



The Embassy of Greece in UK organized, on Tuesday, March 22, a round table discussion with prominent academics and renowned investors and entrepreneurs of Greek origin operating in the UK, on the networking of Greek technology start-ups in the UK, aiming at building a support network in the UK for Greek start-ups.

The discussion was online attended by the Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy and Openess, Mr. Kostas Fragogiannis, and the Deputy Minister of Development and Investment for Research and Innovation, Mr. Christos Dimas.

The Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nikos Dendias visited London on March 7th 2022. Mr Dendias met with his British counterpart Mrs Liz Truss, and they exchanged views on the security situation in Europe after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The two Ministers, also discussed about the developments in the Western Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean & bilateral relations, the Greek-British Memorandum of Understanding, especially in the fields of Defence, Trade and Tourism, as well as ways to strengthen it. The two Ministers also talked over the prospects of tourism in Greece, as Britons traditionally are one of the main pillars of Greek tourism.

Also in this issue:

- *Economist 6th London Business Summit*
- *Prof Mackridge awarded honorary Greek Citizenship*
- *Alonissos and Astypalea enchant British market*
- *'With Power from Kifisia' in London*
- *Learn Greek in Greece*
- *PM Mitsotakis responded to a letter by Y4 pupils*
- *The Athena Scholarship 10th Anniversary Concert*
- *24th London Hellenic Prize Ceremony*
- *Celebrating the 25th of March*
- *Mikis Theodorakis in London*
- *Agenda*

Greek Starting – ups in the UK

Greek Embassy aspires to become the reference point to facilitate the access of Greek start-ups to the British market, so that they gain experience, funds and customers. Mr. Kostas Fragogiannis and Mr. Christos Dimas, reaffirmed the importance of the young Greek entrepreneurs and the contribution of Greek Diaspora to the development of the country.

The event, which was organized in collaboration with SEV, was also attended online by the Director of SEV Ms. Maggi Athanasiadis and Senior Advisor Dr. Costas Troulos, while members of the initiative "Greek Community of Innovation" also participated live and online. The round table was the first in a series of actions launched by the Greek Embassy in the UK to highlight the Greek innovation ecosystem in the country.

Economist 6th London Business Summit UK-Greece-Cyprus: Taking trade and investment to the next level



The Economist 6th London Business Summit: UK-Greece-Cyprus: Taking trade and investment to the next level "was held at the London Stock Exchange on Monday, March 21st. The conference, which was held in a hybrid manner, was attended, on behalf of the Greek government, by the Alternate Minister for Fiscal Policy, Mr Th. Skylakakis, the Alternate Minister of Development & Investments, Mr N. Papathanassis (online), the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Diplomacy and Openness, Kostas Fragogiannis (online), the Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs for International Economic Affairs, Mr I. Smyrlis (online), as well as the Chief Economic Adviser of the Greek Prime Minister, Mr A. Patelis. The

Greek Ambassador in UK, Mr Ioannis Raptakis and the High Commissioner of Cyprus to the UK, Mr Andreas Kakouris addressed inaugural greetings, while representatives of Greek, Cypriot and British institutions and companies, they all made remarkable interventions and contributions to the conference.

The challenges arising from the new geopolitical developments and their economic implications in Europe were developed by Mr Skylakakis, while Mr. Papathanassis, talked about the network of reforms that the Greek government has implemented and continues to implement, with the aim of creating an environment of stability and trust in the business community. During his online address, Mr Fragogiannis, referred in detail to the project of transforming Astypalea into the first "smart and sustainable" island in the Mediterranean, a project which, as he said, reflects the new image of Greece, while Mr Smyrlis, presented the range of investment opportunities offered by Greece, following a series of targeted government reforms to improve the indicators of the economy, competitiveness and business environment, while he also described the opportunities arising from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan "Greece 2.0". There was a common assessment by all speakers that the current period of uncertainty makes economic policy difficult, whereas they all expressed optimism about the prospects of the Greek economy, based on the current dynamic growth and future opportunities that will arise from the utilization of the resources of the Development Fund, as well as the continuation of the reform interventions.



Professor Peter Mackridge... officially Greek

In a very heart-warming ceremony which took place on Thursday, March 23, at the Hellenic Residence in London, the British Academic, Professor Peter Mackridge, was awarded honorary Greek citizenship, for his long-standing contribution to the historical development of modern Hellenism but also for his contribution to the deeper understanding of modern Hellenic civilization and its promotion to the international community.

Ambassador of Greece in UK, Mr Ioannis Raptakis, welcomed Professor Mackridge and the distinguished guests and said a few words about his remarkable work and his professional career, underlining, among others, that he joined the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages of the University of Oxford in 1981, and that from 1996 until his early retirement in 2003 he was Professor of Modern Greek, teaching Greek language, literature and cultural history. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Athens in 2008 and an honorary professorship at the University of Peloponnese in 2017. Mr Raptakis focused on the fact that Professor Mackridge was a prolific writer himself, with research in both prose and poetry, and that he has written and co-authored a wealth of books and academic articles concerning Greek culture and Greek language, while his translation of Greek literature and poems into English is equally important.

After that, Greek Ambassador handed to Professor Mackridge a copy of the Government Gazette, where the President of the Hellenic Republic, Ms Katerina Sakellariopoulou signs the Presidential Decree on the bestowal of Honorary Greek citizenship.

From his part, Professor Peter Mackridge said he was very excited since "for 50 years I considered Greece as a second home. Until today, this expression was only metaphorical, but now it has become literal". He also expressed his gratitude for the extraordinary honour bestowed on him by the President of the Hellenic Republic to approve the application of four of his colleagues at the Aristotle University for the honorary bestowal of Greek citizenship.

Subsequently, Prof. Mackridge took the oath of allegiance, by which he officially acquired Greek citizenship. Worth noting that the ceremony was attended, among others, by many distinguished academics, such as Roderick Beaton, David Holton, David Ricks, Gonda Van Steen, Konstantinos Skordylis, Katerina Krikos-Davis, but also by the author Ms. Victoria Hislop. At the end of the evening, Lykion ton Ellinidon (London Lyceum of Greek Women) presented traditional dances from the Greek islands in honour of Professor Mackridge and the prominent guests.



24th London Hellenic Prize Ceremony: and the winner isThe Greek Trilogy of Luis Alfaro

The 24th London Hellenic Prize Ceremony, after one year delay because of Covid-19, took place on Monday, March 28, in the Anatomy Museum at Kings College. The book «The Greek Trilogy of Luis Alfaro, *Electricidad; Oedipus El Rey; Mojada*» was the great winner of the prize, which was proudly accepted by the author, Luis Alfaro, and the editor, Rosa Andújar. Based respectively on Sophocles *Electra* and *Oedipus*, and Euripides *Medea*, the book takes these ancient themes and transforms them into urban 21st century problems in Los Angeles and New York. This contemporary adaptation of ancient Greek tragedy into today's reality, addresses also to the current Chicanx and Latin reality in the USA today, emphasizing on the problems these communities encounter. Luis Alfaro, through *Electricidad*, *Oedipus El Rey*, and *Mojada*, gives voice to the concerns of Chicanx and wider Latinx communities and let them heard aloud. The ceremony was very vivid and all speakers underlined the value and importance of this institution. Professor Gonda Van Steen, Dr Will Wootton, Professor Paul Cartledge, Professor Catherine Boyle and the former UK Ambassador, Kate Smith, and of course the Director of London Hellenic Prize, Mr Michael Moschos were some of the speakers and the attendees who honoured by their presence the 24th London Hellenic Prize Ceremony.

Alonissos and Astypalea enchant British market



On Thursday, March 3, the GNTTO Office in London in collaboration with the Greek Embassy in London organized a very successful event, aiming at presenting and promoting two Greek destinations that are less popular in the British market: the islands of Alonissos and Astypalea.

Mrs. Eleni Skarveli, Head of the GNTTO Office in London, welcomed the guests, thanked the Greek Ambassador, Mr. Ioannis Raptakis, for the excellent cooperation and introduced the invited Mayors of the two islands. At first, the Mayor of Alonissos, Petros Vafinis, presented Alonissos as the ideal destination due to its natural landscape and its innovative environmental actions. Special emphasis was given to the diving experience offered by the island, such as in the National Marine Park of Alonissos, the largest natural marine park in the Mediterranean. Also unique as an experience is the Underwater Museum of Alonissos which includes one of the largest shipwrecks of the Classical Age (named "The Parthenon of Shipwrecks"), dating back between 425- 420 BC.

Afterwards, the Mayor of Astypalea, Mr. Nikos Komineas, emphasized on Astypalea being the first "Smart and Sustainable Island", as the Greek government together with the Volkswagen Group chose Astypalea for a pioneering project, during which the island will be transformed on the first island with energy autonomy in the Mediterranean. The specific program, with a horizon of implementation in 2026, aims to transform Astypalea into a model island for electricity, green energy production and "smart" forms of transport.

Finally, from his part, Greek Ambassador thanked GNTTO, the Mayors of Alonissos and Astypalea for their presence in the event, as well as the attending representatives of the British tourism market. Despite the geopolitical challenges we have been experiencing lately, Greece together with its wonderful islands is ready to welcome British tourists for a unique experience and this is the best answer that our country can give in these challenging moments, Ambassador Raptakis highlighted.

Worth-mentioning that 34 tourism professionals participated in the event, such as: a. Tour Operators and travel agencies specializing in Greece, such as Sunvil, Olympic Holidays and Sailing Holidays b. Representatives of airlines such as Aegean Airlines and Sky Express c. Professionals who specialize in special forms of tourism such as Responsible Travel and Charitable Travel.

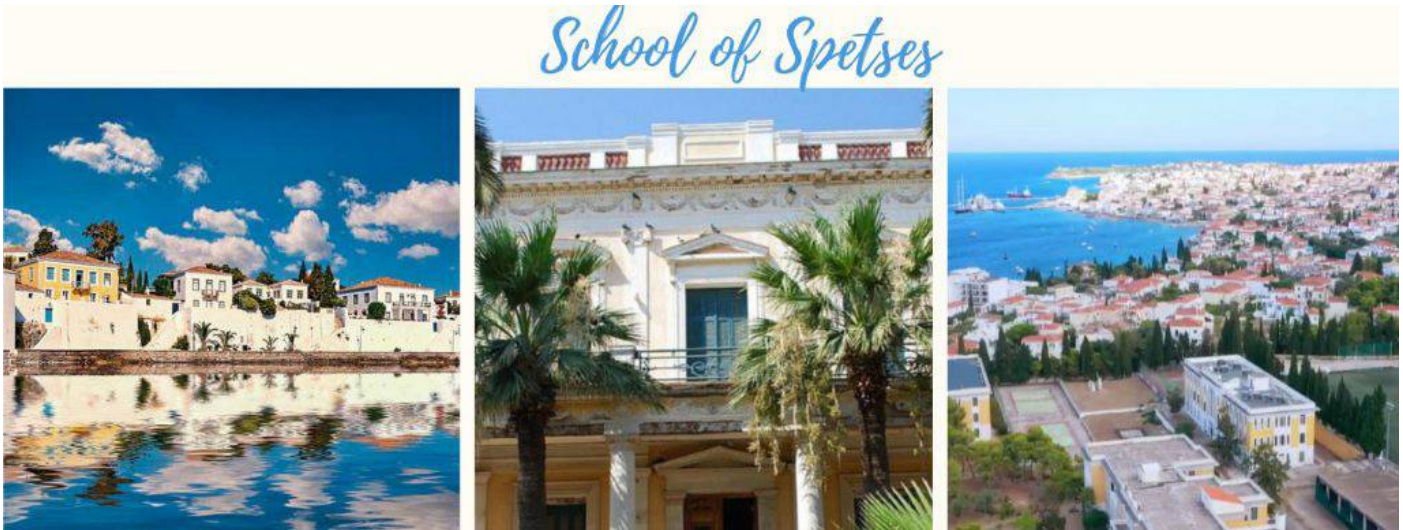
PM Mitsotakis responded to a letter by Y4 pupils on climate crisis



The Year 4 pupils of Francis Holland School in London wrote to PM Mitsotakis regarding the devastating impacts of climate change. The pupils received with great excitement the encouraging response letter of the Greek PM and expressed their wish to see him visiting their school next time he is in London.

The pupils performed for the Ambassador of Greece Mr. Ioannis Raptakis a song, an SOS from the kids, as they said, calling everybody out to save the "one world that we all have to share".

Learn Greek in Greece: The School of Spetses



This summer the School of Spetses together with Greek Online School and under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs revive the historic classrooms of the famous Greek boarding school that hosted exceptional students and professors until the 1980s. It is about the Anargyrios and Korgialenios School of Spetses which was established on the island in 1923.

This was when its founder Sotirios Anargyros returned to his homeland of Spetses and made it a lifetime goal to help develop the island. The school's benefactors, Sotiris Anargyros and Marinos Korgialenios, had envisioned an educational institution that would shape and educate the leaders of modern Greece. The school was developed on the model of English Schools like Eton, had a humanistic approach and was meant to aim towards the shaping of the Universal Man. The school's area is right in front of the sea and the whole estate includes five buildings built in a neoclassical style, sports facilities and even an outdoor theater built to resemble the ancient theater of Epidaurus. The unique nature around it, the superb architectural design of the buildings, the amazing laboratories and classrooms along with the guidance of prominent educators turned the school into one of the most innovative educational institutions in Europe until the early 1980s.

The mission of the School of Spetses is to provide quality services in the field of education and life-long learning which is why it strives to cooperate with worldwide recognized institutes and organizations that share the same mentality and mission in the field of education. In June 2022, the School will open the doors of its "didaktirion" to adult students from all over the world. These students will be arriving in Spetses to attend the Greek language Immersion

Course hosted by the Greek Online School under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy. This summer immersion program is a chance for diaspora Greeks and philhellenes to learn Greek in Greece.

<https://greek-lol.com/news/anargyrios-korgialenios-school-of-spetses/>

Does your child want to learn Greek? Greek Language Summer Camp is there for you

Do your children want to learn Greek, while having fun? The Greek Language Summer Camp (3-13 July & 4-14 August) is the best way to do so. The program is for children aged 6-15 years and aims to develop children's speaking skills and boost their confidence when speaking Greek with other children from Greece or with children of a similar background. The Greek Online School Summer Camp includes two-hour group language lessons every day, Monday –Saturday, one session in the morning and one in the afternoon. The Greek Summer Camp runs for 11 days and takes place in Sofiko, Greece -close to Korinthos- in one of the best camps in Europe. The Ranch combines modern facilities with a surrounding of amazing natural beauty in the Peloponnese and is only one hour away from Athens. All kids take part in stimulating social, sport and cultural activities, such as horse-riding, archery, climbing, swimming, basketball, volleyball, soccer, table tennis, dance, theatre and many more.

<https://greek-lol.com/greek-summer-camp/>



The Athena Scholarship 10th Anniversary Concert

What a great way to celebrate Greece's National Day at the Athena Scholarship 10th Anniversary Concert in the Bicentennial year of the Royal Academy of Music in London! On March 25th young musicians performed, among others, Sonatina No1 for Violin & Piano by Mikis Theodorakis, Odos Oneiron by Manos Hatzidakis and our national anthem.

Amongst the young musicians Maria – Ismini Anastasiadou (violin), Christos Giallouros (piano), Anastasia Vaina (violin), Loukas Kerkyras (double bass) and many others, as well as the young and promising composers John Frantzeskakis and Iason Maroulis. Special tribute to Ersilia Mikrou (harp) for organising such a beautiful event! Many thanks and congratulations to Anna Weeks, the heart and soul of Athena Scholarships!



'With Power from Kifisia' in London

'With Power from Kifisia', is the story of four women who are at a decisive point in their lives and they need to face their future with power and strength. Although all four have so different personalities, they share a strong and caring friendship. This friendship gives them power to plan a trip to Thailand and see life differently. 'With Power from Kifisia' is an uplifting comedy, with an escalating sequence of events, twists and secret reveals performed in Greek, at Golden Goose Theatre from March 22nd till March 26th, with a runtime of 1 hour and 40 minutes. In London, the play was staged for the first time in 2001, translated in English and adapted for the British audience under the title "With Power from Shoreditch", produced by the Theatre Lab Company.

<https://www.goldengoosetheatre.co.uk/kifisia>

St Sophia School celebrating 25th of March

On Saturday, March 19, the Greek school of «Hagia Sophia» celebrated the anniversary of March 25 in the premises of Pimlico Academy. The school's principal Dr. Olga Fakatseli stressed the importance of the Greek Revolution which led to the creation of the Greek State, while the historical events of that era were narrated by the students with texts and recitations.

They recited poems by A. Valaoritis, Dionysios Solomos, Victor Hugo and Rigas Feraios, while reading excerpts from the memoirs of General Makrygiannis. With great enthusiasm, they danced impeccably Greek dances and sang well-known folk songs inspired by the Greek Revolution of 1821. At the end, the Ambassador of Greece in the United Kingdom Mr. Ioannis Raptakis awarded prizes to A level students, whom he congratulated for their high performance. The event closed with the national anthem.



Photo: <https://www.stsophiaschool.com>

Doxology for the National Day of the 25th of March

His Holiness Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain presided over the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of Hagia Sophia in London on Sunday, March 20, 2022. After the Divine Liturgy, the traditional Doxology of the National Day of March 25 was performed, in the presence of the Ambassador of Greece in the UK Ioannis Raptakis, the High Commissioner of Cyprus in the United Kingdom Andreas Kakouris, the Consul of Greece in London Christos Goulas, members of the Embassy and many people of the Greek Orthodox Community.

The Archbishop noted the importance of peace and solidarity, adding that today more than any other period of time we are called to be united.

The Ambassador of Greece Mr. Ioannis Raptakis in his speech pointed out that on March 25 we pay tribute to the immortal heroes of 1821, who liberated our country and paved the way for the creation of the independent Greek state. The double celebration of Hellenism and Orthodoxy is an opportunity to reflect on the visions and ideals of the heroes of the Greek revolution and to renew our commitment to the goals and values that unite us.

«Our country still needs our solidarity and courage, as we still face many challenges. Our national issues in the Aegean in the Eastern Mediterranean and in Cyprus remain open», he stressed. Additionally, this year the war «knocked on the doors» of Europe, but also of the whole world, he said, adding that «Greece is among the first countries to announce humanitarian aid for Ukraine. Special care is shown

for the safety of the large Greek community in Mariupol. The struggle for freedom does not seem to be over and we are all called to defend the Greek, European, universal values of culture, kindness, equality and cooperation, not only for ourselves, but also for the future generations».

On Sunday March 27th the Doxology for the anniversary of March 25, as well as the anniversary of the beginning of the Cyprus Liberation Struggle on April 1, 1955 took place at the Cathedral of St. Sophia (Aghia Sophia).

The doxology was attended by the High Commissioner of Cyprus in London Mr. Andreas Kakouris, the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Greece in London Mrs. Ifigenia Kanara, and many people of the Greek Orthodox Community.

Mikis Theodorakis in London @ Barbican Centre

On Monday, March 28, the Mikis Theodorakis Orchestra, founded in May 1997 by musicians and friends who had played with him, celebrated the legacy of one of Greece's greatest Greek composers in all times, performing songs from his over 70-year career at the Barbican Centre.

The enthusiast public had the chance to listen to the emblematic music of the Greek composer, who utilises Greek poetry and folk instruments in his compositions, making his music recognizable all over the world.

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/.../mikis-theodorakis-orchestra>



Σινεμά, αγάπη μου / Cinema, my love

When: 02/04/2022, 7:30pm
Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/cinema-my-love-2022/>

Lela's story

When: 05/04/2022, 7:00pm
Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/lelas-story/>

Guided tour of the exhibition 'Ancient Greeks: Science and Wisdom' led by exhibition curator Jane Desborough [Science Museum, London]

When: 08/04/2022, 9:00 am
Where: Science Museum, London

<https://www.anglohellenicleague.org/cultural-events/>

Olivier Awards 2022

When: 10/04/2022, time TBC
Where: Royal Albert Hall

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/olivier-awards-2022/>

Ορεινού Κήπου Σπορεύς – Sower of the Highland Garden

When: 27/04/2022, 7:00pm
Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/sower-of-the-highland-garden/>

Greek Eyes on Europe

When: 28/04/2022, 7:00 pm
Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/greek-eyes-on-europe/>

The global 1922: Local sites, global contexts

When: 28/04/2022, 6:30 pm
Where: Online

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/events/the-global-1922-local-sites-global-contexts>

Greek Dialogues Online - Greek in the linguistic repertoires of the UK's diasporas

When: 28/04/2022, 6:30 pm
Where: Online

<https://www.cogs.csah.cam.ac.uk/events/greek-dialogues-online-greek-linguistic-repertoires-uks-diasporas>

First Schilizzi Social History Workshop: 'Children in the Crossfire: A Family and Social History Workshop'

When: 29/04/2022, 6:00 pm
Where: Council Room (K2.29), King's College London

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/events/first-schilizzi-social-history-workshop-children-in-the-crossfire-a-family-and-social-history-workshop>

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