

Update: Making Competition and Co-operation Work in the Black Sea Region, Thessaloniki, Greece, 24/25 February 2005

Paris, 15 February

Mayor of Thessaloniki to Sponsor Black Sea Conference

Underlining the importance of the OECD Development Centre/BSEC/Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs conference on private sector co-operation and competition in the Black Sea area, Thessaloniki's mayor, Vassilios Papageorgopoulos, has offered sponsorship and will speak at a plenary session on February 24 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. The city of Thessaloniki will also be offering a dinner for participants and high-level personalities from the countries in the region.

Regional Personalities Continue to Register.

There has been an upsurge in the number of regional business people, political figures and government officials registering for the Thessaloniki Conference. Among them are:

H.E. Armen GEVORGIAN, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Trade and Economic Development Armenia

H.E. Mikhael Jabarov, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Panayiotis Koutsikos, President, Hellenic Business Council and Chairman-in-Office, BSEC Business Council, Greece

Mr. Edmond Karaxho, Secretary General Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Albania

Mr. Samson Özararat, BSEC Business Council Board Member, Armenia

Mr. Adil Husseinov, Vice-President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Azerbaijan Republic

Mr. Vesselin Valchev, Managing Partner IMCA Associates Ltd, Member of the Managing Board of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Bulgaria

Mr. Shota Makatsaria, Vice-President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Georgia

Mr. Mihalil Bilba, Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Moldova

Mr. Constantin Rasnoveanu, Vice- President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania, BSEC Business Council

Mr. Aleksandr Amerhanov, President, Taganrog Chamber of Commerce and Industry, BSEC Business Council Board Member, Russian Federation

Mr. Goran Vlaovic, Vice-President, Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Serbia and Montenegro

Mr. Halil Kulluk, President, Intekno, Chairman of Turkish-Georgian Business Council of Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK), Turkey

Mr. Gennady Chizhykov, President, Donetsk Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ukraine

Permanently updated information on the conference can be found at: www.oecd.org/bsec.

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Journalists wishing to attend the conference are urged to register as soon as possible by sending an e-mail request to Ms Sissy Lignou at slignou@afea.gr, with a copy to Ms Kokoni. No funding for journalists, however, is available

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