



April 1st, 2019

Press Release

Press conference for the 1st Balkan Forum in Thessaloniki

The organization of the 1st Balkan Forum on April 5th & 6th, 2019 at the “Aimilios Riadis” venue on TIF Helexpo was discussed and presented on a press conference by the Deputy Minister of Interior (Sector Macedonia and Thrace), Mrs. Eleftheria Chatzigeorgiou, who mentioned the goals in which the meeting of carriers, ministers, academics and chamber representatives aims to, as well as the general strategy on the promotion of mutual development in the Balkan countries.

“The Balkan countries most essentially require stability, economic support, security and prosperity”, mentions Mrs. Chatzigeorgiou, underlining the fact that the development of contemporary foreign networks is the driving force behind the promotion of effective networking in the fields of entrepreneurship and innovation. That is, according to the Deputy Minister, the main issue of the Balkan Forum: the economic convergence and coherence of the Balkan countries through the modernization and the evolution of business, transport, technological and energy infrastructures and networks.

The 1st Balkan Forum, according to the Deputy Minister of Interior (Sector Macedonia and Thrace), Mrs. Eleftheria Chatzigeorgiou, aims firstly to evaluate the existing level of the business, transport, industrial and energy infrastructures and networks on a Balkan level, secondly to record significant needs and shortcomings, and also to research which infrastructures and networks must be implemented. Last but not least, one of the aims of the 1st Balkan forum is fundraising.

Mrs. Chatzigeorgiou mentioned that the Prespa Agreement, commenced new possibilities of economic collaboration and funding of foreign infrastructures from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

“The main ambition is for Greece to become the transit junction of international range, as the connection of the ports of Northern Greece with the Black Sea and river Danube, the Egnatia Railway, the energy pipes TAP and East Med.,” adding that

Thessaloniki becomes the center of the Balkans taking actions and not just words. In this direction, she reminded that the carrier of the support of this foreign collaboration will be based in Thessaloniki, as decided on the 5th meeting of Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia.

From the Press Office