



Press Release

First Alpha Bank financing of investment in netmetering to METRO S.A., with the support of the Recovery and Resilience Facility

The investment falls under the “green transition” pillar of “Greece 2.0” and aims at significantly reducing the company’s energy footprint

The green investments of METRO S.A. are being financed by Alpha Bank, in the context of its participation in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan “**Greece 2.0**”. In doing so, the Bank is contributing in practice to the national effort to reduce the energy footprint of the Greek economy and the support of its sustainable development.

The purpose of the loan is to **finance part of the company's investment plan** for the **installation of 97 photovoltaic power stations** with a total output capacity of 25 MW in its facilities throughout Greece, under the **netmetering** regime.

This financing is quite significant for enhancing the company’s sustainable operation, as it is expected that, once the investment has been completed, **the total annual energy consumption of METRO S.A. will be covered by 30% by these company-owned Renewable Energy Sources (RES)**.

The Euro 12.6 million of financing, which is part of METRO’s total investment of Euro 17.1 million, falls under the “**green transition**” pillar of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan “Greece 2.0” and is financed **at 50% from the resources of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (Euro 6.3 million), at 30% through a loan with Alpha Bank (Euro 3.8 million) and at 20% by the company’s own funds**. It should also be noted that METRO S.A. will not be making use of State aid for this transaction.

The financing of this investment complements the **disbursements of Euro 10 billion made by the Bank to the Greek economy over the last two years**, while it also **confirms Alpha Bank’s commitment to stand by every initiative that is synonymous with Progress**, aiding both Greek businesses and the State in their transition toward a “greener” and more sustainable economic model.

The signing of the loan agreement took place on Friday, July 29, at the headquarters of Alpha Bank, in the presence of the **Alternate Minister of Finance, responsible for the implementation of “Greece 2.0”, Mr. Theodoros Skylakakis** and the **Governor of the Greek Recovery and Resilience Facility Agency, Mr. Nikos Mantzoufas**. The agreement was signed by the **Chief Financial Officer of METRO SA, Mr. Manolis Karydakis**. The signing event was hosted by Alpha Bank’s General Manager of Wholesale Banking, **Mr. Ioannis Emiris**, and Executives from the Bank’s Wholesale Banking Lending and Corporate Banking Divisions.

Alpha Bank’s General Manager of Wholesale Banking, Mr. Ioannis Emiris, made the following statement:

“Every day, we are all faced with the consequences of the climate crisis and addressing them requires the mobilization of all productive forces for taking meaningful action. This is why the investment of METRO SA, whose financing we signed today, is more pertinent than ever. We are proud of the fact that Alpha Bank, being currently the leader in business lending continues to support Greek businesses in multiple ways, and to contribute actively to all private sector initiatives for the sustainable development and the green transition of our economy. Moreover, the co-financing arrangement with the Recovery and Resilience Facility enables businesses to implement bold and innovative plans that



create added value, and we are committed to supporting them in every major step they take towards progress and resilience”.

Alternate Minister of Finance, Mr. Theodoros Skylakakis, pointed out: *“The loan agreement of METRO SA with Alpha Bank, within the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan “Greece 2.0”, concerns a key sector of the economy, that of energy, which has for several months now been under pressure globally. Investments in Renewable Energy Sources (RES), such as the one by METRO SA, which installs photovoltaic power stations in its facilities, are more pertinent and necessary than ever before. This is because they help reduce the dependence on exhaustible energy resources, such as natural gas, which has now become very expensive. Indeed, the main advantage of RES is that they are the most economical energy option. “Greece 2.0” promotes investments of this nature, to achieve the green transition by offering the option of business loans at favorable interest rates”.*

The **Governor of the Greek Recovery and Resilience Facility Agency, Mr. Nikos Mantzoufas**, noted: *“This investment in photovoltaic systems and netmetering is at the very “heart” of the needs of our country’s businesses. Reducing energy costs, developing Renewable Energy Sources, and self-generation, compose a holistic strategic choice in the face of the challenges and needs of our era. We are also pleased with the contribution of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, through its lending program, to this innovative investment, and we believe that it will also kickstart other similar investments”.*

For his part, the **Chief Financial Officer of METRO SA, Mr. Manolis Karydakis**, said:

“Our decision to invest in this field follows on naturally from METRO’s strategy for long-term Sustainable Development, and for adopting energy management practices and reducing its environmental footprint, which so far have ensured a 37% average reduction in our energy consumption, corresponding to the annual electricity consumption of 23,580 households.

As a 100% Greek company that plays an important role in the domestic retail market (My market) and organized wholesale (METRO Cash & Carry), we have set ourselves the long-term goal of being energy-neutral by 2027. In this respect, we will continue our efforts with the same commitment, contributing in any way we can to the crucial issue of tackling the climate crisis”.

This transaction, financed by Alpha Bank, is **part of METRO’s Euro 17.1 million total investment and covers 74% of the total investment budget**, while the remaining 26% is covered by a separate transaction with Eurobank.

The action is implemented in the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan “Greece 2.0” and is funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU.