

@GreeceInUK

Cherish the Past, Embrace the Future

November 2018



Nostos II – Greece , Cyprus, Egypt – in London

WTM London - Greece reports a record year in tourism in 2018

Kamila Shamsie wins the 2017 London Hellenic Prize with 'Home Fire'

Investment Opportunities in Greece's Energy Sector – a Seminar organized by the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce in London

In conversation with Michael Tamvakis. The role of commodities in finance

"Amerika Square" wins Best Film award in the heart of London

"Lesvos: Between Hope and Despair", Photographer Margarita Mavromichalis exhibits a collection of black and white shots documenting the drama of refugees on Lesvos island, at London

Agenda

NOSTOS II – GREECE , CYPRUS, EGYPT – IN LONDON



In October, Phase II of the trilateral initiative "NOSTOS - The Return" brought to London the Diaspora Ministers of Greece, Cyprus, and Egypt: the Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece, Terens Nikolaos Quick; Presidential Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs and Overseas Cypriots, Photis Photiou; the Egyptian Immigration Minister and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs, Nabila Makram.

The NOSTOS II programme included roundtables, parliamentary meetings, meetings with religious leaders and a cross-diaspora reception.

The Diaspora Ministers of each country held a series of productive meetings with the aim of strengthening the relations between UK Cypriots, Egyptians and Greeks.

The Diaspora Ministers agreed to cooperation with the competent Ministries of their countries, to encourage their Nationals everywhere - Organisations and natural persons - to further strengthen the trend of tourism to their Countries.

Roundtables

On October 30 two roundtables were hosted by the High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in the UK.

Health and Tourism

The first Meeting was attended by Diaspora Ministers and diaspora Health professionals based in the UK to celebrate and showcase the contribution of diasporas to the UK health system, discuss areas of joint collaboration between diaspora health professionals in the UK and discuss opportunities for diaspora health professionals to contribute their services to their home countries, improving medical standards in each country and promoting medical tourism. At the discussion, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Terens Quick proposed to the Hellenic Medical Society of the UK the establishment of a small group of volunteers to support patients who come to London or other British cities for treatment following a decision by the Greek National Health System: "There are families who need support, chiefly psychological in nature, especially when they come to a country not familiar to them, perhaps without speaking the language and with anxiety about a family member's treatment, which for the most part pertains to children. I can say that I had a good response, in conjunction also with the Greek Diplomatic Authorities in London. In Britain, we have many "brain drain" doctors. When I proposed that we include Medicine in London's "NOSTOS II," I did so to show that Greek physicians are great and enviable scientists, not only here but throughout the world. It may be painful for us to have lost so many young people who have studied in Greece, at the expense of the Greek State, but I would like to stress that they have grown to become the best ambassadors for our Country, in one of science's most important fields. This is the continuation of great Greek physicians who for many years, much before the financial crisis, thrived in Britain, as well as in Germany and Scandinavia."

"In Britain, we have many "brain drain" doctors. They have grown to become the best ambassadors for our Country, in one of science's most important fields."

Cultural Tourism

In the second meeting participated the three Diaspora Ministers and representatives from each diaspora who specialise in cultural tourism (e.g. tour operators) to discuss current strategy of each country cultural tourism (as presented by each Diaspora Minister), prospects to enhance cultural tourism of each country, as well as areas of potential joint collaboration between the countries. The three Diaspora Ministers all emphasised the importance of advertising each country to tourists as “more than just sun & sea” and highlighted the outstanding cultural heritage of each country. The Diaspora ministers also spoke of their new campaign, ‘bring a [British] friend with you’, to encourage people who aren’t familiar with the three countries to visit on holiday.

“Bring a friend along on your holiday to Greece”

In his intervention, during the course of the Round Table discussion on “Diaspora - Tourism” Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Terens Quick stressed:

“Our Nationals undoubtedly represent a driving force that can help the Mother Country on numerous levels. One of these is Tourism.

I have had numerous discussions with my colleague, Minister of Tourism Elena Kountoura, and we have agreed to launch a programme entitled “Bring a friend along on your holiday to Greece”.

The reasoning begins with the fact that our Nationals usually come with their friends or neighbours who are of Greek descent. The point is for them to motivate a friend or neighbour of theirs, who is a citizen of the country where they live, to come to Greece with them, for them to become their tour guide and teach them everything from our history and culture to all the beauties of our Country.

The Programme “Bring a friend along on your holiday to Greece” was also approved by two of my colleagues Mr. Fotis Fotiou and Ms. Nabila Makram, and indeed we have proposals for collaboration between our Diasporas, which we will each submit to the Ministry of Tourism of our respective country.

At the House of Commons

A joint meeting between the three Diaspora Ministers and the Chairs of the respective All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG) for Greece, Cyprus



and Egypt took place in the House of Commons on 30th of October. The meeting was attended – among others – by Alberto Costa, Chair of the APPG for Greece, who hailed the meeting as brilliant and productive and said it was tremendously important that the UK continues its strong relations with these nations moving forward. The Diaspora ministers outlined the goals of ‘Nostos’ – namely to bring the diasporas of the three countries together, exchanged views on how to develop links between the respective UK-based communities and how the APPGs can contribute to this collaboration and advocate on issues of common interest.

“It is tremendously important that the UK continues its strong relations with these nations moving forward.”

**Alberto Costa, MP,
Chair of the APPG for Greece**



were also praised by the three diaspora ministers for their contribution towards Nostos II. Special praise was given to the High Commissioner for Cyprus to the UK, Euripides Evriviades; the Charge' d'Affaires of Egypt to the UK, Nermine Elzawahry; and the Ambassador of Greece to the UK, Dimitris Caramitsos-Tziras.

Greek Ambassador Dimitris Caramitsos-Tziras participated in London's "Nostos II" Programme, as did the Director of the Greek National Tourism Association Office in Britain and Ireland, Emy Anagnostopoulou, and physicians Kiki Sonidou, Foteini Kalofonou, and Ourania Fragkouli, members of the Hellenic Medical Society of the UK.

Meeting with religious leaders

The three Diaspora Ministers also met with Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain, who, this year, celebrated 30 years as Archbishop. They also separately met with Coptic Archbishop Orthodox Archbishop of London Angaelos-Angelos. During both meetings they discussed the important role that religion can play as one of the main focal points for the UK Cypriot, Egyptian and Greek communities.

Reception and Cultural Exhibition

The NOSTOS II programme closed on the 31st of October on an optimistic tone, with a reception and cultural exhibition at Europe House. The UK-based communities of the three diasporas came together to celebrate their cultures and build stronger bonds with each other. Deputy Foreign Minister Quick described the diaspora as an integral part of the efforts to promote Greek tourism. He added that a common goal for the three countries is to attract tourists all-year round including through the "bring a [British] friend" initiative. Mr Quick also thanked the media for covering Nostos II and praised the use of social media in raising the profile of the meetings and events. Commissioner Photiou addressed the reception and commented that "Nostos II has been very productive". He also stated that, "there are historical links between the three countries and our people deserve the best". In her speech, Minister Makram said that "with the love and the chemistry that exists between us, we can achieve much more" and praised the UK Egyptian community whilst also urging them to build strong relations with the Cypriot and Greek communities in the UK. The diplomatic missions of Cyprus, Egypt and Greece



WTM London - Greece reports a record year in tourism in 2018

WTM London 2018 took place at ExCel, London for three consecutive days (5, 6, 7 November).

Greece left its mark this year again with the impressive Visit Greece Stand. The stand hosted Greek officials as well as a number of exhibitors including representatives of hotels, region and travel companies from across the country and the Greek islands that had a great opportunity to brief, network, exchange ideas, negotiate, and conclude agreements.

On the 5th of November this year's Greece's Press Conference was held. The Minister of Tourism Mrs Elena Kountoura gave an overview of the most recent developments from Greece in the tourism sector as well as a snapshot of the Ministry's planning for the years ahead. This year's surprise guest of the Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTO) was best-selling author Victoria Hislop, who has written several books based in Greece including the best-selling novel *The Island*.

Minister of Tourism: Greece is a top choice for travel year-round, with so much to explore, experience and enjoy.

The Minister of Tourism gave a short assessment of what Greece has achieved in the tourism sector so far.

She stressed the continuous and steady tourism growth over the last four years, and the historical records achieved, a performance beyond every expectation. She said that 2018 was the best year for Greece's tourism.

The Greek government placed tourism high on its agenda recognising tourism's value in Greece's national effort for growth, as the driving force for the whole Greek economy, for progress and prosperity, for the well-being of the Greek people.

At the core of Greece's tourism policy since 2015 was to achieve sustainable tourism growth and establish Greece as a 365-day destination, a goal now becoming a reality.



Elena Kountoura, Greek Minister of Tourism

By implementing its tourism policy, Greece overcame one by one all adverse conditions and challenges, such as geopolitical issues and the refugee issue as well as the harsh adjustment programme, and created a strong momentum for Greek tourism's growth, the strongest in its history.

Greece achieved 33 per cent increase in inbound tourism, in the last four years, with historical records each year in arrivals, revenue and all tourism figures.

In 2018 the Greek government expects to exceed its target of more than 32 million arrivals by the end of the year, followed by a double-digit growth in revenue.

Central agreements with major tour operators and airlines were made, to increase Greece's national tourism shares, by 10 per cent each year, by expanding packages and flights to Greece.

The traditional summer season was extended from March to November, enhancing tourism in the winter, and arrivals have now increased by more than 30 per cent in the shoulder months.

New Greek destinations were introduced beyond the popular ones. Emphasis was placed on promoting new thematic tourism products focusing on the authentic travel experiences, each Greek Region and each destination offers.



Emy Anagnostopoulou, Director of GNTO in Britain & Ireland

Greece now constitutes a friendlier business environment and attracts new investments of high-added value.

A framework was established with less bureaucracy, more incentives, and faster procedures in licensing and in all steps of new investments.

Major international hotel chains, travel groups and foreign investors, focus on the opportunities Greece provides in tourism and real estate, now as the most attractive business development opportunity in the Med and Europe.

Tourism emerged as a huge export earner. The tourism growth is reflected not only in the tourism sector's increased turnover and profits, but also has supported other productive sectors of the economy, such as retail, transportation, agriculture, construction and real estate.

- Travel & Tourism accounts today for about 20 per cent of Greece's GDP, generating yearly more than 35 billion euros to the Greek economy.
- International visitor spending reached 17.1 billion euros in 2017, more than 28.4 per cent of our total exports, and it is expected to grow further more by the end of 2018.
- Almost one million jobs are linked to tourism

in Greece, about 25 per cent of total employment. And more than 330.000 new jobs are expected to be created in the next ten years.

- The results the government achieved in travel and tourism, have a very positive impact in the economy, which is projected to grow by 2.1 per cent in 2018 and 2.5 per cent in 2019, the highest rates of growth in the last decade.

“Our successful tourism policy has been recognised by the United Nations World Tourism Organization, the World Travel and Tourism Council and other global institutions and agencies, that have publicly commended our efforts as a showcase country for best practices in tourism and crisis destination management, and for achieving high rates of growth, against the odds”

It was also the government's strategic choice, to strengthen Greece's role in the global decision-making centers for tourism.

For the first time, Greece is now elected as a member to the UNWTO's Executive Council.

Close cooperation has been established with the OECD, and Greece was recently elected as Vice-Chair for 2019 in its Tourism Committee.

The Greek National Tourism Organization, Greece's national body for the country's marketing strategy abroad, has a dynamic plan of coops, advertising, fam trips and press trips, strong presence and networking through its offices worldwide, in 50 international travel shows and exhibitions, in traditional medial but also digital media and platforms.

“In this new era that has began for Greece and the Greek economy, with everything we have achieved in tourism, our goal is to maintain this strong momentum and grow even more”



A special programme will be launched to increase capacity and upgrade the quality of 4- and 5-star hotels. Also to attract new investments in health and wellness, golf, MICE, sports and recreation, thematic parks.

As one of the top 3 European cruise destinations, the target is to develop more than 6 new home-ports for cruises, as well as a network of large and medium-size marinas.

Tourism education is a priority. Public tourism education system is being modernised, to continuously upgrade the quality of services, and meet the high-demand for specialised jobs in the growing hospitality industry.

“Greece is the most diverse complex of islands in Europe and the Med, with more than 100 destinations and unlimited choices for tailor-made experiences that we now promote. We aim to introduce new dynamic packages, in large and popular islands combined with smaller satellite islands”

Its enormous history and culture is Greece’s biggest asset. Greece is the birthplace of Democracy, of the Olympic Games and the Authentic Marathon. Of philosophy, arts, sciences. The homeland of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and Hippocrates, father of modern medicine. Greece is an open museum, home to 18 UNESCO world heritage sites, a country of archeological sites and monuments with global appeal, of myths and legends, with a lively tradition and of course with so many choices for contemporary culture, festivals and events year-round.

Two programs of more than 500 million euros have already been launched, for the overall upgrade and modernisation of small tourism businesses, and the creation of new ones.

The government supports not only strategic investments, but also new thematic tourism products based on the authentic experiences, and the expansion of businesses in sectors such as agritourism, traditional guest-houses run by small and family businesses, boutique hotels for more personalised experiences to our visitors across Greece.

“The next “big thing” for tourism, is digital transformation and innovation, in line with the global trends and challenges”

Greece applies policies and has launched co-funded EU programs for businesses, especially small and medium size, in offering high-quality services as well as their digital transformation. The government supports start-ups in providing solutions to make travel easier, and upgrade the experience each traveler gains.

A new digital ecosystem for tourism is currently being created to upgrade services to businesses and citizens, but also to visitors. The official GNT0 site, VISIT GREECE, is being upgraded, enriched in content through smart technologies, and will be available in 10 languages, providing all the information to our visitors before, during, and after their trip to Greece.

“Greece offers a wide variety of unforgettable vacations, that can satisfy even the most demanding visitors”

We promote all our strong assets, and Greece’s wide offering for unforgettable vacations, that can satisfy even the most demanding visitors. We are here at WTM, to discuss the new opportunities that arise with tour operators, specialists, and airlines, in expanding the programs and packages for 2019 and for the next years.

The UK market is for us a top priority. Bookings were up about 10 per cent higher in 2018 compared to last year. In the nine-months of 2018 air arrivals from the UK to Athens and all Greek airports were up by almost 9 per cent and exceeded 3.2 million.

“I would like to thank our UK holidaymakers for choosing Greece as one of their top two choices to travel to and for voting for Greece in prestigious annual travel awards, as their most-wanted family holidays destination worldwide for 2018”

Given the opportunity, I would like to thank our UK holidaymakers for choosing Greece as one of their top two choices to travel to, and also for voting Greece in prestigious annual travel awards, as their most-wanted family holidays destination worldwide for 2018, top global destination, and for the first place that the Greek islands have in their heart.

We expect this strong dynamic from the UK will continue for 2019 and we are here to meet with travel professionals for the new opportunities for 2019 and beyond.

Greece is a top choice for travel year-round, with so much to explore, experience and enjoy. Tourism is a powerful engine for growth, and the biggest investment in Greece’s future.



Victoria Hislop: I want to get my short stories turned into short films to introduce people to another side of Greece!

A journalist and an important contemporary literary figure that has forged close ties to Greece and its people over the years, Victoria addressed the audience at the GNTO Press Conference at WTM and revealed that she is hoping to work with the tourist board to transform some of her short stories into films that will “introduce people to a different side of Greece”. Her short stories are set off the beaten track in locations such as monasteries and small, little-known villages. The short stories, which are due to be filmed next year and should be screened in 2020, are likely to be popular as the final episode of the recent TV adaptation of *The Island* was watched by 75% of viewers in Greece. “They will take people below the surface and introduce them to another side of Greece, away from the seaside resorts because it would be a shame to visit Greece and see only the beach,” added Ms Hislop.

Victoria also spoke to @GreeceInUK about the unique love that Greece has inspired to her, about her experiences from Greece as well as about Greece as a source of inspiration for her work of fiction.

You can read her interview below.

1. Where does your passion for Greece stem from? Do you have any Greek roots?

This combines well with the next question too! My first visit was when I was seventeen years old – I went to Athens with my mother and sister and I fell in love with the country immediately. It was unquestionably a *κεραυνοβόλος έρωτας*. From that year on, I visited every year, more and more so with the passing decades. That first trip really showed the contrasts of Greece to me. Athens was so different in 1977! I enjoyed the chaos (don't forget this was pre-metro system, and my memory is that few signs were in anything other than Greek), the ancient culture, and unfamiliar food (in those days feta and watermelon were not available in the UK!). Then Paros: it was my first experience of going on a ferry and at that time there was no airport, so mass tourism had not really arrived. Everything was enchanting – swimming in the Aegean for the first time, finding minute white shells, eating fresh fish, feeling real heat.

I don't have any Greek roots – but even back then, I had a sense of having arrived somewhere that I "belonged". It was a warm feeling and I still get it every time I land in Greece.

"I fell in love with the country immediately.

It was unquestionably a κεραυνοβόλος έρωτας.

*From that year on, I visited every year,
more and more so with the passing decades"*

2. How closely have you come to the everyday life of Greeks? And how do they usually perceive you? Have you ever felt being treated as "one of us" or as a foreigner who just visits their country and is fascinated by it?

I think I get as close to everyday life as anyone could who is not a full time resident – or who does not have Greek blood. I usually spend several months every year in Crete and most of my friends there are local people so I do all the things they do and go to all the places they go, and dance with them at glentis and this is when I feel as though I have become an insider. I regard many friends there as my family, and they treat me like one of their own.

Some Greeks are mystified by my love of their country. They think I only see it through rose tinted lenses. And to some extent they are right – because I have the privilege of coming and going. London is



my other "home" and putting the chaos of the Brexit situation aside, the UK during my life has been an organised, growing and thriving country – and London has become one of the greatest cities in the world. So yes, I know I am privileged to be able to come and go and to work in both places.

3. How has your love for Greece evolved over the years? Any peaks, fluctuations, setbacks or frustration?

Over my forty years of visiting, I have learned a lot about how things work in Greece and I appreciate that this is a country with its own *modus operandi* when we were filming the television series of "To Nisi". I spent almost eighteen months there, on the set and of course there were some peaks and troughs then. This was a creative project but also a commercial one so inevitably there were moments of tension – but ultimately the best results we could have hoped for.

*"I appreciate that this is a country
with its own modus operandi
when we were filming the television series
of "To Nisi".*

I spent almost eighteen months there,
on the set and of course there were
some peaks and troughs then.

This was a creative project
but also a commercial one

so inevitably there were moments of tension

– but ultimately the best results

we could have hoped for.”

4. What led you to start learning the Greek language? Moreover, how and to what extent has it helped you gain a better insight into the country and its people? What is the most representative Greek word for you?

I began largely because I wanted to communicate with a particular person in Greece who was 80 years old at the time and did not speak English. He was Manoli Foundoulakis who had been a leprosy sufferer and we became close friends – he was an amazing person but I realised that I would only ever truly appreciate his humour and wisdom if I learned to speak the same language – having someone close by to translate is not the same. And given how much time I was spending in Greece researching and promoting my books – it was impossible and unsatisfying to do everything in English. I think you

never get below the surface without the language. Also – of course – I have a house in Crete (ten years now) and there are so many practical things to deal with too – I need to explain things to a plumber and an electrician sometimes and that’s a whole other set of words!

I learned at the Hellenic Centre in London at the beginning – with an amazing teacher called Thomas Vogiatzis – who has a real gift for teaching. In my first lesson I told him that I had a target: to give a speech in Greece within three months and to do a radio interview. Thomas was undaunted – and because of him I achieved it.

Most representative word – and my favourite – is “ζαχαροπλαστείο” – I don’t even have a sweet tooth! But it is such an exciting set of syllables, such beautiful sounds and a really seductive word. The English equivalent “cake shop” doesn’t really have the same ring, does it?

5. You have also visited and written about Mediterranean countries other than Greece. What similarities and differences have you detected?

There are definite similarities with Spain – but even these are very different countries. Perhaps on a slightly negative note, Spain has severe economic difficulties, but there is a much greater respect towards property and the environment that I don’t always see in Greece. In Spain you don’t get the same impression of anger and sometimes desperation that I sometimes detect in parts of Athens, for example.

6. In your mind, is there such a thing as “a Greek way of living”? If yes, what are the main components of this way of living?

I have never met anyone in Greece who lives to work. Greeks in Greece work to live. It’s a very different lifestyle. I would say this is the opposite in London, where many people are driven by career or a love of what they do and make this a priority. On average, most people I know in London work at least ten hours a day, maybe even twelve. This is totally standard, especially if you are working for yourself, running a business or ambitious. Apart from a few creative people, I don’t know anyone in Greece who works such long hours. I don’t make any criticisms of this, it’s simply an observation. And along with this, in the UK (London especially) people are compelled to work long hours out of necessity to pay a mortgage or their rent, which can easily take 70-80% of their earnings. So I think this allows a more relaxed lifestyle in Greece too – if you are paying 200 euros a





Victoria Hislop & Elena Kountoura

month in Athens for your rent (as opposed to £1000 a month in London), you perhaps don't have to be so driven. So many people I know in Greece have been given property by their parents – this is unheard of in the UK! So... even if many Greeks don't appreciate it, their lifestyle can be quite a nice one.

Family is a bigger focus too – perhaps this defines life for many Greeks because they live closer to their family in many cases. And approaches to children – there is a hugely different approach in Greece. The Greek way of living is much more child-focussed. The very fact that children have long sleeps in the day and stay up all evening creates a very different ethos. I think it's great in the summer, but I know I couldn't have done it all year when my children were small. Our children happily went to bed at 7 in the evening.

I was with them for twelve hours a day, 7 until 7 and then had part of the day that was absolutely my own. This was when I read, went to plays, films, concerts and had totally adult conversation and talked about things other than children! I would never have written any of my books if my children had gone to bed at the same time as me – and to be honest to sustain any kind of life of the intellect, I think it's crucial for adults to have some time for themselves.

Finally on this one. The UK style is to teach our children to be independent, and many of us send our

children off at the age of 18 (often to South America or Australia) to learn independence and survival. We don't try to keep them close. It's painful when they leave the nest but we want them to be strong, to spread their wings and fly.

7. Apart from touring through the Greek islands, you have also taken your readers on a journey to Thessaloniki, the second largest city of Greece ("The Thread", 2011). What do you find particularly inspiring in Thessaloniki and its history? Do you believe that Greece's mainland is undeservingly underestimated from a tourist's perspective?

Thessaloniki is a fantastic city. I am very fond of it for so many reasons and spent a huge amount of time there researching *The Thread*. It has so many layers of history and perhaps most importantly a very successfully multicultural past, with its sizeable Moslem and Jewish populations. On an aesthetic level, it is in a very beautiful setting and to be in a buzzing and thriving city, and yet be able to sit overlooking the sea, is a huge pleasure. The huge student population adds a great deal to the energy of the city – I think that is a key ingredient too. I was recently given an Honorary Doctorate (at the same time as the Mayor, Giannis Boutaris) by Sheffield University City College, so Thessaloniki has become even more important to me.

“Thessaloniki is a fantastic city. I am very fond of it for so many reasons and spent a huge amount of time there researching *The Thread*. It has so many layers of history and perhaps most importantly a very successfully multicultural past, with its sizeable Moslem and Jewish populations”

I think the majority of holidaymakers think of the islands rather than the mainland in the summer. And the islands are very beautiful, certainly. However, there are amazing landscapes and destinations that get missed – the Peloponnese for example is an incredibly beautiful area in itself but quite often people just make for the beach and stay there without seeing the interior. So sometimes I don't think it's underestimation exactly, but just not really knowing a place is there and being directed to the seaside resorts. And Meteora, another example, a truly spectacular landscape – but because it's not close to the sea, I don't know a single Brit who has been there.

8. In your latest novel "Cartes Postales from Greece" you cooperated with your photographer friend Alexandros Kakolyris who accompanied you in a tour in Greece. How did you come up with the idea of creating a book based on these photos taken?

For all my novels, I have taken thousands of photographs, put them on my walls and used them as inspiration. So the idea to include photography actually in a book seemed a very natural and obvious one. The development of the stories simultaneously with the taking of the photos, however, was a crucial factor. I didn't want to send a photographer off once I knew the plot in order to take something after the event – so a photograph for example, of the man on the mountaintop in Meteora was absolutely 'live' as I thought up the story - the illustrations for this book are really integral, not an after-thought. Alexandros agreed to travel with me and in many cases saw something that I did not – and pointed me in the direction of a story through his images.

9. In an interview that you gave for 'Greece Is' you have said that "We live in a world where we're seeing things all the time, and a lot of the newspapers, magazines

as well as non-fiction books have masses of pictures. Why should fiction be any different?". Do you think pictures could be an important part of adults' fiction books?

I see no reason why not! I think words and pictures are a very natural combination! Photos can enhance a story without taking away from the imagination.

10. After your experience of writing "Cartes Postales from Greece" would you attempt to write another book using the same technique?

Definitely. It was a huge success in the UK and many other countries and we have already begun work on a sequel to *Cartes Postales*.

“On every journey to Greece there is a surprise for me, something unexpected

that I really did not know or imagine.

Even after literally hundreds and hundreds of trips and days spent there, there is always something new to learn”

11. In the introduction of the same book, you mention that the book's "pages tell the story of a man's odyssey through Greece; moving, surprising and sometimes dark.". Is every journey to Greece an odyssey, and in what sense? What are the dark sides of such a journey?

On every journey to Greece there is a surprise for me, something unexpected that I really did not know or imagine. Even after literally hundreds and hundreds of trips and days spent there, there is always something new to learn.

Dark sides.... Perhaps it is true that I have seen things through rose tinted lenses and gradually more light gets in.

12. Anthony Horowitz of "The Telegraph" wrote in an article that your books can turn people into "Hellenophile". How do you perceive this term and how does Horowitz's remark make you feel?

That's a great word – and I agree with him up to a point. I do perhaps make people love Greece, but more importantly I hope that I help people understand it too. For example, with *The Thread*, which traces the 20th century history of the country, many of my British readers really had no idea about

the German occupation of Greece nor how harsh it had been. Nor about the civil war. So that, for me, was important to communicate: that Greece has endured extraordinary periods of hardship – much more than the UK – and this has had an impact on the present day situation.

**“We are hoping to start filming
some adaptations of my short stories
next year in Crete**

– so my work in Greece goes on!”

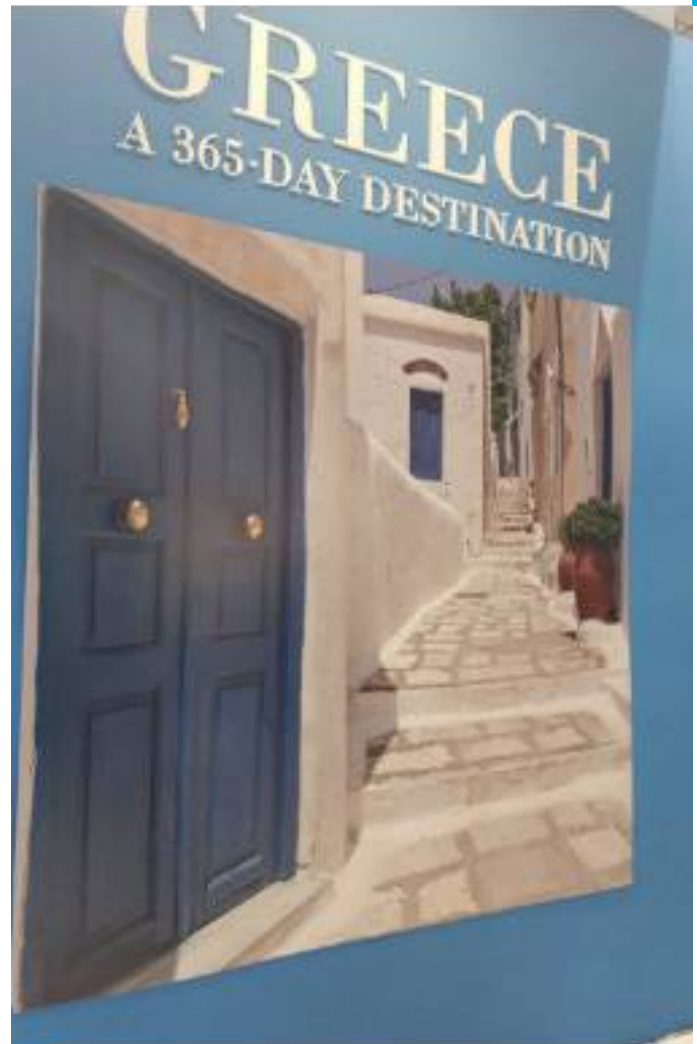
13. How will your "love affair" with Greece continue in the near future? What to expect?

I think it will continue. My dream is to get a Greek passport – so my passion for the country definitely continues! I have just delivered a new novel (set in Greece of course) to my British publisher which will come out in English in May. And we are hoping to start filming some adaptations of my short stories next year in Crete – so my work in Greece goes on!

Not to mention my affection for Greek friends and “family” who are always there waiting for me. They are at the centre of my love for Greece.

**“That, for me, was important
to communicate:
that Greece has endured
extraordinary periods of hardship
– much more than the UK –
and this has had an impact
on the present day situation”**

Photos courtesy of GNTO



London Hellenic Prize



Kamila Shamsie wins the 2017 London Hellenic Prize with 'Home Fire'

Subjects are unrestricted and the Prize's Adjudicating Committee invariably read books submitted from the full spectrum of writing: archaeology, architecture, art, classics, history, literary criticism, religion, social studies, as well as fiction. Winners invariably appeal to a broad readership.

There are no boundaries to its international reach either. Each annual adjudication usually receives more than a hundred submissions from many dozens of publishers and individual authors dotted across the globe.

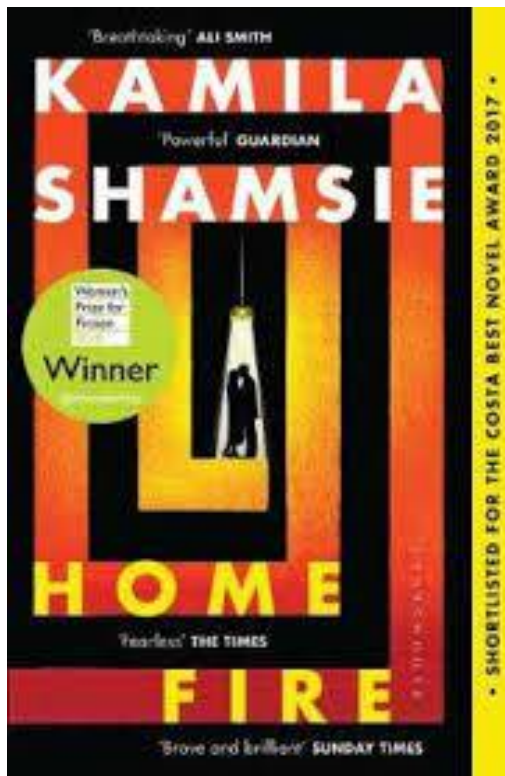
The London Hellenic Prize was the brainchild of two Greek shipowners based in London. John A. Hadjipateras OBE was the long-standing Chairman of the Greek Shipping Cooperation Committee for eighteen years. John D. Criticos has spent many years building up his shipping firm in Argentina before settling in London in the 1950s. Criticos devoted himself to long-lasting charitable works in both Britain and his native Greece, continued and enhanced, after his death, by his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Criticos-Fotinelli. It was after John D. Criticos that the Prize was initially named. Criticos chose to entrust the administration of this Prize to the London Hellenic Society, a prestigious cultural society established in London in the 1960s by prominent members of the London Greek community, in which he himself played a leading part.

Submissions each year meet the deadline of 31st January of the year following the date of publication and arrive from publishers and authors worldwide, from Los Angeles to London, from Athens to Sydney. The Committee adjudicates from February to June and co-opts readers and specialists in all required fields. The winner is announced in July, both here and in the Times Literary Supplement.

The London Hellenic Prize will continue, unwaveringly, to showcase the brilliant results of the cross-fertilisation or fusion of different but inextricably interconnected European cultures.

The London Hellenic Prize was conceived as an international award committed to the promotion of Anglo-Hellenic cultural exchange. The London Hellenic Prize is widely acknowledged as one of the most important international literary prizes celebrating the cultural cross-fertilisation of the Greek and English-speaking worlds.

Since its establishment in 1996, the Prize has annually awarded £10,000 to original works written in (or translated into) English on subjects relating to or inspired by Greece or Hellenic culture which were published during the preceding calendar year. Since its inception in 1996, it was administered by the London Hellenic Society. It has now been registered an independent company with charitable objects pending registration by the Charities Commission and will continue to recognize and reward original works in the English language inspired by Hellenic civilization (ancient, Hellenistic, Byzantine or modern). Areas of interest are not restricted and the Committee's general criteria have always been excellence, originality and appeal to the general reader. The prize has been awarded to date to works on archaeology, architecture, art, classics, history, literary criticism, science, social studies, as well as to works of fiction.



At a ceremony held in the Great Hall of Kings College London on 26 November, British-Pakistani female author **Kamila Shamsie** was awarded the **2017 London Hellenic Prize** for her most recent novel, *Home Fire*, published by Bloomsbury.

Now in its twenty-first year, the London Hellenic Prize is widely acknowledged as one of the foremost international literary prizes celebrating the cultural cross-fertilisation of the Greek and English-speaking worlds.

Every year, since its inception in 1996, the Prize has awarded £10,000 to the best book written in (or translated into) English and published during the preceding calendar year on a subject inspired by or relating to Greece or Greek exploits, culture or history at any time from the ancient past to the present day.

For the 2017 Prize, the Adjudicating Committee received submissions by 102 authors from 33 publishers all around the world.

All submitted books were read over the course of several months by the six-strong Adjudicating Committee chaired by Dr Jennifer Wallace (Peterhouse, Cambridge), assisted by two additional readers.

The Committee settled on a Short List of seven books which included:

- Josephine Balmer, *The Paths of Survival* (Shearsman Books)
- Daniel Mendelsohn, *An Odyssey: a Father, a Son and an Epic* (William Collins)
- Yopie Prins, *Ladies' Greek: Victorian Translations of Tragedy* (Princeton University Press)
- Colm Toibin, *House of Names* (Viking)
- David Vann, *Bright Air Black* (Windmill Books)
- Emily Wilson (trans.), *The Odyssey* (W. W. Norton)

Kamila Shamsie's *Home Fire* stood out above all. A contemporary retelling of Sophocles' *Antigone*, *Home Fire* is a powerful, urgent tale of love, politics, family and enmity, confronting one of the defining issues of our age.

The award ceremony was hosted by Prof. Gonda Van Steen, herself a previous winner of the Prize.

The Prize is a registered company with charitable objects, co-ordinated by Michael Moschos, assisted by Jason Leech.



Mr Michael Moschos, Prize Co-ordinator and Dr Jennifer Wallace, Chair of the Adjudicating Committee delivered speeches on the London Hellenic Prize 2017 winner Kamila Shamsie



Jennifer Wallace is a lecturer in English Literature at the University of Cambridge and Harris Fellow of Peterhouse. She grew up in London and Edinburgh, and went to Cambridge in 1984 for a degree in Classics and English. She continued to combine the two subjects in her doctoral dissertation there on Shelley and Hellenism. A three-year research fellowship at Clare College, Cambridge followed, before she took up the post at Peterhouse in 1995.

Jennifer has published extensively on Hellenism and classical reception in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, including her book, *Shelley and Greece* in 1997, her co-edited volume *The Oxford History of Classical Reception in English Literature 1790-1880* (2015), and articles on Byron, Keats, Mary Shelley, L.E.L., Illyria, the bluestocking Elizabeth Carter, Matthew Arnold and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, among others. She has also written books on archaeology (*Digging the Dirt: The Archaeological Imagination*) and on classical, Shakespearean and modern drama (*The Cambridge Introduction to Tragedy*).

Beyond academia, Jennifer has reviewed fiction for the TLS and written feature articles for the THES, including interviews of Andre Brink, David Mamet, Edward Said, Slavoj Zizek, Luce Irigaray and many other philosophers, writers, and feminists. She's written on biblical archaeology in Israel for the Smithsonian magazine, and covered, for other magazines, issues of rural development and environmental destruction in India and China.

Jennifer's first novel, *Digging Up Milton*, was published by Cillian Press in 2015. She lives in London with her husband, the photographer Robert Wallis. She has served as Chair of the Adjudicating Committee for the 2015 Prize.

This is the ninth year that I have served on the adjudicating committee of the prize (the last three as Chair of the jury) and in that time I would estimate that I must have read and considered more than 300 books on Greece or inspired by Greece. 300 books on Greek history or literature, on contemporary Greek politics or economics (many recent books on the "Greek crisis"), on philosophy and religion (the mystery of Mount Athos), on the Romantics and philhellenism. Works of fiction, originating from the Anglophone world or translated from Greek. Books of poetry, collections of mythology for children. Beautiful art books. And I want to say what a pleasure it is to encounter "the best that has been thought and said" about Greece each year (to coin Matthew Arnold) and to be able to testify to the rich and vibrant and eclectic and critical interest in the Hellenic world that there continues to be amongst writers and publishers. Hellas is hot, you could say, and we are here this evening to celebrate that!

This year we had a total of 102 books from 33 publishers worldwide to consider. Boxes of books started being delivered to the six judges (based in London, Cambridge, Oxford, Athens, and the island of Paxi) in early April and for the next two months we devoured them, writing reports and passing on recommendations for works that were worth second, third, fourth reading. There were the usual heated debates via email. There were books that tested the boundaries of eligibility (a work written in – or translated into – English on subjects relating to or inspired by Greece or Hellenic culture). There were controversial books that divided the critics.

But eventually we narrowed things down to a shortlist of 7 and met to make a final decision in the ancient stone halls of New College, Oxford.

The winner of this year's prize was our third novel under consideration, Kamila Shamsie's *Home Fire*.



Much more loosely based on Greek tragedy than the previous two novels, you could read this book without ever realizing that it is modeled on *Antigone* – but once you know that, then of course you get even more out of it. This is a fearlessly contemporary tale about radicalization among British Muslims and its repercussions on a whole family: Parvaiz (or Polyneices), the young man who joins ISIS in Syria; Anteeeka (or Antigone), his twin sister who defies her family and the UK government to help her brother return to Britain; Isma (or Ismene), the older sister, who is trying to minimize the damage of the radicalization on the rest of the family; Eamomm (or Haemon), Anteeeka’s boyfriend and son of the home secretary, who faces a conflict of allegiance. The novel is really quite ingenious a reimagining of the myth for our times, subtly illuminating Sophocles’s tale and revealing that tragedies both in antiquity and at the present time are ultimately about families, about personal relationships caught up in wider public affairs, about love and loyalty, courage and compromise. Shamsie reminds us that the reach of the ancient Greek legacy stretches internationally from the Mediterranean to Britain and America to the Middle East and to Pakistan. We are all connected; a family tragedy in one corner of the world has global repercussions, beamed into our lives on the screen,

challenging us to respond with Aristotelian pity and fear. *Home Fire* certainly seared itself into my life this year. It’s simple, straightforward story telling: up-to-the-moment, gripping, humane, ineluctable and rightly shocking in places. I loved it, and am absolutely delighted to announce it as the winner of the 2017 London Hellenic Prize.

“Much more loosely based on Greek tragedy than the previous two novels, you could read this book without ever realizing that it is modeled on *Antigone* – but once you know that, then of course you get even more out of it”



Michael Moschos was instrumental in the establishment of the original Prize with its creator and sponsor John D. Criticos, as well as its current successor. In his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the London Hellenic Society, he has managed and co-ordinated the Prize from London and Athens since its inception in 1996.

After graduating from Athens College, he studied English and Comparative Literature (M.A., M.Phil., Columbia University) with special interests in classical Greek tragedy, Shakespeare and Renaissance theatre (on which subject he defended his Ph.D. dissertation) and modern poetry. He taught at Columbia (1976-8) and Athens College (1978-1980); wrote weekly for the literary pages of Athens daily Kathimerini (1978-88), and for the Independent (1985-95), as well as for several literary magazines in Athens (Tram, To Dendro, etc.).

Since 1982 he has been active in shipping and, in 1996, established Levant Maritime Company Ltd, which owned and successfully built in Japan dry-bulk vessels which incorporated innovative specifications and set a benchmark for international dry-bulk transport. He has lived and worked in New York, Athens and (mostly) London for the past 35 years. Michael studied Maritime Law in London and, for seven years (1988-95), was the representative of Greek shipping to NATO; he has always maintained a lively interest in international relations and ocean trade.

In addition to English, he speaks French, German and has translated from Russian the work of Joseph Brodsky, a dear friend whose poetry he published in Greece. For the past 5 years he has worked closely with Souillac-based Sebastien Linard to plant and grow an organic walnut-tree farm in Artemision, northern Evia. Last autumn he was happy to take to market his first produce. Married to Despina Fafalios since 1978, they have two children and have recently celebrated the birth of their first grandchild. The family always spend summers together on their native island of Chios.

Recently several well-known authors and artists have been inspired by Greek myths and culture and there seems to be a trend of 'back to basics', back to the recognition of eternal human values -- a trend on which even the FT commented with a full-page article some weeks ago. This year three of our five shortlisted titles for the prize are (each in its own original way) narratives inspired by classical Greek stories, the Odyssey, the myth of the house of Atreus and the myth of the house of Oedipus.

We all realize these stories have been and will always be with us. They have been told and retold many times, over many generations, in many different languages. Classical Greek culture and the Hellenic civilization have nourished for over two thousand years and remain the very core of our western European culture. We all remember how Aristotle

in his Poetics warned against 'λυειν τους μυθους' ie, dissolving, deconstructing, 'watering down' the old myths that have come down to us over many generations, many tellings and retellings, always imbued with new meaning.

Kamila Shamsie was born and raised in Pakistan; Anne Carson in Canada; Zachary Mason in California; David Malouf in Australia. We read and enjoy their novels, plays and poetry and we still appreciate [thanks to them] our shared inheritance, our shared values based on Homer, classical Athens, the ideals of Hellenism. We are all of us a little more Greek than we think we are -- even if we have not read the Greek originals, have not visited the hallowed marbles of the Parthenon, have not taken the peripatetic walkways of Hadrian's Athens... It's just part of the human condition!



Photos courtesy of the London Hellenic Prize

**“Classical Greek culture and the Hellenic civilization
have nourished for over two thousand years
and remain the very core of our western European culture.
We all remember how Aristotle in his Poetics
warned against ‘λυειν τους μυθους’
ie, dissolving, deconstructing, ‘watering down’
the old myths that have come down to us
over many generations, many tellings and retellings,
always imbued with new meaning”**

Investment Opportunities in Greece's Energy Sector – a Seminar organized by the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce in London

Investment opportunities in the energy sector in Greece were presented to investors during a specially focused seminar organized by the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (BHCC) in London on 22 November 2018. The seminar covered all aspects of the Greek energy sector, from oil and gas exploration, transmission and supply, to electricity and in particular the renewables sector.

In her welcome remarks, Anna Kalliani, Greek President of BHCC, said that after a long crisis Greece is on the road to recovery. At the same time she stressed the need for the continuation of structural reforms, for a fair and stable tax system and for an investment-friendly environment. She underlined that the energy sector represents a strategic pillar for growth, as Greek energy companies made significant



investments during the crisis and cooperate with big multinational corporations.

Addressing the audience, Ambassador of Greece to the UK Dimitrios Caramitsos-Tziras spoke of the growing potential of Greece's energy sector. Mr Tziras complimented the BHCC for its timely initiative, noting that "Greece, having completed a very rigorous and extensive adjustment program of its economy and its administration, offers great investment opportunities and is ready to welcome and support projects in the energy field." "Located at the crossroads between East and West, Greece is uniquely positioned to play a significant role in the broader regional energy markets", Mr Tziras said, adding that the Greek energy strategy focuses on three particular goals: cooperation, connectivity and complementarity. Mr Tziras highlighted Greece's support of the diversification of sources, suppliers and roots and Greece's international energy cooperation, which aims at maximizing the country's energy security. Further, he referred to major infrastructure projects that Greece promotes, such as the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), the Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB) and the East Med Pipeline.

Greece has the potential to become Europe's most important energy hub, Riccardo Lambiris, CEO of Greece's privatization agency HRADF, said in his speech. Mr Lambiris referred to the ongoing structural reforms taking place in Greece, involving the liberalization of electricity and natural gas markets and the further separation of generation supply from distribution and transmission networks. "Major infrastructure projects, privatizations and





photos courtesy of BHCC

Anna Kalliani, Greek President of BHCC, Ambassador of Greece to the UK Dimitrios Caramitsos-Tziras, UK Ambassador to Greece Kate Smith, Harry Boyd-Carpenter, director of Power and Energy Utilities at EBRD, Panagiotis Papastamatiou, CEO of the Hellenic Wind Energy Association and director of ENTEKA, Mathios Rigas, CEO of Energean Oil & Gas, Marios Zangas, head of Vestas Hellas & Cyprus, Stella Zacharia, head of Renewable Energy Assessment & Market Regulations at Terna Energy

the continuous effort to enhance the institutional framework are indicative of our country's commitment to prepare for the future and become a leader in all energy forums and models", Mr Lambiris said and invited investors to seize the opportunities and invest in new infrastructure, national gas supply and transmission, renewables, energy efficiency businesses, electricity grid interconnectivity, cross-border interconnections and hydrocarbon exploration in Greece.

The first discussion panel of the seminar focused on renewable energy. Representatives of major renewable energy companies operating in Greece spoke of the opportunities and challenges of the market. Mr Panagiotis Papastamatiou, CEO of the Hellenic Wind Energy Association and director of ENTEKA, stressed the importance of environmentally sustainable economic development and spoke of the potential of the wind energy sector. Other participants described the development of

Greece's renewable energy market, highlighting landmark projects such as the Agios Georgios wind farm, which produces electricity for the Attica region, and the Tilos project, an innovative hybrid, renewable energy-based battery station and smart microgrid project.

The main subject of the second discussion panel was oil and gas exploration and transport. Harry Boyd-Carpenter, director of Power and Energy Utilities at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), noted that EBRD has been involved in 42 projects in Greece so far, has invested €2.1 billion and is currently considering investments in gas market liberalization and grid infrastructure. The importance of EBRD's role in funding was confirmed by Mathios Rigas, CEO of Energean Oil & Gas. Mr Rigas described Energean's development from a small company to an important player in the Mediterranean, stressing that a country needs to invest in infrastructure, in order to become an energy hub, as competition is strong. In the case of Greece, Mr Mathios noted that a long term energy strategy and a series of reforms are necessary. On his part, Rikard Skoufias, former TAP manager in Greece, spoke of his own overall positive experience in Greece and encouraged investors to adopt an optimistic mindset and address potential risks early on.

Finally, in her short address to the seminar's guests, UK Ambassador to Greece Kate Smith confirmed that Greece is developing into a regional energy hub. Mrs Smith stressed her personal interest in the energy sector and added that the British Embassy in Athens is in a position to support and give advice to investors who are interested in Greece's energy sector.

“Located at the crossroads between East and West, Greece is uniquely positioned to play a significant role in the broader regional energy markets”

**Ambassador of Greece to the UK
Dimitrios Caramitsos-Tziras**

“Major infrastructure projects, privatizations and the continuous effort to enhance the institutional framework are indicative of our country's commitment to prepare for the future and become a leader in all energy forums and models.”

Riccardo Lambiris, CEO of Greece's privatization agency HRADF

Greek Energy Investment Seminar in London

In conversation with Michael Tamvakis. The role of commodities in finance



Michael Tamvakis trained as an economist at the Athens University of Economics and Business in Greece. He then joined the International Centre for Shipping, Trade and Finance at Cass; first as a student on its MSc programme, and then as a member of its academic staff, when he also received his PhD. He has served as Director of the MSc in Shipping, Trade & Finance and Associate Dean for the undergraduate programmes at Cass. He is currently Director of the MSc in Energy, Trade & Finance.

He lectures in international commodity trade, commodity derivatives and trading, energy economics and shipping economics. His research interests are in the areas of commodity economics, energy derivatives and shipping economics.

The interview took place at his office at Cass Business School on Tuesday, November 27th, 2018.

1. *What role does commodity trade play in finance?*

Commodities are the backbone of world economy. It starts with all the raw materials, which are used to be processed in order to turn into useful goods, for final consumption. The world's largest economy, by any measure, whether it is value or volume, is screwed oil and, then, oil products. And then, a few very large groups, such as metals and minerals; coal; and agricultural commodities. Now, this is in the sense of commodities, as raw materials. Commodity is any good basically, which is traded in very large quantities and it has a relatively easy pricing mechanism.

The role of commodities in the economy is crucial because the buy and sell, the trading of commodities is what's important in order to make an economy live and prosper. Some countries are particularly blessed because they have a lot of commodities, a lot of raw materials, a lot of natural resources and they may use all the resources internally, but in many cases, they do not require them. So, in order to monetize these resources, they turn them into whatever form of international trade is available for them. In the context of a country like Greece, we do not have a lot of natural resources. In comparison to other countries, they are limited. So, historically we have been importing crude oil to turn it into products. We have been importing natural gas for a few years. We import all the metallic minerals in order to turn them

into thinnest metal as well as food commodities and so forth. We have also been exporting primarily agricultural products, which are also commodities.

2. *In which ways new technologies (automation, robotics etc.) have affected or will affect commodity trade and energy generation? What challenges arise for Europe and Greece?*

It is a period of change in the international economy. One of the biggest challenges, I would say, is the decarbonization issue. So, reducing emissions is pretty much important for every single sector of the economy, for every single commodity.

What automation and new technology can offer is a lot more streamlining; hopefully, a lot less wastage. So, the whole idea is that, if you are able to utilize much more accurate data in oil and gas exploration and production, you can build a much more accurate image of what the reservoir reserve contains how to approach it and how to extract the resource, with the least possible wastage, both in terms of the resource -so you don't spill it in the atmosphere, but also in terms of the energy you expend in order to do it.

Technology is also extremely important in terms of the way we consume energy. It has very much to do with renewables. Renewables, of course, are very desirable, but the problem is that they are not available all the time, whenever we want them. So, increasingly, in new projects that involve wind and

solar, particularly wind, companies now will install storage capacity, for example batteries. If you have much more upscaling of this kind of collaboration, then you could use renewables in a much more predictable way.

Another factor is the way we use electricity. Most of the developed world countries use electricity on a continuous pattern, although there is close to a billion people in the world who don't have regular access to electricity. In the more developed or developing world, electricity is paramount, it is part of economic development. But we consume it in a way which is strongly connected to daylight, to the period we do our economic activity and, thus, the demands of electricity cannot balance. But, if we can use it more smartly, or if we are able to switch off, or if we allow the network to switch our appliances for us, when it is required, then this is how technology can help.

3. How can Greece monetize these technological developments?

Greece is, relatively speaking, resource poor. We don't have an easy and ample reserve of conventional hydrocarbons. We have some hydrocarbons, which we are harnessing to the degree that is possible and perhaps we could expand, but the problem with any such developments is that they require capitals coming from outside the country. So, the main problem is raising finance. In order to get investments, the investors need to be confident that the legislative regime is stable.

The second resource I would like to stress is gas. We lack both oil and gas. Oil is used extensively in Greece and it is pretty much imported, frequently from difficult partners. Because, for better or worse, we need oil for transportation, we need to develop our gas reserves, to the extent that we have some, and utilize them directly in the country. But the international companies that will develop these reserves, need to be able to sell to the country at international prices.

We can also do a lot more regarding renewables, which is a true resource in Greece. We already produce one of the highest, as a percentage to the total electricity consumption of the country, generation of solar power, with 12% (see charter 1).

One way to allow competition is for the Greek Public Corporation (ΔΕΗ) to be more competitive; to separate the movement of electricity, the transmission system, from the generating units.

The other idea is to start a wider electrification program on the islands. The idea is to have interconnections between the islands, which is an expensive, but feasible project.

Also, Greece could try to do something about transportation fuels, which is always a weak point. We will never be independent in terms of that, but we might be able, for example, to do a lot more electrification of vehicles.

So, we can, and we should limit lignite, have it as a last resort, expand gas and expand renewables. We will, then, have an economy which will be over 50% renewables and another 30% gas, perhaps.

Greece does have not only the natural resources (wind, solar), but also the human resource (engineers, commercial people etc.) that could develop them, but in the right environment. The demand for energy will never go away.

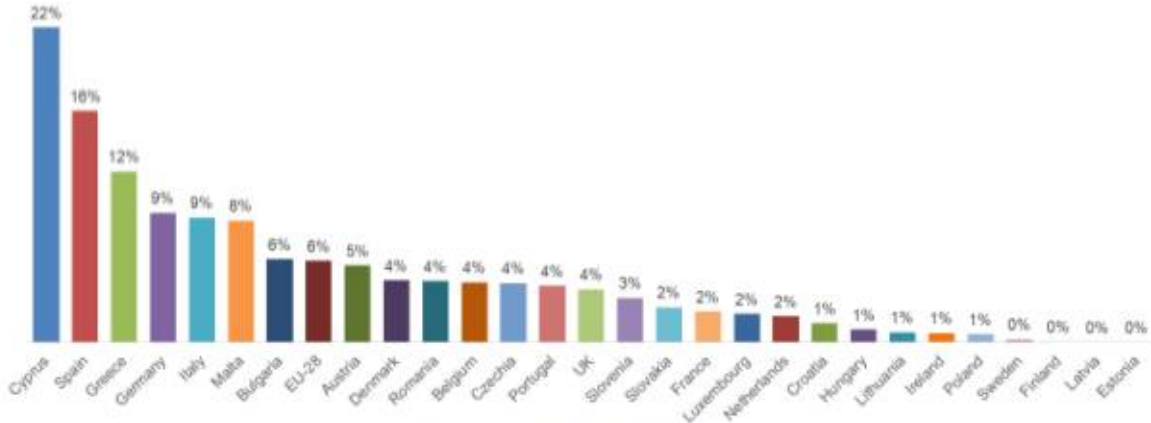
4. What is your opinion about the construction of gas pipelines connecting Cyprus to Greece?

Personally, I don't hold a lot of hope in pipelines. In terms of distance, it would be easy to get a resource and pipe it to a shore pipeline. The problem between Cyprus and Greece, if you build a long pipeline, is not the length, but the depth. If you lay a pipeline in the Mediterranean, the average depth is 2,000 meters. So, the pipelines you will sink cannot be wide, because of the water pressure, and will be more difficult to repair. So, both the laying and the operation and maintenance are going to be more expensive and you will have a pipeline that cannot transport that much.

The pipeline solution is more constrained and I think it will be at least as expensive as building an LNG export terminal.

Solar share of total electricity consumption in the EU

Solar share as percentage of total electricity consumption: 2016



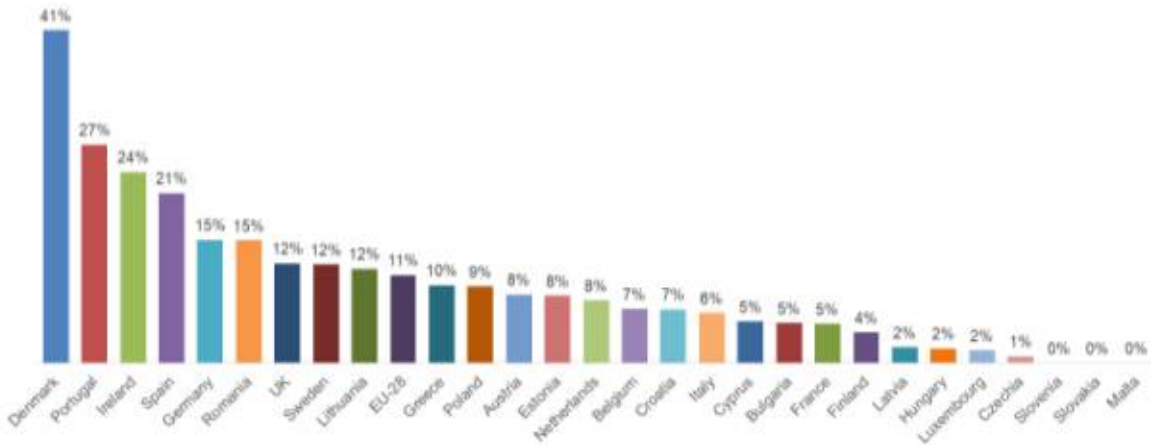
Source: Eurostat, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/energy/data/database>, nrg_107a & nrg_105a



© Michael Tanviki

Wind share of total electricity consumption in the EU

Wind share as percentage of total electricity consumption: 2016



Source: Eurostat, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/energy/data/database>, nrg_107a & nrg_105a



© Michael Tanviki

5. *Tunisia and Morocco get some gas at a preferential price in exchange for letting the gas go via their territories. Is this also a possibility for Greece?*

In essence, yes. But a proper preferential price is nothing more than a discount from the international price. The price will be still floating. To get the discount, I guess that the government expects somebody else will pay for the building of it and it will just get the preferential price.

6. *Some say that relatively low oil prices prevent renewables from developing even more. What is your position on the matter?*

The school of thought says that low oil prices automatically means low gas prices, because oil in terms of electricity generation has an extremely small role. On a global basis, 4% of the electricity produced, is produced from oil -versus 38% from coal or 25% from gas etc. And, yes, gas may be inexpensive, and it can provide a short-term solution. It is much faster perhaps to build a large capacity, gas fired power plant, if you have cheap gas coming in, rather than build the same capacity of wind farms etc. Having said that, though, the reason why solar is expanding so fast, not as much as wind did, is because the costs have dropped down by 75% and everybody benefited from that. Although with wind power generation things are more difficult, yet prices have also come down. Wind and solar have been traditionally subsidized, but now they tend to become more competitive and, then, good competition will bring down prices further.

7. *Which career advice would you give to young Greek Londoners?*

Careers, in many cases, look like as they have been very carefully planned for a long time, but in other cases, including mine, it is all about the motto "Be brave enough to take the opportunity". When I came here, I came with the usual profile of a Greek, who wants to come here, do the master's degree, get a couple of experience and then go back to Greece and set up there. I was given the chance to work here for three years, which was a good start, I enjoyed what I did, and I had the willingness to work hard. I had ideas, which were not dismissed. And this is important; I was encouraged by my superiors to implement my ideas and see how they work. And this is what helps innovation. So, for anyone who wants to start a career here, I think you need to be prepared to work hard, but also at the same time, I think, you will have the satisfaction of recognition.

Nobody will judge you depending on your ethnicity, whether you have a good accent or not. The whole idea is that they will judge you on what you are able to deliver, they will judge you on results. And I think, this is what quite a few, young and old, Greeks, that I have seen here, appreciate and I hope that this will be happening in Greece very soon. Because we do have a human capital, with high language, scientific and technical skills, and we should make a better use of it.

Greece does have not only the natural resources (wind, solar), but also the human resource (engineers, commercial people etc.) that could develop them, but in the right environment. The demand for energy will never go away.

We can also do a lot more regarding renewables, which is a true resource in Greece. We already produce one of the highest, as a percentage to the total electricity consumption of the country, generation of solar power, with 12%

“Amerika Square” wins Best Film award in the heart of London



On Monday 26th November, 2018 at the iconic building of BAFTA in Piccadilly, London, “Amerika Square”, the Greek feature film which represented Greece at the 90th Academy Awards earlier this year in the ‘Best Foreign Language’ film category, was chosen as the winner of the 2018 tve Founders Award for Sustainability on the Big Screen.



This award was presented alongside eight other Awards for a range of films all focusing the world’s attention on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The tve Global Sustainability Film Awards were established in 2012 by the charity tve (Television for the Environment), and Awards founder Surina Narula MBE. Last year Mrs Narula founded this specific award focusing on feature films. This was the second year of this special Award.

The charity tve, which organises the Awards each year, was set up in 1984 by Central Television, now part of the UK’s ITV television network, WWF-UK, and the United Nations Environment Programme. Their mission is to inspire change for a greener fairer world through the power of film.

The UK producers of the film, George T. Lemos and Nikkos J. Frangos of Marblemen Productions Ltd were in attendance to collect the award from the Awards Founder, Surina Narula MBE.

After announcing the winning film, a short clip was shown as the recipients came on to the stage. Having received the attractive glass award, George T. Lemos spoke to the audience in the auditorium.



"We are extremely honoured to be the second recipients of the tve founders award for sustainability on the big screen.

Our thanks go to tve & fastflow group, to the inspirational film award founder Surina Narula MBE and to Steven Bernstein and the judges for their favourable decision.

We congratulate our director and driving force Yannis Sakaridis and the protagonists who created credible passionate and fragile characters living on the edge of society.

We strived to make a film that builds a deeper empathy for migrants and a better understanding of their realities, needs and perspectives and to influence attitudes towards them in a positive manner, highlighting their overall contributions to society and the environment and the struggles they face in today's world on the move.

This small independent production has travelled worldwide, creating a telling impression, and has been shown at the united nations in New York at the IOM global migration conference and at human rights festivals so we are proud to have been recognised tonight by your prestigious organisation. Thank you very much."

This is yet another distinctive trophy for 'Amerika Square', a film that the Hollywood Reporter called, "one of the best European films to date on the subject of immigration in all its painful implications".

www.tve.org
www.marblemenproductions.com
www.amerikasquare.com

"We strived to make a film that builds a deeper empathy for migrants and a better understanding of their realities, needs and perspectives and to influence attitudes towards them in a positive manner, highlighting their overall contributions to society and the environment and the struggles they face in today's world on the move."

George T.Lemos, UK producer of "Amerika Square"

“Lesvos: Between Hope and Despair”, Photographer Margarita Mavromichalis exhibits a collection of black and white shots documenting the drama of refugees on Lesvos island, at London



“I usually like to hide behind my camera and let my images do the talking for me”

M. Mavromichalis

Margarita Mavromichalis comes from a family of Greek diplomats and has spent her life living and traveling all over the world. She speaks five languages and studied translation and interpreting. Margarita moved to New York in 2009. She continued her studies for three years at the International Center of Photography where she also served as a Teaching Assistant for several classes. She moved back to Greece from 2013 to 2016 where she devoted most of her work covering the refugee crisis as it developed on the island of Lesvos. She currently lives and works in London.

Margarita is mostly attracted to street photography and the elements that evoke emotions and surprise in our every day life. Furthermore she is passionate about documenting current events that she feels very strongly about, highlighting their social impact. Her work has been displayed in exhibitions in New York, Boston, San Diego, The Museum of the City of New York, the Brooklyn Historical Society and most recently in Budapest, Athens, Paris, Berlin, Barcelona and London. Selected images are part of the permanent collection of the Museum of the City of New York and the Brooklyn Historical Society. She is the winner of the 9th Pollux Awards (2016) and the winner of the 12th edition of the Julia Margaret Cameron Awards (2018).

Margarita Mavromichalis began documenting the refugee crisis on the Aegean island in 2014, with her latest visit being earlier in 2018. In a series of 35 dramatic photos on display in London, Margarita Mavromichalis has brought into life the refugees tragedy still unfolding at the south east edge of Europe and vividly recounted the realities of thousands of people still in limbo at the Greek islands, even though international media have ceased to shine their lights upon them.

The opening of the Exhibition took place on November 15, at the Hellenic Centre, London where a great audience admired the artistic aspect of the black and white shots and at the same time got a taste of the unprecedented humanitarian crisis that hit Greek islands.

Faces of people in the foreground show relief after having safely arrived ashore and at the same time they look obviously bewildered, lost and frightened, which stands in striking contrast to the background of the calm sea. Sea, land and abandoned boats form the context of the first part of the journey of distraught families and desperate individuals who hope to move further into Europe. On the other hand, there is also the compassionate response of locals of all ages and the relentless efforts of volunteers to relieve the pain as well as the struggle of authorities to register the endless queues of silent newcomers. Children shots deliver different messages. They represent hope and optimism amid despair. Children are everywhere and always the same: They need to play with whatever object may serve as a toy, they still find joy in the midst of suffering, they may smile



or laugh under the gloomiest and most depressing circumstances.

The opening of the Exhibition saw a substantial turnout of friends and admirers. Among the gathering were the International Maritime Organization's secretary-general Kitack Lim, diplomats and people from business, science, shipping, arts and books, including acclaimed British author Victoria Hislop.

Agatha Kalisperas, director of the Hellenic Centre, presented the artist to the audience giving a short account of her previous works, exhibitions and awards.

Margarita Mavromichalis addressing the audience pointed out:

«'Lesvos: Between Hope and Despair' is an exhibition of works that it is very close to my heart because it involves human beings, young and old, of all backgrounds, religions and ethnicity. People who put their life and the life of their children at risk, not out of negligence but out of pure desperation. These people are in need of a safer haven or of a better life as we all deserve and we all need. None would put his children's life at risk and board them on those flimsy dinghies, if the risk of staying behind was not greater than that of crossing of dangerous terrains and rough seas. Many did not make it. I visited the graveyard of Lesvos and even the most heartless person would be disturbed at the sight of graves mostly of children under the age of ten. I am not here to make any political statements. And I am here to show work that I have produced because I felt that staying away from such a humanitarian crisis unfolding on my doorstep, would be very wrong. [...]

I am not trying to capture the one and only image that would create a sensation but instead to produce images that would strike a call to most viewers. Greece did not have enough resources to face such a huge crisis that came at the most difficult time for a country. Yet thanks to the dedication of most NGOs, the generosity of many locals and the hard work of the authorities important work was done and much more needs to be done. [...]

I have sequenced the images by creating the journey as a witnessed it. So, the boats approach on the island of Lesvos and the refugees are met by the local authorities and the NGOs, the roller coaster of all the emotions of the refugees as they arrive on dry land, their transition to the camps that often become their home for over 2 years. I have chosen two images to end the sequence as they reflect to me two very different ways of addressing this crisis. The one is an image that I took at the cemetery of Lesvos, where the first deceased were buried [...] There is a clear contrast and a shocking difference among them. Yet it shows that after death, whether we like it or not, we are all equal. My last image is much more positive and optimistic. It shows three children playing in the camp with a balloon they have created out of a surgical glove. To me this symbolises creativity, optimism, and hope...»

Roger Boyes, a Times journalist, Diplomatic Editor and foreign correspondent for 35 years, took the floor and referred shortly to his experience in Greece, and in particular in the island of Lesvos, where he firstly went in 2009 in order to cover the initial situation of immigration and refugee crisis. Many faces captured by Margarita Mavromichalis' camera reminded him of the refugee situation he himself had witnessed in Lesvos and the emotions he himself had experienced during his visit to the island. These photos, he said, indicate the long journey of refugees, from Afghanistan, to Iraq and later to Turkey and Greece. Even though, many refugees shared with him remarkable stories, he believed that faces can narrate different stories. Margarita Mavromichalis succeeded to capture a lot of faces showing many different stories, their attempts to escape from conflicts, the violence they faced, the long dangerous journey in the Aegean. Roger Boyes added his support for Margarita Mavromichalis's project, saying that Greek citizens' response to the swelling numbers of refugees had been incredibly positive.

Benjamin Ward, deputy director of the Europe and Central Asia division of Human Rights Watch, gave a short account of his experience when working on the island of Lesbos. He said;

«Human Rights Watch has been working on the situation on the Greek islands for a number of years; we actually have a research team working on spot. The number of people making the crossing had fallen considerably since 2015-16, but significant numbers of people continue to arrive. A Human Rights Watch team which visited a few weeks ago saw nursing mothers sitting in unheated tents with their children».

Benjamin Ward insisted that «the islands are not equipped to deal with them, but the people of the islands have been welcoming and the local authorities have done what they can along with other agencies».

«One of the complications of the situation on the islands» he said, «has to do with the fact that, particularly now that the numbers of people arriving in the EU has decreased, the willingness of other European governments to provide assistance to Greece, in terms of sharing responsibility for those people who arrive, has reduced. And those governments have also put pressure to Greece to

keep people on the islands and not move them to the mainland, where they have better access to services, education etc. One of the things that we are doing, as an organization, is going to other European governments and EU institutions and saying to them that they actually need to change their approach, support Greece to move people to the mainland and also to share responsibility by relocating asylum seekers to other European countries, which happened in 2016 and 2017, but it is now on and off. There is one good news story which is that the government of Portugal has settled a pilot program willing to take 100 asylum seekers from Greece. We hope that this could become basis for a renewed effort to share responsibility among the EU states. There is no doubt that migration imposes a significant challenge to the EU, but it is a challenge that can be met humanely and in accordance with our values and in a way that secures our borders, if it is done collectively, if it is done with a sharing of responsibility and not leaving frontline states like Greece on their own».

Photos by Margarita Mavromichalis



Events to come

HC Vasilopita evening 2019

When: 11 January 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre, 16-18 Paddington Street, Marylebone, London W1U 5AS

Greek entehno and rebetiko at 'It's All Greek to Me'

Reservations: 02074025505

When: 12 January

Where: It's All Greek To Me, 101 Praed Street, London W2 1NT

The Case of the Far-Right and Far-Left in Greece: Understanding Online Political Networks

When: 15 January 6:00-7:30pm

Where: LSE, Cañada Blanch Room (COW 1.11), 1st Floor, European Institute, Cowdray House

#TextMe_PaperFashion

When: 16 January

Where: The Hellenic Centre, 16-18 Paddington Street, Marylebone, London W1U 5AS

A Rus traveller in Constantinople

When: 22 January 2019, 5.30pm

Where: Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS, K2.29 Council Room

Modern Greek literature through a translator's lens

When: 23 January, 6.00pm

Where: Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS, K2.29 Council Room

The Ionian Society New Year's Vassilopita

When: 25 January 7 pm - 9 pm

Where: Andipa Gallery, 162 Walton Street, SW3 2JL

Vembo, the Voice of Greece at Balabam

When: 27 January, 7:00-11:00pm

Where: Balabam, 58-60 High Road, Tottenham, London N15 6JU

Amalgama at The Water Rats

When: 27 January 2019, 6:45-8:00pm

Where: The Water Rats, 328 Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross, London WC1X 8BZ

"Paper Dress: Future of History?" A talk by Jose Teunissen

When: 29 January 7pm

Where: Hellenic Centre 16-18 Paddington Street, Marylebone, London W1U 5AS

Towards a National Competition and Competitiveness Policy for Greece

When: 29 January 2019, 6:00-7:30pm

Where: LSE, Cañada Blanch Room (COW 1.11), 1st Floor, European Institute, Cowdray House

The Diachronic Message of the Three Hierarchs'

When: 31 January 7 pm

Where: Hellenic Centre 16-18 Paddington Street, Marylebone, London W1U 5AS

@GreeceInUK is a newsletter with a monthly roundup of news related to Greece, Greek Politics, Economy, Culture, Civil Society, the Arts as well as Greece's distinctive vibrant presence in the UK. Our ambition is to offer an accurate and rich source of information to those interested in Greece and her people.

Embassy of Greece in London

Press and Communication Office

1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP

Tel. 0207- 727 3071 / Fax. 0207- 792 9054

E-mail: press.lon@mfa.gr

<http://www.mfa.gr/uk>

Facebook: [@GreeceInUK](https://www.facebook.com/GreeceInUK) / Twitter: [@GreeceInUK](https://twitter.com/GreeceInUK)