



Press Release

Two-day visit of Alpha Bank's Management to Rhodes, led by the Chair of the Board of Directors

"Our mission is to serve the needs of residents, professionals, businesses, and visitors," noted Dimitris Tsitsiragos

Members of Alpha Bank's Management, led by the Chair of the Board of Directors, Dimitris Tsitsiragos, made a two-day visit to the island of Rhodes. During the visit, **they inaugurated a new Branch in Kalathos, Rhodes, visited the Bank's Central Branch, met with local entrepreneurs and took part in informative workshops** organized by the Bank for providing local businesses with advisory support and for presenting financing programs for SMEs.

Mr. Tsitsiragos was accompanied by **Isidoros Passas, Chief of Retail Banking, Christos Schizas, Chief Retail Distribution Officer, Tilemachos Georgakis, Chief of Commercial Banking, Michalis Spyropoulos, Hospitality Director, Alexandros Tolia, Small Business Banking Director, and Maria Papageorgiou, Attica II, Southwestern Greece and Islands Director.**

Kalathos Branch opening

Alpha Bank inaugurated a **new Branch** in the village of Kalathos, seeking to further meet the needs of residents and businesses in southern Rhodes.

In his address during the opening ceremony of the new Branch, Dimitris Tsitsiragos stressed Alpha Bank's strong presence in Rhodes and the Dodecanese in general. *"We are present with four Branches in Rhodes, **we have the strongest presence in the Dodecanese**, while special mention should be made of islands such as Astypalaia, Nisyros, Kasos, Leipsoi and Tilos, where **Alpha Bank is the only bank that serves the local communities**, offering vital services to their residents and professionals,"* said Mr. Tsitsiragos.

Elsewhere in his speech, Mr. Tsitsiragos recalled that Alpha Bank's activities on the island of Rhodes are varied, address issues of concern to the local community and aim to help the island's development. *"Alpha Bank **aspires to be a partner of progress for the entire society**. Because the dividend of growth must reach as many of our fellow citizens as possible. By **financing emblematic public infrastructure projects and through our Corporate Social Responsibility programs**, we are steadily serving this commitment. We will continue to stand by the side of the local community, **supporting the transition towards sustainable tourism development**, which will ensure the future of Rhodes,"* said Mr. Tsitsiragos.

A relationship of trust

At the same event, **Isidoros Passas** emphasized that the operation of the new Branch is of particular importance, running against the broader global trend that wants banks shrinking the footprint of their branch networks. *"Our decision to operate the southernmost bank branch on Rhodes is not a coincidence. **It is a strategic choice that reflects our firm wish to be close to the businesses, professionals, residents and visitors of the island** – to assist them in their daily needs, but also in their future goals,"* he noted.

He stressed that it is yet another confirmation of the long-standing and substantial relationship



of trust that the Bank has built with the island of Rhodes. *“A relationship based on our commitment to **supporting the progress of your business plans and the realization of your personal dreams**, to stand by your side in difficult times and to act swiftly when circumstances demand it.”*

Visit to Alpha Bank’s Central Branch on Rhodes

The members of the Management visited the Central Branch of Rhodes where they talked to the people of the Branch about the needs of the island’s customers. In his statement, the Chairman of the Board of Directors stressed that Alpha Bank serves a total of 120,000 customers, a number that exceeds the population of the island, as apart from the permanent residents, the Bank is also used by seasonal workers, visitors and residents of other islands who maintain ties with Rhodes. **“We are assisting nearly 10,000 small and large businesses, while our local financing portfolio stands at over Euro 600 million, consisting of funds supporting new investments, working capital, and home purchases – entrepreneurship and the advancement of local community,”** said Mr. Tsitsiragos.

Funding opportunities for SMEs

The Chair of Alpha Bank’s Board of Directors and the members of the Management Team also participated in the **workshops organized by the Bank** for bringing **the island’s small and medium -sized enterprises** up to date on the possibilities of obtaining funding from the financial instruments of the European Community and the Greek state.

At the start of the workshop, Mr. Tsitsiragos gave a brief address, welcoming the business owners who took part in the informative event, stressing the need for SMEs to be properly informed about the **opportunities opening up and the tools available to them, adding that Alpha Bank stands by them in their efforts for development, growth, green transition, corporate governance and extroversion**, providing them with access to financing instruments and with a broad range of informative support on and advisory actions. The two **workshops, organized by the Bank’s SB Banking Business Area**, were attended by a total of 50 business owners in Rhodes.

The Bank’s Executives presented the macroeconomic outlook for the domestic economy, the megatrends in major business sectors, and key points of the Development Financial Instruments and the possibility of combining them, while they also highlighted best practices, offered mentoring, and shared their expertise on leveraging the funds available under these programs for implementing sustainable investment plans. The keynote speaker at the workshop was **Alexandros Tolia, Small Business Banking Director at Alpha Bank.**