

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From Capitol Hill to a Maryland Research Farm Greek Envoy Crosses Five States to Build the Bridge to WGES Global Athens 2026 in October

WGES Global hosted a working tour connecting Greek sustainability, agriculture, healthy buildings and investment initiatives with U.S. institutions and businesses — laying the groundwork for tangible U.S.–Greece partnerships ahead of October’s Symposium in Athens.

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 30, 2026 — Well before international leaders gather in Athens for the WGES Global™ International Symposium & Expo, October 6–8, 2026, the WGES Global platform is already generating the kind of cross-border engagement the Symposium is designed to accelerate. Dr. Konstantine (Kostas) Mastorakis, DVM, traveled to the United States for a WGES Global-hosted five-state working mission focused on exploring tangible U.S.–Greece collaboration in sustainable agriculture, healthy and high-performance buildings, advanced construction and redevelopment, investment, innovation and economic development.

The mission moved through Washington, D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, connecting Greek initiatives with U.S. institutions, technical experts, businesses, investors and potential project partners. The significance of the visit was not ceremonial: substantive project discussions began before the Athens Symposium itself, demonstrating how WGES Global uses its international network to connect participants, expertise and opportunities and to build a foundation for outcomes.

“What impressed me most during this U.S. visit was that WGES Global did not simply arrange meetings — we sat directly with people who have the expertise, institutional experience and ability to help move projects forward,” said Dr. Konstantine (Kostas) Mastorakis, DVM, envoy from Greece for Church project in Athens and Hellenic Parliament projects, Vice President of Nationale Piloti (Formula 1 non-profit), President of Safe-Drive, WGES Global Athens 2026 Ambassador and Co-Host of the WGES Global NOVA Awards. *“From sustainable agriculture and healthy buildings to advanced construction, investment and government engagement, I saw firsthand the strength of the relationships WGES Global has built in the United States. Greece has an important opportunity to connect with this network in Athens.”*

From Research and Agriculture to Capitol Hill

A major component of the working mission was a visit to the University of the District of Columbia College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (UDC CAUSES) Firebird Research Farm in Maryland. Hosted by Dr. Sabine O'Hara, Distinguished Professor and founding Dean of UDC CAUSES, discussions focused on sustainable agriculture, food systems, environmental stewardship, eco-development and potential U.S.–Greece academic and applied collaboration. The delegation examined the Firebird model and its potential relevance to initiatives under consideration in Greece.

The Washington program also included a special visit to the United States Capitol arranged through the office of a Pennsylvania U.S. Senator. Discussions included university collaboration and broader U.S.–Greece initiatives, followed by a special Capitol tour for Dr. Mastorakis and his WGES Global hosts.

Healthy Buildings, Advanced Construction and Investment

Dr. Mastorakis met with leading U.S. experts in healthy and high-performance buildings, including Kevin Kampschroer, whose nearly five decades of federal service included leadership as Chief Sustainability Officer and in the U.S. General Services Administration's Office of Federal High-Performance Buildings, and Kinga Hydras, an ASHRAE Fellow with extensive federal experience in building modernization, energy efficiency and high-performance infrastructure. Both are scheduled to participate in WGES Global Athens 2026.

Additional working sessions explored advanced construction technologies, housing and redevelopment applications, and potential U.S.–Greece investment and development opportunities. Together, the meetings reflected the WGES model: identify credible opportunities, connect them with relevant expertise and institutions, and create a pathway for continued evaluation and collaboration.

“This is exactly why WGES Global was created,” said Professor Robert J. Gallagher, President and Executive Chairman of WGES Global, Inc. “Our objective has always been to bring the right expertise together around real challenges and opportunities and provide an environment where knowledge can move toward action. The fact that substantive U.S.–Greece project discussions are already occurring before Athens demonstrates the potential of this platform. October should not be the beginning or the end of these relationships — it should accelerate them.”

Convening the Right People — Through the Right Channels

WGES Global's role is to convene and facilitate, while respecting established governmental, institutional, trade and regulatory protocols. The organization brings the appropriate trade experts, agencies, technical leaders, academic institutions, businesses and decision-making leadership around the table so that opportunities can be discussed with the people and institutions responsible for evaluating and advancing them through the proper channels.

Extending the Bridge Beyond the Meeting Room

Alongside the working meetings, WGES Global organized a cultural and relationship-building program introducing Dr. Mastorakis to significant **American landmarks and communities**. In **Washington, D.C.**, in addition to the U.S. Capitol and Firebird Research Farm visits, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. the program also included the National Mall, Smithsonian museums and other historic sites. In **Philadelphia**, Dr. Mastorakis hosts had tours arranged at Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and the Benjamin Franklin Museum before continuing to **New York City**, where the itinerary included the Financial District, Midtown Manhattan, Rockefeller Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral and other landmarks. In addition, internationally acclaimed **Greek Chef Maria Loi**, restaurateur, author, television personality, and **Global Ambassador of Greek Gastronomy**, hosted Dr. Mastorakis and WGES Global leadership at her **“Loi Estiatorio” Manhattan restaurant**, providing another important connection to the Greek-American community. He also met with **Loula Loi Alafoyiannis, Founder and President of the Euro-American Women's Council (EAWC)**, prominent Greek-American, who has dedicated her career to empowering women and mentoring youth and whose **Global Goddess Artemis Awards** have recognized distinguished international leadership from Greece, United States, and around the world for decades.

An Established U.S. Platform Since 2009

Founded in the United States in 2009, WGES Global is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational and collaborative platform with an established record of convening government, academia, industry and international leadership around sustainability, public health, infrastructure, innovation and economic development. Across its U.S. symposiums, executive forums and leadership programs, WGES has engaged White House and federal leadership, governors, ambassadors and representatives from agencies including the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Commerce/U.S. Commercial Service and U.S. General Services Administration.

Corporate and academic participation across the WGES platform has included internationally recognized organizations and institutions such as Dow, Siemens, IBM, GE, Johnson Controls, AECOM, SAIC, BAE Systems, the University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School, Drexel University, Temple University, the University of the District of Columbia and CUNY. Programs have been held in major governmental, convention

and academic settings in Washington, Philadelphia and New York, building a network designed to connect knowledge with implementation.

Athens 2026: The Next Stage of Collaboration

WGES Global™ International Symposium & Expo – Athens 2026 will take place October 6–8 in Athens, bringing together government, academia, industry, science, technology, finance and international leadership. The University of West Attica serves as Academic Coordinator. The Executive Leadership Forums and Master Class Series span six integrated areas: Sustainable & Healthy Buildings; Clean Energy, Energy Security & Blue Economy; Geospatial Intelligence, Climate Resilience & Disaster Preparedness; Public Health, Digital Health & Healthy Communities; Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems; and Circular Economy, Urban Sustainability & Economic Development.

On the evening of October 7, the WGES Global™ NOVA Awards will recognize distinguished leadership and measurable achievement in sustainability, innovation, public health, education and international collaboration.

“Since 2009, WGES Global has remained a nonprofit, nonpartisan platform dedicated to educational and collaborative exchange with a focus on outcomes,” said Daisy Gallagher, Executive Lead, U.S.–Greece Organizing Team, WGES Global, Inc. “An important part of that mission is respecting established institutional and governmental protocols and bringing the appropriate trade experts, agencies, technical leaders and decision-makers to the table. WGES Global creates the environment for the right people to exchange knowledge, identify opportunities and build relationships — while ensuring that projects and collaborations move forward through the appropriate channels. Athens 2026 continues that approach, with the goal of turning meaningful dialogue into partnerships, projects and measurable results.”

Attend. Exhibit. Sponsor. Connect.

For companies, universities, public institutions, innovators, investors and international organizations, Athens 2026 offers an opportunity to enter a cross-sector network where relationships can begin before the event and continue well beyond it. Attendees can engage with leaders across disciplines; exhibitors can place technologies, services and solutions before potential partners and decision-makers; and sponsors can align with an established international platform focused on practical collaboration and outcomes.

Registration, exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities are open now. For the latest program, speakers, participation opportunities and tickets, visit www.wgesglobal.com.

ABOUT WGES GLOBAL

WGES Global, Inc. is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan educational and collaborative convening platform founded in 2009. Its mission is to bring together government, academia, industry, science, finance, nonprofit and international leadership to exchange knowledge, build strategic relationships and advance practical solutions that strengthen economies and create healthier, more sustainable and resilient communities.

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