

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

# Axia Ventures Group supports the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference in Athens

Athens, Greece – December 5, 2012 – The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce annual events have become synonymous with the best in their class business conferences in Greece. The 23<sup>rd</sup> such event proved to be no different. Suitably entitled 'The Greek Economy: State Reform—The Cornerstone for Investment and Development', the conference took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of December at the Athenaeum Intercontinental hotel and proved to be a renowned success with over 400 attendees marking their presence.

Introduction and opening remarks were made by a number of influential speakers, including His Excellency Daniel Bennett Smith, the Ambassador of the United States of America to Greece; Evangelos Venizelos, President of PASOK party; and Christos Staikouras, Greece's Alternate Finance Minister, among others. The conference was then followed by presentations and panel discussions extending into a range of sessions: 'Major State Reforms as a Prerequisite for Attracting Investment in Greece', 'Helping Greece Addressing its Challenges', 'The Greek Economy and the Role of the Banking Sector in the Development of Greece', 'Major Business Opportunities for Investing in Greece', 'The Potential for Economic Development through Energy and Mining in Greece', 'Connecting Education with the Business Environment' and 'the Strategic Plan for Tourism Development in Greece'. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the conference was the caliber of the speakers, which included Antonis Manitakis, Greece's Minister of Administrative Reform and E-Governance; Her Excellency Jenny Bloomfield, the Ambassador of Australia to Greece; George Mavraganis, Greece's Deputy Minister of Finance; Gabriele Giudice, European Commission's Head of Unit Greece; Kostis Hatzidakis, Greece's Minister of Development; Socratis Lazaridis, Chairman of the Athens Exchange; Mathios Rigas, Chairman and CEO of Energean Oil and Gas; Konstantinos Arvanitopoulos, Greece's Minister of Education and Culture; and Olga Kefalogianni, Minister of Tourism.

Two of the conference sessions were further empowered by the presence of delegates from Axia Ventures Group ("AVG") and its partner Houlihan Lokey. Antonios Achilleoudis, Group Managing Director of AVG, was one of the speakers of the session 'Major Business Opportunities for Investing in Greece', while Michael Fazio, Managing Director of Houlihan Lokey, was a speaker at 'The Greek Economy and the Role of the Banking Sector in the Development of Greece'.

The quality of the event was truly brought to light on the second day, which was concluded with a dinner, during which Antonis Samaras, Prime Minister of Greece, was the keynote speaker. A high-powered delegation of institutional investors including GSO Capital Partners LP, Monarch Alternative Capital LP, Perry Capital, Third Point LLC and York Capital Management had the opportunity to listen to the Prime Minister at the invitation of AVG.



The underlying importance of the event was highlighted by AVG's Antonios Achilleoudis who stated: "The annual events of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce have become points of reference for the business and investment worlds in Greece and abroad. Our decision to support the event this year reflects our underlying belief of the opportunities offered by Greece, as these are also understood by the investors who have chosen to accept our invitation and be present at the event. We look forward to further cooperating with the right agents in Greece and abroad with the aim of supporting the efforts of the country in its path to stability".

# **About Axia Ventures Group Ltd**

Axia Ventures Group ("AVG") is a privately-owned investment banking boutique providing financial advisory and capital market-related services to corporate and institutional clients. AVG is headquartered in Nicosia, Cyprus, regulated by the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (License No: 086/07) and fully licensed to provide financial advisory services in significant financial markets around the world. AVG is focused in Greece, Cyprus and the broader region. AVG has presence in Athens (Branch), New York (subsidiary) and also maintains a representative office in London. For more information on AVG and its services, you can visit the AVG website at <a href="http://www.axiavg.com/">http://www.axiavg.com/</a>

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