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Cherish the Past, Embrace the Future

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President of the Hellenic Republic, Katerina Sakellariopoulou, arriving in London for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla



Greek General Elections Abroad : A Historic Moment for Hellenism



Greek Ambassador in the UK, Mr Yannis Tsaousis, presented his credentials to the Secretary General of International Maritime Organization, Mr Kitack Lim as Greece's Permanent Representative to IMO

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ΠΡΕΣΒΕΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΣΤΟ ΛΟΝΔΙΝΟ
EMBASSY OF GREECE IN LONDON



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President Katerina Sakellaropoulou at the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla



Representing Greece in this historical moment for the UK and its people, President of the Hellenic Republic Katerina Sakellaropoulou travelled to London on May 5-6 for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, on a visit to reaffirm the long-standing friendship, strong ties and enduring partnership between Greece and the UK.

As part of the visit, President Sakellaropoulou joined on May 5th other Heads of State and foreign guests at the reception hosted in their honour by King Charles at Buckingham Palace, while the following day she attended the Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey and then the reception hosted by Foreign Secretary James Cleverly.

In remarks made to the press during her stay in London, President Sakellaropoulou congratulated King Charles and Queen Camilla on their Coronation and stated that "I firmly believe that King Charles will continue the work of his late mother, Queen Elizabeth, while maintaining his unwavering

interest in addressing the challenges of our times. Knowing his love for Greece, I have every confidence that he will make a decisive contribution to further strengthening our bilateral relations."

The Byzantine Chant Ensemble performing at the Coronation

Reflecting this same "love for Greece" of King Charles III, referenced by President Sakellaropoulou in her remarks, was another element featured in the Coronation Service. The King's decision to include among the music performed in the service, and in tribute to his father, a psalm from the centuries-old Byzantine music tradition. In a genuinely transcendental moment, the seven UK and Greece-based Byzantine Cantors that formed the "Byzantine Chant Ensemble", led by Greek-Canadian Dr. Alexander Lingas - Archon Mousikodidáskalos (Chief Music Instructor) of the Ecumenical Patriarchy, sang Psalm 72 set in 4th mode during the crucial 'Investiture and Crowning' stage of the Coronation Service. Image Source: ©BBC



Greek President K. Sakellariopoulou at the "Giorgos Seferis' Office" in London



Following the ceremony at Westminster Abbey and prior to her departure for Greece, President Sakellariopoulou paid a visit to "Giorgos Seferis' Office" at the Hellenic Residence where Ambassador of Greece to the UK, Yannis Tsaousis, had the opportunity to show her around the place where the Greek poet and diplomat worked during his last post before his retirement from the Diplomatic Service.

Ambassador Tsaousis expressed his deep gratitude that, upon her initiative, 32 objects from Anna Londou and Nikos Paisios' collection belonging to the Greek Nobel laureate are now on permanent display on the premises.

Giorgos Seferis lived in the Hellenic Residence at 51 Upper Brook Street during the period between 1957 and 1962 when he served as Ambassador in London and in 2000 a commemorative Blue Plaque by the English Heritage was placed on the building to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth.



Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis presents his credentials to IMO



Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis presented on May 26 his credentials to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Kitack Lim, as Greece's Permanent Representative to the IMO.

As a founding member of the IMO and a Member of the IMO Council (Category A) for the 2022-2023 biennium, Greece has a long-standing history of meaningful engagement within the Organization and of active contribution to shaping maritime legislation through its continuous presence in the proceedings of the IMO's Committees and Subcommittees.

As a country inextricably linked to the sea—a seafaring nation and global leader in shipping – Greece is fully committed to the Organization's ideals and will continue to work closely with the IMO to promote safety at sea, marine environment protection and the implementation of UNCLOS.



Greek General Elections Abroad : A Historic Moment



First time to vote in general elections Greeks abroad had the opportunity to vote for the first time from their country of residence, following the relevant legislation implemented by the Greek government in 2019.

In London 2.904 enthusiastic Greeks came early by the polling stations, eight (8) in total, four (4) of them set up at the Embassy of Greece in London in Holland Park and four (4) at the Greek Primary School of London in West Acton. In addition, 817 Greeks exercised their right to vote in Scotland (Edinburgh & Glasgow), Leeds and Birmingham.

Greek Ambassador in UK, Mr Yannis Tsaousis, in an interview to accredited Greek correspondents in London informed them about the procedure and the orderly conduct of the elections.

Greeks abroad voted in 99 polling stations, in 82 cities, in 35 countries! Elections took place in the US, Canada, Australia, South Korea, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, France, Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, UK, Ireland, Norway, Finland, Spain and Sweden.

Diplomatic missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implemented the operational plan with complete success. Voters in all states, who set a record turnout of 79.4% of registered voters, were happy, enthusiastic and impressed by the excellent organisation of the project.

After elections, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad Mr. Ioannis Chrysoulakis stated on Twitter: "The Diplomatic Authorities of Greece in 35 countries carried out the elections of Greeks Abroad in an exemplary manner".

ATTENTION:

Next elections abroad:

Saturday 24 June 2023

Voters are advised to double-check where they vote at the official government site <https://mpp.yypes.gov.gr/#/> since polling stations may differ from the May elections!

What's next: As an absolute majority of 151 seats is needed in the Greek Parliament of 300, and since all exploratory talks failed, another election will take place on Saturday 24 June (abroad) and Sunday 25 June (in Greece). Elections abroad take place earlier so that the ballots can reach the Court in Greece in time for the tally.

President of the Hellenic Republic Katerina Sakellariopoulou met Court of Audit President Ioannis Sarmas and appointed him as the prime minister of a caretaker government that will lead Greece to a repeat round of elections in June. A caretaker government was officially sworn in, and the key ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs are headed respectively by former chief of the Army General Staff and former Deputy Minister, General Alkiviadis Stefanis, and Ambassador (ret.) Vassilis Kaskarelis. Former chief of Army General Staff, General Charalambos Lalousis, will head the Citizen Protection Ministry, while journalist Ilias Siakantaris will take over as government spokesperson.

Approximately 7,000 additional voters will be able to vote abroad in the repeat elections, in addition to the 22,857 voters registered in the special electoral rolls, bringing the total number of voters abroad to 30,000. These voters had been unable to vote in the May elections because they had submitted their application to register after the deadline. Now, if they meet the criteria, they will be included in the new electoral rolls of the Ministry of Interior.

Those whose application to register to vote was approved 12 days before the announcement of the elections, can also vote in the following elections in June.

European Capitals of Culture 2023 : Presenting Elefsina, Vezprem and Timisoara at an event in Hungary House



In order to celebrate the European Capitals of Culture 2023, Greek Embassy in London, the Embassy of Hungary in London and the Embassy of Romania to the UK co-organized a fascinating joint event for presenting Elefsina, Vezprem and Timisoara to the public. The event took place at Hungary House on Thursday, 18th May, as Hungarian Embassy hosted the first of a series event, in order to honour the three European Capitals.

The first part of the event was a photo exhibition of the three cities, displayed at the first floor in the Hungary House. The visitors and the guests had the opportunity to become familiar with all three cities and admire the special features of each one of them.

During the evening event, the Ambassador of Greece, Mr Yannis Tsaousis, the Ambassador of Hungary, Mr Ferenc Kumin, and the Ambassador of Romania, Mrs Laura Popescu, talked about the institution of European Capital of Culture, highlighting the special importance and symbolism of the institution for each country. The guests had, also, the opportunity to watch the official video presentation of each European capital as well a traditional act from all three European Capitals. As Hungarian Embassy was the host of the event, they were the first to present their act which included a Hungarian folk dance, singing and music, with the beautiful performance of the Hunique Dance Group. Then it was the turn of Romania, where a duo of a violin and a piano performed a wonderful classical piece of a Romanian composer.



Last but not least, in his address to the audience, Greek Ambassador in the UK, Mr Yannis Tsaousis, underlined the added value of the institution for Greece, since the concept of naming an annual City of Culture originated in 1985 with Melina Mercouri, Greece's Minister of Culture, and Jack Lang, her French counterpart. They both hoped to bring Europeans closer together by highlighting European Countries' rich history and diversity and raising awareness of their shared values and cultures, pointed out the Greek Ambassador. He also referred to the double symbolism of the choice of Elefsina as European Capital of Culture, as the smallest city ever to be chosen as Cultural Capital and because it is one of the five most important sacred cities of antiquity, being the city of the Elefsinian Mysteries and the birthplace of the father of Greek tragedy, Aeschylus. Describing how drastically Elefsina changed by the late 19th century and inviting people to visit Elefsina for his rich history especially during the annual Aeschylia Festival, Mr Tsaousis concluded his speech.

At the end of this successful event, the Greek traditional dance group from Lykion ton Hellinidon of London, performed folk dances from all over Greece, which literally thrilled the guests and was enthusiastically applauded by the audience.



Greek Film “The Penguin’s Flight” @ In-short Europe Film Festival in London



After its successful course in Leeds International Film Festival (21-22 April), the 5th edition of In-short Europe Film Festival was presented at French Institute in London, on 12-13 May 2023.

This 2-day Festival included 24 short films from all over Europe, in animation, fiction and documentary. This collection of short films entitled «Awakening», organised into four strands: Explore, Grow, Surround and Dream, served not only to awaken the audience to new perspectives and to imagine new beginnings, but showed the characters and narratives of each film experiencing their own awakenings too. After all, short films have the ability to open our minds to new stories, giving us a glimpse into lives different from our own

Greek participation, «The Penguin’s Flight» by the director Stella Serefoglou was presented on the 13th of May under the strand «Grow», together with films from France, Germany, Hungary, Spain and Switzerland. «The Penguin’s Flight», a moving film about existential anxieties and dilemmas during a very fragile age, the one of adolescence, captivated the audience with its realism, its strong touching images and the performances of the actors.

The initiative was organized by EUNIC London in collaboration with the European Union Delegation to the UK, Leeds 2023 and Leeds International Film Festival and under the support of Greek Embassy in UK and the Greek Film Centre.

Greek writer Elias Maglinis @ European Writers’ Festival in London



The 1st edition of European Writers Festival was inaugurated on the 20 & 21st of May 2023, at the British Library in London. This year’s edition entitled «The Stories We Tell» hosted some of the most outstanding writers and poets from 30 European countries, who shared their experience in writing stories.

Panels and performances took place over the 2 days festival, featuring different authors and different themes. A true spirit of multi-cultural exchange and a real opportunity for a new cultural dialogue between European and British writers, in a post-Brexit.

Greek author, journalist and translator Elias Maglinis participated at the panel titled ‘Stories of Language and Translation’, and shared his experience in writing Greek novels and translating English books, while he thoroughly talked about the power of Greek language. In the end of the session, Mr Maglinis also read some extracts from his book ‘The Interrogation’, published in English by University of Birmingham.

The event was organized by EUNIC London, in partnership with European Union Delegation in the UK, the European Literature Network and the European Parliament in the UK. The festival curator was Rosie Goldsmith, founder of the European Literature Network. The initiative was supported by the Greek Embassy in London and the Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports.

Accessible Beaches to Everyone in Greece



Easy and safe access to the beaches and the sea is a right that should be guaranteed to everyone. Therefore, in order to make its beaches more accessible, Greece is installing wheelchair-friendly ramps to ensure that disabled people, as well as people with reduced mobility can access the sea as everyone else.

Vassilis Kikilias, Greek Minister of Tourism, announced the initiative at a press conference last month, as part of project "Creation of Integrated Accessible Tourist Marine Destinations". The Greek Minister underlined the fact that equal access to the sea is a human right which this project helps to ensure, adding that the EU funding programs offer valuable tools in this direction.

Greece is making accessibility updates to changing rooms, mobile toilets, parking spaces, ramps, bars, walkways and other amenities. In total, the country plans to improve access to 287 beaches, so that it can be promoted as an accessible tourist destination, where one can enjoy the beauties of Greece without discrimination and limits.

In order to promote accessible beaches in Greece, the Ministry of Tourism created the website www.accessiblebeaches.gr as a guide for accessible beaches throughout the country. Further to that, special social media accounts have also been created in Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, as well as videos have been posted on the project's official YouTube channel.

The awareness campaign includes the online promotion of accessible seaside destinations for people with disabilities and their carers not only in Greece, but also throughout Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Cyprus.

<https://www.accessiblebeaches.gr/>

The Greek Pavilion at the 2023 London Wine Fair



Making a strong showing, Greece's wine industry was present at the 2023 London Wine Fair -UK's biggest drinks trade event gathering thousands of industry professionals- that took place this year at Olympia London on 15-17 May.

Giving visitors the opportunity to discover the latest from Greece's wine production, the Greek Pavilion brought together wineries from across Greece that joined forces to showcase Greece's highly praised wines. Visiting the Pavilion, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis had the opportunity to speak with the exhibitors and hear their vision to enhance the visibility of Greek wines in the UK and beyond.

The Greek Pavilion saw the participation of 42 wineries, supported by the Regions of Attica, Central Macedonia, Crete, Eastern Macedonia & Thrace, Central Greece and Thessaly in cooperation with the Chambers of Larissa and Magnesia, while independent participants were supported by Enterprise Greece.

Greek -Swedish designer receives an award in London



At this year's Business Book Awards held on May 16 in London, Greek-Swedish designer and founder of Panos Emporio brand, Panos Papadopoulos, received a Highly Commended award for his autobiography "Panos: My life, my odyssey". In his book, as his publisher writes, Papadopoulos "tells his story vividly, from his proud roots in Greece ... to creating one of the most famous swimwear labels in Scandinavia".

Looking Back on 2021: The 1821 Observatory and Greek Public History

When: 8/06/2023, 7- 8.30pm

Where: King's College London, Strand Campus

https://www.kcl.ac.uk/events/looking-back-on-2021-the-1821-observatory-and-greek-public-history?fbclid=IwAR24DbqSOUoIKmDYuFlvGNJl1L6gFvme_Vl7YLrQPkirCyAV5avWVsf2STg**Yannis Ritsos: New English Translations and Visualisations**

When: 12/06/2023, 6pm

Where: King's College London, The Strand

<https://www.anglohellenicleague.org/>**Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award 2023**

When: 13/06/2023, 6pm

Where: King's College London, The Strand

<https://www.anglohellenicleague.org/>**Labyrinth: Knossos, Myth & Reality exhibition introduction**

When: 15/06/2023, 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/labyrinth-knossos-myth-reality-exhibition-introduction/>**Philippa Steele, "The vitality of writing traditions in the Bronze Age Aegean and Iron Age Cyprus – and their unexpected relevance for the modern day"**

When: 15/06/2023, 5pm

Where: British School at Athens

<https://www.bsa.ac.uk/events/philippa-steele-the-vitality-of-writing-traditions-in-the-bronze-age-aegean-and-iron-age-cyprus-and-their-unexpected-relevance-for-the-modern-day/>**Runciman Award Ceremony 2023**

When: 19/06/2023, 7pm

Where: King's College London, The Strand

<https://www.anglohellenicleague.org/>**17th London Greek Film Festival 2023: Screenings and Awards Ceremony**

When: 17/06/2023, Screenings 11.30-18.30

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/17th-london-greek-film-festival-2023-screenings-and-awards-ceremony/>*Under the auspices of Greek Embassy in London***Celebrate Vamvakaris: Talk and Concert**

When: 24/06/2023, 6.30pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/celebrate-vamvakaris-talk-and-concert/>**Digital Discoveries in Knossos**

When: 29/06/2023, 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/digital-discoveries-in-knossos/>**Greek Dialogues - 100 Years of Askitiki: The Centenary Conference**

When: 30/06/2023, 10am-5pm, 01/07/2023, 9am

Where: Queen's College, Cambridge

<https://www.cgs.csah.cam.ac.uk/events/greek-dialogues-100-years-askitiki-centenary-conference>**Lykeion ton Ellinidon, Discover Authentic Greek Dancing**

When: 1/07/2023

Where: The Hellenic Center

<https://lte.london/>*Under the auspices of Greek Embassy in London***Embassy of Greece in London**

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