



Press Release

Vassilios Psaltis: “The Exhibition of the Numismatic Collection in Bucharest marks the Group’s 30-year long presence in Romania”

The Alpha Bank Numismatic Collection travels outside Greece for the first time

Greece’s strong ties with Romania “go far beyond business activities and extend to culture”: This was the view communicated by Alpha Bank Group’s Management, who visited Bucharest on the occasion of the inauguration of the Exhibition “TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN”. The Exhibition, organized by the Bank’s Numismatic Collection together with the Group’s subsidiary Alpha Bank Romania and Romania’s central bank Banca Națională a României (National Bank of Romania), is presented at the Museum of the central bank of Romania and will be open to the public from September 22, 2023 to March 1, 2024.

The inauguration event, hosted by the Governor of Banca Națională a României, Mugur Isărescu, was attended, among others, by the Ambassador of Greece to Romania, Sofia Grammata, the CEO of Alpha Bank Romania and Alpha Bank Group General Manager of International Network, S. Oprescu, and representatives of the Romanian business community.

The Exhibition aims to disseminate ancient Greek culture while and to further strengthen the ties, both economic and cultural, between Greece and Romania. At the same time, the rich material accompanying the exhibits and the educational programs carried out in the framework of the Exhibition, strengthen the financial literacy of young people, which is a key objective of the Group’s corporate responsibility actions.

During their visit to Bucharest, the Chair of Alpha Bank’s Board of Directors, Vasileios Rapanos, the Group CEO, Vassilios Psaltis, the CFO Lazaros Papagaryfallou, the General Manager of Wholesale Banking, Ioannis Emiris and the General Manager - Growth and Innovation, Spyros Filaretos, visited corporate customers as well as the new offices of the Group’s subsidiary, Alpha Bank Romania, where they were informed about the country’s growth prospects and the investment opportunities presented.

The Alpha Bank Numismatic Collection celebrates its 50th anniversary

Counting 50 years of operations and contribution to Culture, Education and Society, the Alpha Bank Numismatic Collection has travelled for the first time to Romania, where the Bank has a strong and lengthy presence, to promote the history of the currency since its invention and its role as both a work of art and as a crucial factor for the development of commerce and cross-cultural relations between people.

The exhibits, their descriptions and the material curated by the Bank’s Numismatic Collection, **will take visitors on a journey to the world of ancient Greece, acquainting them with the ancient Greek culture and with the way in which it influenced and shaped European culture as we know it today.** At the same time, thanks to coins such as the **silver drachma of Istros** and the **silver octobol of Callatis**, two ancient Greek colonies located in modern-day Romania, **visitors of the Exhibition will have the opportunity to learn about the ancient history of the country and its close relations with ancient Greece.**



The Exhibition pays tribute to the memory of Yannis S. Costopoulos, whose inspiration and vision were the driving forces behind the creation and growth of the Alpha Bank Numismatic Collection. His personal interest, passion for Culture and ardent efforts to ensure that ancient Greek coins would remain in their home country, helped make the Collection what it is today – one of the largest and most important coin collections worldwide.

S. Grammata: “I am proud of the banking services offered by Alpha Bank in Romania”

The Ambassador of Greece to Romania, Sofia Grammata, referred to the Bank’s significant contribution to Culture, mentioning in particular the actions of the Bank’s Numismatic Collection as well as the work of the Bank’s Library and of its Historical Archives.

“Alpha Bank was the first foreign private bank to enter the Romanian banking market, bringing innovations such as housing loans, being the first bank to grant such loans in the country. As Ambassador of Greece to Romania, I am proud of the banking services offered by Alpha Bank in Romania and I would like to express my warmest thanks to it for the great joy it gives us today, with the exhibition of the Alpha Bank Numismatic Collection, to be able to make this journey to the history of ancient coins,” she said.

V. Rapanos: “Relations between Greece and Romania go far beyond business activities”

In his short address during the inauguration ceremony held at the Museum of the Central Bank of Romania, Mr. Rapanos, after thanking the National Bank of Romania for its contribution to the implementation of the Exhibition, said:

“At Alpha Bank we are quite confident about the future of the Romanian economy, business community and the society at large, and we hope that this initiative will serve as a reminder of what we can achieve together to make the most of the many opportunities that Romania has today. Through this initiative, I hope we can bring together people from all over the country, including the younger generations.”

Regarding Greece’s relations with Romania, Mr. Rapanos stressed that ***“relations between Greece and Romania go far beyond business activities.***

Our shared values for preserving history and building meaningful ties between our peoples and societies have brought us closer, as evidenced by our long-standing and important relationship with the National Bank of Romania.”

V. Psaltis: “Over the years, Alpha Bank Romania has been widely recognized as a reliable partner for business investments”

Mr. Psaltis, after thanking the National Bank of Romania, its Governor, Mugur Isărescu, as well as the executives of Alpha Bank and Alpha Bank Romania who worked to make this Exhibition happen, said:

“The inauguration of the Alpha Bank Numismatic Collection Exhibition marks the Group’s presence in the country, where it has been supporting the creation of value in the Romanian market since 1994. All these years, we have been constantly working with innovative entrepreneurs that promote growth and strengthen the economy, as well as with the Romanian government, enabling major development programs. Over the years, Alpha Bank Romania has been widely recognized as a reliable partner for business investments.

Concluding his brief address, Mr. Psaltis stressed that ***“this is a special occasion for all of us to celebrate the bonds of commerce and exchange that ties our countries together in the spirit of collaboration, economic well-being and progress for all.”***



The Exhibition

From **September 22, 2023 to March 1, 2024**, visitors to the Exhibition will have the opportunity to view **100 coins from antiquity to the Byzantine period**, some of which are of exceptional importance, such as **the first coin in history**, the sixth-stater made of amber and found in Ionia-Lydia, **the “Athenian owl”** which was antiquity’s most widely used coin in international transactions, and many more.

For her part, the **Curator of the Bank’s Numismatic Collection, Dr. Dimitra Tsangari**, said:

*“We are **particularly proud that the Alpha Bank Numismatic Collection has ‘travelled’ abroad for the first time**, making it possible for the Romanian public to see **the 'TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN’**”. The aim of the Exhibition is to present currency **not only as a basic medium of transaction, but also as a masterpiece of art and a means of communication**. After all, **it was the Greeks who first established the art of storytelling on a small metal disc**, as well as the first to bring to it their artistic inspiration, **turning the coin from a utilitarian object into a work of art.**”*

It is worth noting that the Bank, **faithful to its commitment to promote equal access to Culture for all**, presents in a section of the Exhibition the history of **10 important coins of the Collection in Braille**.