

PRESS RELEASE**WOLF THEISS TIRANA ADVISED EURPEAN INVESTMENT FUND ("EIF") IN A 25 MILLION-EURO AGREEMENT WITH ALPHA BANK**

Tirana, 11 July 2019 - Wolf Theiss Tirana's Partner Sokol Nako and Associate Kristaq Profkola advised the European Investment Fund (EIF) in a 25 million-euro agreement with Alpha Bank Albania for the financing of Albanian SMEs, as part of the EU's COSME Loan Guarantee Facility programme that supports the access of SMEs to financing. It is the first COSME programme agreement to be signed in Albania.

Based on the agreement, Alpha Bank Albania will grant loans to Albanian SMEs having limited available collateral, with the support of EIF's funds under the EU's COSME programme for guarantees. It is expected that approximately 200 businesses will benefit from new financing, with reduced collateral requirements, at more favourable conditions.

Albania is now the 32nd country where small and medium companies can have access to debt finance guaranteed by the EU. Overall, COSME loan guarantees provide over 25 billion euros of financing to more than 450,000 European SMEs.

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ABOUT WOLF THEISS

Founded in 1957, Wolf Theiss is one of the leading European law firms in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe with a focus on international business law. With 340 lawyers in 13 offices located in Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine, Wolf Theiss represents local and international industrial, trade and service companies, as well as banks and insurance companies. Combining law and business, Wolf Theiss develops comprehensive and constructive solutions on the basis of legal, fiscal and business know-how.

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