




BRIEFING NOTE: Maria DAMANAKI

Name	 Maria Damanaki
First time Commissioner?	Yes
Date of Hearing	Tuesday January 19 18.00-21.00
Country	Greece
Political Party	Panhellenic Socialist Movement (S&D)
Previous Greek Commissioner	Stavros Dimas
Portfolio	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Services	DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE); Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA).
Personal details	Born in Crete – Greece, 1952 Divorced Three children: Thodoris, 21, Heleni, 21 and Marianna, 15
Current duties	Chairperson of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense (2009)
Political career	<p>Political career:</p> <p>Active in the underground student opposition to the dictatorship in Greece (1970-1974). Played a leading role in the coordination of its activities. During the 3 days of the popular uprising against the dictatorship, known as "the Polytechnio revolt"(15-17/11/73), speaker of the clandestine radio transmitter set-up inside the occupied National technical University of Athens. Her voice thus became known as "the voice of the uprising".</p> <p>Subsequently imprisoned by the dictatorship (November 1973- July 1974)</p> <p>Member of Parliament elected continuously between 1977 and 1993). When first elected in 1977 at the age of 25, youngest Greek M.P. ever Vice-president of the Greek Parliament (1986-1990). First woman ever to be elected Vice-president of the Greek Parliament</p> <p>President of the Coalition of Left and Progress (1991-1993). Became first woman ever to lead a Greek political party when she began leading the new party Synaspismos, with a radical left ideological profile. When Synaspismos</p>

	<p>failed to be elected to Parliament in the legislative elections in 1993 she resigned from the presidency. After a series of disagreements with the party's new leader and his political line, Damanaki decided to resign from Synaspismos, give up her parliament seat and join the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK). During the same year she was elected as a member of Parliament for PASOK.</p> <p>Candidate for Mayor of Athens (1994 and 1998). Head of the opposition in the City Council.</p> <p>Member of Parliament (2000-2003). Head of the PASOK (Socialist Party) group in the Select Committees on Education and Culture. Member of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe, the Western European Union and NATO. Member of the Inter-parliamentary Union.</p> <p>Member of the Political Council of PASOK, responsible for education (2004-2006), social affairs (2006-2007) and culture (2008-2009)</p> <p>Member of Parliament (2004-2009). Head of the PASOK group in the Select Committees on Social Affairs, Education and Culture and the Environment. Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Western European Union.</p> <p>Chairperson of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense (2009)</p>
Professional career	<p>Pechiney Aluminum Industries (1974)-engineer</p> <p>Ministry of Finance of Greece. Department of import-export planning.(1975-1976)-administrator</p> <p>Helector S.A. Department of energy and waste management (2003-2004)-Section manager</p>
Education	<p>Master of Science degree in chemical engineering, with honors, from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece (E.M.Π) - 1975</p> <p>One-year diploma, Lancaster University – Department of Political Sciences on “Women in leading positions in Greece” -1997</p>
Languages	<p>Mother tongue: Greek</p> <p>English</p> <p>French</p>
FYI....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has taken an active stance on issues such as human trafficking and the upgrade of EU's crisis management capabilities within the European Security and Defense policy. ▪ Became first woman ever to lead a Greek political party when she began leading the new party Synaspismos, with a radical left ideological profile.

For more information on the Commission hearings and the other nominees, please contact:

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