**Introductory Speech**

**Vassilis Takas**

**President, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development**

**Virtual Conference: “Doing Business in Algeria”**

**June 24, 2025**

⸻

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen,Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Good afternoon and welcome to our webinar titled **“Doing Business in Algeria: Business Prospects and Opportunities for Greek Entrepreneurs.”**

On behalf of the **Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development**, I would like to warmly thank you for joining us today. It is a pleasure to also co-host this event with the **Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry**, whose longstanding support to the Greek business community is invaluable.

I hope We are gathered here not simply for a discussion, but for a meaningful exchange — one that in the future will translate into practical partnerships, projects, and progress.

⸻

The focus of today’s session is Algeria — a country of strategic importance both regionally and globally. As the **largest country in Africa**, and one rich in natural resources, Algeria has made remarkable efforts in recent years to modernize its economy, diversify beyond hydrocarbons, and open up to international partnerships as our good friend **Ambassador Zaira Benhabouche always reminds us**.

Today’s webinar aims to offer **a comprehensive view of the Algerian economic environment**, the recent reforms, and the practical steps that Greek companies can take to engage with this promising market. We will explore not just challenges — which exist in any market — but real and tangible **opportunities** in sectors such as **energy, infrastructure, agribusiness, manufacturing, logistics, digital services and others**.

And perhaps most importantly, we will hear from those who have already taken the step: **Greek entrepreneurs and businesses active in Algeria**, who will share insights drawn from their direct experience.

⸻

Algeria stands at the crossroads of Africa, Europe, and the Arab world. With a population of over **45 million**, a growing middle class, and a government committed to attracting **foreign investment**, it offers unique opportunities for economic engagement.

The country’s **Investment Law of 2022** and the work of the **Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion (AAPI)** represent major steps toward a **more transparent and investor-friendly environment**. The government’s emphasis on industrial diversification, food security, and renewable energy aligns well with **Greek business capabilities** and strategic interests.

At the same time, Greece enjoys **excellent diplomatic relations with Algeria**, supported by mutual respect and growing political dialogue — a solid foundation for economic cooperation to thrive.

⸻

At the **Hellenic-African Chamber**, our mission is to support and strengthen the ties between Greek and African business ecosystems. We act as a facilitator, a connector, and a trusted source of information for companies wishing to explore new markets across the African continent.

In the case of Algeria, we are committed to supporting Greek enterprises every step of the way — from **initial market exploration**, to networking with local counterparts, to understanding regulatory frameworks, and accessing practical resources.

Today’s event is part of that effort. By creating a space for dialogue between **government officials, business leaders, and market actors**, we aim to **demystify the Algerian market** and encourage more Greek businesses to take the next step — with confidence and clarity, as much as possible.

⸻

We are honored today by the presence of several distinguished guests. I would like to express my sincere thanks to:

• **Amb. Dimitris Karampalis**

Director General for International Economic Relations of Greece for his presence in our webinar, **despite his busy schedule and numerous obligations.**

• **Her Excellency Ms. Zaira Benhabouche**, Ambassador of Algeria to Greece, for her ongoing support, her friendship and for consistently promoting closer ties between our two countries.

• **Mr. Nikolaos Vergis**, Ambassador of Greece to Algeria, for his valuable work in fostering bilateral economic diplomacy on the ground.

• **Ms. Afroditi Oikonomou**, Commercial Attaché at the Greek Embassy in Algiers, whose insights and on-the-ground experience are of great value to our business community.

We also thank **Mr. Chakib Kouidri**, Director General of the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and **Mr. Omar Rekkache**, Director General of the Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion, for their participation. Their presence here underlines Algeria’s willingness to engage directly with foreign investors and business partners.

And of course, a warm thank you to the **Greek companies** who will share their case studies later in the program — real stories, real people, and valuable lessons for us all.

⸻

Dear friends,

As we look to the future of Greek international entrepreneurship, **Africa — and in this case, Algeria in particular — should not remain at the periphery of our vision**. It should be at the center of our strategic outreach.

This is not simply about exports. It is about **co-creating solutions**, **investing in long-term partnerships**, and contributing to **mutual development**.

We urge Greek companies to be bold, informed, and proactive. The Chamber is here to support you, and today’s webinar is a stepping stone toward deeper engagement and practical outcomes.

⸻

With that, I once again thank all of you for being here, for your interest, and for your commitment to strengthening the economic ties between **Greece and Algeria**.

I now have the pleasure of giving the floor to **Mr. Vassilis Korkidis**, President of the Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a valued partner in today’s event and a key supporter of Greek business outreach.

Thank you very much.