

Press Release

Thursday 05.02.2026 – Friday 06.02.2026

MBA in Air Transport Management (MATBA)

GALA DINNER & PARTY - THE ONSITE TEACHING WEEK (CHIOS)

THURSDAY, 05 FEBRUARY 2026 / UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN – CHIOS

The Onsite Teaching Week of the new MBA in Air Transport Management (MATBA) programme concluded in Chios with a Gala Dinner celebrating the successful completion of an intensive cycle of academic activities, collaboration, and experience sharing. The Gala Dinner provided an opportunity to reflect on the week's outcomes, emphasising the importance of face-to-face engagement, networking, and the meaningful link between theory and the practical needs of the air transport sector. As part of the week's closing events, a party was also held, fostering a warm and collegial atmosphere among faculty members, programme partners, and postgraduate students, and further reinforcing the Programme's sense of cohesion and community.

FRIDAY, 06 FEBRUARY 2026 / ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (AIA)

The event held at the Media Centre of Athens International Airport (AIA) marked the high-level culmination of MATBA's onsite activities, highlighting the strategic importance of leadership, collaboration, and the effective connection of academic knowledge with professional practice in the air transport sector. A notable highlight was the participation of the new CEO of Athens International Airport, Mr George Kallimasias, whose inspiring and insightful speech to MATBA students was a distinct honour for all attendees. Special emphasis was placed on the Leaders' Panel, moderated by Dr Kostas Iatrou (Director General, Hermes – Air Transport Organisation), which brought together distinguished representatives from institutions and the aviation industry. Panel participants included Mehmet Nane (Chairman, Pegasus Airlines & Vice President, Hermes – Air Transport Organisation), Rania Georgoutsakou (Managing Director, Airlines for Europe – A4E), Michael Bell (Senior Client Partner, Aviation & Aerospace Practice, Korn Ferry), and Ilias Maragkakis (Associate Partner, Lufthansa Consulting GmbH). The discussion provided a substantive forum for exchanging perspectives on current challenges and future outlooks of aviation, as well as on leadership skills and strategic decisions needed in an ever-changing operating environment.



This gathering further reaffirmed MATBA's role as a reference point for developing the next generation of air transport leaders through constructive dialogue, networking, and the fusion of high-level expertise. MATBA extends its sincere gratitude to Athens International Airport for its valuable support and warm hosting of the event, as well as for its ongoing contribution to initiatives in education and professional development that promote excellence, innovation, and the sustainable progress of the sector.

More information about MATBA is available on the programme's official website:

<https://matba.aero>

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