



Tyre Foundation
League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities

PRESS RELEASE

The Forum V of the Foundation and the League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities (LCCPP) held in Greece from 11 to 18 October 2014.

The Forum V “**The Alphabet Road: Mediterranean Heritage and Challenges**” held in Greece was completed with great success and wide participation. The Forum V was organized by the League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities (LCCPP) of Tyre Foundation in the Archaeological Museum of Piraeus, an already precious partner of the League.

The event took place under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO.

The Forum hosted representatives from local authorities as well as academics and scientists from all over the Mediterranean. The Mayor of Tripoli, the Mayor of the Baalbeck Union of Municipalities, and the Mayor of Iaat, the Vice Mayor of Byblos and Council Member the Vice-Mayor of Cadiz (Spain) and Municipal archaeologist, the Director of the Museum of the Municipality of Cabras (Sardinia-Italy) and Council Member travelled to Greece to participate to the Mayors College Meeting with Greece Mayors, hosted by Athens Mayor, Mr Georges Kaminis. The Mayors of Aegean islands: Aegina, Rhodes, Mykonos, Paros, Hydra, Samos, the Deputy Mayor of Syros, and the Council Member of Karpathos attended and discussed prospects of cooperation.

The 2 days panel discussions were presented by eminent scientists, under the four axes of LCCPP action: Culture & Education, Cultural Tourism, Handicraft and Marine Environment.

The Forum provided an excellent platform to exchange ideas and put forward proposals for cooperation on the safeguarding of cultural heritage, the preservation, revival and promotion of the unique Phoenician purple dye, the development of cultural tourism projects (regatta, cruise) and the protection of the marine environment, in view of creating jobs, achieving sustainable development and promoting “**Mediterranean excellence**” as a whole.

The basis for cooperation was set in joint actions and projects to promote the Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic heritage, including activities across the Mediterranean proposed by the League.

The local authorities of the host country **Greece** had an energetic presence and wide participation, presenting the particular advantages of their cities and islands, their past history and their potential for future cooperation with the League for joint actions in the Mediterranean.

The opening of the Forum V was made by the President of Constantinou Karamanlis Institute for Democracy **Mrs. Rodi Kratsa**, former Vice-President of the European Parliament and Member of Tyre Foundation Honorary Board of Trustees, who stressed the close links of the ancient civilizations Greek and Phoenicians, the need for the study and preservation of the common cultural heritage and for cooperation among the

Mediterranean partners with solidarity to face the new challenges in the region for common prosperity.

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Then, the Greek Vice-Minister of Culture and Sports **Mrs. Angela Gkerekou** addressed the assistance followed by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of France **Mr. Hervé de Charette**, President of AIST-France, the Deputy Mayor of Piraeus City, **Mr. Nikolaos Karvounas**, the Secretary General of the local Governance of the Aegean **Mr. Spyros Spyridon**, the Rear Admiral of the Hellenic Coast Guard **Mr. George Boubopoulos** on behalf of the Greek Minister of Shipping and the Director of the 26th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities **Mrs. Stella Chryssoulaki**.

The President of Tyre Foundation **Mrs. Maha El-Khalil Chalabi** expressed her recognition that the Forum be held in Greece, the cradle of democracy, also stressed the League's willingness to cooperate with the Greek as well as other Mediterranean municipalities and academia to invest on research to promote the common cultural heritage at different levels and through a multidisciplinary approach.

The Forum opening was attended by President of the National Confederation of Hellenic Commerce (ESEE) and the Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Piraeus (PCCI) **Mr. Vassilis Korkidis**, the President of the Intercultural Euro-Mediterranean Center for UNESCO, Ambassador for Erasmus **Dr. Titika Stasinopoulou** and Ambassador of Tunisia to Greece.

The closing of the Forum was made by **Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin**, Honorary President of the Belgian Senate and Member of the Tyre Foundation Honorary Board of Trustees and **Mr. Anastasios Nerantzis**, Greek former Minister, MP of Piraeus.

In parallel, the members of the **Scientific Committee of the LCCPP Institute for Research**, namely one of the projects of the League under the axe Culture & Education, met in Athens to discuss the planning of the various activities proposed by the Institute, such as research scholarships, creation of a virtual museum and an interactive "Alphabet Road" map etc.

Supporters of the events included the Archaeological Museum of Piraeus, the Greek National Tourism Organisation, the Representation of the European Commission in Greece, the St Paul Greek-French School of Piraeus, the greek companies Zolotas (jewelry), Apivita (natural cosmetics), UWC Samos wines and Rhodes Sparkling Wine "Cair". **Sponsors** included BB Energy, Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC), Piraeus Port Authority and Tanweer Group.

To close the Forum V, a sailing cultural cruise took place for 6 Islands members of the League, the Mayors of **Hydra, Spetses, Paros, Mykonos and Aegina** hosted the Forum participants-Friends of Tyre from various countries from 13 to 18 October. The Municipalities have prepared an extensive programme in situ, including sightseeing of main archaeological sites, meetings with the Mayors and local traditional dinner.

A Partnership is born



The College of Mayors, hosted by Mayor of Athens Mr. George Kaminis



The Mayors after Signing League's Charter of Values..



Mrs. Maha El-Khalil Chalabi with Mrs. Rodi Kratsa, Mr. Spyros Spyridon and Mayors of Mediterranean cities from Lebanon and Greece (Archaeological Museum of Piraeus)



Mrs. Maha El-Chalabi and Mrs. Rodi Kratsa during the opening of the Forum

