

PRESS RELEASE

Cooperation of Piraeus Bank with the European Investment Bank: €120 for supporting SMEs in the Balkans.

Piraeus Bank Group announces the extension of its cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB), which had started in October 2008. The European Investment Bank grants €120 million more to Piraeus Bank Group, to finance Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in 4 countries, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia.

Piraeus Bank Group will thus enhance its financing of business opportunities in the Balkans and will further support companies and new investments. These capitals will be used to grant mid- and long-term loans with very competitive conditions to various sectors of the economy, such as the industrial sector, services (including tourism), agriculture, health, energy, protection of the environment and others. The aim is to produce significant benefits for the companies granted the loans as well as the local economies.

Piraeus' initiative is even more important during this period, when the enhancement of the financial activity in the Balkans is necessary and the banking sector is required to work towards that goal. Piraeus Bank Group actively supports all sectors of the economies of these countries and its customers with their business endeavors.

This cooperation with the EIB and the grant to the Piraeus Bank Group subsidiaries in the Balkans marks the continuation of the successful cooperation that the two banks have had in Greece, totaling €150 million, for the financing of SMEs in the country, and proves the leading role that Piraeus Bank has in this sector.