## Biography

Stefanos P. Tamvakis was born on June 27th 1952 in Alexandria, Egypt.

He attended the Averofion High School in Alexandria and went on to Cambridge in England, where he read Languages & Business Administration.

He is fluent in Arabic, English and French, as well as his mother tongue, Greek.

In 1976 he returned to Egypt to take part in the management of the family business in Alexandria, the “St' George” manufacturing and food production company.

Since then, he has developed significantly his business activities.

His involvement in community work began the same year with his election to the Board of Directors of the Charity “Aeschylus- Arion”.

In 1984 he was elected Member of the Board of Alexandria’s Greek Community.

His first concern was the reorganization of the “Kaniskeri -Antoniadis” residential care home for elderly people.

In 1990, then aged 38, he was elected President of the Greek Community of Alexandria, the youngest elected president of the GCA until this day. In the same year he re-established the Community press of Alexandria, founding the Community newspaper "Patrida".

As President he achieved closer cooperation in all fields with the historic Greek Community of Cairo.

His excellent relations with the Egyptian Government and the constructive co-operation of the Governors of Alexandria have contributed decisively to the promotion of various issues concerning the community and Hellenism (the Hellenic Greek Spirit) in general.

In 1995 he was elected Vice-President of the SAE, The Council of Hellenes Abroad, and appointed Coordinator of the Asian-African division. He was afterwards re-elected for a further three consecutive terms of office.

As Coordinator of the Asian-African Region he established and developed a system of intercommunication for the expatriates of the region using the internet and other electronic facilities to establish an overall system that could be monitored and managed.

His dedicated commitment to this task and towards the people involved, and his methodic handling of common concerns and problems, promoting and assisting with solutions, has led to increased cohesion between the Asian and African Regions.

In 1996 he organized the First Regional Conference of Asia and Africa in Alexandria.

In 1999, and again in 2001, he organized congresses of the SAE Youth Network of Asia and Africa, in Alexandria and Johannesburg respectively.

In co-operation with the youth of the region, the information network for young people of Greek origin in the African continent has been much extended.

In the Sudan in 2001, he participated successfully in negotiations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for fair treatment of prominent expatriates.

In December 2001, he was elected Alternate President of the SAE, with among others, responsibility for the coordination and promotion of issues affecting youth and education and the development of the SAE's policy for the communication and promotion of its activities among the public in Greece, Cyprus and the Greek expatriate population.

In March 2002 he resigned the presidency of the Greek Community of Alexandria and was unanimously voted Honorary President by the General Assembly of the GCA.

In May 2003 he was elected to the Board of the "Alexander S. Onassis" Public Benefit Foundation, with which his collaboration dated back to the time of his Presidency of the Greek Community of Alexandria.

In December 2003 he was re-elected Alternate President of the SAE.

In December 2006 he was elected President of the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE).

Since January 2009 he has been a member of the Board of Directors of the First Center for Hellenistic Studies in Alexandria, established jointly by the Library of Alexandria, the "Alexander S. Onassis" Public Benefit Foundation, the "Vardinoyannis" Foundation and the University of Alexandria.

In October 2010 an Honorary Doctorate was conferred upon him by the Department of Public Administration of the Panteion University.

His vision, for the SAE and the Hellenic-Greek Community is the preservation and propagation of the Greek language and the dynamic Spirit of Greek culture, regardless of geography.

His aim is the reinforcement of cohesion within Greek youth and the economic empowerment of the SAE with a view to implementing programs and activities to the benefit of Hellenism.

Within his sphere of action is the ever-present issue of Cyprus and its possible resolution in cooperation with the Government of the Cyprus Republic, POMAK and PSEKA.

Stefanos Tamvakis was honored by the former President of Greece, Konstantinos Stephanopoulos, with the Golden Cross of the Order of the Phoenix.

He has also been decorated by His Beatitude, the late Patriarch of Alexandria & All Africa Parthenios, with the Class A medal of St. Mark the Evangelist. By His Beatitude, the late Patriarch of Alexandria & All Africa, Petros VII, with the Patriarchal Cross of the Order of St. Savas and by the late Patriarch of All Russia, Alexius.

His Beatitude Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria & All Africa, Theodore II, has awarded him the Office of Grand Master of Ceremonies.

One of his main concerns remains the constant strengthening of relations and effective collaboration between the SAE and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Patriarchate of Alexandria & All Africa and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem.