

Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, was welcomed by his counterpart British PM Boris Johnson at COP26 World Leaders Summit in Glasgow

*Photo Credit: UK Government/COP26*



*Photo Credit: UK Gov/ Picture by Alice Hodgson/No 10 Downing Street*

Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias met with his counterpart, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, in London to sign a new framework to boost trade, security and digital cooperation between the 2 countries.

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The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) took place in Glasgow on the 31st October till the 12th of November 2021. The COP26 summit brought together all parties in order to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Greek Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, during his participation at COP26, delivered a speech at the World Leader Summit on the 1st of November 2021, as follows: Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is an honor to address you here today. Let me start by stating the obvious: we are running out of time and we need to act now. In Greece, as in many other countries, we are already getting a glimpse of the dramatic effects of global warming. This summer, having experienced a record-breaking streak of days with temperatures over 40 degrees, we had to deal with forest fires of unprecedented intensity. To tackle such challenges, we created a Climate Crisis Ministry. We emphasize the term "Climate Crisis" because we are already in need of urgently addressing the consequences of climate change. But we also need to act pre-emptively. Greece,

despite its small carbon footprint, can make a significant contribution in the green transition that goes beyond our ambitious European goals of reducing emissions by 55% by 2030.



*Photo Credit: PM Press Office, Dimitris Papamitsos*

Greek Prime Minister also gave an interview at Bloomberg Television on the sidelines of the COP26, saying, among others, that the Greek government is introducing its first Climate Law to the Cabinet this week, which sets up a very comprehensive governance structure for monitoring climate policies. «We will commit to our European targets of reducing our emissions by 55% by 2030 and becoming climate neutral by 2050. And then, of course, we have several very specific provisions that are particularly relevant to Greece in terms of energy efficiency, in terms of phasing out coal. And we will also be introducing a new piece of legislation regarding renewables and in particular offshore wind, where we want to be one of the leaders in the Mediterranean, as we have a lot of capacity» underlined the Greek Prime Minister. In the end, he stressed out that «it is important that citizens are not turned against policies to protect the climate because they are forced to pay the cost of the transition. We can't afford this; we need people to support us». Greek Premier when asked about what worries him the most during this winter, he said that «inflation is a real concern for all of us. Nevertheless, overall, I'm very bullish about the potential of the economy. We're constantly upgrading our growth forecast for the year. Right now it's at 6.1%, I wouldn't be surprised if it is higher than that. We had a fantastic tourism season. Lots of foreign direct investment is flowing into Greece. We're creating lots of lots of jobs. Unemployment is coming down. The tech sector is booming. And we also have 32 billion euros of funds from the Recovery and Resilience Fund, So, I think we're in a good position to weather whatever the global economy throws at us», he concluded.



*Photo Credit: PM Press Office, Dimitris Papamitsos*

Later on, during his interview at Sky News, he commented, among others, that in Greece «we have the capacity to produce relatively cheap electricity. But at the same time, the Mediterranean is being really tested by the consequences of climate change. There is room for much more cooperation amongst EU member States. So, better forest management and more resources to actually fight the fires». Greek Premier also referred to the agreement between Greece and Egypt for an electricity interconnection. «I envision Greece to be an energy hub, connecting the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe» he said. As regards shipping industry and climate, Kyriakos Mitsotakis underlined that «90% of global trade is moved by ships while shipping contributes 3% to global emissions. It's not insignificant, it's not colossal. We need to do our part. Shipping needs to do its own part, but it's not very clear what is going to be the technology that will solve the problem. That is why we need more R&D. We need to focus more on the solutions that are currently being developed...»

### Finance Minister Staikouras at COP26

During a closed meeting of the Finance Ministers Alliance on Climate Actions, held at COP26 summit in Glasgow, Greek FinMin Christos Staikouras presented the ministry's plans to issue Greece's first green bond in the second half of 2022. Mr Staikouras also presented the ministry's actions towards a sustainable economic strategy and the incorporation of climate action in Greek fiscal policy. The Finance Minister said that COP26 was a unique opportunity for greater sensibility on climate action, both on global and national level, but most important was to «agree on decisive actions towards achieving critical environmental goals and their funding..Despite its small coal footprint, Greece has the ambition to significantly contribute in a global effort towards green transition, with significant initiatives», he added.

## Education Minister Kerameos at COP26

The role of education in combating the effects of climate change was highlighted by the Minister of Education & Religions, Ms Niki Kerameos, at the event “Together for Tomorrow: Education and Climate Action”, held in the framework of the United Nations International Conference on Climate Change – COP26, in Glasgow. It is the first time that education field has taken such an important place in COP Conferences. Ms Kerameos focused on “the adoption of a new educational approach through the reform of general education curricula, in order to harmonize with the principles of sustainable development.” Ms Kerameos stressed out the importance of training programs for teachers. She characteristically said that “we have a duty to train teachers, to offer them new tools, to support them, teachers are the driving force behind this new educational approach”. About 75,000 teachers have already completed or started the training program for the teaching of Skills Labs Programs. Last but not least, during an extensive dialogue with representatives of youth organizations, such as Mock COP and Youth4Climate, Ms Kerameos answered a question regarding the contribution of young people in the formation of new programs for climate change, supporting that the whole process starts from the grassroots, from youth organizations, educators, local and international organization who were invited to submit proposals for relevant educational material, which is currently the backbone of the Skills Labs programs .

## Agis Emmanouil in Glasgow

On August 11, Agis Emmanouil, the well- known actor and activist, set off for the run of his life, an epic 2.412 km from Athens to Glasgow, aiming at arriving in time for COP26 in Glasgow, where the UN Climate Change Conference was held, in order

to raise awareness for environmental issues. After 87 days of running, Agis Emmanouil completed his Herculean adventure on Friday November 5, and fulfilled his task of drawing attention to the climate crisis. Agis has never been to the UK before, but said he felt like Mel Gibson in Braveheart, when he arrived. «I wanted to yell ‘Freedom’ when I arrived», he said. Agis Emmanouil was inspired to take on this challenge after watching the David Attenborough’ documentary ‘A Life on our Planet’, and he was so moved that he knew he wanted to raise awareness of the effects of climate change. For Agis the take home message for this should be that we need environmental action everywhere and that there is no time to just walk for the climate, we must «run» with all our energy. On Monday 8, Agis Emmanouil visited the Greek Embassy in London, where he was welcomed by Ambassador Mr Ioannis Raptakis, who underlined the full support of Greek Embassy in London to his impressive endeavour.



*Ambassador Ioannis Raptakis and Agis Emmanouil*



## Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias in London



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece Mr. Nikos Dendias, paid a two day visit to the United Kingdom (October 25 -26) where he had meetings with the British Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, Elizabeth Truss and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Europe and Americas), Wendy Morton.

During his visit, the Greek Minister and his UK counterpart discussed the developments in the Eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus and Western Balkans and signed a framework Agreement between Greece and the United Kingdom (MoU) that provides the context within which bilateral cooperation can further flourish.

Mr Dendias, after his meeting with his UK counterpart stated that the purpose of the agreement is, among other things, to prove that Brexit does not in any way mean a reduction in its relations with Greece. On the contrary, it is an opportunity for closer, deeper, more sincere bilateral relations, he added

The memorandum covers a total of 12 areas (foreign and regional policy, defence cooperation, trade and investment, digitization, tourism, maritime affairs, health, education, research and innovation, culture, law enforcement, immigration and the climate crisis).

As part of the strengthening of Parliamentary cooperation between the two countries, the Minister of Foreign Affairs had meetings with the UK Parliament Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Tom Tugendhat and the Chair of the Defence Committee, Tobias Ellwood.

During his stay in London, the Minister of Foreign Affairs addressed the Royal United Services Institute with a speech titled "Enhancing Security and Stability in Europe and the Mediterranean".

## Tourism Minister Vassilis Kikilias participated in WTM London



Greek Minister of Tourism Vasilis Kikilias visited the WTM (World Travel Market) trade show in London from November 1 to November 9.

After a working meeting with the CEO of Jet2com and Jet2holidays Group, Steve Heapy, Mr Kikilias announced that the UK leisure travel group agreed to boost the number of airline seats to Greece by 600.000 in 2022. The meeting was also attended by the Secretary General of EOT Dimitris Fraggakis and senior executives of the Group.

Greek Minister of Tourism stated that «Greece is present in WTM with all its forces» adding that «British airlines and tour operators are reacting very positively to 2022».

«Summer for the British starts early in Greece, from April 1, with first destination Heraklion and over 15 Greek destinations, and we are in advanced discussions to keep some of these destinations open in the winter 2022-2023» Mr Kikilias said.

Greek Minister also met with his counterpart from Saudi Arabia, Ahmed Al Khateeb, with whom he discussed ways to accelerate the tourism sector's recovery in the post pandemic period.

In addition, on the first day of the WTM expo he gave a press conference to the UK media and present the latest updates from Greece with a re-cap of 2021 and a projection towards 2022 alongside new developments in the tourism sector.

During his stay in London Mr Kikilias met with the Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Transport Mr Robert Courts on the side-lines of the WTM expo. The Greek Minister underlined the major importance of facilitating the movement of citizens between the two countries, an issue that concerns both British visitors to Greece and Greek professionals and students in the United Kingdom.

On his part, the British minister informed Mr Kikilias on the recent changes made to the UK's entry restrictions.

The Greek Minister of Tourism also raised the issue of adapting health protocols for entry into the UK, with regard to requirements for vaccinated citizens and those recovered from the virus and that have already received one vaccine dose. He also informed Mr Courts that the Greek government recently lifted restrictions on cruise travel to and from the Turkish ports of Kusadasi and Istanbul, as both ports meet European protocols and conditions

## The «OXI» day anniversary celebrated at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Divine Wisdom



On Sunday, October 24, 2021, the Orthodox Cathedral of the Divine Wisdom celebrated the Anniversary of «OXI», (28 October 1940) with a Doxology officiated by His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain. In the doxology, many members of the Greek diplomatic mission and armed forces representatives appointed to the missions in the UK attended the Doxology, as well as representatives from the Greek schools in London. The Address of the Day was delivered by the Ambassador of Greece in London Mr Ioannis Raptakis, who also read the speech of Secretary General for Greeks Abroad

and Public Diplomacy, Prof. John Chrysoulakis. Mr Secretary General underlined the importance of the OXI Day. From his side the Ambassador of Greece in London Mr Ioannis Raptakis stressed out that the Greeks, since ancient times, have not stopped fighting for their homeland, for their values, for their freedom and for their culture. "Today's challenges may not involve war but they are quite as demanding and challenging: coronavirus, migration flows, climate change. Greeks are still on the right side of history. Greece, always guided by international law, condemns terrorism, concludes Defence Agreements with important international actors, strengthening its geostrategic position worldwide, fights for justice and human rights, takes initiatives for tackling climate change. The fight of our ancestors is an inspiration of us all today and it is the duty of each and every one of us to remember and honor the sacrifices of our ancestors", concluded Ambassador Mr Raptakis. At the end of the commemoration ceremony of the National Day, the national anthem was sung by all attendees, being the culmination of a very emotional day with many symbolisms.



The Anniversary of the OXI and the "Flag Day" were celebrated on Friday, October 22, 2021 at Greek Primary School of London, in order to honour the Heroes of 1940, who sacrificed their lives for freedom and national dignity. The students along with the teachers of the school organized a wonderful and moving celebration and through theatrical performances and songs, tried to revive some of the significant moments of 1940 War. At the end of the celebration, the students paraded at the school yard and they were applauded by parents and teachers of the school.

## Opening of the Exhibition "History has a Face" at the Embassy of Greece

As part of the celebrations for the 200 years since the 1821 Greek Revolution and on the occasion of the Anniversary of OXI, October 28, 1940, the Embassy of Greece in London organized, in its premises, on the 26th of October, 2021, in collaboration with Sylvia Ioannou Foundation and the National History Museum, an event for the opening of the exhibition "History has a Face". The exhibition presented 15 portraits of some of the Greek Independence Heroes (such as Kolokotronis, Nikitaras, Koundouriotis, Makrygiannis, Hadjipetrou, Finlay) painted by Benjamin Mary (1792-1846), Belgian diplomatic representative in Greece. (More historical data as well as information on the depicted heroes are contained in the publication of the Sylvia Ioannou Foundation and the Historical and Ethnological Society of Greece - National History Museum «History has a face - Figures of 1821 in Greece of Otto by the Belgian diplomat Benjamin Mary, Athens, 2020»). Portraits were courtesy of Sylvia Ioannou Foundation.

The event started with the welcome message of Mrs Iphigenia Kanara, Deputy Head of the Mission, which was followed by a very interesting and moving video from «Greece 2021» Committee titled «Desire for Freedom - Επιθυμία Ελευθερίας» screened in the video wall. It was a visual narration of the Revolution of 1821, starting in the pre-revolutionary years and concluding with the establishment of the Modern Greek State. During the visual narrative, which derives from paintings and other documents such as books or official reports, the viewers had the opportunity to see depictions of life in Greece before the Revolution and follow the events that led to the outbreak of the Struggle.

Afterwards, the new Consul of Greece, Christos Goulas, introduced the event and the speakers. The first speaker was Gonda Van Steen, Koraes Chair of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature in KCL's Centre for Hellenic Studies and Department of Classics, who delivered a very engaging speech on «Benjamin Mary: The Face of a Belgian Philhellene». She was followed by academic Jennifer Wallace, Director of Studies in English at Peterhouse, University of Cambridge, as well author and member of the London Hellenic Prize, who made a memorable presentation on «Poets and Philhellenes». Last but not least, Dr Alasdair Grant, Curatorial Fellow, School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, in his

compulsive presentation on «Mix'd Celtic Memories with the Phrygian Mount': George Finlay, Historian and Philhellene», closed the presentation cycle.

The amazing finale by the actress and theatre director of Mirror Theater in London Angeliki Petropetsioti, gripped the audience by reciting excerpts from the Memoirs of Makrygiannis and Kolokotronis, selected in collaboration with the Academy of Athens.

The presentation and speeches, were followed by a small reception where all attendees had the time to admire the Greek Heroes portraits and discuss on various subjects, while they all pointed out the importance of the event, as well as their eagerness to participate in these kind of events, organised by the Greek Embassy in London, in the future .

We would like to thank Sylvia Ioannou Foundation for their kind contribution that made this event possible!

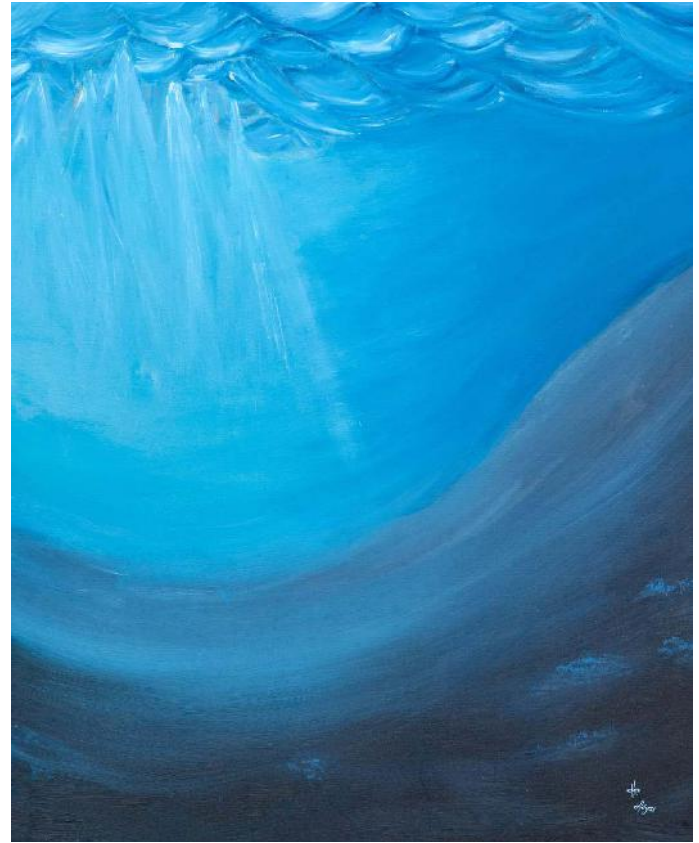


## Greek artists participate in art exhibition by StART

70 artists from 25 countries participated in an exhibition organised by StART at Saatchi Gallery on King's Road in London. The exhibition hosted, among others, the works of two Greek artists:



The work «Untitled 2014» from the Greek artist Denny Theocharakis, who used ink, oil pastels on handmade Japanese rice paper. Denny loves traveling around the world and using her camera to capture moments of everyday life at her destinations. She has presented her work in solo and group exhibitions in Greece and abroad. One of her paintings belongs to the National Gallery of Greece.



The work «Deep Blue 2021» from the Greek artist Abys), who is a self-taught visual artist based in Athens. Her media of choice are pencil, acrylic paint and oil paint. She has participated in shows in Athens and London, as well as digital residencies. Currently she is preparing a project that is destined to decode the relation to the sea and ascension that one can experience underwater, which will be exhibited at START



*Artist Denny Theocharakis at Saatchi Gallery*

## Celebrations of 200 years anniversary from the Greek Revolution

When: Sunday 14 November 2021, 4:00 pm  
Where: Ιερός Ναός Αγίων Παντελεήμονος και Παρασκευής, 660 Kenton Road, Harrow, HA3 9QN

<http://stpanteleimon.org.uk/programme-for-the-celebrations-of-200-anniversary-from-the-greek-revolution-1821-2021/>

## Entrepreneurialising Solidarity? A Pragmatic Sociology of the Social and Solidarity Economy in Greece

When: Tuesday 16 November 2021, 4.00 - 5.30pm  
Where: Online

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Hellenic-Observatory/Events/Research-Seminar-Series/2021-22/Entrepreneurializing-Solidarity/Entrepreneurialising-Solidarity-A-Pragmatic-Sociology-of-the-Social-and-Solidarity-Economy-in-Greece>

## Conference: Twelfth A. G. Leventis Conference in Hellenic Studies at the University of Edinburgh

When: Thursday 18 November 2021  
Where: University of Edinburgh & Online

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/classics/about/leventis/leventis-2021>

## Dimitris Soukaras' New Album Launch Concert & Presentation

When: Saturday 20 November 2021, 6.30pm  
Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/concert-with-dimitris-soukaras/>

## The Shortest History Of Greece Up To The Fall Of Constantinople

When: Thursday 25 November 2021, 7pm  
Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/the-shortest-history-of-greece-up-to-the-fall-of-constantinople/>

## Greece and Cyprus in a Dark Room, 1967-74

When: Thursday 25 November 2021, 4.00 - 5.30pm  
Where: Online

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Hellenic-Observatory/Events/events-pages/2021-22/Dark-Room/Dark-Room>

## Imagining a Free Greece: British, Cypriot and Russian Engagements

When: Friday 26 November 2021, 6.00pm  
Where: Online

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imagining-a-free-greece-british-cypriot-and-russian-engagements-tickets-191262570497?eboga=2038808690.1568733653>

## Christmas with Asterakia

When: Sunday 28 November 2021, 12-5pm  
Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/christmas-with-asterakia/>

## British and other philhellenes in the Greek Revolution during the 1820s

When: Tuesday 30 November 2021, 5 – 6pm  
Where: Fisher Building, St John's College, 26-27 Magdalene Street, Cambridge, CB3 0AF

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/british-and-other-philhellenes-in-the-greek-revolution-during-the-1820s-tickets-187585622647?utm\\_campaign=post\\_publish&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eventbrite&utm\\_content=shortLinkNewEmail](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/british-and-other-philhellenes-in-the-greek-revolution-during-the-1820s-tickets-187585622647?utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail)

## Cyprus and Stability in Eastern Mediterranean

When: Tuesday 30 November 2021, 6.00 -7.30pm  
Where: Online

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Hellenic-Observatory/Events/Research-Seminar-Series/2021-22/Cyprus-and-stability-in-Eastern-Mediterranean/Cyprus-and-Stability-in-Eastern-Mediterranean>

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