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Press Release

Alpha Bank – EIF guarantee agreement for SME financing under the InvestEU Fund

With the EIF guarantees, the Bank expands its support of small and medium-sized enterprises, on particularly favorable terms, to help them implement their investment plans and meet their requirements in working capital, focusing on three thematic pillars

Alpha Bank, true to its commitment to stand firmly at the side of our country’s small and medium-sized entrepreneurship, has signed a guarantee agreement with the European Investment Fund (EIF) for its participation in the InvestEU Fund, which concerns SMEs and is financed by resources of the Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF) totaling Euro 400 million under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan “Greece 2.0”.

The signing of the agreement will enable Alpha Bank to direct part of the Fund's resources to Small, Micro and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Small Mid-Caps for financing the **implementation of their investment plans and meeting their requirements in working capital**, focusing on **three thematic pillars**:

- **Strengthening the competitiveness of enterprises** and improving their access to financing (“SME Competitiveness Guarantee”).
- **Strengthening the sustainable growth of businesses** and the adoption of “green” practices (“Sustainability Guarantee”).
- **Strengthening Research and Innovation and upgrading business operations** through the adoption of digital innovative technologies (“Innovation and Digitalisation Guarantee”).

The signing ceremony of the guarantee agreement with the EIF took place today at a special event in Athens, in the presence of the **Governor of the Greek Recovery and Resilience Facility Agency (RRFA), Orestis Kavalakis, the EIF’s Senior Regional Representative for Greece and Cyprus, George Passaris and Alpha Bank Group’s Chief of Wholesale Banking, Ioannis Emiris.**

The mobilization of EIF’s guarantee instruments under the Member State compartment of InvestEU **expands the scope of financial support to SMEs** and also offers **particularly favorable financing terms**, as the final beneficiaries stand to benefit from the Program’s advantages regarding the financing of eligible actions, **in the form either of reduced collateral requirements or more favorable pricing**. Moreover, the repayment term of the financing loans can reach up to 11 years, depending on the type of financing, while a flexible repayment schedule is also offered, in line with the requirements and cashflows of the beneficiary business.

Alpha Bank’s Chief of Wholesale Banking, Ioannis Emiris, said about the agreement:

“Alpha Bank’s Guarantee Agreement with the EIF, with which we have a long-standing, productive cooperation, enables us to participate in the InvestEU Fund and provides us with an important new tool for supporting small and medium-sized entrepreneurship. By leveraging the EIF’s guarantees, not only do we increase the ‘firepower’ available to us for supporting SMEs in the implementation of investment plans and in meeting their requirements in working capital, but we are also able to offer particularly favorable financing terms. Thus, we prove once again that we are actively

standing by the side of small and medium-sized enterprises, strengthening their competitiveness, sustainable growth and evolution and putting into practice Alpha Bank's purpose, which is to 'Support progress in life and business, for a better Tomorrow'."

For **more information** about the program's eligibility terms and conditions, interested parties can consult www.alpha.gr or the Alpha Bank Branch Network.

The loan is supported by the European Union in the context of the InvestEU Fund, established pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021, and is funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU, by financially supporting Greece through the InvestEU Member State Compartment for Greece, with funds from the Recovery and Resilience Facility, as part of Greece's National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

About the European Investment Fund

The **European Investment Fund (EIF)** is part of the European Investment Bank Group. It supports Europe's small businesses by improving their access to financing through a wide range of selected financial intermediaries such as banks, leasing companies, guarantee agencies, microfinancing organizations and private equity funds. The EIF designs and provides equity and debt financing instruments that foster EU objectives in support of entrepreneurship, economic growth, innovation, research and development, the green and digital transition and employment.

About the Invest EU Member State compartment

The InvestEU Member State compartment enables Member States to contribute part of their shared management funds, resources from the Recovery and Resilience Facility and national resources to the InvestEU Fund, by setting up a dedicated Member State compartment. With this voluntary contribution, Member States can leverage the InvestEU guarantee to support specific national priorities. Under the Member State compartment, loans, guarantees or equity investments can be offered as a complement to other public and private investments.