

PRESS RELEASE

20 December 2019

**Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visits the under construction South Section
of Central Greece Motorway (E65)**

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visited today the under construction south section of Central Greece Motorway accompanied by the Minister of Infrastructure & Transport, Kostas Karamanlis, the Chairman and CEO of GEK TERNA Group, George Peristeris, and other members of the government as well as members of the Parliament and Local Government authorities.

Mr. Peristeris welcomed the Prime Minister on behalf of the 1,000 employees working on the project, referring also to the great importance of the Central Greece Motorway both for the local communities but also for the national economy in broader terms.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis expressed his great satisfaction with the progress of the construction works and pledged that the road axis will not be left unfinished, emphasizing that the negotiations will be completed and the approval by EU for the northern part of the project (extending from Trikala to Egnatia), will be granted as well.

Furthermore, the Minister of Infrastructure & Transport, Kostas Karamanlis, stated that the project will offer fast, safe and economical access to areas that have been cut off for many decades, while essentially supporting the development of the wider region, improving the business environment, offering a boost to the trade activities, creating new prospects in terms of rural development, and also ensuring better access to neighboring tourist destinations.

The main features of the project

The South Section of Central Greece Motorway (E65) concerns the section from the junction with the ATHE motorway (at the 203rd km) up to the Road Junction (R/J) (or Interchange) of Xyniada, (0 km up to 32.5 km E65). Construction works began in early 2019 and are expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

Among its most important technical details are the following:

- 1 twin tunnel with a total length of approximately 3 km per branch
- 5 Upper & 6 Lower Crossings
- 1 double-sided Parking & Recreation Area (Parking & WC)
- 62 Arched Sewers and Fauna Crossings

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- 3 Road Junctions (Lamia, Karpenisi, Xyniada) & 2 Semi-Junctions (Anthili and ATHE)
- 1 double-sided Motorist Service Station (Lianokladi)
- 1 front-sided Toll Station (Karpenisi)
- 1 Control & Maintenance Center (Lianokladi)
- 1 Motorway Police Station Building (Lianokladi)

Kentriki Odos S.A., 100% subsidiary of GEK TERNA Group, is the Concession Company which has undertaken the study, design, construction, operation, exploitation and maintenance of the “Aftokinitodromos Kentrikis Ellados – E65” Concession Project. The project will be 100% constructed by TERNA S.A. (also 100% subsidiary of GEK TERNA Group).

Today, the central section of E65 Xyniada (32 km) to Trikala (112 km) is fully operational. Upon completion (including its northern part, the construction of which is expected in future) the highway will be 175 km long.

The Benefits of the Project

It is worth noting that Central Greece Motorway - E65 is a project of strategic importance for the development of the particular region but also of Greece in general, as it will offer an even more important and economical way to connect wider areas with one another, but also with the capital city, Athens. This in turn will signal the successful completion of a network of major national highways, as it is designed to connect to existing highways, offering at the same time various alternatives to its users and commuters. Indicatively, with the completion of the entire motorway, the port of Igoumenitsa - which functions as a gateway of Greece towards Central Europe - will be connected with the port of Volos and the whole country will gain access to, and connection with, the Trans-European Networks. The trip from Lamia to Egnatia Odos (in Western Macedonia) will take 1 hour and 30 minutes, while important tourist destinations such as Meteora, Plastira Lake, Agrafa, Metsovo, Karpenisi and others will be accessible, in a fast, easy and safe manner. All major cities in Western Macedonia will save more than 2 hours on their trip to the capital city, Athens. The route Trikala - Athens will last about 3 hours, the route Karditsa - Athens about 2 hours and 30 minutes, and the route Athens - Domokos about 2 hours and 10 minutes. Moreover, the project will significantly contribute to the development of the wider region of Lamia, since the connection of E65 with the ATHE motorway will take place after Thermopylae R/J.