

Annual Open Meeting of the Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece
Friday 24 March 2023
Cotsen Hall, Anapiron Polemou 9, Athens

Welcome Message of H.E. Stefan Estermann
Ambassador of Switzerland in Greece

Dear President of the Board of Trustees of the Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece, Mr. Pascal Broulis

Esteemed Director of the School, Prof. Sylvian Fachard

Dear Representatives of the Greek Authorities

Dear Guests from Switzerland, dear Friends of Greece

Ladies and Gentlemen

Απόψε, την παραμονή της Εθνικής Εορτής της Ελληνικής Δημοκρατίας, είναι μεγάλη μου τιμή να σας καλωσορίσω, εκ μέρους της Πρεσβείας της Ελβετίας στην Ελλάδα, στην Ετήσια Ανοιχτή Συνάντηση της Ελβετικής Αρχαιολογικής Σχολής στην Ελλάδα.

(Tonight, on the eve of the National Day of the Hellenic Republic, it is a great honour to welcome you, on behalf of the Embassy of Switzerland in Greece, for the Annual Open Meeting of the Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece.)

We are very proud to have the Swiss School of Archaeology here in Greece. Archaeology, and the School, are an inseparable part of the very privileged relations that exist between Switzerland and Greece. As Archeologists, you are living the vibrant philhellenic tradition of Switzerland, which, after two centuries, continues to be a source of inspiration, motivation and pride. In this sense, you are our Ambassadors. It is the very idea of « Science Diplomacy » at its best.

The past year 2022 has been particularly successful, as the Swiss School made some truly sensational discoveries on their sites on the island of Evvia (in Amarnthos) and off the island of Antikythera in the deep sea. The School is doing amazing work, and it has unparalleled expertise and capacities in particular in the area of underwater archaeology. Professor Fachard and his colleagues will certainly elaborate on this, so I'm not going to reveal more here in my speech.

Θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω τις ελληνικές αρχές, ιδίως το Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού, για την υποστήριξη και την εμπιστοσύνη τους. Και θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω την Ελβετική Σχολή για τον ενθουσιασμό τους και το θαυμάσιο έργο που επιτελούν.

Σας ευχαριστώ και εύχομαι το 2023 να είναι τόσο επιτυχημένο όσο ήταν το 2022!

(I would like to thank the Greek authorities, in particular the Ministry for Culture and Sports, for their support and trust. And I would like to congratulate the Swiss School for their enthusiasm and the wonderful work they are doing.

Thank you, and may 2023 be as successful as 2022 has been!)