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The Greek Exports Guide of the Chambers Group for the Development of Greek Isles (E.O.A.E.N.) is bound for an exciting journey around the world!

It has been an honor and a privilege to embark on this mission, assigned to me by the President and Board of Directors of E.O.A.E.N. This English edition —the preferred international language— and its website, www.exporters-eoaen.gr serve as a “compass” for businesses around the world and a way to become more informed about the Greek producers-exporters of the island and coastal regions. The bounty that comes from these regions deserves recognition and it is my hope that through this Guide, many will learn more about what makes Greek products special.

The virtues of Greece have been promoted worldwide for many years. Greece is known as a country with undeniable natural beauty, historical, cultural and archeological significance and warm hospitality. This has translated into a booming tourist industry, which is a welcome source of growth and revenue for the Greek economy during difficult economic times. Beyond the tourist appeal, this edition focuses on the Greek islands as centers of production, the standardization of local products for exports and the overall potential for the region as an economic engine.

In spite of the European and punishing Greek economic crisis of the past few years, there are many export businesses based on our islands, which have bucked the trend and created new opportunities for growth and economic prosperity. Each of these export companies has managed to deliver products and services of uncommon and superior quality to the world. Many of these local products are unique in flavor, color or consistency —depending on the island— because of the varying microclimates and rich biodiversity. These companies capitalize on their distinctive resources and build their businesses by exporting, sharing their unique products beyond their limited borders.

Inspired by the mission to further the business development on the islands, E.O.A.E.N. —comprised



of 19 member Chambers with jurisdiction of the islands within their regions— compiled a Directory of exporting members found at the end of this edition. More than 500 businesses in 11 Categories are in the Directory, created to disseminate far and wide to help attract new global partnerships.

In addition to the Directory, there are 17 informative and scientific articles written by experts, leaders and organizations in the field – each written for the benefit of our readers abroad, who are curious to know what makes our products so special. The Guide features Greek Island products including wine, ouzo, cheese, olive oil and the unique mastiha.

The Guide will be distributed to: a) all Commercial Attachés of the Greek Embassies and Consulates worldwide, b) all central Chambers of Commerce around the world, c) members of the Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Union (INSULEUR) d) all Bilateral Chambers of Commerce in Greece and finally e) all Greek Chambers of Commerce.

At the same time, the website will be updated regularly, and available to the international business and trade community.

The Guide is under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy and Development, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, and also the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy. The representatives of each Ministry including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of Enterprise Greece S.A., the official Investment, Exports and Trade Promotion Agency of Greece, all graciously welcomed this initiative and we thank them for their valuable support.

At this point I'd like to give special thanks to some key people whose resourcefulness, expertise, ideas and creativity all added so much value to the Guide in both forms - publication and website. Kostas Kanellopoulos created graphics for the website and our publication's amazing cover. Stamatis Poulimenos, our Web & Full Stack developer of Active Social Networking, finalized the new website and it will be on line at the same time as we go to press.

Special thanks goes to U.S. based Journalist, Darya Mead, our copy editor, her invaluable contribution offered a fresh view. The continuous roll out of edits and revisions, made the process highly professional, smooth and effective, elevating the entire publication to world standards.

This publication would not have been finalized without the generous contribution of our sponsors and advertisers to whom we are very grateful.

Finally, I would personally like to thank the President of E.O.A.E.N., Mr. Thrasylvoulos Kalogridis and the Board of Directors for entrusting me with this significant project. The experience has been challenging but very rewarding, because the Greek islands were presented through a new prism: Production and exports, commitment to quality, and potential for further growth and development.

Anna Kremli
Executive Editor



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