



**Greek National Day: Reception at the Hellenic Residence in London to celebrate the 25th of March**



**Online Postal Voting Platform : Facilitating voters' rights in European elections & national referendums. Registration for the June 9 European Parliament elections must be completed by April 29.**  
**For more: <http://epistoliki.ypes.gov.gr>**



**Celebration of Greek International Language Day at the Hellenic Residence in London**

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## Celebrating Greece's National Day in London



Each year on March 25, Greeks around the world celebrate Greece's National Day. The date marks the start of the Greek Revolution in 1821, which led to the creation of the Modern Greek State.

The Embassy of Greece in the UK marked the occasion this year with a reception – the first after more than 10 years – at the Hellenic Residence in London on March 26th. In the attendance of Greece's Minister of National Defence, Nikos Dendias, the event brought together friends of Greece and distinguished guests including British officials, members of the Greek Diaspora in the UK and the diplomatic community in London, to commemorate 203 years since the start of the Greek War of Independence in 1821 and to celebrate its everlasting message of freedom.

In his welcoming remarks, the Ambassador of Greece, Yannis Tsaousis, underscored the historical significance and universal resonance of the Greek War of Independence. He praised the vital contribution of the Greek Diaspora, both in the UK and across the world, to Greece's progress ever since, and highlighted Greece's achievements in recent years in a number of fields.



As we mark 200 years since Lord Byron's death in Mesolongi, Greece's National Day is "also an opportunity to celebrate the bright present and the even brighter future of the Greek-British bilateral relations, which are of strategic importance and strength", he stressed.

Emphasising too the significance of the Greece-UK relationship, ties and longstanding friendship, the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Greece, MP Alberto Costa, also delivered remarks for the Day.



## 2nd Annual Review of Greece-UK Strategic Bilateral Framework



Deputy Foreign Minister Alexandra Papadopoulou and the UK Minister for Europe at the FCDO, Leo Docherty, met in London on the 30th of January to carry out the second annual review of the Greece - UK Strategic Bilateral Framework (SBF).

The two Ministers discussed progress under the various SBF pillars, which helped strengthen further UK-Greece bilateral cooperation in support of our shared objectives and in addressing common concerns. Particular focus was placed on current issues of international affairs, including the situation in Ukraine and Gaza.

Deputy Minister Alexandra Papadopoulou underscored Greece's candidature for an elected seat on the United Nations Security Council for the term 2025-2026 and the upcoming 9th Our Ocean Greece Conference, to be held in Athens, on 15-17 April 2024. Discussions were also held on defence cooperation, energy security, investment and sustainable development, maritime affairs, as well as on education.



## Greece introduces Online Postal Voting Platform



In a landmark move aimed at facilitating voters' rights, Greece has launched an online platform for postal voting registration. The online platform provides the option of postal voting for participating in European elections and national referendums. This initiative, following the passage of the relevant law through Parliament, marks the first time postal voting has been established in Greece. The platform allows all Greek citizens registered in the electoral rolls, regardless of their location, to exercise their right to vote via postal ballots. **As registration for the June 9 European Parliament elections must be completed by April 29, citizens are encouraged to utilize the online platform and exercise their voting rights effectively.**

To register, voters can access <http://epistoliki.ypes.gov.gr>, using their taxis code, if they have one, otherwise they can utilize their passport details, police ID card and/ or municipality number.

For detailed information on voting procedures and the documents needed: <https://www.gov.gr/en/ipresies/polites-kai-kathemerinoteta/ekloges/postal-vote>.

Greek citizens in UK who wish to raise questions regarding their registration in the postal voting electoral rolls, or face difficulties, they can get in touch with the Greek Consular Office at: [epistoliki.lon@mfa.gr](mailto:epistoliki.lon@mfa.gr)

Earlier in February, in order to inform Greeks residents in the UK regarding the postal voting procedure, the Minister of Interior, Niki Kerameos, visited London (February 2). During the event organised by the Greek Embassy in London and hosted at the Hellenic Centre, the attendants have been thoroughly informed about the procedure and received detailed answers on the questions put to the Minister of Interior, Ms Niki Kerameos.

## International Greek Language Day



To mark the International Greek Language Day on February 9, Greek Embassy organised an event with distinguished speakers. Defence Minister Nikos Dendias and British acclaimed author Victoria Hislop, among esteemed Greek & British guests and dear friends, to celebrate the Greek Language, its millennia-old history, its international impact, resonance and appeal to this day.

Following a video message by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Giorgos Kotsiras, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis addressed the event speaking about the significance of the Greek language and its remarkable continuity through the centuries before highlighting i.a. the central place that the promotion of Greek language learning holds within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Strategic Plan for Greeks Abroad. Later on, in a thought-provoking conversation with Ambassador Y. Tsaousis, Victoria Hislop spoke about her journey into learning Greek & writing about Greece, while British Oxford student Ethan Chandler shared with us his personal account of how his love of Greece motivated him to learn the language.

How charitable organisations integrate Greek language learning into their work was the focus of 2 presentations about the Daughters of Penelope initiative to promote Greek education to Diaspora children & Kind at Heart Foundation's educational project in Tanzania. Representing the Greek & Cypriot Diaspora in the UK, school students from the Greek Primary School of London and the Hellenic School of High Barnet gave an unforgettable performance of Greek songs and a brilliant poetry recital.



## Greek Minister of National Defence visits London



On March 26-27, Defence Minister Nikos Dendias was on a visit to the UK for a series of high-level meetings. During his stay in London he held, among others, discussions with the UK's National Security Adviser (NSA), Sir Tim Barrow, and the Labour Party's Shadow Defence Secretary, John Healey, focusing on the Greece-UK defence relationship and cooperation, as well as on global and regional security matters, including the situation in Ukraine, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Red Sea.

The meetings provided also an opportunity for Minister Dendias to brief his interlocutors on Greece's role in the EU defensive Operation ASPIDES in the Red Sea and to underscore the prospects for cooperation between the Greek Armed Forces' defence innovation ecosystem and the British defence ecosystem.

This visit followed on from a previous one in February, 2024, where Minister Dendias had met with the then Minister for the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom, James Heappey, to explore ways to further enhance the Greece-UK defence cooperation, including on technology and research, and to exchange views on shared challenges. While in London, at the time, he had also discussed the potential cooperation of Greek and British War Museums with the General Director of the Imperial War Museums, Caro Howell.

## The MedTech scale up journey: from research to commercialization



"The MedTech scale up journey: from research to commercialization. Opportunities for UK-Greece collaboration" was organized on March 14, by the Economy & Trade section of Greek Embassy in London and hosted by the London Institute for Healthcare Engineering, King's College London.

In his welcome speech, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis emphasized the Embassy's aim to showcase the innovation ecosystem and forge links to British counterparts, through a series of events to promote Greek innovation environment.

The Secretary General for Research and Innovation, Prof. Athanasios Kyriazis from General Secretariat for Research and Innovation and the President of the Hellenic Development Bank, Prof. Haris Lambropoulos, also developed the opportunities that emerge from possible synergies between the Greek and the British MedTech ecosystem.

Greek founders of innovative start-ups, showcased the potential of their MedTech start-ups and the fantastic opportunities for British investors. Participants shared their insights into the burgeoning Greek innovation ecosystem and exchanged valuable ideas on the way forward.



## Our Ocean, An Ocean of potential



As Greece prepares to host the 9th Our Ocean Conference 2024 on April 15-17, Greek Embassy hosted an event on January 31 at the Hellenic Residence in London with the Greek PM's Special Envoy for the Ocean and Our Ocean Greece Coordinator, Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou.

During the evening, Ms Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, spoke to attendees about Our Ocean Greece, its key focus areas and commitments, what Greece is doing to protect marine ecosystems at home and the need to step up global action for our oceans and seas.



## A taste of Greece in International Food and Drink Event in London 2024



Local producers and popular brands across several regions of Greece were present at the International Food & Drink Event, held on March 25-27 at ExCeL London. Through a dynamic presence, 21 Greek companies showcased unique quality Greek food and drink products.

## Greece at the London Book Fair in London



For the first time Greece participated in London Book Fair at Olympia (12-14 March) within the framework of EU Recovery and Resilience Fund. The Greek pavilion, organized by the General Directorate of Modern Culture of the Ministry of Culture, hosted 40 Greek publishers and cultural institutes, and showcased 700 publications in Greek and other languages. The translation grant program Greeklit was also presented as part of Greece's aim to promote the dynamic Greek publishing sector abroad and to disseminate Greek Letters internationally.

The Secretary General of Contemporary Culture, Ms Eleni Doundoulaki together with the Greek Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis were shown around the vibrant and busy Greek pavilion, after attending the discussion on the translation of Greek literature 'Voices of Greece. New Challenges and Perspectives' at International Markets Theatre at Olympia London. While in London, Ms Eleni Doundoulaki together with officials from the Ministry of Culture visited the Hellenic Residence, where Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis showed them around the Embassy's permanent exhibition "George Seferis : the man, the poet, the diplomat"

On the occasion of London Book Fair, the Hellenic Centre hosted on the 13th of March, an event, organized by the Ministry of Culture, on 'Greek and British female Poets talk about Poetry and read their Poems', where female poets recited poems in Greek & English language, while they shared with the audience their concerns and dreams for the future of poetry.



## A delegation from the Hellenic Parliament visits London



A delegation from the Hellenic Parliament comprising of Dimitris Avramopoulos (delegation leader), Stavros Kalafatis, Christos Dermentzopoulos, Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Symeon Kedikoglou, and Panagiotis Doudonis, visited London on February 1, on a working visit to the UK to take forward Greek-British interparliamentary dialogue. Hosted by the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Greek parliamentarians held a series of wide-ranging talks with British colleagues from the UK Parliament. While in London, they also visited the Hellenic Residence, where Ambassador Y. Tsaousis showed them around the Embassy's exhibition on Seferis.

### Larissa Music School at the Hellenic Residence in London



The Hellenic Residence was filled with melodies on Friday the 23rd of February as Greek Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis welcomed students from Larissa Music School who are on a study visit to the UK. Their visit is a testament to the strong education links across the board between Greece and UK. It was a pleasure to meet such talented young musicians and show them around our permanent exhibition on the Nobel laureate, poet and diplomat, George Seferis.

## Applied Diplomacy lessons by Ambassador of Greece, Yannis Tsaousis



On January 24, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis had an engaging conversation at the LSE where he had the opportunity to speak through practical examples to brilliant young students about applied diplomacy, its workings and the tools at one's disposal when pursuing a goal-oriented foreign policy. The discussion was chaired by the Hellenic Observatory's Deputy Director, Dr Spyros Economides.

### Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis and Consul General in Manchester Alexandros Ioannidis in Liverpool



Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis and the Greek Consul General in Manchester, Alexandros Ioannidis, were on a visit to Liverpool on February 1, to meet with the city's Greek community, local government officials and business representatives. At the Liverpool Town Hall, Ambassador Tsaousis and Consul General Ioannidis were welcomed by Lord Mayor of Liverpool Cllr Mary Rasmussen for an excellent first meeting. They were joined by Cabinet Member for Growth and Economy, Cllr Nick Small, in productive talks exploring possibilities for cooperation on various sectors, including on business and investment, followed by an equally fruitful meeting with Liverpool Chamber of Commerce CIC members and representatives of UK companies being -or aspiring to be-active in Greece.



Together with the Polish Ambassador to the UK, Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis discussed, on February 13, with students in St. Antony's College, Oxford, on current security & other challenges, while on the 23rd of February, the Greek Ambassador spoke with City, University of London International Politics students and future diplomats about what a goal-oriented, solution-driven approach to foreign policy means in practice.

### Affiliation agreement between Athens Medical Group and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust



An affiliation agreement was signed in London on the 20th of March between the Athens Medical Group and the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, through which the two leading institutions will exchange expertise, specialisation, medical know-how and knowledge, advancing their common cause of offering medical excellence and unparalleled services to patients worldwide. This is the first affiliation for Imperial College Healthcare in Europe. The agreement is yet another illustration of the strength of the long and rich Greek – British economic partnership.

## In Short, Europe: #Best of Best European short film Festival

## European Writers' Festival 2: #Transformation



The 6th edition of In Short film Festival Europe is coming close.

20-21 April – Glasgow Film Theatre

26-28 April – London, Ciné Lumière, French Institute  
Greece is participating this year with the silent short film 'A Piece of Liberty', by Antigoni Kapaka, under the 3rd Strand 3: People on the precipice.

The 'In Short Europe' is organised by the EUNIC London in collaboration with the EU Delegation to the UK, the Glasgow Film Festival and French Institute in London.

<http://europe.org.uk/magazine/in-short-europe-best-of-best-programme-timings/>

This year's European Writers' Festival takes place in May 18-19 2024 at the British Library. Greece will have a very strong presence at this year's festival, with the participation of the award winning author Christos Chomenidis and his novel 'Niki' (Prix du Livre Europeen).

The European Writers' Festival is organised by the EUNIC London, in partnership with the European Literature Network and the British Library, and with the support of the EU Delegation to the UK and the European Parliament Liaison Office in the UK.

<http://europe.org.uk/event/european-writers-festival-2/>

### Messengers and Communication in Ancient Mythology & Drama



This was the theme of a talk by the teatrologist and Greek Public Broadcaster's (ERT) London correspondent, Evdoxia Lymperi, held at the Hellenic Centre on February 29, under the auspices of the Embassy. In a stimulating presentation that raised questions about the nature and evolution of communication through the ages and its central place within society, the role of messengers in the ancient Greek drama and mythology was explored through a series of examples and readings from selected texts, and analogies were drawn with today's realities in the communication and journalism realm.

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