

Athens, February 17, 2015

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the BSE International Action Council for their cooperation in the organization of this informative meeting in support of the extroversion of Greek businesses in the African continent.

The Chamber, founded in 1999, represents the Greek companies and business trading links interested in developing their business activities in the African continent. The Administrative Council is composed of important entrepreneurs operating in Africa and Honorary Consuls of African countries.

The primary purpose of the Chamber is to promote and strengthen bilateral economic and cultural ties in all fields between African countries and Greece. Special attention is also paid to small and medium enterprises.

In the Chamber's website, there is a basic tool for the provision of services. It is the electronic application "Africa at a Glance" which includes detailed information on the economic environment of each country in Africa, the commercial activities of each country, imports and exports as well as other background information to facilitate Chamber members.

Sub-Saharan Africa is a rising power in global economy and many studies indicate that several of the countries in the region offer significant business opportunities in specific areas due to the need for modernizing infrastructure, technological development and upgrading living standards. The intense pressures on Greek companies due to the recession lead to the search for new markets, alliances and partnerships. Sub-Saharan Africa can prove useful both in the export field, productive activity and investment.

Highly experienced entrepreneurs and Embassy officials will be holding a presentation on seven African countries regarding the economy of these regions and their estimates for future developments.