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PRESS RELEASE

1st Balkan Forum in Thessaloniki

Aiming to the development of a mutual evolution strategy as well as the promotion of investing initiatives in the Balkans, the Ministry of Interior (Sector of Macedonia and Thrace) is organizing on Friday & Saturday, April 5 & 6, 2019, at the “Aimilios Roidis” Venue of TIF Helexpo the 1st Balkan Forum in Thessaloniki themed “Trans-Balkan Infrastructures and Networks of Co-Development, Levers to Promote Entrepreneurship and Innovation”.

The organization of the Balkan Forum is based on the acceptance that the development of contemporary foreign infrastructures and networks in the Balkan countries is the motivation for promoting effective transnational cooperation on the field of entrepreneurship and innovation as well as for captivating significant investment projects.

The 1st Balkan Forum will concern:

- The evaluation of the existing levels of the corporate, transport, technological and energy infrastructures and networks in a Balkan level, as well as the transcription of specific needs and shortcomings.
- The discussion and further research of the necessary infrastructures and networks whose implementation needs to be promoted on priority, together with investigation on possible funding plans.
- The evaluation of territorial consequences of the suggested infrastructures and networks on the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation, not only on a national but also on a Balkan level.
- The discussion and fundraise of mobilization and exploitation mechanisms of the business and technological work force in maturation and implementation of the infrastructures and networks under design.
- The promotion of any necessary business and technological networks and collaborations on a Balkan level.

Representatives of Ministries, Chambers, Research Sectors, Universities, Investment Groups, Carriers of Ports and Airports of the 6 countries of the Balkans (Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, North Macedonia, Romania and Albania) will participate in the event.

The commence of the Forum will declare the Deputy Minister of Interior (Sector of Macedonia and Thrace), Mrs. Eleftheria Chatzigeorgiou, followed by a speech of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Development, Mr. Ioannis Dragasakis, themed “ Balkan Cooperation & mutual development, capability and perspective.”

Between the speakers of the specific themed parts of the forum, the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr. Christos Spirtzis and the Deputy Minister of Economy and Development, Mr. Asterios Pitsiorlas, accompanied by all the counterpart Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the Balkan countries, as well as the Vice Minister of Economy and Development, Mr. Efstathios Yannakidis, with representatives of the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, will also participate.

***By the Press Office
On request to be published***