



Luxembourg, 20 October 2008

**INVITATION**

**EIB PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMERCIAL BANKS FOR THE FINANCING OF SMEs, INDUSTRY,  
TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

Athens, Tuesday 11 November 2008, 09h00-14h00

Hotel Grande Bretagne

We have great pleasure in inviting you to the above-mentioned conference to be held in Athens.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the long-term lending bank of the European Union. Its task is to contribute towards the integration, balanced development and economic and social cohesion of the EU Member States. In 2008 the EIB celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and at the same time completes 45 years of activity in Greece.

Since 1981, it has provided loans of over EUR 17 bn to viable and sound Greek projects and programmes, while the outstanding loans for investment projects in Greece amounts to roughly EUR 9 bn. Of these some 70% were directed towards the infrastructure sector.

The Bank is aiming now at adjusting its activities to the current model of economic growth for Greece. The aim is to balance lending between private and public sector, through larger sectoral diversification and the support of the rapidly expanding services sector.

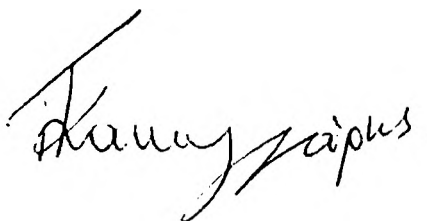
A solid cooperation with commercial banks in Greece and South-East Europe is essential, especially in the present general economic context. The EIB is ready to use its own considerable financial resources to expand its lending to Small and Medium Sized companies, in cooperation with commercial banks. This cooperation can be reinforced with new financing structures which will enable better access to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, as well as to major Greek industrial groups with presence in the neighbouring countries.

The partnership with commercial banks will be valuable also in re-orientating PPP activities in Greece from the traditional infrastructure projects to PPP operations in other sectors. There the Bank could provide its maximum of value-added in terms of its expertise and financial advantage.

We would be honoured if you could join this high-level event and would appreciate your contribution to the discussion.



Philippe Maystadt  
President



Plutarchos Sakellaris  
Vice President