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SOLICITOR – FORMER MAYOR OF CORFU TOWN

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GREETINGS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the year 1981, the Municipal Authority of Corfu, of the Municipality of Corfu Town, as it was called at that time, started a, by general admission, great and unexampled activity for the promotion of the intellectual, artistic and cultural life of the place.

We are talking about a real flurry of activities. For a movement of creation like: the fight for the establishment of the Ionian University, the creation of the Classical Music Festival, directed by the internationally renowned Director Dino Yannopoulos, who was invited from the USA, the Greek Song Competition organized by the unforgettable Manos Hatzidakis, the Free Open University, the establishment of the Municipal Choir and the Symphony Orchestra of the Municipality, the Organization of the Annual Conference and Corfu Week "for the discussion of the major problems of the area" and many others.

The response of the musical Foundations, the artistic and Cultural Organizations and associations and, above all, of the society of Corfu was unexpected. And the results of that Musical, Artistic and Cultural "explosion" were remarkable. All of Greece was talking about Corfu once again!

I have exhausted your patience, dear Ladies and Gentlemen, with the above narration, please forgive me. However I did it because I wanted to give you a sense of the Intellectual and Cultural climate of that time: one day, it was in the summer of 1981, Mr. Georgios Zoupanos, a Scientist specialized in Physics from Corfu, a good friend of mine, came and talked to me about his idea to establish a Congress and School of Physics in the city of Corfu; at the same time he asked me the Municipality to help and support him, every three years and for a 20-day period each time. This Event would take place, according to his planning. Georgios had already personally participated in the above-mentioned intellectual, musical and cultural activity of the Municipality.

This time, I thought, he asks me the Municipality to participate in a definitely scientific project.

I referred his request to the Municipal Council, with a positive suggestion, and the Council unanimously accepted the proposal of Mr. Zoupanos.

So, and with the support of the Ministry of Culture, the Physics School Congress was held for the first time in September 1982 (Sept. 1-20), organized by the Union of Physics Scientist, the Society of Elementary Particles and the municipality of Corfu. The Congress was held in the areas of the Old Palace. In the hall that at that housed the Public Library and the Ionian Senate Hall.

The project proceeded successfully until the end of my 12-year term as Mayor (3 four-year terms). Now, it has become an institution and, even more, the scientific works of the Congress - School are now held every year.

It is therefore fair to praise my friend Georgios Zoupanos, now a professor emeritus of NTUA.

Goerge, we've got older!

He was the Architect and at the same time the contractor of the Scientific Building, which, however, they tell me, is called the "European Institute of Natural Sciences and Applications".

I am very happy that the "Congress-School" of 1981 has become an Institute and indeed a European one! And it is an imperative and urgent need for the current Municipal Authority to complete the works carried out in MON REPOS for the permanent hospitality of the Institute in Corfu.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please accept the expression of my special appreciation for the important Scientific work being carried out along with my warmest greetings.

Corfu, September 1st, 2023



IOANNIS G. KOURKOULOS

Former Mayor of Corfu Town