

COSCO IN GREECE: THE MANAGEMENT OF PIRAEUS PORT FROM 1999 TO 2012

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ABSTRACT

Since ancient times, port sector has been an important factor for the growth of the economy and for the general prosperity of the society. Nowadays, its importance becomes even greater as the world trade has been increasing significantly. Ports need to be equipped with the appropriate infrastructures. The question that has arisen is whether or not publicly owned and operated ports are managed as much efficiently as private operated ports. This study focuses on the Greek case and more specifically on the privatization of Piraeus Port's container terminal.

Undoubtedly, one of the biggest and most widely spoken investments that have been realized over the last years in Greece is that of Cosco Pacific Limited in the port of Piraeus. Its initial budget was greater than € 620 million. At the end of 2008, the concession contract of the biggest Greek port was signed to the aforementioned Chinese company, which is one of the most significant players of the international shipping. Today, exactly five years after this time point and having fulfilled to a great extent the initial business plan, Piraeus is classified as one of the biggest ports in Europe in terms of TEUs. The port has managed to handle four times more TEUs compared to the ones handled in 2008 and thus increasing simultaneously its share of the internationally handled TEUs market.

NOTES

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