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Greek

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Business registers in EU countries

Greece

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What does the Greek Business Registry offer?

The Greek business registry is called the General Commercial Registry (G.E.MI. - Greek abbreviation) under Law No 3419/2005 ([Government Gazette, Series I, No 297, 6.12.2005](#)) and Article 116 of Law No 4635/2019 ([Government Gazette, Series I, No 167, 30.10.2019](#)). It records all disclosures of business documents and data for limited liability companies and sole proprietorship companies. The website of the General Commercial Registry (G.E.MI) serves as the «National Gazette for the disclosure of commercial information». Natural or legal persons or associations of such persons as stipulated in Article 1(1) of Law No 3419/2005 are obliged to register in the General Commercial Registry.

You can search on the Registry website for information disclosed by the following types of business.

- a. Natural persons who are traders and have a place of business or establishment in Greece or who trade through a main or secondary establishment there.
- b. Associations of persons trading through a main or secondary establishment in Greece, and all commercial companies, provided that they were established under Greek law, whether general partnerships or limited companies (with or without public shareholders), cooperatives governed by civil law (which include mutual insurance associations and credit cooperatives), and private and public limited companies – and natural or legal persons obliged to report pursuant to Article 39 of the Presidential Decree of 27.11/14.12.1926.
- c. European economic interest groupings, as provided for by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2137/1985 (OJ L 199, corrigendum L 247), that have their headquarters in Greece.
- d. European companies, as provided for by Council Regulation (EC) No 2157/2001 (OJ L 294), that have their headquarters in Greece.
- e. European cooperative societies, as provided for by Council Regulation (EC) No 1435/2003 (OJ L 207), that have their headquarters in Greece.
- f. Parties referred to above that have their principal place of business or their headquarters in Greece must also register any branches they have in Greece.
- g. The foreign companies stipulated in Article 1 of Directive 68/151/EEC (OJ L 65), as amended by Article 1 of Directive 2003/58/EC (OJ L 221), whose headquarters are in an EU Member State must register any branches or agencies they have in Greece.
- h. Foreign companies whose headquarters are in a third country and which have a legal form similar to one of the foreign companies referred to in (g) above must register any branches or agencies they have in Greece.
- i. Other natural or legal persons or associations of such persons that have their principal place of business or their headquarters abroad and that do not fall under points (g) or (h) must register any branches or agencies through which they trade in Greece.
- j. Consortia.
- k. Civil law companies pursuant to Article 784 of the Civil Code and
- l. Natural or legal persons or associations of such persons engaged in, or intending to engage in, an economic or professional activity without yet having registered as traders by virtue of that activity.

What documents and data are recorded in the Greek business register?

The entry for a business that is required to register must include the following information.

- a. The registry number of the company, branch or agency.
- b. The registry office or department which carried out the initial registration or subsequent registration and the full name of the official responsible.
- c. The reference number of the registration application and the registration code.
- d. Where under the legislation in force a trader's licence, professional authorisation or establishment and operating permit is required in order to set up a business or begin trading, details of the decision taken by the authority or department competent to grant it.
- e. Court decisions declaring the company insolvent or placing it in a conciliation or other collective procedure to meet the claims of its creditors. The entry also includes the full name, parents' full names, identity card or passport numbers, place and date of birth, nationality and home address of the company's liquidators, compulsory administrators, trustees and insolvency practitioners.
- f. Details of the judicial decisions terminating, suspending or reversing the legal situations referred to in (e) above.
- g. The data that have to be published in accordance with insolvency law.
- h. Details of pending applications for insolvency or conciliation or other collective procedures.
- i. The number of branches or agencies that the company has in Greece, and the address and registration number of each of these.
- j. The number, address and details of the branches or agencies that the company has abroad.

k. The following information is registered and published in respect of companies based in Greece:

- a) memorandum and articles of association;
- b) amendments to the instrument of constitution or statutes, including the extension of the period of life of the company and, subsequent to any amendment of the instrument of constitution or of the statutes, the full text of the instrument or statutes, as amended by the new version;
- c) the appointment, termination of office and particulars of the persons who either as a body constituted pursuant to law or as members of any such body:

- aa) are authorised to represent the company in dealings with third parties. (in the event that this concerns more than one person, the relevant entry must state whether these persons can act alone or whether they must act jointly);
- bb) represent the company before a court of law
- cc) take part in the administration, supervision or control of the company;
- d) at least once a year, the amount of the capital subscribed, where the instrument of constitution or the statutes mention an authorised capital, unless any increase in the capital subscribed necessitates an amendment of the statutes;
- e) the accounting documents for each financial year which are mandatory under Council Directives 78/660/EEC (OJ L 222, 14.8.1978), 83/349/EEC (OJ L 193 18.7.1983), 86/635/EEC (OJ L 372 31.12.1986) and 91/674/EEC (OJ L 374 31.12.1991);
- f) any change of headquarters;
- g) the winding-up of the company;
- h) any declaration of nullity of the company by the courts;
- i) the appointment and particulars of the liquidators,
- j) the termination of the liquidation and the removal from the register.

II. The following information is registered and published in relation to the foreign companies referred to in Article 1 of Directive 68/151/EEC (OJ L 65) as amended by Article 1 of Directive 2003/58/EC (OJ L 221) that have their head office in an EU Member State:

- a) the postal or other address of the branch;
- b) the indication of the area of the branch's operations;
- c) the Member State register in which the company's file is kept and company's registration number in that register.
- d) the company's name and legal form, and the name of the branch if different from the name of the company;
- e) the appointment, termination of office and particulars of the persons who are authorised to represent the company in dealings with third parties and in legal proceedings:
 - aa) if they are provided for by law as management bodies of the company or as members of such a body in accordance with the disclosure requirements of the company under Article 2(1) of Directive 2009/101/EC (OJ L 258/1.10.2009)
 - bb) as permanent representatives of the company for the activities of the branch, with an indication of the extent of their powers;
- f) the winding-up of the company, the appointment and particulars of the liquidators and their powers and the finalisation of the winding up, including a reference to the Member State register, insolvency proceedings, arrangements, compositions, or any analogous proceedings to which the company is subject;
- g) the accounting documents of the company, as prepared, have been verified and published in accordance with the law of the Member State by which the company is governed and in accordance with Directives 78/660/EEC (OJ L 222 14.8.1978), 83/349/EEC (OJ L 193 18.7.1983) and 84/253/EEC. (OJ L 126 /20 12.5.1984)
- h) the closure of the branch.

How do you perform a search in the Greek business register?

You can search for any commercial disclosures on the website of the [General Commercial Registry](#) using just one of the following pieces of information relating to the company:

- Tax Identification Number (A.F.M. - Greek abbreviation) or
- General Commercial Registry (Γ.Ε.ΜΙ.) number or
- Company name or
- Short name.

Is access to the Greek Commercial Registry free of charge?

All members of the public can access the entry of a company in the [General Commercial Registry](#) free of charge. You may also digitally store on your own electronic device and print or otherwise reproduce any document, information or notice posted on the Registry website for public consultation either by the Registry or by the persons required to do so. If you wish to obtain official (authentic) certificates or copies of documents or data recorded in a company's entry in the Registry, you can register free of charge with the [General Commercial Registry's outreach department](#).

You can obtain official certificates or copies of documents and particulars on prior payment of a fee through the relevant electronic application. Certificates or copies of the relevant documents or data are delivered in two different ways: digitally through the Registry's outreach application, or by post to the addressee, anywhere in the world.

How is the authenticity of the official certificates or copies issued by the Greek Commercial Registry verified?

The authenticity of the relevant official certificates or copies is verified through the [Greek General Commercial Registry](#).

If you fill in the reference number of the certificate or copy, the company's registry number and the registry department that issued the document, the body of the document will appear.

How reliable are the Registry's documents?

The documents listed in businesses' entries can be relied upon, because the Registry is the only site available for commercial disclosure and constitutes the «National Gazette for the disclosure of commercial information» within the meaning of Article 3(5) of Directive 2009/101/EC. The General Commercial Registry is linked to the registers of the other Member States referred to in that legislation (national registers) through a centralised set of IT tools («the European central platform») as part of the system of interconnection of registers under Directive 2012/17/EU. Documents and data are registered in the General Commercial Registry following a check carried out by the staff of the Registry on their legality, accuracy, clarity and completeness and whether all the relevant fees provided for by current legislation have been paid. Provided that this check does not reveal anything which could prevent registration, the responsible Registry department will enter the relevant information for the business in the Registry. If the application, the documents submitted or the other supporting documents do not meet the requirements of the law or are not accurate and complete, the department responsible will ask you, either in writing or by fax or e-mail, to make the necessary explanations, corrections or supplements to the application, the supporting documents and the accompanying documents, within five (5) working days of receipt of the request. This period may be extended up to one month, if the circumstances and the type of data to be recorded so require. A deadline of this kind extends any other legal deadline for entering information in the Registry. If there is no response within the five-day deadline or any extension granted, or if the information submitted is not considered to meet the legal requirements or is not accurate and complete, the application for registration will be rejected by a reasoned decision and the registration fees will be refunded. For general partnerships and limited partnerships, public and private limited liability companies, cooperatives governed by civil law, European economic interest groupings provided for by Regulation 2137/1985/EEC (OJ L 199, corrigendum L. 247) based in Greece, European companies provided for by Regulation 2157/2001/EC (OJ L 294) based in Greece, European cooperative societies provided for by Regulation 1435/2003/EC (OJ L 207) based in Greece, and civil law companies referred to in Article 784 of the Civil Code, the registration of facts, statements, documents and other information in the General Electronic Commercial Register will produce the following effects:

- a. Legal persons of the kinds referred to above which are in the course of being set up will acquire legal personality.
- b. Subject to the specific provisions of current legislation governing the conversion of companies, businesses registering conversion will thereby be converted into public limited liability companies, private limited liability companies, cooperatives governed by civil law, European economic interest groupings, European companies or European cooperatives, as applicable.
- c. The business's instrument of constitution or statutes will be amended.
- d. A merger or division will take place, subject only to registration and prior to the striking-off the register of the company that is absorbed or divided.
- e. The business will be wound up, following a decision by the partners or the issuing of the relevant administrative act.
- f. A business will be revived.

Lastly, according to the express provision of paragraph 4 of Law No 3419/2005, the relevant entries in the Registry are presumed to be legal and correct.

Is there anything specific I need to know about the Greek General Commercial Registry?

The website of the General Commercial Registry (G.E.MI.) serves as the Greek electronic «National Gazette for the disclosure of commercial information» under Article 3(5) of Directive 2009/101/EC of 16.9.2009 (OJ L 258). The general directory of company names, the entry and all other information necessary for the public use of the Registry are published on the Registry website. Any natural or legal person has the right to access the Registry free of charge. You may also digitally store on your own electronic device and print or otherwise reproduce any document, data or notice posted on the G.E.MI. website for public consultation either by the Registry department or by the persons required to do so.

As part of the system of interconnection of registers, the General Commercial Registry: a) communicates by email with the other national registers and aa) receives information on data stored in another national register concerning companies which have their registered office in one EU Member State and branches in another EU Member State and bb) provides information on the data referred to in Article 6(2a) and (2b) of Law No 3419/2005 on companies which have their registered office or branches in Greece as referred to under paragraph 1(g) of the same law; and b) replies to questions submitted by individual users to the single European electronic access point of the system of interconnection of registers («the portal») as regards the information under point (a)(bb).

The Companies and Registry Department of the Directorate-General for Markets (Secretariat-General for Trade and Consumer Protection, Ministry of the Economy, Development and Tourism) is responsible for replying to questions submitted via the European electronic portal concerning the documents and information referred to in Article 6(2a) and (2b) of Law No 3419/2005 for companies whose shares are quoted on the Athens Stock Exchange, banks and branches of banks in EU Member States and third countries, public limited liability insurance companies and branches of insurance companies in EU Member States and third countries, public limited liability investment funds, public limited liability mutual fund management companies, public limited liability mutual fund management companies for immovable property, public limited liability investment funds for immovable property, public limited liability assets and liabilities management companies, public limited liability investment firms and public limited liability sports (football and basketball) companies.

In addition, a department of the Registry operates for each chamber of commerce in Greece, and is responsible, among other things, for replying to questions submitted via the European electronic portal concerning the documents and information referred to in Article 6(2a) and (2b) of Law No 3419/2005 regarding all legal forms of company other than those referred to above.

N.B.: The information provided above is merely an overview designed to inform those concerned of the interconnection between the Greek Registry, i.e. the General Commercial Registry (G.E.MI.) and the other Member States' national registries. More detailed information on the legal framework can be found on the [General Commercial Registry \(G.E.MI.\) website](#).

Related links

[Electronic publication by the General Commercial Registry](#)

[Registration of members of the public for the online services of the General Commercial Registry \(G.E.MI.\)](#)

[Registration of businesses in the General Commercial Registry \(G.E.MI.\)](#)

[Verification of the authenticity of certificates and copies issued by the General Commercial Registry \(G.E.MI.\)](#)

[Legislation on the General Commercial Registry \(G.E.MI.\)](#)

Last update: 21/12/2020

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