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MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC KONSTANTINOS AN. TASOULAS

WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF THE PARTHENON SCULPTURES

Presidential Mansion, 26 September 2025

The President of the Republic, Konstantinos An. Tasoulas, received, in the presence of the Minister of Culture Lina Mendoni, the Presidents of the National Committees for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures.

In his address, Mr. Tasoulas stated:

“I welcome you with gratitude for your initiatives and for your contribution to our goal of reuniting the Parthenon Sculptures. I know that your efforts across the world have succeeded in creating a very favourable current of public opinion in support of our vision. The influence on public opinion in your countries, and especially in Great Britain, is one of the key conditions for the success of our goal.

I know that you are here to hold consultations with the Minister of Culture and to prepare the ground for the next steps toward achieving our objective.

I am convinced that, sooner or later, the Acropolis Museum—which has been described as a museum-in-waiting—will receive this great gesture from the United Kingdom: the return of the Sculptures. We must acknowledge that reunification is not a matter of victory or defeat. No one will lose if the Sculptures are returned and reunited, because this demand concerns the global cultural community and is ultimately universal.”

Mr. Tasoulas added:

“The Greek side strengthens the arguments for its claim with tangible proof of its strong will and practical ability and capacity to protect, preserve, showcase, and manage the Sculptures in the best and most appropriate scientific and technical way.

For decades, it has implemented an exemplary and admirable program of conservation, restoration, and reconstruction of all the Acropolis monuments, including the Parthenon.

It created the new Acropolis Museum, a museum dedicated to these monuments, designed, built, and equipped to the highest modern standards, in order to house the Sculptures under the best possible conditions once they are repatriated. In this way, it overturned the British Museum's last argument—that Greece lacked suitable and worthy facilities. The museum has now been operating with great success for 16 years, ranking among the most important, recognizable, popular, and visited museums worldwide.

The Greek side consistently declares its sincere intention to assist and cooperate creatively, within the framework of existing archaeological legislation, with the British Museum so that the return of the Parthenon Sculptures does not create a gap in its collections or exhibition program. In exchange, Greece offers permanent and renewing periodic exhibitions and loans of antiquities of the highest prestige, artistic, and historical significance and value, ensuring the public's interest remains strong and continually renewed.

It highlights the vast potential offered by new technologies of 3D digital scanning and ultra-high fidelity replicas, which can fully serve the 'universal,' 'encyclopaedic,' and educational mission the Museum wishes to promote.

Finally, supported by the National Committees worldwide and by increasingly sensitized international public opinion, Greece declares that it will continue to use the opportunities provided by dialogue and cultural diplomacy—with faith, perseverance, and patience, but also with enhanced determination, confidence, and persistence—until it achieves the reunification of the Sculptures. At the same time, it does not renounce its right to pursue its claim through legal means, whenever and if deemed appropriate or necessary."

Participants in the meeting included:

- Christiane Tytgat, President of the International Association of National Committees (IARPS) and of the Belgian Committee,
- Emanuel Comino, Vice-President of the International Association and President of the Australian Committee,
- Inès Kljakovic, Vice-President of the Serbian Committee,
- Cléopâtre Montandon, President of the Swiss Committee,
- Ingemar Lindahl, President of the Swedish Committee,
- Pericles Stambekis, President of the American Committee, and
- Andrew George, MP and President of the British Association for the Reunification of the Sculptures.

The International Association of National Committees for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures, known as **IARPS**, brings together 20 National Committees from 18 countries and supports the efforts of the Greek government.
