

Greece in America Newsletter

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Message from the Ambassador



Welcome to the inaugural edition of our Embassy Newsletter!

We look forward to connecting you to news and events of great importance to both our nations and to keeping you up to date on Embassy activities.

We also invite you to participate in our social media pages.

This is your newsletter, a reflection of Greece's democratic tradition of dialogue. We would appreciate any feedback.

Join in!

Christos Panagopoulos
Ambassador of Greece to the US

Intergovernmental agreement supports the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP)

Investment estimated to be two billion dollars and is expected to generate 12,000 jobs

Greece, Italy and Albania agreed in principle this month to the construction of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP).

Starting in the Caspian Sea, the 500-mile natural gas pipeline will cross Turkey into northern Greece, passing into Albania, eventually reaching Italy as an offshore pipeline.

Direct investment in Greece is estimated at two billion dollars, resulting in 2,000 jobs connected to the project itself and another 10,000 estimated ancillary jobs.

The agreement was signed at the Foreign Ministry on February 13th 2013, with Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras attending.

"We are determined -- and I wish to state this clearly -- not to let any opportunity be left unexploited"
Greek PM Samaras.

Officials included Greek Foreign Minister, Dimitris Avramopoulos, Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Minister of Albania, Edmond Haxhinasto, and Italian Development Minister Corrado Passera.

Government representatives of Azerbaijan, TAP Joint Venture officials and representatives of the companies involved in the project were also present.

The Greek government decided to support the establishment of this important foreign direct investment, since it will substantially upgrade Greece's position as an energy hub in Southeast Europe and enhance energy security in the wider region.



Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos with the Italian Development Minister Corrado Passera, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Minister of Albania, Edmond Haxhinasto

TAP is designed to carry 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas, annually, to western energy markets.

The Shah Deniz II consortium, which is developing the Shah Deniz gas field in Azerbaijan, will designate the pipeline that will carry the natural gas to Europe, this summer.

In comparison to the competing Nabucco West pipeline, the TAP displays a wider range of advantages, being more cost-effective and efficient: TAP is shorter in length and transcends fewer countries, thus reducing construction cost. [Website](#)



Meeting of Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos with the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, José Miguel Insulza



Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos with Secretary General of the Organization of American States, José Miguel Insulza.

Ambassador Panagopoulos and José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, focused on enhancing the already close cooperation between Greece and the OAS during a private meeting on February 12th. Also on the table were regional and international issues. [Website](#)

Greece’s Foreign Affairs Minister congratulates new US Counterpart

On the heels of John Kerry’s recent confirmation as Secretary of State, Greek Foreign Affairs Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos penned a letter of heartfelt congratulations and support, also telling Mr. Kerry he looked forward to their first meeting in the near future.

Minister Avramopoulos told his US counterpart that Greece would continue to strengthen cooperation between the two countries, whose shared values and principles have created an important and lasting strategic partnership in a part of the world facing enormous challenges. [Website](#)

Meeting of Ambassador Panagopoulos with 50 members of the National Press Club

Fifty correspondents of the National Press Club received a first-hand briefing on a wide range of issues, including Greece’s strategic role in the Mediterranean region and the country’s changing economic climate from Ambassador Panagopoulos at the Embassy on February 11th.

While Greeks continue to make sacrifices under current economic constraints, the Ambassador noted that European solidarity and Greece’s commitment to making the best use of its partners’ support are expanding the nation’s potential. [Website](#)

“In 2012, we disproved the worst-case scenarios for Greece and in 2013 we will put every effort to exceed the best-case scenarios.”



Ambassador Panagopoulos, NPC Vice President Myron Belkind and Maria Galanou, Greek Embassy Press Officer

Launch of the new "Congressional Hellenic-Israeli Alliance"

Two US Congressmen from the sunshine state launched an historic new partnership on February 13th bringing together Greece, the US, Israel and Cyprus. Calling their newly formed Caucus, the Congressional Hellenic-Israeli Alliance, or CHIA, Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Ted Deutch (D-FL), signaled bipartisan cooperation on issues affecting all four countries, from gas exploration to tourism.

The two co-chairs, who announced the initiative at a standing-room only launch party in the Rayburn House Office Building, have been joined by many House members from both parties and expect the Caucus to grow.

Also present were Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos, Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren and Olympia Neocleous, Chargé D' Affaires of Cyprus to the US, as well as prominent members of the Greek-, Israeli- and Cypriot-American communities.

The creation of the Congressional Hellenic-Israeli Alliance, coinciding with the values that the US promotes in the region, reflects the evolving cooperation between our countries and aims at consolidating friendship, growth and good neighborly relations. It is establishing a fertile ground, which will bring closer the prominent and dynamic Jewish and Hellenic Diaspora.

Ambassador Panagopoulos stressed that the creation of "CHIA" is a palpable manifestation of the potential of the close cooperation that has been established among the three countries- Greece, Israel and Cyprus, respectively. Given the historical upheavals in the region, this cooperation aims at establishing stability and growth in the wider area, but also at facilitating the consolidation of peace and security, while promoting the spirit of good neighborly relations.



Executive Director of CHIA Mr. Cohen, Congressmen Engel and Bilirakis, Chargé D' Affaires of Cyprus Ms. Neocleous, Israeli Ambassador Oren, Congressman Deutch, Ambassador Panagopoulos and Congressman Schneider.

The Ambassador of Greece also indicated that many important opportunities exist with regard to the economic cooperation among the three countries, particularly in the sectors of energy and tourism. While referring to the ever-expanding cooperation between the two communities, Ambassador Panagopoulos stressed that this joint initiative between the members of Congress not only reflects the excellent relations between the Greek and Israeli Diaspora, but also sets the foundations for more opportunities of partnership and cooperation in the future. [Website](#)

Greece's Foreign Minister focuses on US investment opportunities in Greece

Greek Foreign Minister, Dimitris Avramopoulos, described significant investment opportunities to members of the "Hellenic Initiative" during a trip to New York City on February 22nd.



www.thehellenicinitiative.org/

Cultural collaboration between Greece and the National Gallery of Art



For the first time in its history, the National Gallery of Art will host an exhibit of Greek Byzantine art thanks to a new partnership between the Gallery and Greece. Called “Heaven and Earth”, the exhibit is slated for October 2013 to March 2014.

It will feature artifacts from Greece’s mainland and its islands and will offer Washington-area residents and tourists alike the opportunity to become acquainted with Greece’s central role in the Byzantine period.

Byzantium united Christian spirituality with the Greco-Roman political systems and philosophy. The Byzantine Empire endured for more than a millennium influencing Europe, North Africa and the Near East. Byzantium spread Christianity, introduced the Cyrillic alphabet to the Slavic peoples, re-introduced philosophy and the Greek language to Renaissance scholars, and advanced natural sciences and mathematics within the Islamic world. It also profoundly influenced artists like El Greco and numerous poets.

The new relationship between the National Gallery and Greece follows a January meeting between Ambassador of Greece, Christos Panagopoulos, National Gallery of Art Director, Earl A. Powell III and Gallery Board members. The partnership aims to strengthen ties between Greece and the US and to eventually showcase Greek culture more widely through the US institution’s national network.

“Heaven and Earth” will travel to the West Coast in April 2014, landing at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, California.

Greece Makes US Headlines

Investors returning to Greece

Everything from Greek real estate to energy stocks are finding buyers. The Wall Street Journal reports that foreign investors are returning to Greece as fears of an exit from the euro zone recede, signaling a turning point in the country’s three-year-old debt crisis. [Learn more.](#)

Mediterranean Diet Prevents Heart Disease.

A recently study featured in the NY Times, reveals that approximately 30 percent of strokes and deaths caused from heart diseases can be prevented in people at high risk if they adopt the Mediterranean diet, which is rich in olive oil, nuts, beans, fish, fruits and vegetables. The findings resulted from a 5-year clinical study, in which 7,447 people who were overweight, smokers, or at risk for heart disease, switched to the Mediterranean diet.

“Really impressive,” said Rachel Johnson, a professor of nutrition at the University of Vermont and a spokeswoman for the American Heart Association. “And the really important thing — the coolest thing — is that they used very meaningful endpoints. They did not look at risk factors like cholesterol or hypertension or weight. They looked at heart attacks and strokes and death. At the end of the day, that is what really matters.” [Learn more.](#)

Ikaria: A Woman’s Immersion in Greek Language and Life

Enroll in a two-week language course on the island of Ikaria and what do you get? The answer comes in a very personal story by Anna Hestler for the Washington Post. The New York-based freelance writer shares her experiences with the local community and reveals the island’s hidden treasures in an article that will make you book a flight to Ikaria right away. [Learn more.](#)

UPCOMING EVENT



Greek Embassy

March 16, 10 am – 3 pm:

Greek Literature and Book festival

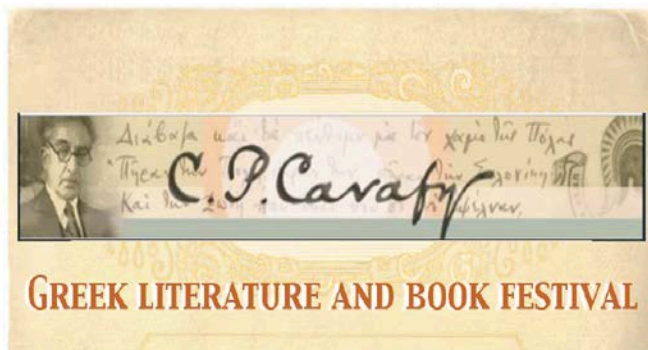
**Bunn Intercultural
Auditorium**

Georgetown University

37th and O Streets, NW
Washington DC 20057

RSPV: rsvpculture@greekembassy.org

In cooperation with the Modern Greek Language Program of Georgetown University, the Library of Congress, and the Athenean's Society of New York, we present, for the first time in Washington, D.C., a Greek Literature and Book Festival. The event will be dedicated to the Greek poet Constantine Cavafy on the UNESCO recognized 150th anniversary of his birth. The Festival will feature a lecture by Professor Vasillios Lambropoulos, a specialist in Cavafy's work from the University of Michigan.



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