European Investment Bank | Group

CrediaBank

PRESS RELEASE

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EIB and CrediaBank partner to strengthen investment in Greece's security and defence ecosystem

- **Up to €100 million financing to support investment in Greece's security and defence SMEs and mid-cap companies ecosystem**
- **CrediaBank is the first non-systemic bank in Europe and the second bank in Greece to join the EIB's dedicated Security & Defence programme and Greece becomes the first country with multiple financial intermediaries under it**
- **Partnership expands to leasing and reinforces support for youth employment**

In the context of a €100 million approval for a financing agreement with CrediaBank the European Investment Bank (EIB) has signed a first €50 million tranche, marking the first operation between the two institutions. CrediaBank is the first non-systemic bank in Europe and the second bank in Greece to join the EIB's dedicated Security & Defence programme and including the foreseen leverage, the financing is expected to ultimately mobilise up to €200 million for the benefit of the targeted final beneficiaries.

The financing will be channelled through CrediaBank to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-cap companies across Greece, with a particular focus on businesses active in, or investing in, the security and defence sector, in line with the EIB's eligibility criteria. The operation is expected to improve access to long-term finance for productive investment and working capital, helping businesses strengthen their competitiveness, innovation capacity and resilience supporting strategic investments and contributing to sustainable economic development across Greece.

Addressing financing needs in a strategic sector

Small and medium-sized businesses operating in the security and defence ecosystem often face structural barriers to accessing finance. Sector-specific characteristics, dual-use activities and the limited availability of dedicated financial products can constrain investment despite growing demand and strategic importance.

The EIB financing will help improve financing conditions for eligible companies by supporting long-term investment and working capital needs. At the same time, the operation is expected to strengthen market confidence and facilitate additional investment in a sector that is becoming increasingly important for Europe's security, technological leadership and industrial resilience.

Expanding the EIB's Pan-European Security & Defence programme in Greece

Strengthening Europe's security and defence industrial base is a strategic priority for the EIB. Through its Pan-European Security & Defence Lending Envelope, the Bank supports investments and working capital for SMEs and mid-cap companies operating across European security and defence supply chains. With this agreement, CrediaBank joins the growing network of European financial institutions implementing the programme, following similar operations in Germany, France and Spain. Greece also becomes the first country with more than one participating financial intermediary under the dedicated lending envelope, reinforcing its contribution to Europe's strategic autonomy and industrial resilience.

Broadening the partnership

The agreement also marks the beginning of cooperation between the EIB and CrediaBank in the area of leasing finance, enabling businesses to access a wider range of financing solutions for equipment and other productive investments.

In addition, part of the financing may support companies that promote youth employment under the EIB's Jobs for Youth initiative, reflecting the EIB's commitment to fostering quality employment opportunities for young people while supporting sustainable economic growth.

"Greece is playing an increasingly important role in strengthening Europe's security and defence industrial ecosystem. Our partnership with CrediaBank expands the reach of the EIB's dedicated financing programme, helping innovative Greek businesses invest, grow and contribute to Europe's resilience and strategic autonomy." **said EIB Vice- President Yannis Tsakiris.**

CrediaBank's CEO Eleni Vrettou stated: "*This landmark agreement with the European Investment Bank reflects our focus to supporting investments that strengthen the resilience and long-term competitiveness of the Greek economy. By expanding financing opportunities for SMEs and mid-cap companies active in the security and defence ecosystem, we are helping unlock investment in innovation, advanced technologies and productive growth. As a trusted financial partner, CrediaBank is committed to channelling capital where it creates lasting value for businesses, the economy and society, while contributing to Europe's strategic autonomy and industrial resilience."*