

Special Secretary for Competitiveness: <b>Eleftherios Stavropoulos</b>
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Born in Athens in 1970. Studied European and International Studies in the School of Political Science and Public Administration at the National Capodistrian University of Athens and then took a postgraduate degree (M.Sc. in European Studies) at the London School of Economics, specializing in Cohesion Policy issues.

**Previous employment**

Mr. Stavropoulos has considerable experience in the management of European Programmes and in issues of regional policy, having worked from October 2005 until December 2007, when he was appointed Special Secretary for Competitiveness at the Ministry of Development, in Brussels (Permanent Representation to the E.U.) as Greece's representative to the European Union on Regional Policy and Structural Fund issues. He represented our country in negotiations between the Council of Ministers, the European Commission and European Parliament on the Interinstitutional Agreement on the Financial Perspective 2007-2013, and also in negotiations on Structural Fund regulations and Strategic Guidelines for Cohesion for the new programming period (2007-2013), which have formed the basis for planning of the NSRF and the Operational Programmes. Finally, he took part in the negotiating team securing approval, by the European Commission, for the sectoral and regional operational programmes for the period 2007-2013 and in the negotiations for revision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CSF.

During his service he has been actively engaged in close collaboration with his counterparts from other EU member states and with representatives of all the various bodies of the European Union, including the Committee of Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament. He has also worked hard to strengthen links between the Greek authorities and the departments of the European Commission, helping to provide systematic and effective support for Greek positions at all levels.

From March 2004 to October 2005 he worked as an advisor to the political leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the financial perspective negotiations (securing resources for the 4<sup>th</sup> CSF), liaising between the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which shared responsibility for the negotiations, while also taking part in numerous delegations abroad to forge the necessary alliances. At the same time, from September 2004 he was director of the private office of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs responsible for European issues.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs he was also involved in briefing and information in respect of the 'European Constitution', the promotion of Trans-European Networks of special importance to Greece, and the restructuring and consolidation of the expert institutions overseen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Greek Centre for European Studies & International Centre for Black Sea Region Studies) etc.

From June 2000 to March 2004 he worked as a Specialist in Management of European Programmes in the Region of the Southern Aegean. He was involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the Southern Aegean Regional Operational Programme and in the promotion and publicity for the Programme. He was a member of the

committee which compiled and monitored execution of the Business Plan for the Information Society in the Southern Aegean, and then member of the Support Consultants Coordinating Committee for Information Society actions (SESY KtP) in the Southern Aegean, where he assisted with the support and briefing of potential local final beneficiaries in implementation of EU co-funded actions in the Information Society and innovation sectors (new technologies in marine transport, education, public administration, tele-medicine). At the same time he was also involved in the development of the Region's international relations, was part of the team drawing up the Programme for Cross-Border Greek-Turkish Cooperation, and represented the Region at the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions and on the Balkan Region sub-committee. He was also coordinator of the first competitive programme in which the Region of the Southern Aegean ever participated, the DIAS Net, in the context of the 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Technology, involving the creation of an electronic open software platform for promotion of cooperation among the island regions of the EU in Information Society issues.

Earlier he worked as a specialist associate at the Mediterranean Studies Institute (1999-2000) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1997-2000).

His working career began while he was still a student, when he was employed as a research assistant at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy – ELIAMEP (1990-1994). During his postgraduate studies he worked at the Health Institute of the London School of Economics (1994-1995).

### **Publications**

*Trans-European Networks and their Impact on European Integration*, London, Sep. 1995. London School of Economics

### **Distinctions**

Scholarship from the German Marshall Fund of the United States – Young European Leaders Programme 2002

### **Languages**

Excellent command of English, good knowledge of French and rudimentary German.

### **Marital Status**

Married since 2003 to physician and radiologist Xenia Orfanou.