No. ATH/COM/201/1-2/19

**Economic and Commercial Report for January-February 2019**

1. **Trends in bilateral trade and investment:**

**(i) Bilateral Trade**

January-October 2018, *In million Euro*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Export | Import | Total | Growth of export (as compared with Jan-Oct 2017) | Growth of import (as compared with Jan-Oct 2017) |
| Greece’s trade with India | **132.2** | **341.5** | **473.7** | **174.5%** | **8.4%** |
| Greece’s total trade | **27,437.8** | **45,163.8** | **72,601.6** | **17.6%** | **10.1%** |

*Preliminary data*

*Source: Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT). Data processed by Export Research Centre (KEEM)*

**(ii) Top 10 items Greece exports to India**

*In million Euro*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.****No.** | **Description** | **January-October 2018** | **Growth****(as compared** **to Jan-Oct 2017)** | **Share in total export to India** |
| **1** | **Petroleum oils** and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (other than crude) and preparations not elsewhere specified or included, containing by weight 70% or more of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals, these oils being the basic constituents of the preparations, other than those containing biodiesel and other than waste oils: Light oils and preparations: **Other light oils (HS code: 27.10.12.90)** | **53.6** | **na** | **40.5%** |
| **2** | **Petroleum oils** and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (other than crude) and preparations not elsewhere specified or included, containing by weight 70% or more of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals, these oils being the basic constituents of the preparations, other than those containing biodiesel and other than waste oils: **Other lubricating oils and other oils (HS code: 27.10.19.99)** | **10.5** | **na** | **7.9%** |
| **3** | **Cotton,** not carded or combed: **Other (HS code: 52.01.00.90)** | **8.3** | **na** | **6.2%** |
| **4** | **Soya-bean oil and its fractions,** whether or not refined, but not chemically modified: Crude oil, whether or not degummed: **Other (HS code: 15.07.10.90)** | **7.6** | **na** | **5.7%** |
| **5** | **Aluminium foil** (whether or not printed or backed with paper, paperboard, plastics or similar backing materials) of a thickness (excluding any backing) not exceeding 0,2 mm: Not backed: Rolled but not further worked: **Of a thickness of not less than 0,021 mm but not more than 0,2 mm (HS code: 76.07.11.90)** | **5.9** | **na** | **4.4%** |
| **6** | **Ferrous waste and scrap;** remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel: Waste and scrap of alloy steel: Of stainless steel: **Other (HS code: 72.04.21.90)** | **4.7** | **na** | **3.5%** |
| **7** | **Marble and travertine: Crude or roughly trimmed (HS code: 25.15.11.00)** | **3.2** | **na** | **2.4%** |
| **8** | **Aluminium waste and scrap: Scrap (HS code: 76.02.00.90)** | **2.5** | **na** | **1.8%** |
| **9** | **Mechano-therapy appliances;** massage apparatus; psychological aptitude- testing apparatus; ozone therapy, oxygen therapy, aerosol therapy, artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus: **Ozone therapy, oxygen therapy, aerosol therapy, artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus (HS code: 90.19.20.00)** | **2.1** | **na** | **1.5%** |
| **10** | **Worked monumental or building stone** (except slate) and articles thereof, other than goods of heading 6801; mosaic cubes and the like, of natural stone (including slate), whether or not on a backing; artificially coloured granules, chippings and powder, of natural stone (including slate): Other monumental or building stone and articles thereof, simply cut or sawn, with a flat or even surface: **Marble, travertine and alabaster (HS code: 68.02.21.00)** | **1.5** | **na** | **1.1%** |

*Source: Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)*

**(iii) Top 10 items Greece exports to the World**

*In million Euro*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.****No.** | **Description** | **January-October 2018** | **Growth****(as compared** **to Jan-Oct 2017)** | **Share in total export to the World** |
| **1** | Mineral fuels, lubricants, etc. | **9,599.5** | **31.4%** | **35.0%** |
| **2** | Manufactured goods classified chiefly by raw material | **4,357.1** | **14.5%** | **15.9%** |
| **3** | Food and live animals | **3,760.0** | **6.8%** | **13.7%** |
| **4** | Chemicals and related products | **2,837.2** | **13.0%** | **10.3%** |
| **5** | Machinery and transport equipment | **2,386.7** | **14.5%** | **8.7%** |
| **6** | Miscellaneous manufactured articles  | **1,813.3** | **8.0%** | **6.6%** |
| **7** | Crude materials inedible, except fuels | **1,054.6** | **8.0%** | **3.8%** |
| **8** | Animal and vegetable oils and fats  | **584.0** | **41.1%** | **2.1%** |
| **9** | Beverages and tobacco | **585.9** | **-1.5%** | **2.1%** |
| **10** | Commodities and transactions not classified by category | **459.5** | **5.7%** | **1.7%** |

*Source: Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)*

**(iv) Top 10 items Greece imports from India**

*In million Euro*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.****No.** | **Description** | **January-October 2018** | **Growth****(as compared** **to Jan-Oct 2017)** | **Share in total export to India** |
| **1** | **Aluminium, not alloyed (HS Code: 76.01.10.00)** | **39.5** | **na** | **11.5%** |
| **2** | **Molluscs,** whether in shell or not, live, fresh, chilled, frozen, dried, salted or in brine; smoked molluscs, whether in shell or not, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process; flours, meals and pellets of molluscs, fit for human consumption: **Cuttle fish and squid: Frozen: *Loligo* spp.: Other (HS code: 03.07.43.38)** | **12.1** | **na** | **3.5%** |
| **3** | **Flat–rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel,** of a width of 600 mm or more, clad, plated or coated: Painted, varnished or coated with plastics: **Other (HS code: 72.10.70.80)** | **12.0** | **na** | **3.5%** |
| **4** | **Nucleic acids and their salts,** whether or not chemically defined; other heterocyclic compounds: **Other (HS code: 29.34.99.90)** | **11.2** | **na** | **3.2%** |
| **5** | **Other oil seeds** and oleaginous fruits, whether or not broken: Sesame seeds: **Other (HS code: 12.07.40.90)** | **11.1** | **na** | **3.2%** |
| **6** | **Crustaceans,** whether in shell or not, live, fresh, chilled, frozen, dried, salted or in brine: **Frozen: Other shrimps and prawns: Other (HS code: 03.06.17.99)** | **9.8** | **na** | **2.8%** |
| **7** | Coconuts, Brazil nuts and cashew nuts, fresh or dried, whether or notshelled or peeled: **Cashew nuts: Shelled (HS code: 08.01.32.00)** | **8.1** | **na** | **2.3%** |
| **8** | **Aluminium, alloys; slabs and billets (columns) (HS Code: 76.01.20.20)** | **8.0** | **na** | **2.3%** |
| **9** | **Motor cars and other motor vehicles** principally designed for the transport of persons (other than those of heading 8702), including station wagons and racing cars: **Of a cylinder capacity exceeding 1000 cm3 but not exceeding 1500 cm3:** **New (HS code: 87.03.22.10)** | **7.2** | **na** | **2.1%** |
| **10** | Electrical transformers, static converters (for example, rectifiers) and inductors: **Liquid dielectric transformers: Having a power handling capacity not exceeding 650 kVA (HS code: 85.04.21.00)** | **6.5** | **na** | **1.9%** |

*Source: Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)*

**(v) Top 10 items Greece imports from the World**

*In million Euro*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.****No.** | **Description** | **January-October 2018** | **Growth****(as compared** **to Jan-Oct 2017)** | **Share in total export to the World** |
| **1** | Mineral fuels, lubricants, etc. | **13,446.4** | **31.5%** | **29.8%** |
| **2** | Machinery and transport equipment | **8,745.7** | **-3.9%** | **19.4%** |
| **3** | Chemicals and related products | **6,564.8** | **7.3%** | **14.5%** |
| **4** | Manufactured goods classified chiefly by raw material | **5,255.5** | **9.8%** | **11.6%** |
| **5** | Food and live animals | **4,656.2** | **1.0%** | **10.3%** |
| **6** | Miscellaneous manufactured articles  | **4,593.8** | **7.8%** | **10.2%** |
| **7** | Crude materials inedible, except fuels | **1,093.5** | **7.7%** | **2.4%** |
| **8** | Beverages and tobacco | **553.4** | **5.0%** | **1.2%** |
| **9** | Animal and vegetable oils and fats  | **213.1** | **-10.8%** | **0.5%** |
| **10** | Commodities and transactions not classified by category | **41.4** | **-72.0%** | **0.1%** |

*Source: Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)*

**(vi) Bilateral investment**

According to the latest available figures published by the Bank of Greece, there was no Indian direct investment in Greece, during the period 2008-2018.

**Indian companies in Greece**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** | **Name of company** | **Section** |
| 1  | HIMALAYA DRUG COMPANY | Ayurveda products |

**Greek companies in India**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** | **Name of company** | **Section**  |
| 1 | TOPOS TRADING PVT. LTD | Olive Oil |
| 2 | FRIGOGLASS | Ice-cold merchandisers, glass containers, plastics, metal crowns and home refrigeration |
| 3 | IMERYS INDUSTRIAL MINERALS GREECE S.A. | Natural resources, industrial minerals, bentonite, bauxite, perlite, etc. |
| 4 | NIVA SHIPPING LTD | Ship brokering, connect Indian and Greek shipping communities |
| 5 | INTRACOM TELECOM | Wireless and network systems, ICT services and solutions, telecommunication software |
| 6 | PHARMATHEN | Pharmaceutical and medical products |
| 7 | CHIPITA S.A. | Confectionery, savoury, snacks |
| 8 | THEON SENSORS S.A. | Night vision equipment |
| 9 | LEAF TOBACCO A. MICHAILIDIS S.A. | Processing of oriental tobacco |
| 10 | DANAOS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS LTD. | Software – Marine application management |
| 11 | EUROCERT S.A. | Management system certifications |
| 12 | ALUMIL | Developing and producing aluminium profiles for architectural application |
| 13 | SDS EDAMIRAL | Marine services, recruitment, underwater services, freight forwarding |
| 14 | SKYLINES | Travel and DMC |

**(vii) Global investment**

The total net FDI in Greece for the period 2008-2018 amounted to Euro 21,847 million. Investment activity in Greece originated primarily from EU companies. Germany and France were the top source countries of investment capital during 2008-2018, mainly due to the investment of Deutsche Telecom in Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation “OTE” and the acquisition of Greek banks by French ones, followed by Cyprus, Switzerland, Canada, USA, China (including Hong Kong), Luxembourg, Spain, Italy etc. During the last decade, FDI inflows in Greece focused mainly in the tertiary sector (77%), followed by the secondary sector (9%) by a significant margin. Investment in the primary sector was 4% and Other sector investment was 10%.

**2. Embassy’s activities during the months of January and February 2019.**

January 7, Ambassador Ms. Shamma Jain called on the Secretary-General, Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Mr. Anthanasios Vourdas, in connection with latter’s participation in the Global Aviation Summit held on January 15-16 in Mumbai and discussed the strengthening of the bilateral cooperation.

Ambassador called on the Greek Minister of Maritime and Insular Policy, Mr. Fotis Kouvelis, on January 10, and discussed the strengthening of the bilateral cooperation in the field of shipping sector.

Ambassador held a meeting with the Greek Agricultural Development and Food Minister Mr. Stavros Arachovitis on January 16, 2019. They discussed further strengthening of agricultural trade between the two countries. The Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food issued a press statement on the meeting. Minister Arachovitis thanked Ambassador for her contribution in launching trial exports of Greek apples in India and requested for the completion of the pending procedures. With regard to Kiwis, Minister Arachovitis also expressed Greece’s keen interest for publishing in the Official Gazette of the Government of India of the acceptance of the cold treatment in transit method. Minister Arachovitis also referred to the Greek side's determination to protect the reputation of Greek products such as feta cheese throughout its commercial agreements with other countries. Deputy Agricultural Development and Food Minister Ms. Olympia Teligioridou also attended the meeting.

At the invitation of Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Mr. R.N. Choubey, Secretary General of the Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Mr. Athanasios Vourdas and the Diplomatic Advisor to the Minister Mrs. Calliope Douti, attended the Global Aviation Summit held in Mumbai on 15 -16 January 2019. Secretary General Mr. Vourdas also participated in DGCA’s Roundtable Meeting.

On February 22, Ambassador Ms. Shamma Jain held a meeting with Ambassador (Retd.) Konstantinos Bitsios, Executive Vice Chairman of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) to identify measures to strengthen our bilateral trade and commerce.

**3. Important Indian related statements of commercial significance by political leaders, think tanks, chambers, associations, etc:**

Nothing significant.

**4. Market access:**

***a. Alerts on tariff changes, non-tariff barriers (SPS, TBT measures, import and export procedures/restrictions/prohibitions/licencing etc), trade policy developments:***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** | **Notification no. and date or other references** | **Details** | **Effective from** |
| NA | Greece is part of the European Union (EU) and commercial policy is regulated by the European Commission. EU trade system, exporting and importing are covered by EC Regulations: <https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business_en>Negotiations for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the EU and India were launched in 2007 and suspended in 2013:<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/india/>  | NA | NA |

***b. Alerts on Trade Defences Measures taken by respective country (Safeguards including special safeguard, antidumping, CVD or Anti-subsidy)***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** | **Notification no. and date or other references** | **Details of product's sectors affected (including HS codes)** | **Effective from** |
| NA | Greece is part of the European Union (EU) and commercial policy is regulated by the European Commission. EU trade system, exporting and importing are covered by EC Regulations: <https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business_en>Negotiations for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the EU and India were launched in 2007 and suspended in 2013:<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/india/>  | NA | NA |

***c. Feedback from major India industries/other commercial concerns set-up in that country and Indian trade visitors to that country***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** | **Name of business house** | **Activity sector** | **Trade barrier issue if any (including HS codes)** | **General feedback** |
| NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |

***d. Feedback on major trade fairs/BSM including Indian participation (whether or not supported by MAI funds):***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** | **Particular of trade fair, dates etc** | **Number of participants from India** | **List of large participants** | **Feedback received** |
| NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |

***e. Feedback from local commercial visitors to trade fairs in India, including under BSM***

Number of Business Visas issued (in January and February, 2019): **25 (Twenty-five)**

**5. Investment:**

***a. Information on tender Notices for projects and procurements of interest to Indian project exporters/suppliers (USD 15 million & above)***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No** | **Tender/procurement notice No and date** | **Sector** | **Value of tender/procurement** |
| NA | NA | NA | NA |
| NA | NA | NA | NA |

Information on tender notices for projects and procurements is available online at the website of the Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund (HRADF): <https://www.hradf.com/en/> and the website of the Enterprise Greece Agency: <https://www.enterprisegreece.gov.gr/en/invest-in-greece>

***b. Information regarding upcoming major investment in India from respective country:***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No** | **Particular of the asset/company** | **Sector of investment** | **Quantum of investment** |
| NA | NA | NA | NA |

**6. Details of trade research, information dissemination activity of the commercial wing (*January-February, 2019*):**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No** | **Nature of activity (trade research, information dissemination, seminars, etc)** | **Details (date, venue & number of participants, copy of research sent to DOC)** |
| 1 | Information dissemination:Upcoming events: 6th edition of SVUM 2019 International Trade Show, organised by Saurashtra Vepal Udyog Mahamandal (SVUM), Federation of Trade & Industry Saurashtra | 11-15 February, 2019 at Rajkot, Gujarat |
| 2 | Information dissemination:Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India), organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) | Launched on 14th January, 2019 and Grand Expo-cum-Conference on GHTC-India on 04-05 March, 2019  |
| 3 | Information dissemination:Integrated Machine Tool Park (IMTP) at Tumakuru in Karnataka, developed by the State Government of Karnataka, in association with the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy industry & Public Enterprises | Tumakuru in Karnataka, expected to be ready by March, 2019. 158 industrial plots of various dimensions have been formed in this park. |

**7. Details of activities conducted out of market expansion budget of the Ministry of External Affairs:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **BE, RE for 2018-19** | **Amount utilised in Rs** | **Details of activity** |
|  | INR 2, 28, 996 Utilized in June, 2018 | Nil in January-February, 2019 |

**8. Action taken on the previous JWGs, join commissions, sub-commissions etc. (issued that Mission had to follow up with host government) (in Jan-Feb. 2019)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No** | **Detail of JWG/JEC** | **Action Point** | **Action Taken** |
| NA | NA | NA | NA |

**9. Trade Queries for import/export** (January-February 2019)

|  |
| --- |
| **Trade Queries from India for Import/Export attended by the Mission** |
| **No.** | **Enquiry Originator** | **Product** | **Nature:** | **Action Taken** |
| **Import/Export** |
| 1 | M/s Triumph Corporation, Rajkot, Gujarat | Wine, Flexible packaging material, Spices, Chocolate | Export | Information sent |
| 2 | M/s Aron Universal Ltd., Bangalore, Karnataka | Pigments, Plastic articles, Textile printing & dyeing, paints & coatings | Export | Information sent |
| 3 | M/s Panipat Woolen Yarn Centre, Panipat, Haryana | Nylon & polyester waste | Export/ info about an interested Greek buyer | Information sent |
| 4 | M/s Rockwell Industries Limited, Hyderabad, Telangana | Deep freezers, solar coolers/ freezers | Export | Information sent |
| 5 | M/s ESB-Textile, Vengamedu, Karur | Cotton bags | Export | Information sent |
| 6 | M/s Ranga Rao & Sons Pvt. Ltd., Mysore | Incense sticks and candles | Export | Information sent |
| 7 | M/s Vinove Kitchenwares, Sonepat, Haryana | Kitchenware, Household articles | Export | Information sent |
| 8 | M/s Padmawati Udhyog, Pali, Rajasthan | Monomer chemical | Export/ info about an interested Greek buyer | Information sent |
| 9 | M/s Shiv Exports, Ankleshwar, Gujarat | Cotton, Jute, Non-woven, Paper bags | Export | Information sent |
| 10 | M/s Urbane 90, Bangalore | Leather goods and apparel | Export | Information sent |
| 11 | M/s ALPS Coton Apparel, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu | Cotton, Jute, Non-woven, Paper, Leather bags | Export | Information sent |
| 12 | M/s JBRD International Exports Private Limited, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Rice, Onions, Potatoes | Export | Information sent |
| 13 | M/s Aquila Internaitonal, Vadodara, Gujarat | Agricultural products (onions, rice, cumin, soybean, lentils etc.) | Export | Information sent |
| 14 | M/s National Export Import, Bhilwara, Rajasthan | China clay, Charcoal, Fresh fruits & vegetables, Fertilizers | Export | Information sent |
| 15 | M/s Vignesh Exports and Imports, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu | Cereals, Coconut oil | Export | Information sent |
| 16 | M/s Apex Material Sciences, Ambattur, Chennai | Spectacle frames | Export | Information sent |
| 17 | M/s Divine Industries, Rajkot, Gujarat | Mosquito/ scented Incense sticks and Sanitary ware | Export | Information sent |
| **Trade Queries from Greece for Import/Export attended by the Mission** |
| **No.** | **Enquiry Originator** | **Product** | **Nature: Import/Export** | **Action Taken** |
| 1 | M/s Minas Sakellakis, Karpathos, Dodekanissa | Wooden handicrafts for tourists | Looking for Indian partner to produce in India wooden handicrafts for tourists | Information sent |
| 2 | M/s Social Cooperative Enterprise, Nea Makri, Attiki | Oxidized jewelry, Jutti shoes, Leather bags, Silk scarves and skirts | Import | Information sent |
| 3 | M/s Thomaidis Hellenic Marble, Thiva, Halkida | Marble | Export | Information sent |
| 4 | M/s Nikolaos Psaris & Sia EE, “Batteries and more”, Karditsa | Hybrid diesel-electric conversion | Info about and Indian company | Information sent |
| 5 | M/s Moris Hellas, Athens | Spare parts of elevators | Import/ Info about and Indian company | Information sent |
| 6 | M/s Nikolaos Politis Ltd., Ag. I. Rentis, Athens | Pink onions | Import | Information sent |
| 7 | M/s Central Market Thessaloniki,  | Fruit and vegetables | Import/ Info about and Indian company | Information sent |
| 8 | M/s Naturam, Filiatra, Messinia | Swimming pool chemicals and disinfection of tanks | Import/ Info about an Indian company |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Upcoming Fairs and Exhibitions in Greece** |
| **No.**  | **Event**  | **Organised by** |  **Date**  |  **Venue** | **URL** |
| 1 | 84th International Thessaloniki Fair*(Honoured Country: India)* | Helexpo | 7-15 September 2019 | Thessaloniki International Exhibition & Congress Centre | <https://tif.helexpo.gr/en> |
| 2 | “Kosmima”34th International Exhibition for Jewellery, Clocks and Watches, Precious stones, Machinery Equipment | Helexpo | 19-21 October 2019 | Thessaloniki International Exhibition & Congress Centre | <https://kosmima.helexpo.gr/en> |
| 3 | “Hotelia”International Hotel Equipment Exhibition | Helexpo | 8-10 November 2019 | Thessaloniki International Exhibition & Congress Centre | <https://hotelia.helexpo.gr/en> |
| 4 | “Philoxenia”35th International Tourism Exhibition | Helexpo | 8-10 November 2019 | Thessaloniki International Exhibition & Congress Centre | <https://philoxenia.helexpo.gr/en> |
| 5 | Euro Wedding & More | Status Ekthesiaki | 11-13 January 2020 | Helexpo- Maroussi, Athens | <http://status-ekthesiaki.gr/%CE%AD%CE%BA%CE%B8%CE%B5%CF%83%CE%B7-eurowedding-and-more>  |
| 6 | “Agrotica”28th International Fair for Agricultural Machinery, Equipment & Supplies | Helexpo | 30/1-02/02, 2020 | Thessaloniki International Exhibition & Congress Centre | <http://agrotica.helexpo.gr/en>  |
| 7 | “Detrop Boutique”29th International Exhibition for Food & Beverages | Helexpo | 22-24 February 2020 | Thessaloniki International Exhibition & Congress Centre | <http://detropboutique.helexpo.gr/en>  |
| 8 | “Artozyma”9th International Exhibition for Bakey, Confectionery, Raw materials, Equipment & Products | Helexpo | 22-24 February 2020 | Thessaloniki International Exhibition & Congress Centre | <http://artozyma.helexpo.gr/en>  |

**10. Any other issue of importance**

* Greece has launched its satellite Hellas Sat 4 successfully from French Guiana on February 6, 2019 in order to take up the orbital position of Greece and Cyprus. Greek Minister of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media, Nikos Pappas stated that the launch of Hellas Sat 4 will increase Greek’s capabilities for autonomous satellite communications, defense and security.
* Greek President Prokopios Pavlopoulos inaugurated the 4th Delphi Economic Forum on February 28, 2019 at the European Cultural Centre of Delphi. Speaking on the topic "From the Industrial Revolution to the Technological Revolution: In the constellation of an uncertain future", the President analysed the repercussions of "technological unemployment" as machines took over more and more jobs once carried out by people and the protections against rapidly changing conditions in the labour market and society.
* Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras addressed Delphi Economic Forum on March 1 stated that the government worked with determination and honesty and assumed the great mission to succeed in four years not only to heal the wounds of decades but also to form a new vision and plan for the future. He also mentioned about Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone, Prespes Agreement, etc.
* On 25th January 2019, Greek MPs approved the Prespes Agreement which renamed the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) to “North Macedonia”. The contentious deal passed into law- with 153 votes in favour, 146 against and one present– following several days of vehement debate in the House and protests in the streets. PM Alexis Tsipras welcomed the deal’s ratification as ‘historic’ and referred to the Balkan country as North Macedonia. The approval of the Prespes deal in Parliament prompted congratulations from European, US and NATO officials who had pressed for a resolution to the long-standing row.
* Hellenic Government’s Spokesman Dimitris Tzanakopoulos announced on February 15, a mini cabinet reshuffle. Mr. Giorgos Katrougalos (Alternate Foreign Minister) appointed as new Foreign Minister. Ms. Sia Anagnostopoulou was appointed as Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs with responsibility for European Affairs in place of Giorgos Katrougalos. Ms. Eleftheria Hatzigeorgiou took over the charge as Deputy Interior Minister with responsibility for Macedonia – Thrace.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

Gopal Ram

Second Secretary (HOC)

Distribution: As per the standard list