**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY Ms. LOUIZA PAPAGEORGIOU**

On behalf of Amcham Cyprus and its Board of Directors ,it is my honor to welcome you all to today’s event, where we bring focus to the growing importance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. A topic that increasingly affects the way of doing business.

We are privileged to have distinguished speakers from diverse backgrounds both from Cyprus and abroad with us today who will touch upon different sectors which have a role in ESG.

The public sector has taken on a pivotal role in championing sustainability and transparency, creating a blueprint for how governments and businesses can collaborate to address global challenges. Meanwhile, the financial services sector is at the forefront of integrating ESG into risk assessments and investment strategies, making it a cornerstone of sustainable economic growth.

Compliance reporting has become a critical tool in ensuring that businesses not only meet regulatory obligations but also actively contribute to a more ethical and responsible future. This is especially relevant in the European Union, which has emerged as a global leader in driving ESG standards with initiatives such as the EU Taxonomy and the Corporate Sustainability Reporting to name a few.

American Chambers across Europe, , have a vested interest in ESG because they recognize the importance of fostering a well-functioning global capital market that integrates these principles.

At the same time , we are committed to fostering sustainable business practices while ensuring that regulations are practical and supportive of competitiveness.

As members of the AmCham in Cyprus/( and the Chamber), we are uniquely positioned to lead by example, but also influence where needed the practices which combine responsible business while maintaining our competitiveness. Today’s aim is to explore ideas, share best practices, and forge partnerships that amplify our collective impact.

Thank you for being here and I look forward to an informative session.