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BSTDB and Global Infrastructure Hub Join Forces to Boost Infrastructure Projects

Thessaloniki, March 8, 2017- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Global Infrastructure Hub (GI Hub) and the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) was signed today at the BSTDB headquarters in Thessaloniki, Greece. The MoU will help unlock private investment to fund much-needed public infrastructure in the Black Sea region.

The GI Hub and BSTDB are formalising strategic cooperation and the exchange of key knowledge and opportunities to promote greater investment in infrastructure in the region.

Signing the MoU, GI Hub Chief Executive Officer, Chris Heathcote said: "This is a good outcome for the GI Hub, and we look forward to building stronger collaborative relationships with the Bank and with key countries in the Black Sea".

"This MOU is the fifth the GI Hub has signed with a multilateral development bank, and we look forward to working closely with the BSTDB in identifying best practice infrastructure in the region and supporting a strong pipeline of private sector investment," he said.

Ihsan Ugur Delikanli, BSTDB President stressed that "Infrastructure investment is a crucial element of economic growth, competitiveness and employment. We are committed to further support the infrastructure needs of our Member Countries and we are glad to create synergies with the GI Hub to accelerate investment flows in the Black Sea region".

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The **Global Infrastructure Hub (GI Hub)** was launched in 2014 with a G20 mandate to increase the flow and the quality of opportunities for public and private infrastructure investment. We work to facilitate a better supply of quality, bankable government infrastructure projects to the private sector, identifying reforms, planning approaches and risk management strategies that drive public-private partnership and investment into infrastructure. We aim to be a leading reference on infrastructure best practices, providing innovations that enhance the market's ability to finance, build and secure the best returns from infrastructure projects.

The GI Hub provides early stage information to private investors on public infrastructure projects and guides investors on Allocating Risks in Public-Private Partnerships. Soon the GI Hub will launch interactive platforms with key data on infrastructure investment needs and leading practices for delivering public infrastructure. For more information about GI Hub, visit: <http://globalinfrastructurehub.org/>

The Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) is an international financial institution established by Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine. The BSTDB headquarters are in Thessaloniki, Greece. BSTDB supports economic development and regional cooperation by providing loans, credit lines, equity and guarantees for projects and trade financing in the public and private sectors in its member countries. The authorized capital of the Bank is EUR 3.45 billion. BSTDB is rated long-term "A-" by Standard and Poor's and "A2" by Moody's. For information on BSTDB, visit www.bstdb.org.