

# SEC4BLUEconomy<sup>24</sup>

Athens - 23 April - Greece

Maritime, SAR, Offshore Infrastructure, Ports, Marinas

## PRESS RELEASE

The 1st Conference, **#SEC4BLUEconomy24** was held at The Golden Age Hotel of Athens, on April 23rd.

The conference dealt with the Security of the Blue Economy, in economic activities Above & Below the sea. Security for Maritime (Shipping, Cruise, Luxury), Coastal & Offshore Critical Infrastructure (such as Oil/Natural Gas Activities, Wind & Wave Farms, Subsea Pipelines, Power & Telecommunications Cables, Aquaculture farms), Ports, Marinas as well as Search & Rescue Operations in corresponding cases of crises.

The Welcome Address was delivered by the Deputy Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, Rear Admiral HN Georgios Floros on behalf of General Dimitrios Choupis, Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff and Vice Admiral HN Dimitrios -Eleftherios Kataras, Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff.

Among others, he pointed out the urgent need to reinforce the Importance of Maritime Critical Infrastructure, either coastal/offshore or Underwater, in the Maritime Environment, ensuring the uninterrupted flow of resources, goods, energy, information, which are crucial for the prosperity and welfare of modern society.

It is important for Nations to develop national strategies and legal frameworks for the protection of Maritime Critical Infrastructure, in cooperation with organizations, like NATO and the EU. In order to present more robust results, a multi-layered approach should be developed that consists of International Cooperation, Technology Solutions, Legal and Regulatory Measures and Incident Response and Recovery Plans.

Based on all the above, the Hellenic Navy's goal is to engage in Maritime Peacetime Vigilance activities across our Area of Responsibility and therefore to contribute in the protection of all the Maritime Critical Infrastructures of interest. At the same time, it executes national missions and exercises, by operating ships and surveillance system, 24/7, 365 days, in order to ensure a constant and reliable Maritime Domain Awareness, while participating in the operations of international organizations, like NATO, EU and UN , e.g. ASPIDES-IRINI etc. contributing not only Nation's Safety, but also for the sake of international Maritime Security.

The program had multi-faceted and varied presentations-placements, all equally important for the activation in cooperation of all those who are active and invest in the Marine environment, to face the current and future security challenges on the occasion of the upcoming economic-energy-tourism synergies in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The conference was held with the kind sponsorship of Téthys Naval, the UnderSec Horizon project, with representative the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering of the University of Western Attica and the company Manibus, the European project ODYSSEUS with representative the company TELESTO Technologies and finally of ETME Engineering Solutions.

Their support for the success of the conference, also provided by the Hellenic Navy, the Maritime Security and Surveillance division (DG MARE.A.3) of the European Commission, the Maritime Security Sector (MD-PSD.SECDEFPOL.6.SEC1) of the European External Action Service, the Hellenic Institute of Strategic Studies, the Association of Banking & Financial Executives of Hellenic Shipping, the IMRF-International Maritime Rescue Federation, the Information Technologies Institute of the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas-CERTH, the Defense Standardization Advice and last but not least the Intelligence division of the Allied Maritime Command of NATO.

The conference had a multi-faceted audience from almost all the above stakeholders, there was multi-layered information creating fruitful, constructive dialogue and most important of all to achieve the common above goal, PHYSICAL NETWORKING.