



Press Release

Alpha Bank supports the work of Volunteer Firefighters Associations

Delivery of 6 fire trucks by Alpha Bank to Volunteer Forest Firefighters Associations in Evia, Peloponnese and Attica

Alpha Bank is once again turning its strong commitment to environmental protection into action, actively assisting local communities in fighting fires by **donating fire trucks** to volunteer firefighters associations and by **financially supporting forest firefighting activities** in a number of the country's regions.

At a special **event** held in the courtyard of Zappeion Megaron, in the presence of the **Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Mr. Christos Stylianides**, the **Chair of the Alpha Bank Board of Directors Mr. Vasileios Rapanos** delivered 6 fire trucks, to strengthen the fleet of vehicles of the **Associations of Volunteer Forest Protection & Rescue Forces of Prokopi and Karystos in Evia**, the **Volunteer Forest Protection Association of Loutraki – Perachora**, the **Messenia 4x4 Disaster Response Team**, the **Rodopolis Group (Attica) of the Volunteer Forest Firefighting & Rescue Forces** and the **Volunteers Team of Kapandriti-Polydendri in Attica**.

In his brief address, the **Chair of the Alpha Bank Board of Directors Mr. Vasileios Rapanos**, stressed, among other things, the following:

*“Alpha Bank has long been **a supporter of society and the state** in their efforts to cope with natural disasters and to address their consequences, in many ways. **We actively assist the local communities** and our fellow citizens that have been affected by natural disasters, and we also take **emergency measures involving special arrangements to support our Customers** who live in the areas affected or whose businesses are based there. At the same time, **we are strengthening the work of the competent bodies** active in preventing and responding to natural disasters and the environmental crisis.*

*These donations are part of our initiative **‘Together for the environment’**, which includes a set of actions to tackle natural disasters and protect the environment in general. But they are also part of our overall policy, which is underpinned by the conviction that **a company, an organization, cannot prosper over the long term if it does not respect the natural environment** and if does not listen to the concerns of society and does not understand them.”*

Welcoming the initiative, the **Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Mr. Christos Stylianides**, said:

“Today’s event clearly demonstrates the importance of synergies. Especially when we are faced with unprecedented challenges such as the climate crisis. Cooperation, the joining of forces, is at the heart of our approach in the Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection. Because in order to be able to tackle the climate crisis and its consequences, we need to do just that – join forces. And that is what we are doing today.

I would like to warmly thank Alpha Bank for standing next to the volunteers**, assisting them in their difficult task. I would also like to thank the Chairman of Alpha Bank, Mr. Vasileios Rapanos, because he is a driving force of this truly national effort to join forces in order to address the consequences of the climate crisis. **And, of course, to also warmly thank the volunteers for their contribution. They are present at the side of the Fire Service personnel throughout every firefighting period and in every other emergency. Your solidarity and your



selflessness are an example to us all.”

Finally, **Major General of the Fire Brigade Mr. Ioannis Stamoulis** said:

*“When corporate social responsibility meets the voluntary contribution of volunteer firefighters, we can feel safer operating in the fire fronts as firefighters. It gives us pleasure to have, **during the last few years, the Alpha Bank Group as our companion and true partner**, assisting us in addressing such an important issue as the personal protective equipment of firefighters. **Initiatives like today’s one, which equip volunteer firefighters with such valuable tools as fire trucks**, make us feel just that bit more ready to deal with natural disasters. We would like to warmly thank both Alpha Bank and the volunteers for their invaluable support of the Fire Service.”*

Strengthening firefighting preparedness and the restoration of the forest ecosystem

Alpha Bank has long supported the institution of volunteer firefighters and their efforts to save lives, properties and forests, especially after the serious incidents of recent years and particularly so of 2021, during which, according to the data of the European Forest Fire Information System, a total of 84 forest fires were mapped in Greece, which turned to ashes an area of more than 1,300 km², with the regions of **Evia, Attica and the Peloponnese having suffered the most extensive disasters.**

With the donation of the fire trucks, the Group is making a major contribution to the efforts to strengthen the operational capacity and safety of the volunteer units that operate in the regions of our country that are tested the hardest by climate change.

Insurance for these vehicles has been undertaken by Generali Hellas, in the context of its strategic partnership with the Bank, making this specific action part of its Corporate Social Responsibility plan, seeking to protect the environment and raise public awareness of climate change.

At the same time, Alpha Bank also supports financially the work of the **Volunteer Forest Firefighters Associations of Attica** and the **Volunteer Rescue Team of Figaleia in Elis.**

Together, for the environment: A set of actions for a sustainable future

The donation of the 6 fire trucks is part of the Bank's long-standing initiative **“Together for the environment”**, aimed at protecting **our country’s natural assets** and **tackle the environmental crisis.**

Following the catastrophic fires of Attica in **2018** and seeking to support the work of the Fire Service, Alpha Bank made a **donation of EUR 325,000 for the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment**, specifically of 2,000 protection helmets. Moreover, in the summer of **2021** it **supported with the supply of basic necessities those affected** by the fires in Evia and Attica, through the Greek Red Cross, as it has also done in the last few years, following the fires in Marathon, Rafina, Kythira, Oropos and Kapandriti. Alpha Bank also stood by the side of the Chios Gum Mastic Growers Association, supporting its efforts to replant the areas affected by the devastating fire in the Mastic Villages of Southern Chios, with the **donation of 2,000 lentisk saplings.**

Moreover, as part of its sustainable and responsible strategy, since 2021, the Bank is contributing to the **restoration of the Aronas forest in Katerini.** In collaboration with the environmental company [Reforest Action](#) and the Forest Research Institute of Thessaloniki, it designed and offered its customers the option to invest in **impact investment products and thus finance the planting of 17,379 trees** (broadleaf oaks, hornbeams and ash trees). The restoration of the Aronas forest, covering more than 10 km², through the implementation of a sustainable and high-quality management program, results in a mild and carefully planned intervention that will strengthen the



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resilience of the forest and will enhance its environmental quality, the timber produced and the protection of wildlife, while **according to the plan, 30,000 trees will be planted in the period from 2021 to 2026.**

Moreover, over the last five years the Bank has been **supporting the Postgraduate Studies Program “Environmental, Disaster and Crisis Management Strategies” of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**, by funding scholarships and covering operating expenses. This Program has helped establish a community of qualified, skilled specialists on environmental issues, disasters and crises, which is mobilized in incidents of high severity, such as the fires of recent years in Attica, Evia and the Peloponnese, setting up research teams and groups of volunteers whose purpose is to directly support those affected but also to inform society and the scientific community.