



First Annual Review of Greece-UK Strategic Bilateral Framework, 6 December 2022



Dep. Min. of Tourism, Sofia Zacharaki, promoting Greece as a top wedding destination



Greek Fin Min Ch. Staikouras Minister of the Year 2023 for Europe by the FT's 'The Banker' magazine

*Photo Credit: amna*

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## First Annual Review of Greece - UK Strategic Bilateral Framework, 6 December 2022



Greek Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs Miltiadis Varvitsiotis met on December 6, 2022, with UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Europe Leo Docherty in Athens to review progress on the Strategic Bilateral Framework signed in 2021 and to renew their joint commitment to taking forward the Greece relationship.

The two Ministers took stock of the progress made under the various SBF pillars which contributed to further strengthening Greece-UK bilateral cooperation and also identified future initiatives to build on the close, historic ties between Greece and the UK.

Referring to the bilateral relations between Greece and the UK, Mr. Varvitsiotis stated: "We highlighted the areas where progress has been made and those where we still need to work so that our relations get even better than when we were partners in the European Union". He also emphasised that contacts between the two countries are already at the highest possible level, as the Greek PM K. Mitsotakis' visit to London proves, and recalled that our countries have been traditional friends and allies, sharing 200 years of historical ties. Talks focused on the European perspective of the Western Balkans, developments in Libya, and the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean, with Mr. Varvitsiotis noting that "Greece plays a particularly important role in energy security issues, by participating in trilateral and multilateral formats with countries in the region".

They also agreed to seek an opportunity for the Ministerial signing of a Joint Vision Statement for a stronger bilateral defence and security partnership. They concurred to further develop cooperation in the field of maritime affairs, as well as to promote international partnerships between Greek and UK Higher Education Institutions.

## FT's 'Banker' Magazine names Staikouras as Finance Minister of the Year 2023 for Europe



Greek Minister of Finance Christos Staikouras was awarded the distinction of Finance Minister of the Year 2023 for Europe by the Financial Times Group's 'The Banker' magazine.

*"Greece is now well on the road to recovery—in August 2022, enhanced scrutiny by Greece's EU creditors ended after it repaid all outstanding IMF credit earlier than expected. Greece has also implemented important reforms in several areas, including the digitisation of public administration, improving the fiscal policy mix, simplifying the framework for investment licensing, and establishing tax incentives to attract investment and boost research and innovation" The Banker*

In a statement, Staikouras called it a "distinction for Greece, which reflects the international community's recognition and approval for the country's progress and performance in the critical and repeatedly challenged field of the economy in recent years." The Greek FinMin said that the award "constitutes recognition of the sacrifices of the Greek people, the adaptability and resilience of Greek businesses, and the hard work of the government of Kyriakos Mitsotakis." As a result, he noted, "this is an award that belongs to all: state, citizens, and businesses."

## Minister Staikouras Keynote Speaker at the 28th HBA Annual Gala

More than 350 attendees participated in the 2022 Hellenic Bankers Association Annual Gala, at the Landmark in London, on December 10. The Hellenic Bankers Association UK was founded in 1994 to promote closer cooperation among bankers and financial professionals of Hellenic origin in UK. The Minister of Finance, Christos Staikouras, was the honoured keynote speaker and he talked about the growing international recognition of Greek economy's achievements, resilience and performance.

*Photo Credit: Fb Hellenic Bankers Association - UK*

## 4 Greek Islands as ideal wedding spots, promoted by Ministry of Tourism



Elafonissos, Milos, Paros and Tinos, were highly promoted as top wedding destinations during a very successful event organized, on the 1st of December at the Hellenic Residence in London, in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Ms Sofia Zacharaki, the Greek Ambassador to the UK, Mr Ioannis Raptakis, and the Director of the UK and Ireland office of the Greek National Tourism Organisation, Ms Eleni Skarveli. All four islands were excellently promoted by the mayors and other official representatives of the islands, before an audience of specialized journalists, travel agencies and tour operators.

Addressing the event, which was planned following the country's participation in the World Travel Market in London in November, Ms Sofia Zacharaki referred to the importance of the wedding tourism niche market in the promotion of Greece, emphasizing that the Ministry has included wedding tourism in its promotional strategy aiming to extend the tourist season and showcase less known destinations.

The importance of promoting Greece as a wedding destination was emphasized by all speakers, who at the same time presented elaborately the four beautiful Greek islands, talking about the strong assets, the exceptional landscape and the facilities offered on each island, ensuring an unforgettable wedding for the couples and the guests.

Worth mentioning that international studies have shown that wedding tourism is on a growth trajectory worldwide, especially after the pandemic. That is why, in November 2022, the Secretary General of GNTO Mr Dimitris Fragakis signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for the promotion of wedding and luxury tourism in Greece with the Hellenic Association of Destination Event Organizers.

The truth is that Greece is among the top 5 wedding destinations in Europe, offering the best scenery for unforgettable moments and has also, according to Google, ranked 6th as one of the world's most popular destinations for weddings. The majority of visitors come from Australia, USA, Israel, United Kingdom and the Arab countries.

### Alonissos: More than just an island...an underwater experience



Alonissos has chosen to celebrate its connection with the sea by organising a symbolic underwater decoration of a Christmas Tree. According to the mayor of the island, Mr Petros Vafinis, this initiative aimed at highlighting the fact that diving for Alonissos is a "life philosophy" and that is why the idea was warmly embraced by all locals.

What is more, Alonissos was voted by British tour operators as Best Diving Destination at the Greek Travel Awards, successfully organised by the UK and Ireland office of the Greek National Tourism Organisation, after the completion of the first day of the international tourism exhibition World Trade Market 2022.

Seven British Tour Operators communicated the voting for the Greek Travel Awards to their clientele who have recently visited Greece. Alonissos took first place in the Diving Destinations category due to the wealth of venues and images, the excellent services provided by the diving centers, the first underwater Greek museum in Peristera Alonissos, as well as the unique diving experience that the destination offers through innovations such as the organization of underwater weddings by the Municipality.

<https://greekreporter.com/2022/12/12/greek-island-alonissos-underwater-christmas-tree/>

*Credit: Video screenshot/Visit Alonissos(wedding)*

## 16th London Greek Film Festival 2022 - Winter edition



This year, the LGFF was held, for the first time, in two editions (summer and winter). The winter edition, following the excellent awards ceremony of the summer edition last June at the Embassy of Greece in London, was presented online.

The Awards – Odysseus Awards since 2008, the Cosmocinema Awards since 2018, and the Acting Code Awards, were announced on 17 December while the online presentation took place on 19 December. The awards were presented to creators from around the globe, of both Greek and foreign origin, in the following categories: short and feature fiction films, documentaries, video art works, feature and short fiction scripts.

The Ambassador of Greece Mr. Ioannis Raptakis said in his address: "The Festival from the very beginning, aimed to be the international meeting point for Greek films from all over the world. It promotes internationally contemporary Greek cinema and Greek culture while, this year for the first time, under the umbrella of the London Greek Film Festival, the 1st International Epidaurus Film Festival in Greece, was created. The two festivals are now linked in a creative partnership connecting ancient Greek drama with cinema and the other arts. I wish good luck and I congratulate all participants, finalists and winners, for their hard work and beautiful film-making. I wish every success to the London Greek Film Festival and to its founder and artistic director for the following many years to come and I hope that the Festival will continue to grow".

The London Greek Film Festival is under the auspices of the Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy. As one of the most prestigious of its kind, the LGFF started in 2008 and is the inspiration and creation of film and theatre director and writer Christos Prosylys.

[www.londongreekfilmfestival.com](http://www.londongreekfilmfestival.com)

## Greece: One more year, great protagonist in FOCUS, London 2022

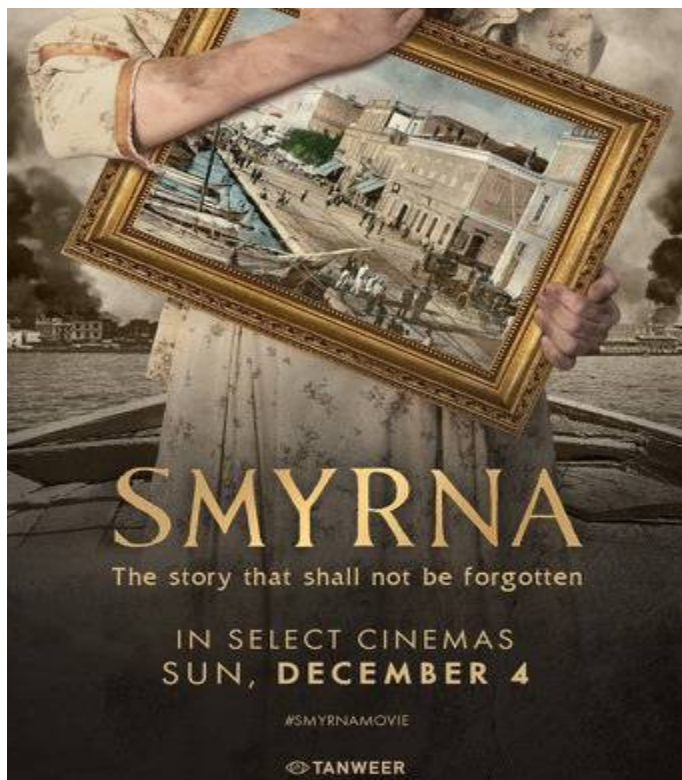
Greece for one more year, was present at the Focus 2022, one of the most important international exhibitions of audiovisual production, taking place at London Business Design Centre, on the 6th and 7th of December.

Focus is the meeting place for international productions and Greece could not be absent from such a big event, where professionals from the international audiovisual industry meet for presentations, discussions, networking, and meetings, in a fair that gathers 140 exhibitors and 150 speakers from 60 countries around the world.

EKOME (National Centre of Audiovisual Media and Communication), the Hellenic Film Commission and the Greek Film Centre participated with a national stand in this year's FOCUS and on December 6, they presented filming in Greece and our country as a top destination for audiovisual productions: 40% cash rebate, 30% tax relief, Film Offices Network and many others are among some of the assets of Greece, elaborately described during the presentation.

**FOCUS** 6-7 Dec LONDON | 8-9 Dec VIRTUAL  
REGISTER FREE [focus2022.com](http://focus2022.com)

## Smyrna in UK screens



The 5-time Hellenic Academy-Award winning epic war drama based on the true catastrophic events that changed the course of Greek history, SMYRNA, was released in UK screens in select Odeon cinemas nationwide, as a one-night-only event on Sunday, Dec 4, 2022.

Marking the 100 year anniversary of the tragedy, the catastrophe of the city of SMYRNA, there was a lot of buzz around the film! In May, SMYRNA was screened at the Princess Anne Theatre - BAFTA and received a 5 minute standing ovation. On November 29th, SMYRNA was screened at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, under the auspices of the Greek Permanent Mission to the United Nations and got another standing ovation. Additionally, on January 11th, the film was screened at the European Parliament in Brussels.

SMYRNA brings to the big screen an extraordinary piece of cinema that details the devastating 1922 catastrophe which destroyed one of the greatest cities in the world, once known as the "Pearl of the Orient." The Film urges us to pay attention to the current refugee crisis that our world continues to face today, as people are forced to flee their homeland because of war, violence, and persecution.

## First Matti Egon Memorial Lecture @Greek Archaeological Committee

The Greek Archaeological Committee UK organised the 'First Matti Egon Memorial lecture' by Dr Antonis Kotsonas on "Lyktos, 'The Most Ancient City in Crete, and the Source of the Bravest Men' (Polyb. 4.54): From Foundation to Destruction", at Great Hall in Strand Campus, King's College in London.

Antonis Kotsonas is Associate Professor of Mediterranean History and Archaeology at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, an M.Phil. from the University of Cambridge, and a B.A. from the University of Crete.

His research focuses on the material culture and socio-economic history of Greece and the Mediterranean in the Early Iron Age and the Archaic period, though his research interests extend from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman period. He has conducted fieldwork and finds research on Crete, and in the Cyclades, Euboea, Macedonia and Latium; and comparative studies across the Aegean, and from Italy to Cyprus.

His publications engage problems in state formation, trade and interaction, identity and commensality, memory, and the history of Greek and Mediterranean archaeology.

The Greek Archaeological Committee UK was founded in London in the autumn of 1986 on the 150th anniversary of the Greek Archaeological Society at Athens, with which it is associated. GACUK was founded by the late Mrs Matti Egon-Xylas who served as Chairman from 1986 until 1993 and from 2003 until 2013. In addition to its Founding, Ordinary (including Corporate) and Corresponding members, GACUK benefits from the support of some seventeen Patrons, most of whom are distinguished British Academics.

*Photo credit: GACUK YouTube*



## #Hack\_the\_Art

### Digital competition Greek schools «Hack the Art: Gianoulis Halepas»



The pan-Hellenic Student Competition (digital projects) Hack the Art: Gianoulis Halepas is organised by the Onassis Foundation and the Onassis Library, in collaboration with the Teloglion Fine Arts Foundation and the National Gallery, under the auspices of the Secretariat General of Public Diplomacy and Greeks Abroad. It aims to highlight the life and work of the great Greek sculptor, Gianoulis Halepas, and to motivate the new generation to explore their creativity with the help of new technologies and the internet.

Halepas was born in Pyrgos, Tinos, in 1851, to a family of marble hewers. From 1869 to 1872, he studied at the School of Arts in Athens, under neoclassical sculptor Leonidas Drossis. In 1873, he left for Munich, under a scholarship of the Panhellenic Holy Foundation of the Evangelistria of Tinos, to continue his studies at the Munich Academy of Fine Arts under the neoclassical sculptor Max von Widmann. He returned to Athens in 1876, and opened his own workshop.

History, new technologies, art and the imagination are all the tools you need to win prizes and equipment for your school. A range of notable drawings, casts, sculptural masterpieces, personal items, accounting ledgers used as sketchbooks, and rare archival materials are made food for thought, entering classrooms to be turned into something new.

Greek cultural heritage, history of art and yesteryear are being brought into contact with new technologies, and the ideas teenagers have about how these materials can be turned into VR and AR applications, digital games and storytelling videos. Put together your own school team, enrich history learning, and unleash the creativity of a new generation, giving them the chance to develop new digital skills inspired by one of Greece's major sculptors. The competition is addressed to students of state or private secondary schools in Greece and abroad. Deadline for submissions: Friday, 10/02/2023.

<https://classroom.onassis.org/course/index.php?categoryid=12>

## International Greek Language Day: 'Alphabet Poets' Poetry Competition for pupils

The Embassy of Greece in London invites pupils to participate in the 'Alphabet Poets' Poetry Competition. February 9 is officially declared International Greek Language Day to honour, recognize and celebrate the Greek language around the world for its contribution in shaping Western civilization throughout the centuries.

Pupils are invited to submit their poetry where they must use as many words of Greek origin as possible (i.e. Philanthropy, Cynicism, Democracy, Europe, Marathon, Melancholy, Music, Narcissism, Panic, Phobia, Sarcasm, Schizophrenia, Telephone, Angel, Astronomy, Athlete, Philosophy, Bibliography, Graphic, Symbol, Logic, Autonomous, Ceramic, Idol etc).

Poems must be no more than 15 lines. The winners will be awarded during the International Greek Language Day event at the Embassy of Greece! Submissions via email: pdo.lon@mfa.gr with the title: Submission for International Greek Language Day Poetry Competition or post: Embassy of Greece in London Public Diplomacy Office 1a Holland Park, London W11 3TP

Deadline: 31 January 2023

**ALPHABET POETS**  
Poetry Competition

#GreekLanguageDay  
FEBRUARY 9

Poetry competition for pupils to celebrate  
Greek Language Day (February 9)

To apply write a poem in English  
using words of Greek origin

+44(0)2077273071  
pdo.lon@mfa.gr

Submissions deadline: 31.01.2023

Greek Embassy in UK @GreeceinUK greece\_in\_uk

## 2022 –Year of Iakovos Kampanellis Tribute performance in London 'In Kambanellis' Neighborhoods'

The Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports has declared 2022 as the "Year of Iakovos Kambanellis", on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth, on December 2nd. Kampanellis is considered the founder of Modern Greek theatre. His plays, are still being taught and performed with great success.

In London, Kyriaki Mitsou, Director of Culture in Action collaborated with the Centre for Hellenic Studies and the Director and Koraes Chair, Gonda Van Steen, to present the tribute performance 'In Kambanellis' Neighborhoods'. Gonda Van Steen stated that she "saw this production very much as an opportunity to highlight the social history of post-war Greece, which is lesser known". "We are grateful to the Schilizzi Foundation for sponsoring this effort", she added.

The performance consisted of scenes from three of Kampanelli's most important works, The Seventh Day of Creation (Η έβδομη ημέρα της δημιουργίας), The Courtyard of Miracles (Η αυλή των θαυμάτων) and The Age of Night (Η ηλικία της νύχτας), with the main theme being the socio-economic situation of the Greeks in the 1950s- 1960s. The lyrics of the songs that were heard were written by the author himself.

The three events in London- in October, November and December- were attended by the daughter of Iakovos Kampanellis Ms. Katerina Kampanelli, the Director of the Department of Letters of the Greek Ministry of Culture Ms. Sissy Papathanasiou, and the Greek Consul in the UK Mr. Christos Goulas.

*Concept/Director: Kyriaki Mitsou, Assistant Director: Dimitra Bakalgianni, Lighting Design: Marina Konta, Makeup: Elena Saraili, Photo: Chris Altakis, Actors: Yannis Kouriotis, Kyriaki Mitsou, Konstantinos Delidimoudis, Dimitra Bakalgianni, Antonis Tagoutis, Asterios Coritas)*

*Photo Credits: Chris Altakis*



## 2, 3 and 4 February 2023 Alexander the Great: Between Dreams and Imagination in the British Library

Infinite Blue Productions presents three staged readings of a modern epic poem by Greek playwright Stamatis Filippoulis. The performance is framed around the dreams of the philosopher Aristotle, who pushes his pupil Alexander in and out of fantasy worlds that challenge his thinking as a leader.

"I wrote my Alexander in 1995 and I'm so happy as a composer and a Greek that my music still suggests that 'He lives and reigns'. In the safest and noblest museum of the world. Our hearts"

Stamatis Spanoudakis

The event is held under the auspices of the Embassy of Greece in the UK.

*(Poem: Stamatis Filippoulis, Music: Stamatis Spanoudakis, Visual Art Director: Paul Benney, Adaptation/Dramaturgy: Elizabeth Filippouli, Director/Dramaturg: Di Sherlock, Video Editor: Gavin Bush, Translation: Anthony Stevens, Readings: Peter Marinker, Jack Parry-Jones, Andreane Rellou, Clara Onyemere, Suzan Aderin, Jamie Zubairi, Victor Oshin)*

[www.alexanderthegreat.live](http://www.alexanderthegreat.live)

**"This adaptation invites us all to rethink the idea of greatness and look for the hero next door, and the hero within"**

**Elizabeth Filippouli**

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ARISTOTLE

PETER MARINKER  
AS ARISTOTLE

JACK PARRY-JONES  
AS ALEXANDER THE GREAT

An epic poem by Stamatis Filippoulis  
Music by Stamatis Spanoudakis  
Director/Dramaturg: Di Sherlock  
Visual Art Director: Paul Benney  
Adaptation/Production by Elizabeth Filippouli

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[www.alexanderthegreat.live](http://www.alexanderthegreat.live)

**Crisis, Clientelism and Institutional Resilience: reflections on a public sector reform under the MoUs**

When: 24/01/2023, 6.00-7.30pm

Where: Sumeet Valrani Lecture Theatre, Centre Building, London School of Economics

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Hellenic-Observatory/Events/Research-Seminar-Series/2022-2023/Public-Sector-Reform-under-the-MoUs/Reform>**Literature in the Aftermath of the 1922 Asia Minor Catastrophe: Reception – British School at Athens**

When: 25/01/2023, 5.00pm

Where: Via Zoom

<https://www.bsa.ac.uk/events/literature-in-the-aftermath-of-the-1922-asia-minor-catastrophe-reception/>**Roderick Beaton, "British and other Philhellenes in the Greek Revolution during the 1820s" – British School at Athens**

When: 31/01/2023, 7.00pm

Where: Via Zoom

<https://www.bsa.ac.uk/events/roderick-beaton-british-and-other-philhellenes-in-the-greek-revolution-during-the-1820s/>**32nd Annual Runciman Lecture: Prof Ioannis D. Stefanidis, 'Prelude to the Ionian Venture: the Greek Campaign in Southern Ukraine, 1919'**

When: 02/02/2023, 6:30pm

Where: Safra Theatre, Strand Campus King's College London

<https://21in21.co.uk/events/>**Phenomenon Anafi**

When: 02/02/2023, 7.00pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/phenomenon-anafi/>**The World in 2023: From Pandemic to the War in Ukraine**

When: 03/02/2023, 6.00pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/the-world-in-2023-from-pandemic-to-the-war-in-ukraine/>**New Year Recital: A tribute to Jazz and Swing**

When: 04/02/2023, 7.00pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/new-year-recital-a-tribute-to-jazz-and-swing/>**Tales of Estrangement**

When: 09/02/2023, 7.00pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/tales-of-estrangement/>**Walking adventures on the Holy Mountain**

When: 10/02/2023, 6.00pm

Where: The Anglo Hellenic League, Zoom webinar

<https://www.anglohellenicleague.org/cultural-events/>**Prof. Rebecca Sweetman (BSA, Director), "The Work of the BSA in 2022" and Dr Andrew Shapland (Ashmolean), "Knossos: Looking for the Labyrinth" – British School at Athens**

When: 14/02/2023, 7.00-9.00pm

Where: Via Zoom

<https://www.bsa.ac.uk/events/prof-rebecca-sweetman-bsa-director-the-work-of-the-bsa-in-2022-and-dr-andrew-shapland-ashmolean-knossos-looking-for-the-labyrinth/>**Embassy of Greece in London**

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