Wonderful Greece
“Brisk extroverted growth and geography make Greece a contemporary gateway to South-Eastern Europe”

Panos Leivadas
Secretary General of Information
Hellenic Republic
A gateway towards all of South-Eastern Europe
All in all, contemporary Greece serves as the gateway towards all of South-Eastern Europe.
Economy
Economy

growth rate 4.3% from 6.9% in 2004

general budget deficit 2.6% from 11% in 2004

unemployment 9.7% from 11% in 2004

inflation 2.8%
Gateway:
Leading position in a fast-developing region of 160 million people
Leading position in south eastern Europe

- Investments in South-Eastern Europe exceed so far €12b
- Greece is, the leading foreign investor in Albania and FYROM and among the first three in Bulgaria, Romania, and Serbia
- 3,500 Greek businesses currently operate in the area
Banking sector
National Bank of Greece Group has invested a mere €420m to acquire and build its network in countries like Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, or FYROM.
New Generation of Investments

The Secretariat for Public Private Partnership is currently evaluating projects that account for more than €1.4b
Direct Passenger Traffic

40% Athens International Airport and countries of the region (since 2002)

77% towards Bulgaria (2004 – 2005)

90% towards the Czech Republic (2004 – 2005)

45% towards Romania. (2004 – 2005)
22% increase in the total value of exports
Energy Hub

- Creation of the Energy Community of South Eastern Europe
- Political agreement for the creation of the Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline
Burgas – Alexandroupolis Oil pipeline
Italy - Greece - Turkey Gas pipeline
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Shipping Sector

- 260 Greek ships currently being built
- €3b Protocol with the European Investment Bank to upgrade our ports
- The largest fleet in Europe and 5th in the world
Tourism

• More than **12 million** tourists every year

• Investments: A London-based company will invest **€1,2b** in Lasithi, Crete

• **377%** increase in tourist traffic from the USA to Greece between 2005 and 2006
Active and responsible international presence
Active and responsible international presence

- Greek Plan for the Economic Reconstruction of the Balkans (€550m)
- Active role at the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
- Recent Presidency of the United Nations Security Council
Active and responsible international presence

Constructive Approach to regional issues
is

a beacon of peace

a credible business partner
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