



Press Release

Alpha Bank and the Hellenic Olympic Committee inaugurate the Schinias Olympic Rowing Centre

The Bank breathes new life into one of the country's most iconic Olympic venues, supporting Greek athletes on their journey to the Los Angeles 2028 Games

One of the most emblematic venues of the 2004 Athens Olympic Games is again fully operational. The Schinias Olympic Rowing Centre was inaugurated today, marking the completion of extensive restoration works carried out thanks to the investment of Euro 1 million by Alpha Bank, in the framework of the Bank's strategic partnership with the Hellenic Olympic Committee and the Hellenic Rowing Federation.

In his address, **Alpha Bank's CEO Vassilios Psaltis** said: *"We are here because, as the Bank of the 2004 Olympic Games, we wanted to reverse the decline of our Olympic legacy. In this endeavor, we were truly lucky to find partners who shared the same vision: the Hellenic Olympic Committee, which took steps to ensure that all bureaucratic obstacles would be overcome and the work would be completed on time; and the Hellenic Rowing Federation, which has been fighting for years to keep this venue alive."*

Alpha Bank's initiative provides substantial support for the preparation of Greek rowing and canoeing athletes, while it also helps restore and preserve the country's Olympic legacy. The renovated facilities have already hosted the recent Greek National Rowing Championships, confirming that the sports center is ready and fully operational.

In his opening address at the inauguration ceremony, the **President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Isidoros Kouvelos**, said: *"Our Olympic legacy is a responsibility; it is not exhausted with photographs and memories. It is a daily struggle. It is the choice to not abandon something that has been built with hard work, money and national pride. In an effort of major significance for Greek sports, Alpha Bank stood our side, offering practical assistance; and it is particularly significant that it is returning here, after the 2004 Olympic Games, to demonstrate once again, in practice, its faith in Greece's Olympic legacy."*

The opening ceremony was attended by, among other guests, the Alternate Minister of Education and Sport, Yannis Vroutsis, the President of the Hellenic Rowing Federation, Vassilis Polymeros, the President of the Hellenic Canoe-Kayak Federation, Giorgos Athanasiou, the Vice-President of the World Rowing Federation, Annamarie Phelps, and the President of the European Rowing Federation, Asunción Lorient. The ceremony was followed by a symbolic exhibition race featuring the rowing and canoe-kayak champions Stefanos Ntouskos, Petros Gaidatzis, Konstantinos Giannoulis, Konstantinos Kostaras, Iason Mouselimis, Zoi Fitsiou, Milena Kontou, Evangelia Anastasiadou, Elena Diavati, Gavriela Lioliou, Paschalina Mouratidou and Ioannis Zachos.

Addressing the athletes and the coach of the National Rowing Team, Mr. Psaltis remarked that *"progress is not achieved the moment it is recognized. It is achieved by all the things that lead to that moment—consistency, team spirit and commitment to implementing the plan. And ultimately, in the pursuit of becoming the best version of ourselves. The spotlight is on you—the National Team. For our part, we simply make sure that you have the right facility to train and push yourselves to the limit. And when your efforts are crowned with success—and I have no doubt that they will be—we will all be proud of you."*



Sports, the environment and society

The Schinias Rowing Centre was one of the most emblematic venues of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. After years of neglect and disrepair, it is now once again playing an active role as a sports center of the highest modern standards.

Beyond its sporting dimension, the regeneration of the Olympic Rowing Centre is of great environmental and social significance, as the goal is for the facility to operate in accordance with modern international sustainable development practices to the benefit of society.

As Mr. Psaltis emphasized in his speech: *“Schinias is one of the most important ecosystems in Attica, a National Park open to all, a beautiful place where people can enjoy nature. Thus, the restoration of this facility does more than just breathe new life into a sports venue. It also gives to us all a functional and vibrant place to go back to. Our aspirations do not stop there. We want this facility to be organized in line with international sustainability practices and, at the same time, to also fulfil its sporting, environmental and social roles, so that future generations can also enjoy it. And that is where our expertise can be of help.”*

The regeneration of the site

The works funded by Alpha Bank focused on the following:

- cleaning and restoration of the rowing course
- replacement and maintenance of the waterways for vessel access and mooring
- repairs to the façade and restoration of the waterproofing of four buildings of the Rowing Centre, including the athletes' accommodation and training areas
- upgrades to the main spectator stand.

Alpha Bank remains faithful to its strategic commitment to Greek sports, with its sights set on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.