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A special Greek wine tasting at the Hellenic Residence in London 26.09.2023

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ΠΡΕΣΒΕΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΣΤΟ ΛΟΝΔΙΝΟ
EMBASSY OF GREECE IN LONDON



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Meeting of the Minister of National Defense, Nikos Dendias, with the then UK's Secretary of State for Defense, Ben Wallace, in London



On Monday, the 24th of July 2023, the Minister of National Defence, Nikos Dendias, met with the then Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom, Ben Wallace, at the Ministry of Defence in London.

The two Ministers, during their fruitful discussion, focused on the reinforcement of their bilateral defence relations, on the cooperation of the countries in order to face common security threats and challenges, as well as on Greece's role as a pillar of security and stability. They also exchanged views on the security situation in the Eastern Mediterranean and the developments in Ukraine, underlining their will to continue supporting its defence for the protection of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Following his meeting with Ben Wallace, the then Minister of National Defence, Nikos Dendias, in an interview with Greek correspondents in London, made the following statement:

«First of all, I am really glad about my second meeting with the Minister of National Defence in UK, Mr. Ben Wallace, within a month. I would like to say that the British side has in many ways expressed its acknowledgements to Greece and to the Greek Government, for the consideration, the safety and

the evacuations of British tourists from the areas in Greece that faced the great dangers of the fires, during these last days. Apart from that, the main focus of the discussion is the "Common Vision" signed by my predecessor, Nikos Panagiotopoulos, the road map, but also the challenges we face as allied countries in NATO, in the wider region, in Eastern Mediterranean, in North Africa, in sub-Saharan Africa and of course the challenges presented by the Western Balkans.

I would like there to be a mechanism between the UK and Greece so that it could be transferred to us the lessons that the UK is learning from the war in Ukraine and the ways that the Armed Forces could be further modernized, based on these lessons. In every meeting, I always emphasize that NATO is not just a defence alliance. It is an alliance of values and it really matters which countries, within NATO, defend precisely those values which NATO stands for».



Photo Credit: UK's Ministry of Defense

3 European Capitals of Culture of 2023 in London explore the interplay between culture and technology



The third and last event of a series, jointly organised by the Embassies of Greece, Hungary and Romania, to showcase and celebrate the unique culture, history and spirit of the three European Capitals of Culture for 2023 –Elefsina, Veszprém and Timișoara– took place on September 13. Under the theme "Digital Culture and Heritage – discovering 2023 European Capitals of Culture: Timișoara, Elefsina and Veszprém" the event was hosted by the Romanian Embassy and held at the Romanian Cultural Institute in London in front of an enthusiastic audience.

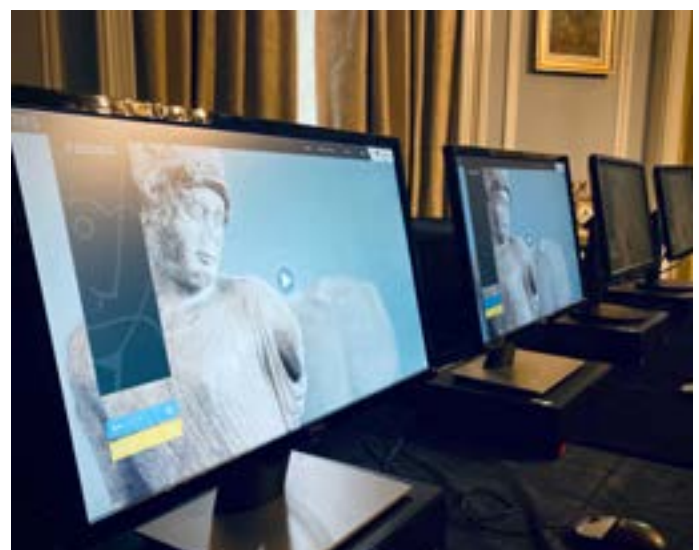
This time the focus was on the application of digital technology to cultural heritage, that is, the interplay between culture and technology and the new -immersive and innovative- ways which digital tools offer us to interact and engage with our heritage. Changing our world outlook on society and culture, new technologies break new ground in the way we experience art and culture, enabling us to overcome distance and time barriers and giving us the opportunity to come closer to each other by inaugurating new avenues of communication, information, entertainment and access.

Participants at the event were invited to interact with some state-of-the-art digital culture applications –from VR and AR goggles to virtual tours– and 'virtually' embark on a journey to discover and learn more about the three European Capitals of Culture, all in one place.

Visitors of Greece's stand at the event had the opportunity to take a virtual tour around Elefsina, to explore its ancient history, monuments and landmarks, and discover its modern face and culture through the web portal <https://yougoculture.com/virtual-tour/eleusina/> developed by E-Learning University of Athens, as well as through videos and material provided by the Ephorate of Antiquities of West Attica.

Addressing the event, the Greek Ambassador to the UK, Yannis Tsaousis, highlighted the new avenues digital technologies have unlocked for the fruition of cultural heritage while underlining the importance of cultural cooperation and its ability to foster unity and understanding. "Just like Aeschylus, who was born in Elefsina, wrote his emblematic trilogy 'Oresteia', our countries also wrote their own trilogy of cooperation, by building stronger bonds and bringing together their people and their culture" he noted with regard to the three-part event series.

Previous events held as part of this joint initiative featured a photo exhibition at the Hungary House dedicated to the three cities holding this year's European Capital of Culture title, and an event themed "The Contribution of Greece, Hungary and Romania to the Shaping of European Literature" which was held at the Embassy of Greece in London and focused on literary texts, works and figures from the three countries that had a significant and lasting impact on European culture.



Greece marks World Maritime Day reaffirming commitment to marine protection



On September 2023, Greece joined the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and global partners to mark World Maritime Day and celebrate this year's 50th anniversary of the adoption of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

A landmark agreement, developed by the IMO –the UN agency headquartered in London- that serves as the primary global treaty for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from intentional, operational or accidental causes.

In his message marking the Day, Greece's Minister of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy, Christos Stylianides stated: "Today we celebrate 50 years of MARPOL. Greece remains fully committed to the work of the International Maritime Organization. We will continue our joint efforts for "green" shipping, to pass cleaner oceans to future generations".

The IMO Secretary-General, Kitack Lim, in his message on the World Maritime Theme for 2023, noted achievements already made in regulating to protect ocean health, but made it clear that significant work still faces the shipping industry: "Shipping must embrace decarbonization, digitalization and innovative technology, including automation – while ensuring the human element is kept front and centre of the technological and green transition to ensure a sustainable planet for future generations. MARPOL has made a difference to shipping – and to the health of our ocean – and will continue to do so, as we look ahead to the next 50 years," Secretary-General Lim said.

A strong Greek presence at the Defence and Security Equipment International Trade Fair (DSEI 2023)



Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis visited on September 13 the Defence and Security Equipment International Trade Fair (DSEI 2023) -the UK's premier defence and military equipment exhibition- taking place in London from 12-15 September 2023.

Along with a delegation of Greek officials from the Ministry of Defence, the Hellenic Army General Staff and the Hellenic Navy General Staff, and accompanied by the Head of Defence, Military, Naval, and Air Attaché Office, Captain Nikolaos Filias HN, and the Head of Economic and Commercial Affairs Office, Mrs Paraskevi Kabouroglou, the Ambassador met with Greek exhibitors showcasing the very best of Greek innovation and engineering at the Fair.

Over 3 days, participating Greek defence industry companies were able to successfully present their cutting-edge products spanning areas such as high-end technologies and electronics for defence systems, night vision and thermal imaging systems, as well as software development and system integration, at the Fair, which attracted more than 35.000 attendees.

The Defence and Security Equipment International Trade Fair was held at the Excel Exhibition Centre in London featuring 1.600 Defence and security suppliers. According to DSEI website, it is the world's largest defence and security show bringing together representatives of governments, national armed forces and the wider defence industry.

Greek wine 'Highlights tasting' in London



A special wine tasting event to showcase Greece's highly praised wine production and millennia-old winemaking history and culture took place at the Hellenic Residence on September 26.

32 wineries from Greece's main wine producing regions, and 95 labels in total, were brought together to showcase their exquisite creations to 86 UK-based wine journalists and professionals. The event, organised by the Greek Wine Association, with the support of Enterprise Greece, and hosted by the Greek Embassy, aimed at enhancing the Greek wine's visibility in the UK market building on the positive momentum generated lately.

Until recently largely unknown outside wine professionals' circles, Greek wines are now making a leap forward and gaining popularity among British consumers. In 2022, Greek wine imports to the UK reached a value of £5.6 million, representing a significant 49% increase from the £3.8 million generated in 2021. Greece ranked 17th in the list of countries from which the UK imports wine (up from 20th in 2021), significantly improving its position in the UK market. At the same time, Greek grape varieties are seeing a boost in their recognition in the UK, with varieties like Assyrtiko and Xynomavro being among the fastest rising in the preferences of British consumers in 2023.



Celebrating European Day of Languages in London



On September 26, 20 delegations from Council of Europe's member states across the continent came together at the 'Europe House' in London to mark the European Day of Languages and celebrate Europe's linguistic heritage and diversity. Attracting 250 visitors, the event –hosted by the EU Delegation and the European Parliament Liaison Office– focused on showcasing European language learning opportunities in the UK.

To promote Greek language learning, the Embassy of Greece in London and the High Commission of Cyprus in the UK presented a joint stand showcasing the Greek language's rich heritage and providing information to aspiring Greek speakers -students and members of the general public- as to where they can learn Greek in the UK. Visitors of the stand had the opportunity to engage in linguistic games, learn more about the millennia-long literary history of the Greek language through video screening and books, navigate through the Greek language learning web platform 'Sta Ellinika', try delicious offerings from both countries and leave with lots of informative material on Greek language learning opportunities in the UK.



UK readers vote Greece as the “Best Destination” in the world for 2023



Greece is the best destination in the world. That's what The Sun readers responded when asked to name their favourite destination for The Sun Travel Awards 2023. Greece ranked first with the U.S.A. and Spain coming 2nd and 3rd.

The award ceremony took place at the News UK (publisher of the Times, The Sunday Times, and The Sun) Travel Awards, held this year in Istanbul, Turkey, where Ms. Eleni Skarveli, Head of the GNTU UK & Ireland Office, received the award on behalf of the Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTU).

Photo (source): Greek National Tourism Organisation



Photo (source): Vikos Gorge/ GNTU/ Kakarouhas

Zagori in the UNESCO World Heritage List



The region of Zagori in north-west Greece is now inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List! The announcement was made at the Extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee taking place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This is a historic moment, as Zagori becomes the first cultural area from Greece's contemporary era to earn such distinguished recognition, since, historically, UNESCO's focus primarily gravitated toward ancient or Byzantine sites.

Welcoming the news, Greek Minister of Culture, Lina Mendoni, said that UNESCO “recognised the outstanding ecumenical value of the Zagorochoria architecture, as an excellent example of the survival and mutual influence of the Byzantine and Ottoman architecture. It recognised the authenticity and integrity of the area as key ingredients in order to be included on the World Heritage List”.

In the same spirit, a praising article in Telegraph newspaper, calls Zagori one of the most authentic areas in Greece and one of the idyllic throwbacks to the 1800s. The captivating mountains and gorges, the amazing valleys and rivers, the impressive stone bridges and monasteries, all these make up a unique scenery not to be missed, according to the newspaper!

For more on Zagori, Visit Greece: <https://www.visitgreece.gr/mainland/epirus/zagori/>

On Telegraph's article : <https://shorturl.at/rwDP7>

Hellenic Foundation for Culture in UK - Launch event



The launch event of the Hellenic Foundation of Culture (HFC) in UK took place on September 29, at Kings College London. The opening remarks were made by the Professor Gonda Van Steen, holder of Koraios Chair in the Centre for Hellenic Studies and Department of Classics at King's College London, who emphasized on the importance of the promotion of Greek culture abroad. Following, the President of the HFC, Nikos Koukis talked about the cultural ties between UK and Greece and how they could further strengthen. In the end, the new Representative of HFC in London, Kyriaki Mitsou, presented to the audience the future projects of the HFC in UK.

Lykion ton Ellinidon @ Hellenic Center



A dance performance by Lykion ton Hellinidon London at the Hellenic Center on the 1st of July offered the audience the chance to travel around Greece through impressive folk dances, authentic live music & traditional costumes. The event was held under the auspices of Greek Embassy in London.

Greece @Pure London, the UK's largest Fashion Festival



Greece had a dynamic presence at Pure London, the UK's largest festival of Fashion, taking place at Olympia London, on 16-18 July.

17 Greek companies and designers, showcased the best of the season's must-have collections in womenswear and accessories from Greece, including handmade and sustainable products, under the support of Enterprise Greece.

The participating companies were: 4Tailors, ACCESS ABEE, ALEXANDRA TSOUKALA, AnnaKey, CHRISTINA BRAMPTI, FLOWERS & LEAVES, GEORGIA CHARAL, Haris Cotton SA, HELCOTEX PCC-COOCU RESORT, KATERINA VASSOU JEWELLERY, Line Planet, NUDOMONC, PURE YELLOW, SANDY TZATZOU, SIBYLLA DELPHICA, SORBET ISLAND and WE COSS O.E.

Greece @Speciality & Fine Food Fair in London



The Speciality & Fine Food Fair, which was held in London, on September 11-12, is the home of fine food & drink discovery for buyers from across the retail, hospitality, foodservice, manufacturing, import & export, and wholesale sectors. Greece was present at this year's Fair, with individual company stands showcasing quality products from Greece, such as olive oil, olives and raisins.

<https://www.specialityandfinefoodfairs.co.uk/>

The birth of a new predominant party system? The May and June 2023 elections in Greece

When: 24/10/2023, 6.00- 7.30 pm

Where: London School of Economics

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Hellenic-Observatory/Events/Research-Seminar-Series/2023-24/Greek-elections/Greek-Elections>

Heirs of the Greek Catastrophe: The Social Life of Asia Minor Refugees in Piraeus

When: 25/10/2023, 5 pm

Where: SEESOX, European Studies Centre

<https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/events/heirs-greek-catastrophe-social-life-asia-minor-refugees-piraeus>

Feta or Fiction: Unravelling Nutrition Myths and Facts

When: 2/11/2023, 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/feta-or-fiction-unravelling-nutrition-myths-and-facts/>

The Significance of the Lausanne Treaty: International Dimensions

When: 4/11/2023, 4pm

Where: King's College London

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

Greek Dialogues - The sound of Attic: Practices of linguistic imitation in Greek imperial texts

When: 9/11/2023, 4.30pm

Where: Cambridge Centre for Greek Studies Channel

<https://www.ccgs.csa.cam.ac.uk/events/greek-dialogues-sound-attic-practices-linguistic-imitation-greek-imperial-texts>

Coming to terms with forced migration

When: 14/11/2023, 6.00- 7.30 pm

Where: London School of Economics

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Hellenic-Observatory/Events/Research-Seminar-Series/2023-24/forced-migration/forced-migration>

Maria by Callas: Film Screening and Q&A

When: 16/11/2023, 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/maria-by-callas-film-screening-and-qa/>

Rethinking the Eastern Mediterranean in a volatile world

When: 21/11/2023, 5pm

Where: SEESOX, European Studies Centre <https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/events/rethinking-eastern-mediterranean-volatile-world>

Praxis 8: A Festival of Modern Greek Theatre

When: 25/11/2023, 1pm - 9.30pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/praxis-8-a-festival-of-modern-greek-theatre/>

Life Against the Odds

When: 30/11/2023, 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/life-against-the-odds/>

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