

«Agriculture and Tourism Opportunities in Zambia»

3/11/2022

On behalf of the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, I would like to welcome you to today's virtual conference and thank you for your participation.

Today's event is organized by the Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, under the auspices of ACCI and SEVE and aims at highlighting new opportunities for business cooperation between Greece and Zambia.

We, as a Chamber, maintain excellent relations with the Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development and we all hope that this event will have positive results for both countries.

The Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry is the leading Chamber in Greece with over 100.000 active members, representing the whole spectrum of enterprises. A principal concern of our Chamber is to enhance the extrovert character of Greek companies. During all these years, ACCI has contributed positively and dynamically towards this end by offering tangible proposals to the Greek government for the improvement of the business and social environment.

Concerning our economic relations with Zambia, the bilateral economic cooperation is obviously lagging the potential of our countries with the volume of trade to be extremely low.

However, there are many sectors, such as agriculture and tourism, that present interest and both parties could focus on. The expert speakers that follow will give you more information on that, but I want to highlight the importance of timing.

Today countries that play a crucial role in the global community regarding the supply of food, are facing problems. More specifically the Black Sea area which is a pure exporting grain belt is under the pressure of the Russian Ukraine war which increases

uncertainty levels especially after the back-and-forth steps of the Russian government regarding the Grain Exports deal. On the other hand, Brazil which is a key player for the global trade of grains is suffering from domestic political issues, which have caused disruptions to the transportations of coffee, soybeans, wheat and fertilizers to the ports of the country, a fact that also increases uncertainty. It is the right time through our countries' business communities, especially now that the restrictive measures of covid have loosened to boost both tourism and agriculture in order to strengthen our economies and promote economic and social welfare.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Chamber, as the biggest Chamber in Greece, will continue to support the effort of developing our bilateral economic relations, towards the mutual benefit of our countries.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your attention.