

Welcome remarks (Day 1) by Lenia Vlavianou, Co-Chief Public Affairs Officer

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's Board of Directors and three of its members, who are present here today, as well as all of our colleagues, we would like to welcome you to the *Recharging the Youth* conference. As all of you know, this is an international conference on the critical global issue of youth unemployment and the need for collective action, organized by our Foundation, in collaboration with the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

The idea for this conference emerged last October, when the Foundation announced a new grant initiative of 100 million euros, above and beyond our regular activities, in an effort to help address, to the degree possible, the crippling effects of a soaring unemployment rate for the young, by creating new employment opportunities for Greece's younger generation.

Youth unemployment is a rising global concern. This two-day conference brings together a group of distinguished speakers and panelists. This is an effort to identify, as a Foundation, potential areas for our involvement, through the funding of pilot programs in Greece, but also to discuss and try to understand the issue at a global level

We will start our day with a keynote speech by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, followed by two consecutive plenary sessions. We will then break for lunch, which will be served in the adjacent room, and return to this room for the afternoon sessions at 14.00 o' clock in the afternoon. Two more plenary sessions will then follow, and we will conclude for the day at around 18.00.

At this point, I would like to inform you of a change in the schedule. Due to unexpected scheduling conflicts, the Minister of Tourism of Greece, Mrs. Olga Kefalogianni, who was originally scheduled to speak at the conclusion of the second day, will instead close the conference's first day.

As you may have noticed in the conference's program, the schedule is very tight, and we would like to ask everyone to join us in making an effort to stick to the times indicated within.

Before we start, I would like to thank on behalf of all of us at the Foundation, our Board of Directors, for the inspiration and leadership behind this and all other initiatives of the SNF; and I would also like to particularly thank my colleague and friend, Stelios Vasilakis, who organized this conference with great care, effort, and wisdom.

To mark the opening of the conference, I would now like to invite Mr. Andreas Dracopoulos, Co-President of the Foundation's Board of Directors, to give the introductory remarks.

Thank you.

Welcome remarks (Day 2) by Lenia Vlavianou, Co-Chief Public Affairs Officer

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the 2nd day of the Recharging the Youth international conference, which is organized by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, in collaboration with the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Most of you attended yesterday's sessions, and hopefully you gained an appreciation of what this conference aspires to do. We heard many insightful presentations on the current state of affairs in Europe and globally, and we also began to identify the specific issues facing Greece's youth.

Today, we will be focusing on potential tangible solutions. More specifically, the Foundation, in collaboration with several notable partners has begun an effort to identify three main areas for potential intervention. These include entrepreneurship, agriculture, and cultural tourism, and they are the topics that we will mostly be looking into during today's proceedings.

But before we start with today's plenary sessions, we are very happy and honored to have with us to mark the beginning of the conference's second day, Mr. Mike Lazaridis, the Managing Partner of Quantum Valley Investments, and Founder of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics.

Mr. Lazaridis, a passionate advocate for the power of science to improve the world, widely also known as founder of Blackberry and the Blackberry device, will discuss today *the Importance of a Math and Science Culture in Today's Technology Driven Economy*.

Mr Lazaridis, the floor is yours.

Thank you.