

Greece at a New Era: Keeping the Momentum Going



Greece's ability to host very successful and most importantly safe Olympic Games in 2004 raised the country's profile among the global investment community and enhanced its credibility. Greece has proven to be a reliable business partner who can successfully handle complex tasks at the national and international level and deliver results on time.

The challenge now is to capitalize on this accumulated goodwill and keep the momentum going. In this era of globalization, national economies are interconnected and the competition is global. Capital and investment flows are also analyzed and evaluated on a global scale among a myriad of competing alternatives. So, extroversion and targeted communication are crucial for any entity that seeks to define its place in the global community.

Greece has a unique story to communicate to the global investment community both in terms of recent accomplishments but also in terms of the potential ahead. Greece's strategic geographic location, its status as a developed economy and its membership in the European Union provide it with unique competitive advantages for foreign investors.

Greece now boasts several multinational companies with operations beyond its borders not only in Southeastern Europe -where Greece ranks among the top investors- but also in Western Europe and the United States. Several Greek companies are now regularly tapping the international capital markets for equity or debt capital and a significant portion of this year's IPO activity in the US relates to the listing of Greek owned international shipping companies.

Our Capital Link Forum on Investing in Greece is the sole professional venue which regularly updates the US financial and business communities on the progress, development and potential of the Greek economy, industry and capital markets and its role within the European Union and South Eastern Europe.

The 2005 Forum focuses on the business and investment opportunities in Greece following the 2004 Olympics. It also presents government policies and initiatives aimed to stimulate growth and investment. Specifically, it focuses on the new Development Act, the Tax Reform Act and the Public-Private Sector Partnership initiative. It is the first Investment Forum in the United States since the new government took over last year and comes right after the new economic policies that the government announced in September 2005. Also, it comes at the heels of major successful privatizations, which met with enthusiastic response from the global investment community.

We are gratified not only by the high caliber of the speakers and panelists in this year's Forum but also by the fact that the Forum is the product of true teamwork among very significant American and Hellenic-American organizations and institutions, to whom we express our sincere appreciation for their interest, cooperation and support.

Particular thanks to our two main sponsors - Global Finance and the Greek Postal Savings Bank- and to all of our sponsors and organizations that contributed to the success of the Forum.

Special thanks to the New York Stock Exchange which within the context of the Forum hosted a special dinner honoring the Greek delegation and a "Greece Day" at NYSE, with the Minister of Finance ringing the Closing Bell on the day of our Forum on Friday, November 11th, 2005.

With the occasion of the Forum we are producing this handbook to provide you with information on key topics related to the developments and potential of Greece and Southeastern Europe. We hope you will find it useful.

Sincerely,

Nicolas Bornozis, President



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