

Financial Technology: Advances and Challenges

February 3, 2020

Venue

ECALI CLUB

15, Lofou Str, Ecali, 145 78, Greece

Entry Requirement: Passport / ID Card

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Programme

Admission of invited delegates opens at 17:00

18:00 **Opening Remarks**

Professor George Skiadopoulos, Director, Institute of Finance and Financial Regulation, University of Piraeus & Queen Mary University of London

Ms Vasiliki Lazarakou, Chair of the Hellenic Capital Market Commission

Presentations Session

18:10 **Financial Innovation**

Professor David Gershon, Director of the Fintech Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

18:30 **Digital Assets**

Dr Dimitrios Kavvathas, CIO Harmony Advisors Limited & **IF^R**

18:50 **Digital Transformation in Financial Services**

Mr Sotiris Syrmakizis, Senior Advisor, Bioiatriki Healthcare Group

19:10 **FinTech in the European Union**

Ms Eva Kaili, Chair of the Future of Science & Technology Panel in the European Parliament

19:30 **Q&A Session**

moderated by Professor George Skiadopoulos

19:50 **Cocktails**

Speakers' bios

Professor David Gershon is the founder of the new Gershon Fintech Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Prof. Gershon is a 25 year expert in the FinTech industry and is viewed by many as one of the leading experts in FinTech in Israel. In 1999, while leaving in London, he founded SuperDerivatives which became one of the global leading vendors in derivatives and financial data. Gershon was CEO and Chairman of SuperDerivatives until its acquisition by the Intercontinental Exchange in 2014. Prior to SuperDerivatives, Gershon had a rich career as a trader on Wall Street and in the City of London, and his last role was Global Head of Exotic Options at Barclays Capital in their London headquarter. Prof. Gershon has been awarded numerous awards, such as CEO of the Year by Acquisition International in 2016, and ranked among the Top 50 most influential people in Financial Technology by the Institutional Investor magazine from 2004 to 2015 consecutively. In 2016, he was declared one of the “Game Changers” in the financial industry by Finance Monthly magazine, stating that “Gershon is the person that brought transparency into the options and transformed the options market”. In 2012, he was included to the Market Data Hall of Fame by Incisive Data magazine. Prof. Gershon is among the world experts in option models and pricing. In 2016, he published a universal model for option pricing which reflects option pricing in all asset classes (currencies, interest rates, commodities and equities) remarkably.



Ms Eva Kaili is a Member of the European Parliament, part of the Hellenic S&D Delegation since 2014. She is the Chair of the Future of Science and Technology Panel in the European Parliament (STOA), Member of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee (ITRE) and substitute member of the Committee on Budgets (BUDG). In her capacity, she has been working intensively on promoting innovation as a driving force of the establishment of the European Digital Single Market. She has been the draftsperson of multiple pieces of legislation in the fields of Blockchain technology, online platforms, big data, Fintech, AI and Cyber security for ECON, as well as the ITRE draftsperson on Juncker plan EFSI 2 and more recently the Invest EU program. She is Digital leader at World Economic Forum, and the founder of the Future Forum, a network of influential politicians, officials and public figures promoting innovation. As a high ranking and influential MEP, she is often invited to talk for her work in important conferences, and



academic institutions world widely. She is substitute member of the Delegation to the NATO PA in the European Parliament, focusing on Defence and Security of Europe, and also of the Delegation with relations with the Arab Peninsula. Prior to that, she has been elected as a Member of the Hellenic Parliament 2007-2012, with the PanHellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK). She also worked as a journalist and newscaster prior to her political career. She holds a Bachelor degree in Architecture and Civil Engineering, and Postgraduate degree in European Politics.

Dimitrios Kavvathas is the chief investment officer of Harmony Advisors Limited, a Hong Kong-based SFC-licensed asset management company. He is also the founder and executive chairman of Nomisma, a trustless trading platform powered by innovative financial engineering and blockchain smart contract technology that allows users to comprehensively manage digital asset risk. Dimitrios joined Harmony in June 2016, and is responsible for its discretionary investment mandates including an in-house multi-strategy hedge fund, managed accounts, private equity, venture capital, and special situations. Furthermore, Dimitrios oversees the firm's global asset allocation framework, as well as fundamental and quantitative research efforts across all assets. Prior to Harmony and Nomisma, Dimitrios worked at Noble Group as co-head of financial services, where he was responsible for structured finance, commodity enhanced finance and origination. He also briefly served as Asia Pacific head of global markets for VTB Capital. Dimitrios joined Goldman Sachs in 2001 and was promoted to managing director in 2005, making partner in 2008. He served on several senior positions including co-head of Asia Pacific Securities Division Distribution, and member of the Operating Committee. He was also a member of the Asia Pacific Risk Committee, the Global Firmwide New Activity Committee, the Global Firmwide Asset & Liability Committee, and the Goldman Sachs Asia LLC Board of Directors. Dimitrios holds a B.Sc. in economics from Athens University of Economics and Business, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago. Since 2013, he has been appointed Adjunct Professor at the School of Economics and Finance at the University of Hong Kong. He is also an **IFR** Fellow.



Mr Sotiris Syrmakezis is the Senior Advisor on Customer Experience & Digital Transformation at Bioiatriki Healthcare Group, and the Digital Strategist at CrossBorderMedCare Hellas, the International Patient Center of Bioiatriki Healthcare Group. In parallel, he serves as Senior Advisor at Verge.Capital and works as an Academic Instructor at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, implementing the e-Learning programs “Fintech & Digital Transformation in Financial Services” and “Digital Business Transformation”. Recently, he was the Chief Retail, Digital & Technology Officer at Praxia Bank. Previously, he worked for 2.5 years at Eurobank, as General Manager, Group Chief Digital & Technology Officer. Before that, he worked for 15.5 years at Piraeus Bank Group, as General Manager of Retail Banking (2012-2015), Deputy General Manager of Electronic Business (2008-2012) and Electronic Banking Director (winbank) (2000-2008). He started his career in Egnatia Bank, where he worked for 9 years, the last 4 of which as a CIO. He holds a degree in Computer Science from the University of Crete, and he is currently completing the Master in Technology and Innovation Management in the Technical University of Crete.



About the Institute of Finance and Financial Regulation

The Institute of Finance and Financial Regulation (**IF^FR**) is an international non-profit academic Research Centre founded under the auspices of the University of Piraeus. Its board of Fellows consists of world renowned academics and professionals from leading universities, and corporate institutions across the globe.

Its vision is *Access-Connect-Share*: it accesses cutting edge research, connects academia with the industry, and shares the acquired knowledge.

IF^FR conducts high quality applied research, organises events on timely topics, it provides executive training both on a publicly announced, as well as on a bespoke in-house basis, and it delivers project-based consulting services. You can find more information at www.iffr.gr