

PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROVISION OF PORT SERVICES IN GREECE: TIME-HONORED HARMONIZATION WITH EUROPEAN TRENDS

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Abstract

A changing economic environment produced by the globalization of production and distribution, changing forms of cargo transportation, (concentration of shipping liners, containerization), technological breakthroughs, and many more issues, ended a long period of predominance by models where the public sector handled exclusively the management and operation of ports, a situation most common in Mediterranean Ports. To adapt to the new context, many governments and local authorities entered a period of port reform, changing applicable governance structures. Private sector participation in ports has been increasing continuously since the 1990s either through privatization or, most commonly, through public-private partnerships (PPPs), with the most common form of PPP being Concession Agreements. This paper aims to demonstrate the continuous use of PPPs in the port industry and analyze the various forms of private sector involvement in the provision of port services in Greek Ports. To that end data from institutions (ESPO, World Bank) and Greek ports will be presented. Moreover, a comparison will be conducted to determine whether PPPs in Greek Ports are in alignment with E.U. standards.