

Sisterhood Agreement between the ACCI and the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce



The signing of the “Sisterhood Agreement” between the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce of New York made the collaboration between the two chambers official. The agreement was signed on December 2, 2020, during the international online event titled “Exports turn Crisis into Opportunity”, which was jointly organized by the Panhellenic Exporters Association of Greece and the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce of New York, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Development and Investment, and the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Sisterhood Agreement was signed by the Presidents of the two Chambers, Constantine Michalos and Markos Drakotos, while the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce of New York was represented in Athens by Antonis Kontomichalos. The collaboration between the two Chambers aims at the joint promotion of Greek and Greek-American entrepreneurship and industry, the organisation and promotion of common events between the two entities, and, in general, the development of Greek and Greek-American interests, both economically

and culturally.

During the event, Mr. Michalos talked about the role of Chambers and the contribution of small and medium-sized enterprises to the economy’s recovery. More specifically, among other things, he said that, “In the past few years, despite an adverse environment, the Greek economy has been gradually, albeit steadily, becoming more extrovert. Today, Greek exports depend on a small number of large enterprises: approximately 270 enterprises account for 50% of exports, while the five largest cover 25.9% of total exports.

“Therefore, the key to boosting the extroversion of the Greek economy is strengthening and supporting the export activity of small and medium-sized enterprises. Which also face the greatest obstacles to their extrovert growth, because of their lack of critical mass and appropriate skills, as well as due to networking and information access difficulties etc.

“I would say that the Chambers of Commerce and Industry are engaged in a major struggle in this field. A struggle for supporting small and medium-sized exporters, through the development of targeted actions and services. But also through the submission of specific proposals and demands to the State.”