Heraklion, July 2015

To whom it may concern,

We are communicating with you in a way of brief update of the economic situation in Greece the impact on the daily life of the destination and what this practically means to the holiday-makers

On July 12th the negotiations between the Greek Government and EU concluded successfully to agreement for a third bailout package that will ensure the further presence of Greece within the Eurozone, the stability of the Greek banking system and the long – term growth potentials of the Greek economy.

On July 15th this agreement was confirmed by the Greek Parliament. This bailout package includes many austerity measures that will consequently reduce further the income of Greek citizens and make the recession even more intensive in short - term, it is however understood that is was inevitable in order to maintain the country`s financial stability.

As a result as from today all banks are again open in full operation, maintaining only some capital controls for the locals. All tourists however are not affected by this, as they can use their credit and debit cards without limitation both in the ATMs as well as in the POSs.

All shops and fuel stations, are in full operation, having full supplies, accepting payments in credit cards and all Public and Private Services in all sectors are provided without any problem, as they were anyway before and during the bank Holiday. Hotels are operating without any problem, having adequate supplies to cover all guests requirements.

Everyday life is back to normal. The island of Crete remains one of the top holiday destinations in terms of safety, quality of services and competitiveness.

During the past weeks the Region of Crete was in close contact with all the representatives of the Public and Private sector involved in tourist activities, monitoring daily the situation, ensuring a frequent communication between all parties involved and the avoidance of any eventual problems, resulting to a smooth stay and holiday for all visitors.

The past 5 years have been very difficult for all Greek citizens and is expected to take some time until the difficulties are behind. It is recognized by everybody that tourism is the main source of income and everybody is directly or indirectly benefited from every guest visiting our country.

Let us remember that Zeus, the mythical God of hospitality was born in Crete and Cretans don`t consider travelers as strangers ,or tourists, but as guests. Tourism

is uniting Nations and is helping us understand each other, getting to know the real faces behind eventual stereotypes.

The Region of Crete would like to warmly thank all the parties involved during the last weeks, all the local authorities, entrepreneurs, employees and citizens for the professionalism, maturity and sobriety they showed, the local and international Media showing the real picture of the smooth daily life of the island, the Ministry of Tourism, the Greek National Tourism Organization, the Greek Embassies, all tour – operators promoting our island during these challenging times and especially the travelers that actively showed their trust by visiting our island.

Crete remains “The Island inside you”, the island inside your dreams, heart and selection. See you soon in Crete, the island where you meet the human face of hospitality!

For the Region of Crete

Michalis Vamiedakis
Commissioner of Tourism