

Dear Mr. Iliadis,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises, I would like to thank the Hellenic African Chamber of Commerce and Development, our partner in Sub-Saharan Africa, for hosting today's multilingual information meeting on business opportunities in Senegal.

For the people that are not familiar, SEV is the largest business network in Greece. It plays a leading role in the country's transformation into a productive, outward-looking and competitive economy. We have a broad membership, covering all sectors of the economy, including the largest corporations in Greece.

SEV is constantly working to expand trade and commercial ties with our business partners around the world. More particularly, we place a great importance to our relationships with the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As previously said, Senegal is one of the most stable countries in Africa and an open economy. Foreign trade accounts for 61% of its GDP.

It has a relatively diversified economy and although the pandemic has significantly changed the country's economic outlook, growth in 2021 is expected to record a rebound, reaching 5.2%.

The country has significant oil and natural gas reserves off the coast, as well as many other minerals, including gold.

Finally, the last years we witness a headway in business climate based on market-friendly reforms and a fast population growth.

These are positive developments and offer good perspectives for economic growth and prosperity.

Unfortunately, looking at our trade figures, the trade volume between Greece and Senegal is moving at relatively low levels.

It is precisely, this low level of trade that we strive to improve.

Our bilateral trade in 2020 was only 12,5 million euros.

It has decreased by 13% compared to 2019.

So, we need and can do better.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I strongly believe that in every meeting, in every business exchange, there is opportunity.

To deepen our relationship, to strengthen our economic ties and look to the future.

I wish you all success at today's event

and thank you once again for your hospitality and time.