The Hellenic- African Chamber Commerce and Development was created 23 years ago by our esteem President Dr Sotiris Mousouris and the then Ambassador of S Africa Mr. Jacobs, who responded on the issue brought to them by a woman Mrs Helen Vassos hon Consul of Mauritious when she realized the difficulty we all African missions had at the time to draw the attention of the greek community to Africa, as Balkan Countries were the prime focus, due to their vicinity to Greece.

So, the Hellenic African Chamber of Commerce and Development was established and it has succeeded not only to promote trade development and co-operation between Greece and the African continent but also to assist the individual African countries which on their own did not have the resources to develop the opportunities for economic co-operation and development that existed.

The HACCD has been instrumental not only in promoting trade between Greece and the African nations but it has achieved in strengthening further the cultural ties between Greece and Africa. Take the African Cultural Festival of Athens which takes place every year since 2002 and people have embraced it so well and look forward to it by introducing it to the younger generations which get acquainted to the rich tradition of arts crafts, food and music.

Our Chamber has been working closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs promoting business diplomacy and is much more than a platform for business.

We are honored to have Dr Mousouris as president, a man of dedication and love for Africa. He has visited 15 Subsaharan countries as Special Envoy of the Greek government, a Doctor of Business Administration from Harvard Business School) who has served as Assistant Secretary General of the UN dealt with African issues ( Integration of West Africa, special economic assistance. Centre against apartheid.) He was honored by the President Mbeki : He is Grand Companion Oliver Tambo! We are very fortunate indeed.

A very important issue is that our Chamber is a member of the European Business Council for Africa, based in Brussels, which is made of chambers of 11 european countries active in Africa and among other organizing business missions and communicating with the relevant branches of the European Commission.

·Our 250 members are companies with trade and investment activities in sub-Saharan Africa or businessmen keen to do so.

·We provide information, advice and assistance to interested entrepreneurs, organize meetings, briefings, conferences, facilitate contacts, exchanges, business missions and events such as the 2006 two day conference Africa Days with the participation of ministers of 7 African countries.

·The promotion of greek business activities, particularly exports , imports and investment supports the governmental efforts for extroversion and for mutually beneficial economic links between the Sub Saharan countries and Greece.

Last our Chamber amongst others has co organized seminars and webinars in Crete, Korinthos, Thessaloniki and business missions to several African Countries.

Wishing all of us a successful event and we thank the President and EVEA members for the hospitality and continued close cooperation.

We thank you all,

Terina Armenakis

Vice President of the HACCD