ethics, with the environment at the

core of every endeavour, can help us to overcome negative stereotypes and build a truly civil society, where respect for all life will constitute the primary asset."

Distinguished participants from left to right: Governor Hasan Canpolat, Ambassador Yigit Alpoğan, Mr. George Cassimatis, Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, Governor Fahri Yucel and Professor Rusen Keles.



An environmental vision in governance

Dr. Hasan Canpolat
Governor of Sivas

The environment is a very complex and fragile issue, so it is not very easy to develop environmental policies and apply them effectively in the real world. In many cases there is enough will but not a large enough budget or the regional capacity required to apply efficient environmental policies. To accelerate matters, it is necessary to search for coordination and technical support mechanisms on an international level.



Sivas is the second largest province in Turkey. We have 8 rivers, which are main basins of Turkey, 12 lakes and many wetlands. Water and soil are threatened by pollution from villages and some municipalities and industrial areas, and by soil erosion, because of lack of enough forest land. What we are planning to do in order to solve these problems is to implement a regional development plan extending from

now until 2023. We have started defining all the polluting points and the problems. We have invested enough money in our plan to solve these environmental problems and we are going to protect natural areas by developing educational programmes for Sivas and for its people. We are also opening an environmental and cultural "house of art" in our 16th district, to provide knowledge, especially to young peo-

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ple, on environmental subjects. We are planning to establish an urban forest, and we are in the process of establishing cultural parks promoting the cultural and historical heritage of Sivas. I would like to thank all the people of the Biopolitics International Organisation and to congratulate you for organising this very successful meeting on such an important subject



Professor Constantine Stephanou
International and European Studies, Panteion University

The present meeting constitutes an appropriate and timely initiative for both countries, which have worked hard over the recent years to create a positive climate and to resolve their political differences. Greece and Turkey are partners in meeting environ-



mental challenges. The European Union framework is very valuable for both countries, which should work together in resolving international environmental problems and in implementing international conventions and treaties, such as those concerning transborder pollution. Of the many EU conventions signed, the Aarhus Convention of 1998 pertains to access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. It is a model of participatory governance. And the area of the environment is the first area where participatory governance is being introduced.

Fahri Yucel
Governor of Edirne

Environmental protection and water management are issues of primary concern in cross-border cooperation projects. It is particularly important to develop a network between Turkey and Greece to coordinate efforts and promote joint projects in tourism and development. Our shared geography requires cross border collaboration. The Maritsa river, which comes from Bulgaria and empties into the Saros gulf, forms the natural border between Turkey



It is particularly important to develop a network between the two countries to coordinate efforts and cooperation in tourism and development.

and Greece. Intensive rice growing and the presence of wetlands have resulted in a large mosquito population in the region, especially during the summer season. There has been effective cooperation between Turkey and Greece in solving this problem through negotiations and joint activities.

The other important river in our region is the Ergene. Industrial and domestic waste pollution in the river have prompted the investigation commission of the Turkish National Grand Assembly to prepare a report concerning the pollution of the Ergene river basin and to suggest solutions.

The economic, social, and political conditions that shape environmental decision-making are evolving quickly, and the challenge for good environmental governance has become more complex. In the framework of national decisions and arrangements, the participation of local and regional actors, universities and NGOs in environmental decision-making is important. I believe that the Biopolitics International Organisation and meetings such as this will make a vital contribution to our work in this field.

Iris Senturk
Mayor of Antakya

Culture transcends national borders. In both government and private enterprise, there is no problem that cannot be solved once cooperation has been achieved. Cooperation among nations reaches beyond boundaries. Closer cooperation between Greece and Turkey will benefit both peoples. Elected officials, ambassadors and government agents can all work together to achieve this goal.



My mission as Mayor of Antakya is to protect the environment and the history of the city. I am an environmental specialist by training and I try to implement environmental policy. My first priority was to create urban green spaces and environmentally

There is no problem that cannot be solved once cooperation has been achieved.

friendly housing, as well as open recreational areas for children and their families.

Antakya, one of the most celebrated commercial capitals of the ancient world, has a rich cultural heritage that must be preserved. We have built museums, theatres and cultural centres, with the aim of contributing to our citizens' well-being. For our efforts in this area, we are candidates for UNESCO's City of Peace prize. You are all invited to visit Antakya and get to know the peace-loving nature of our city.



Professor Kelly Bourdara
Deputy Mayor of Athens

In the quest of a new vision in public administration, quality of life, hope and harmony are the building blocks of the environment that we should wish to achieve. Athens is a city with great responsibility. The past, alone, without a good strategy for the present and a vision for the future, cannot lead to the changes we desire. Today, the present is enriched by this meeting, and we would like to work closely with all the participants in the quest for hope and peace.



The environment, as promoted by B.I.O., is the core of a balanced and hopeful society.

The 2004 Olympic Games are a great moment for our city. Athens is preparing a series of initiatives, such as the unification of archaeological sites and the reconstruction of streets and squares. Reformation works in ten streets in the historical centre of Athens are already complete. For the success of the Games, it is necessary to ensure that everyone embraces the environment and includes environmental considerations in their day-to-day activities.

In the context of Olympic values, the city of Athens warmly supports today's meeting of Hellenic-Turkish friendship and cooperation. The environment, as promoted by the Biopolitics International Organisation, can become the core of a balanced and hopeful society.

A society of culture, education and sportsmanship

At the conclusion of the morning session at the Office of the European Parliament, Olympic champion Christos Papanikolaou declared that the Greek Olympic champions fully support the Biopolitics International

Organisation, which they consider a global effort in defence of the environment.

"We support your struggle for a new society, based on models of education and sportsmanship. We would therefore like to pro-

pose a meeting of Greek and Turkish Olympic champions, cultural agents and business leaders, to be held under the B.I.O. auspices in view of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. We would also like to ask the Amb-

sador of Turkey to place this initiative under his aegis. In this way, we hope that we can further promote the ideals of Biopolitics for a better environment and a society of culture, education and sportsmanship."



International cooperation and bio-diplomacy



George Argyropoulos
Chief Technology Officer, Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation
President, Hellas Sat

On behalf of the Chairman and CEO of the Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation, Mr. **Lefteris Antonacopoulos**, I would like to congratulate the B.I.O. President for her vision and tireless efforts for a better future for all. Biopolitics helps in the creation and expression of the common interests of nations by replacing confrontation with cooperation.

The protection of the natural environment has emerged, in recent years, as a primary problem on a global scale, a problem facing international organisations, multinational and large corporations, leaders of great countries as well as everyday people. Hence it is necessary to stress collectivity in the attempt to face these issues. The solution to environmental problems must be based on cooperation and not conflict. This is exactly the essence of biopolitics and bio-diplomacy; to provide an overall and binding framework

of addressing and confronting these problems of the new era. Today, the importance of bio-diplomacy is self-evident, as we have an abundance of international agreements that are binding to states. What is lacking is the building of common interests and a sense of urgency. The rapid growth of information technology and telecommunications provides a solution, by strengthening the role of citizens in decision-making.

In today's world, characterised by complexity and interaction, telecommunications are of vital importance for the development of a healthy environmental conscience. In this context, rapid exchange of information and ideas reinforces and shapes this participatory procedure to the benefit of the environment. By applying all its forces and

Biopolitics helps in the creation and expression of the common interests of nations by replacing confrontation with cooperation.

acknowledging current trends, the Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation is adopting "bio-environmentally friendly" actions in the fields of education, employment and culture.

Alejandro Diaz
Ambassador of Mexico

Mexico, is committed to enhancing environmental protection fully aware of the challenges concerning sustainable development, such as clean water management, forest protection, sound agricultural practices, responsible trade, implementation of renewable energy sources, care of wetlands, effective pollution control and also the

Solutions exist and it is up to us to identify them and to put them into practice through bio-diplomacy.

promotion of ecotourism. We have developed close cooperation with our neighbours in the north and south. The Plan Puebla Panama is a joint effort between Mexico and seven countries of Mesoamerica, from Belize to Panama, to raise the standards of living in these countries. There are many treaties written and signed for a better world, but with two minor inconveniences: developing countries lack the capabilities, the money or the will to enforce the agreements; and some developed nations evade their responsibilities by not ratifying important treaties. In these cases, diplomacy has to intervene to find wise solutions to common problems and restore international cooperation. Solutions exist and it is up to us to identify them and to put them into practice through bio-diplomacy.

Jannie Momberg
Ambassador of South Africa

I would like to thank Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis for her tremendous enthusiasm for Biopolitics and for the dedication to organise this event. It is also a great honour to be here today, under the auspices of my very good friend, the Ambassador of Turkey, Mr. Yigit Alpolgan.

In September 2002, my country, South Africa, hosted a very successful World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. We were proud that our young democracy was given such a huge responsibility and we were pleased when the whole world said "well done." At the conclusion of that conference the delegates issued a joint statement in which they reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development. Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, in

May this symposium be a building block for a better life for all.

1994, you stated that "guaranteeing a better quality of life for every citizen in the world holds the key to our harmonious and peaceful global society in the next millennium." South Africa became free in 1994 and inherited a vast legacy of poverty and crime, but a lot has been achieved since then. Of the 11 million people without clean water, today more than 9 million have access to water.

We know that without sustainable development we will not survive. May this symposium further enhance the growing strength of the relationship between the Hellenic Republic and Turkey and may this be a building block for a better life for all.

Nicholas Papageorgiou
President, Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO

To preserve the environment, in the manner in which the Biopolitics International Organisation envisages, technology and the arts need to join forces and contribute to a society of peace. In many areas throughout the planet, peace remains fragile. Poverty and conflict endanger human safety and dignity, as well as human justice.

The attempt to maintain peace in all dimensions is a continuous challenge for the international community, especially under the conditions of globalisation. We have an obligation to make various efforts to find better and

more adequate ways to deal with these multiple challenges.

This search must be based on universally shared values, while preserving the uniqueness of individuals and civilizations, and must aim at the urgent needs of the less privileged and isolated groups or geographical regions. Firmly bound to democracy, human rights, and basic freedoms, the key to this search is dialogue, as **it is only through dialogue that long-term understanding and peace may be achieved.**

Bio-Diplomacy – an international effort in defence of the environment

There is an ongoing war around us. Polar icecaps are melting, fish populations are declining, water resources are being polluted, soils are eroded, the hole in the ozone layer is increasing in size. Who will stand to profit from this destruction? The enemies are countless, and we cannot face them in isolation.

Governments, multinational corporations and every individual on this planet should join forces and wage war against environmental pollution and abuse.

Bio-diplomacy, as propounded by B.I.O. since its inception in 1985, is an opportunity for the aspirations of sovereign states and civil society

to converge in pursuit of long-term international environmental policy and action. Bio-diplomacy actively supports efforts to maintain biological and cultural diversity and promotes international cooperation in environmental protection to enhance quality of life and strengthen efforts for freedom and peace. AVA



Agriculture and rural development – Soil protection and agrotourism

Professor Ilhami Unver
Faculty of Agriculture
Ankara University

As global population increases, there is a greater demand for food resources. Hence, maintaining productive soils is critical. A healthy soil provides clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive rangeland, diverse wildlife, and beautiful landscapes. Unfortunately, few of us are aware of the fact that it is the soil and the viable biological communities in it which help, not only to ensure long-term rangeland sustainability, but also clean water and clean air.

Soil is a vital implement for agricultural production, yet is increasingly exposed to diffuse or specific attack from a variety of sources, which makes it more vulnerable to degradation. Soil degradation is thus frequent and rapid, whereas the reconstitution process is as slow

as ever, if not impossible. Sustaining the multi-functionality of the soils is a primary principle in soil protection.

Soil protection should be systematically taken into consideration in all other policies, in particular farming, forestry, mining, industry, tourism, transport, urban planning and spatial development policy. Where there is a risk of serious damage to one of the ecological functions of soil and when there is scientific uncertainty as to the extent of future soil deterioration, caution and emergency measures should be adopted where necessary.

Participation is key in any protection policy. Women, local people, landowners and growers are among the primary potential participants. Any decision or operation should be absolutely based on the participation principle. Soil is a vital and largely non-renewable resource and has not been the subject of comprehensive EU action

so far. However, in response to concerns about the degradation of soils in the EU, the European Commission has outlined the first steps in a strategy to protect soils. Protection measures have been given particular importance in the 6th Environment Action Programme, which proposes a new thematic strategy for soil protection, with particular emphasis on reducing soil erosion, soil deterioration, contamination and desertification.

Soil is a repository of natural and human history, and underlies and shapes the landscape. The different sectors using land and soils have had their own policies and strategies on preventing soil degradation. For example, the protection of soils started as a secondary focus in water conservation and waste management. Air pollution control, nature conservation and efforts for the protection of our cultural heritage have also promoted soil protection.

Professor Umit Erden
Director of Environmental Studies
Ege University, Izmir

Anti-life and ad hoc activities have created a wave of extinction in biotic communities. An extinction of habitats by ten to one means an annihilation of biota by 50%. **Land degradation in this sense is "ecocide" and needs to be considered a crime.**

During last two decades, the European continent has lost 5 million hectares of arable land due to degradation from salinisation, physico-chemical and biological factors, erosion, urbanisation and industrialisation. In Izmir, over 5,000 ha are being used for non-agricultural purposes annually. The total cultivated area in 1970 was 30,000 ha, but was reduced to 6,000 ha in 1990 and to nearly 5,000 ha in 2000.

Agrotourism is an alternative activity in the rural development process, which

combines agriculture and tourism, improves natural resources, and contributes to the rural area both socially and economically. The introduction of agricultural activities in urban areas is a way to educate urban people in the contribution of agriculture to quality of life and the economy. More specifically, agrotourism:

- ▶ Helps to protect agricultural areas and the rural landscape.
- ▶ Creates diversity in agriculture and creates job opportunities in rural areas.
- ▶ Provides opportunities for the marketing of agricultural products.
- ▶ Increases the welfare level of the local population.
- ▶ Establishes social and economic relations between urban and rural dwellers and acts as a bridge between rural and urban areas.
- ▶ Meets the tourism and recreation needs of urban people.
- ▶ Improves the respectability of agricultural activity from the urban population's point of view.
- ▶ Educates urban people on the contribution of agricultural activities to the improvement of quality of life and the economy.

Business and the media

George Ioannidis
Managing Director, OTENet

Biopolitics helps us to divert our attention from the human being in the sense of selfish and, quite often, short-sighted pursuit of personal strategies, dismissively referred to as "micro politics" in organisational theory. Conversely, it spurs us to focus on the human being as an integral part of the environment, who can exist within this environment and can perform satisfactorily while, at the same time, respecting it. This approach can lead us to adopt strategies of conscious support of the working and social environment, as well as all types of environment. It can also lead us to a point where the overall benefits are maximized, which is often referred to as a "win-win" situation.

It is this approach of harmonious co-existence and mutual respect that should govern the issues concerning Greece and Turkey. Businesses as well as nations at the government level are bound to find grounds for cooperation based on the concept of mutual benefit. The internet constitutes a new environment and its use can result in restructuring relations in economy, politics and society in general.

Being the leading internet service provider in Greece, OTENet plays a major part in the building of the "information society" and, from a wider perspective, the shaping of a new "digital" environment. This new technology allows small countries, such as Greece, to participate, on equal terms, in the European Union market as well as new global

The internet can render bio-diplomacy a part of a common public sphere, accessible to every citizen.



new ways of approaching art, theatre, music, literature and science, and to conceive global cultural policies encouraging an effective debate with the broadest possible public participation. In the development of these policies, it is essential for natural history museums to take into account the most recent aspects of biology and the environment, as well as the new challenges encountered.

Biopolitics, through its e-learning programmes, can bring Greek and Turkish scientists together in collaboration. It is a great pleasure to be participating in this Hellenic-Turkish symposium, and I would like to thank Ambassador Alpogan, Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis and Professor Keles for their timely initiative.

Stefanos Costopoulos
Chairman, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Viewed as one regional market of more than 115 million people, Southeast Europe is certainly a strong enough magnet for most companies interested in foreign direct investment. This is why the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce has initiated a plan that calls for cooperation among the region's bi-national American Chambers. Under the cooperation agreement, events, presentations, and internet-based resources are in the process of redefining a new market that offers opportunities in almost every sector. Moreover, we have actively encouraged increased trade and investment between Greece and Turkey and have urged businesses in the USA to take note of the huge potential that improved commercial

markets. It also allows other countries, such as Turkey, to take rapid steps towards modernisation and close the gap that sets them apart from the advanced countries of the West.

Bio-diplomacy is the branch of Biopolitics which aims to achieve environmental targets through diplomatic channels. The internet can render bio-diplomacy a part of a common public sphere, accessible to every citizen. Our common problems, which very often relate to the natural environment we all share, bring us together. What we should really be looking for is discussion for joint action for common problems with due respect for the human being and the environment.



relations between the countries of Southeast Europe would bring. In the transportation sector, reconstruction and development plans call for new and improved roads, highways, train lines, airports and sea ports, illustrating the potential for cross-border cooperation.

As Turkey prepares itself for EU membership, it is eligible for a variety of funds to upgrade infrastructure, the environment and its financial systems. Greece, as an EU member, has the experience of knowing the hows and whys of many of these programmes. The USA also offers know-how that is very often the best available.

The current level of trade between Greece and Turkey is 800 million dollars and will soon reach 1 billion dollars. We believe that this level could increase by another 20%, if more synergies are created so that Greece and Turkey become not only trading partners, but trading hubs, transport hubs, and tourism hubs. This can constitute a significant step toward promoting southeast Europe, and giving credibility to a region that deserves the serious attention of foreign investors.

Stathis E. Nazos
CEO, ABN AMRO Asset Management

Business and the media are the reflectors of societal values. The media disseminate information to the public. Their primary objective is to present unbiased information. How can this be achieved? Only if there is a true separation of the media and business. A true separation of the media and business promotes social welfare. In order to enforce this separation, appropriate sets of rules have to be applied, rules that are cross-country, cross border, and independent of cultural biases.



Constantine Kanonis
Chairman, Hellenic-Russian Chamber of Commerce

In the past, environmental considerations were not taken into account by financial institutions. This is why present society is neither as civilised as we imagine nor as healthy as we think.

For many decades we have financed pollution. International organisations have been more responsive with respect to the bio-environment than commercial banks. Today, all international organisations require environmental compliances and assurances for every project they finance. This is true for the World Bank Group, the International Finance Cooperation, EBRD,

Present society is neither as civilised as we imagine nor as healthy as we think.

and others. On the 1st of January 1997, a group of 93 commercial banks formed and signed a declaration on the environment and sustainable development. I am very proud that my bank, the Commercial Bank of Greece, or Emporiki Bank, has joined, following my suggestion, this visionary group of banks.



Panayotis Koutsikos
Chairman, Hellenic-Turkish Chamber of Commerce

Commercial relations between Greece and Turkey have greatly improved over the past four years. In 1999, business transactions between the two countries totalled 200 million dollars and reached 1.2 billion dollars by 2003. A treaty cancelling double taxation further enhanced commercial relations between the two countries.

However, economic development is inadvertently related to environmental problems. It is important to note that an agreement between Greece and Turkey, regarding environmental protection in the Aegean Sea area and providing for the governments and authorities of both countries to cooperate in environmental protection, is one of nine bilateral agreements signed in the framework of the improvement of Hellenic-Turkish relations and cooperation.

We cannot allow further squandering of natural resources. The diplomatic communities of both countries, together with the Biopolitics International Organisation, could cooperate in the organisation of seminars to inform industrialists and business executives on how to avoid development that harms the environment.



Environmental education

Professor Berna Alpogut
*Faculty of Letters
 Ankara University*

Bio-education is a bridge of cooperation between all peoples of the world and, in this context, the role of natural history museums in the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage is crucial.

Natural history museums have the possibility to invent new ways of approaching art, theatre, music, literature and science, and to conceive global cultural policies encouraging an effective debate with the broadest possible public participation. In the development of these policies, it is essential for natural history museums to take into account the most recent aspects of biology and the environment, as well as the new challenges encountered.

Biopolitics, through its e-learning programmes, can bring Greek and Turkish scientists together in collaboration. It is a great pleasure to be participating in this Hellenic-Turkish symposium, and I would like to thank Ambassador Alpogan, Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis and Professor Keles for their timely initiative.



Professor Christos Halkias
Dean, Athens Information Technology Center

Following the problems created by our permissive and consumer societies, what we really need is a "good society." In order to create a good society we must accept the following: Real fulfilment in life will come from striving with all of our physical and spiritual might for a worthwhile objective that helps others and that is larger than self-interest. We must also use our education, talent, and energy to build a world

Professor Ersi Abatzi Kalfoglu
Istanbul University

The environment controls our behaviour both socially and genetically. Behaviour, however, can often be criminal. The importance of international cooperation in organised crime prevention is a vital concern of modern



community that considers knowledge a gift to be shared, a healthy planet a place to be cherished, and human dignity and opportunity fundamental conditions to be enjoyed by all people. To achieve this goal, we need creative ideas, high technology infrastructure, risk capital and passion.

em society. Within the framework of European integration, Greece and Turkey can work together to combat crime and improve quality of life.

Via education, universities in both countries can be key players in this endeavour, and international cooperation can be maximally beneficial. This cooperation is a potential reserve for the future of the region. Understanding through education can help to overcome even the most negative stereotypes. In fact, cooperation at every level is the only solution to enable us to strengthen peace.

Professor Nicholas Markatos
f. Rector, National Technical University of Athens

As a scientist extensively involved in pollution research, I can affirm that pollution is an international problem and provides fertile ground for the development of bio-diplomacy.

Technology is neither good nor evil. Globalisation entails the problems of expansionism and, to counter this threat, a new culture and way of life above and beyond technology are needed.

Cooperation between Greece and Turkey is vital in this effort, and Greek-Turkish friendship is something to which I fully ascribe.



Professor Zafar Erturk
Rector, Eastern Mediterranean University

We are living in an old world with all its offerings. People who deal with the environment generally take into account only physical changes, biological features and other such factors. However, we must not forget that we also live in a cultural and a social environment. Most probably, these aspects of the environment are more important than the ones which define its physical features.

Architecture and environmental issues are the most convenient subject for international cooperation on the road to European Union ideals. **An open European area for higher learning carries a wealth of positive perspectives,** which respect diversity but which also require a continuous effort to remove barriers and to develop a framework for teaching and learning that enhances close cooperation. There are numerous projects that could be implemented, and we could all work together to enhance cooperation and create a better future. We are all on the same road for a new and better world.

