

**14th Thessaloniki Tax Forum (TTF):
“The Regional Impact of Taxation on Business Development”**

May 25, 2026

Comparative Tax Policy Options Across the Balkan Region

Daniel Dăianu, Chairman, Romanian Fiscal Council

in conversation with

Elias Spirtounias, Executive Director, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

<https://youtu.be/gzCB63HKQNg>

The forum addressed the structural weaknesses of the EU’s economic governance framework and the growing challenges facing Europe and Southeast European economies. Speakers emphasized that while the recent reforms to EU fiscal rules were necessary, deeper institutional gaps remain unresolved, including the absence of a common fiscal capacity, a true capital markets union, and a unified energy market.

Concerns were raised about rising geopolitical instability, inflationary pressures, slowing growth, and the risk of stagflation, alongside warnings against excessive financial deregulation. The discussion also highlighted the importance of sustaining investment, improving regional cooperation, attracting foreign capital, and efficiently utilizing EU funds.

Greece was acknowledged for its significant fiscal adjustment and reduction in public debt, while caution was expressed regarding flat tax systems, with the argument that stronger tax collection, social stability, and productive investment are more important for long-term economic resilience and competitiveness.