



Greece for the 1st time in the history of the Organisation was elected at the 1st place (150 votes out of 157 voting participants) for the IMO Council 2022-2023 at the leading Category A for states with the largest interest in providing international shipping services!



Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Sector of Maritime Transport

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Greece topped the elections to the Council of the IMO

Greece's significant role in leading world shipping was apparent when it topped the poll in elections to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the 2022-23 biennium at the organisation's 32nd Assembly Friday, December 10. Greece was first out of 40 member-states in the category of countries with the greatest interest in providing international shipping services, gathering 150 out of 157 votes. The election of Greece to the top of the IMO Council for the first time demonstrates the country's position as one of the leading forces in the field of international shipping, the Greek Foreign Affairs Ministry noted in its announcement. Moreover, Greece's diplomatic success at the IMO is an evidence of its long-term contribution in the formulation of shipping legislation, through its continuous presence in the organisation's work as pursued in its committees and subcommittees. It is worth-mentioning that Greece is in charge of about 20% of the world's maritime trade total and that the Greek-flagged fleet is ranked eighth globally and second in the EU (in 2020), continuing Greece's historic maritime tradition that goes back centuries. Last but not least, Greece expressed its sincere thanks to the IMO member states that recognized its efforts and contribution within the organization, and its primary goal of securing and protecting international shipping.

Addressing to the 32nd Conference of the IMO members in London, the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy Mr. Ioannis Plakiotakis stressed the need to ensure the viability of the sector, emphasising the need to address the challenges posed by the climate crisis, while stressing the need to implement, as soon as possible, IMO's initial strategy to reduce ship emissions in a way that will ensure the smooth operation of international trade and a level playing field. Mr Plakiotakis called on IMO members and the shipping industry to support this

effort, for the environmental, social and economic sustainability. At the same time, he underlined the role of seafarers, who during the pandemic, under difficult conditions and severe health restrictions, continued to work tirelessly.

During his meeting with the Greek correspondents in London on Wednesday, December 8, at the Greek residence, the Minister for Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Mr. Giannis Plakiotakis informed the journalists on the following issues: «The purpose of my visit to London in the last few days was primarily my presence at the General Assembly of IMO. Greece, a leading shipping power, must play a leading role in the developments for the future of world shipping. I had the opportunity to confirm our position during the IMO General Assembly, as well as in my personal meeting with the Secretary of the International Maritime Organization, where, at first, I stressed out the need to ensure the viability of the industry and of course the need to implement as soon as possible the strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ships. And this is a key priority at the level of global shipping. Also, what I want to emphasize is that the re-election of Greece in category A of the Council of the International Maritime Organization confirms the goal of Greece's leading position in world shipping events and of course its ability to intervene in matters of global shipping. I also had the opportunity to meet bilaterally with my counterparts: the Minister of Transport of Qatar and the Minister of Transport of Saudi Arabia I will meet today with the Minister of Transport of Saudi Arabia, where we will have the opportunity to sign a flagship shipping agreement. You know very well that Saudi Arabia is one of the largest, if not the largest, exporters of energy products. Greece on the other hand is the country that controls 30% of the tanker fleet and 15% of the LNG capacity, so it goes without saying that this shipping agreement will greatly enhance the benefits of our country. Also in the meeting I had with the Minister of Transport of Qatar we reaffirmed our common will to proceed immediately to the signing of a bilateral shipping agreement and of course, in my meeting with the Deputy Secretary of Transport of the United Kingdom we reaffirmed the excellent framework of our maritime cooperation. We are interested in having close cooperation even after the post-Brexit era, within the framework of the fourfold competitiveness, digitization sustainability and social reciprocity».



Co-operation Agreement with Saudi Arabia

A Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Sector of Maritime Transport, was signed on Wednesday, December 8, in London, between the Minister for Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Mr. Giannis Plakiotakis and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Saleh Al-Jasser.

Commenting on this new agreement, Mr. Plakiotakis, after expressing his satisfaction, underlined that a stable and reliable institutional framework for cooperation is being formed through it. "This agreement," said Mr. Plakiotakis, "significantly enhances the maritime relations of the two countries and is the springboard for the further deepening of a strategic partnership in the field of shipping.

" The signing of the Agreement has been a constant and timeless priority for both countries since 2013 and it is a result of the strong political will to deepen their constructive cooperation. It is the culmination of the strong ties between the two countries at the political and trade level and confirms, in the most emphatic way, the excellent bilateral relations between Greece and Saudi Arabia".

Message from the President of the Republic, Katerina Sakellariopoulou, to Greeks Abroad, on the occasion of Christmas and New Year

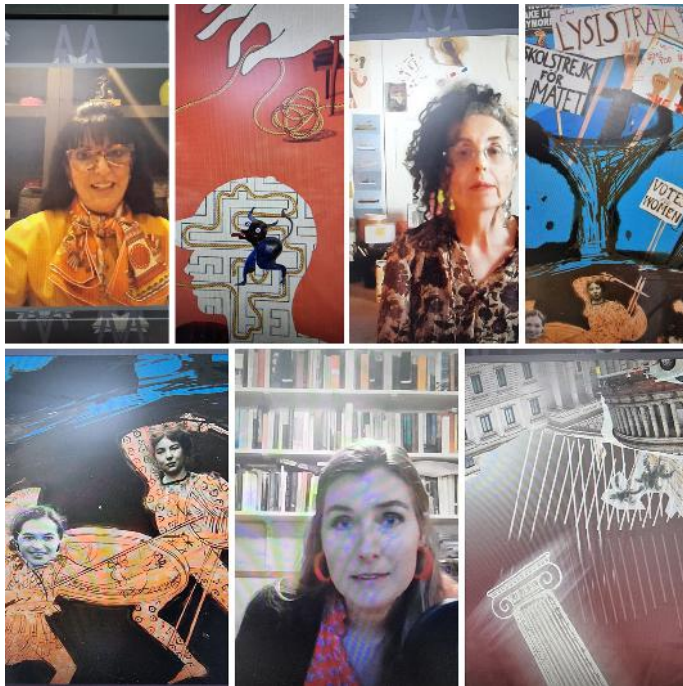


The President of the Hellenic Republic addressed all Greeks Abroad that, as she said, experience the conflict between the familiar and the foreign and struggle to bridge this contradictions without losing their national characteristics. "We are proud of you, our expatriate compatriots", she said "You keep alive the traditions of Greece".

"Since antiquity, the history of Hellenism is tied to travel. Wherever they went, wherever the Greeks landed, they excelled and distinguished themselves; in arts, in trade, in science, in politics....In the two hundred years of our modern history, there are many examples that prove that the Greeks of the Diaspora played a catalytic role in the birth of modern Greece", she stressed mentioning Greeks such as Alexandros Ypsilantis, Evangelos Zappas, Ioannis Kapodistrias, Konstantinos Cavafy, Neophytos Doukas, Elena Venizelou, Andreas Syggros, Maria Callas, etc.

The President mentioned the challenges of the world today, such as the Covid pandemic, the immigration issue, the climate crisis, etc. and said that "The Christmas and New Year celebrations remind us of the possibility of rebirth, peaceful coexistence and hope", before wishing all Greeks a Merry Christmas, health, progress and every happiness in the new year.

Award of the Michael Marks International Greek Bicentennial Poetry Pamphlet Prizes



An English lady, Fiona Benson, and Judith Eyal from Israel won the Michael Marks International Greek Bicentennial Poetry Pamphlet Prizes. The winners' pamphlet 'Ariadne' was launched on Tuesday 7 December during the annual Awards online event at the British Library. Poetry Prize winner Fiona Benson and Illustration Prize winner Judith Eyal both appeared. Ariadne is translated into Greek by Harris Psarras.

The event was introduced by Lady Marks, who announced the Greek Bicentennial celebratory awards, to commemorate the 200 anniversary of the creation of modern Greece. "The Greeks are an ancient nation going back at least to the 4th millennium BC. They are considered the founders of what we call European civilization. Philosophy, literature, poetry, history, politics, the sciences, scientific and mathematical principles, theatre, the Olympic Games and first and foremost the political system of Democracy are all Greek creations", she said.

Fiona Benson, the poetry winner prize, read an extract of her poem which describes the imprisonment of Minotaur from his sister Ariadne perspective. The judges said about her work that "the language, and the poet's control of word and line, is beautiful and very accomplished. The whole thing reminds us that there is always something new, self-renewing and revolutionary in the Greek tradition". Harris Psarras who translated her poems into Greek mentioned: "As I translate the poems, I try to retain both the

directness of the narrator's confessions and their lyrical tone"

Judith Eyal explained that her aim was to bring together past and present. One of her works was about the 'new amazons' women who fought for change, and also about the Ariadne's myth.

Fiona Benson was educated at Trinity College, Oxford and then St Andrews University, where she completed the MLitt and a PhD in early modern drama. Her pamphlet was 'Faber New Poets 1' in the Faber New Poets series, and her full-length collection Bright Travellers (Cape, 2014) received the Seamus Heaney Prize for first collection and the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. Her second book, Vertigo & Ghost (Cape, 2019) won the Roehampton Poetry Prize and the Forward Poetry Prize. Her third collection Ephemeron is due out from Cape in 2022. She lives in mid-Devon with her husband and their two daughters.

Judith Eyal is an Art Director, designer and illustrator. She was born and works in Tel Aviv, Israel. A graduate of the Bezalel Art & Design Academy, Jerusalem, she undertook further studies in England on a British Council scholarship. She is a co-founder and former chairperson of The Israeli Association of Illustrators. Her present and past activities include general and book cover design, editorial and children's illustration, self-illustration and art projects, art direction at leading advertising agencies, fashion art director and editor, design and illustration teaching, and editorial design critique. She regularly participates in illustration and art exhibitions.

The Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets were established in 2009 to promote the pamphlet form and to enable poets and publishers to develop and keep creating. Since then, they have grown to include four awards, for 'Poetry Pamphlet', 'Publisher', 'Illustration' and 'Poetry Pamphlet in a Celtic Language', carrying prizes of up to £5,000, and awarding places on 'The Michael Marks Poets in Residence Program' in Greece.

The Awards are made possible with the generous support of the Michael Marks Charitable Trust, and through partnerships between the British Library, the Wordsworth Trust, The TLS and the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies, and in association with the National Library of Wales and the National Library of Scotland.

Congratulations to Poetry Prize winner Fiona Benson and to Illustration Prize winner Judith Eyal!

Greek islands in bid to go green to lure climate-conscious Britons



Greece is seeking to reduce islands' dependence on oil-powered generators in bid to win over tourists. In an interview with the newspaper Daily Telegraph (19.12.2021), Mr George Kremlis, the chief climate adviser of Greek PM, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, said that Greece is preparing itself for tourists and hotel chains to become more wary of spending money in polluting destinations in the future. Therefore, Greek government plans to overcome local opposition to ramp up renewables on the islands and lure new hotel investment with green policies.

Most of the Greek islands, including Santorini and Mykonos, are heavily dependent on oil-powered generators given the difficulty connecting their energy supplies to the mainland and higher demand in the summer. So, Greek government hopes to "transform them into green islands" by making them more energy self-sufficient, using solar and wind power, and boosting their low capacity for recycling and waste management, Mr Kremlis pointed out.

"This branding of the green islands will be beneficial at the end. In the future, I do believe that this will become trendy and more attractive. I think this will also be important in the selection of the hotels", Mr Kremlis underlined, while he added that "we need to raise awareness and incentives for the local population for them to understand that this can also at the end of the day create green jobs, preserve our environment and also make the islands more attractive tourism destinations." Besides, the islands' economies rely on a flood of summer visitors with British holidaymakers being the second most important for Greece's tourism sector.

Mr Kremlis concluded that the government wants the islands to be weaned off oil for its energy needs by 2030, while admitting that ramping up renewables to meet the target is an "ambitious goal".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The consular office of the Embassy of Greece in London accepts debit card payments.

As from the 1.1.2022 the Consular Office of the Embassy of Greece accepts debit cards as a way of payment for consular fees. This comes after the change of relevant legislation and with the aim to improve our services.

Hack the Map

The Panhellenic Student Competition for the creation of digital works entitled "Hack the Map: Fantastic Worlds", is addressed to all Greek schools of secondary education in Greece and abroad. The competition is under the auspices of the General Secretariat of Hellenes Abroad and Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

More info: <https://classroom.onassis.org/>

Panhellenic Lemma Competition

The Panhellenic Student Lemma Contest on the Greek Revolution of 1821 entitled: "Become a modern encyclopaedist" is organized by the Onassis Foundation and the Onassis Library. It is addressed to Greek schools of secondary education in Greece and abroad and is under the auspices of the General Secretariat of Hellenes Abroad and Public Diplomacy.

More info: <https://bit.ly/3fcZtYo>

Janet Suzman, chair of the BCRPM on the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures

Janet Suzman, the chair of the British Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Marbles, argued in her latest op-ed for *Kathimerini* that there is a new momentum for the reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures. Her piece came after Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visited the United Kingdom, where he raised the issue of the Parthenon Sculptures in his meeting with Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"The time has come for the British and their fabulous museum to return what was sneakily taken from an occupied country two centuries ago. The behavior of Elgin and his henchmen is not divulged to the public who come to admire these figures; the BM avers they were "legally acquired" and leaves it at that", argues Janet Suzman.

"It does not recount to the visitor the bribes and corruptions over many years that Elgin indulged in. Nor does it tell of the brutally rough choppings and sawings of pieces of magnificence from the building the figures adorned. Surely the sense of British fair play isn't dead? If the public were told the full story they could not possibly approve", she says.

"Recent polls suggest public opinion is growing in favor of return, due largely to a greater historical awareness of colonial misdemeanors and a questioning of a dead empire's right to imagine itself unassailable in the right. The BM is behind the curve on this. It has a reputation to save and must go about saving it right now", says on the turn of the public opinion in favour of the reunification.

"I cannot think of a single argument in favor of keeping the legacy of Greece locked in Bloomsbury, and certainly not the one of a precedent which could lead to the emptying of museums worldwide. There's no sign of a deluge of requests. Certain things must be returned and that's that; Benin will be celebrating long before Athens. The millions of other objects which delight and educate will stay where they are", she concludes.

You can read the article published in [Kathimerini](#) and also hear the podcast on [The Greek Current](#) where Janet discusses the Prime Minister Mitsotakis' recent visit to the UK and the momentum it has given the campaign for the reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures.

"History has a Face" publication presented in London

A presentation of the publication "History has a Face" took place on 16 December at the Hellenic Centre. The speaker Dr Charicleia Dimacopoulou presented the new edition 'History has a Face' which is now available also in an English translation. This book is a facsimile edition of an album containing more than 300 drawings- portraits of Greeks having fought during the War of Independence and taken in the years 1839-1844 by Benjamin Mary (1792-1846), the first Belgian diplomatic envoy to Greece during the reign of King Otto. The portraits include most of the members of the National Assembly of 1843-1844, as well as many of the spectators of the sittings of this assembly. The book includes biographical notices for all the people identified by the research team, and long introductions on Mary's life and work, the political situation in Greece in the years 1839-1844, the National Assembly, Mary's visit to Cyprus in 1845, finally the historical and artistic value of the album. The speaker concentrated on the importance of the testimony of this book on the period of Otto's reign, both historically and socially and the artistic value of the portraits.

Charicleia Dimacopoulou is a historian with a research interest in the Modern Greek Law History and Greek Institutional History. She is an honors graduate of the Department of History and Archaeology and the Department of Law of Athens University and has a PhD in Law History from the Democritus University of Thrace. She has taught in the Postgraduate Studies Programs of the Philology Department of the Peloponnesus University, of the Law Department of the Universities of Athens and Salonica as well as the Panteion University of Athens and the graduate Department of Turkish and Middle East Studies of the University of Athens.

Her scholarly work is centred on the political and diplomatic History, the Law History, and the History of the Institutions of the Greek State. Her most recent work is the book *History has a face* published by the Sylvia Ioannou Foundation and the National Historical Museum of Athens.

Crisis Management within Government: Papandreou and Tsipras compared

When: 18/01/2022, 6-7:30 pm

Where: Online

https://lse.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_orzrwBaCSIO6HsukyWAG5w

Greek Dialogues Online - Democracy in action: Ancient Mytilene and Modern Athens

When: 18/01/2022, 6:30-7:30pm

Where: Online

<https://www.cgs.csah.cam.ac.uk/events/greek-dialogues-online-democracy-action-ancient-mytilene-and-modern-athens>

The Hellenic Centre New Year Celebration – Piano & Cello Recital

When: 22/01/2022, 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-hellenic-centre-new-year-celebration-piano-cello-recital-tickets-230762626227>

Leonidas Kavakos violin; Enrico Pace piano Martinů, Schubert and Schumann

When: 24/01/2022, 7:30pm

Where: Wigmore Hall

<https://wigmore-hall.org.uk/whats-on/leonidas-kavakos-enrico-pace-202201241930>

Οι Τρεις Ιεράρχες στο σταυροδρόμι ελληνικής φιλοσοφίας και θεολογίας

When: 30/01/2022, 4pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/30-january-2022-event/>

Religion and Human Rights in Greece

When: 31/01/2022, 4-5:30pm

Where: Online

https://lse.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r3RLsBhCQz2PO5OSn4hrAQ

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