

# What our readers think of us

*We wish to thank our readers heartily for writing in and supporting this newspaper at a critical time. They have always been the decisive force that keeps this newspaper alive, and proved it again last week. We received over 350 letters - here is a selection*

## A weekly gift of integrity

AS AN avid reader of the *Athens News* I would like to express my concern that your weekly gift to the Athenians will not cease to inform and amuse its stalwart readership. Such examples of integrity and consistency are hard to come by.

**Prof Thanos Veremis**  
*National Council of Education*

## Independent, analytical

I HAVE enjoyed the *Athens News*' independent and analytical coverage and I believe it will be a loss if the newspaper closes down. I hope you'll manage to find a solution to the current problem and continue operations.

**Helen Louri-Dendrinou**  
*Deputy Governor, Bank of Greece*

## The Lambrakis flagship publication

AS ONE OF only a few independent newspapers in Greece, the *Athens News* plays an important role in informing and entertaining an ever-increasing English-speaking community in Greece. To many people, both in Greece and abroad, it is the Foundation's flagship publication; and under Mr Psaropoulos it has maintained high editorial standards that set an example to other Greek newspapers.

While a change of ownership may benefit a newspaper, it is important to ensure continuity during the process. The *Athens News* has more to offer an investor in its present form as a high-quality weekly with a dedicated staff of professional journalists than as a mere title, however respected it may be.

As a publisher of international standing and long experience, I am sure that you will take into consideration the concerns of correspondents like myself, for whom the *Athens News* is essential reading.

**Kerin Hope**  
*Athens Correspondent,  
Financial Times/Economist*

## Intelligent, comprehensive

THE *ATHENS NEWS* is a noble enterprise. Especially in recent years, under the editorship of John Psaropoulos, the *Athens News* has provided the most intelligent and fair-minded editorials available in Greece and beyond, and the coverage of important Greek news has been exemplary. Those of us English-speaking foreigners who know Greece have long been dependent on this source for honest and comprehensive reporting on the politics and culture of the country we love. We have also found the wisdom of its editorials a certain balance to other news outlets, including those in Greece.

**Edmund Keeley**  
*Emeritus Professor, Princeton University*

## An independent voice

IT WOULD BE a catastrophe should *Athens News* close its doors. We in the expat community depend on it, as, I know, do many Greek citizens. *Athens News* is so superior to its competitors that I don't know where to begin to describe the

differences, so I won't, except to say that *Athens News* has its own voice and an independence that others lack.

**Jack Davis**  
*Director, American School of Classical  
Studies at Athens*

## An investigative reporter

THE *ATHENS NEWS* has always been far more than just an "English language newspaper published in Greece". Such papers exist in almost every country outside the English-speaking world. The *Athens News* has always been, and remains, quite simply one of the best newspapers published in Greece. Anyone who can read Greek soon comes to realise that most Greek newspapers are nothing more than outlets for the political opinions of their owners. Reading the *Athens News* has always been one of the best ways of finding out what actually is going on in Greece.

In my opinion it is alone in its determination to do real investigative reporting, something sorely lacking in Greek journalism today. Its current editor, John Psaropoulos, has done a superb job of producing a weekly paper that is also topical and current. The loss of the *Athens News* would be a disaster for political, cultural and intellectual life in Greece.

**Prof JD Muhly**  
*Former Director of the American School of  
Classical Studies  
Palio Faliro*

## Indispensable

WE HAVE lived in Greece as expatriots for 60 years and have often relied on the *Athens News* for non-biased reporting of controversial issues as well as an overview of news, cultural events and editorial perspectives. It will be a great loss to the English-speaking community and their involvement in Greek affairs.

**Bruce and Elizabeth Lansdale**  
*Forty years director of the American Farm  
School, Thessaloniki*

## An important service

THIS PAPER has served an important constituency well for many decades and has recently been responsible for ensuring that issues of Greek culture, life and politics reach an Anglophone readership.

**Mary Beard**  
*Professor of Classics, University of  
Cambridge*

## A world-class newspaper

WE SHOULD have known that as an English-language publication in a Greek world, the *Athens News* should not be taken wholly for granted; it wasn't always here; even though it seemed to be always here for us. So, we are more than surprised, perhaps shocked is not too strong a word, to learn now that the *Athens News* might be shut down. And what is so sad for us is that this is not because of a fiscal crisis or a failure on the part of the paper, but due to a business decision that balances values and finds a small but world-class newspaper somehow too low on the scale of worth to continue. We will all be a little poorer if a decision to close the paper prevails.

**Tom and Ellen Rocco**  
*Hellenic American University*

## A direct source for international media

I AM writing on behalf of all my colleagues at the Al Jazeera English bureau in Athens. This newspaper provides us with a vital insight into Greek life, and has been the direct source for many of the stories that we have subsequently broadcast on our international television station. Over the past two years, we have consistently

looked to the *Athens News* for story ideas and inspiration, on issues as diverse as immigration, the environment, antiquities and more.

The *Athens News* is an intelligent and enjoyable read, and the fact that it is printed in English makes it instantly accessible to foreign correspondents based in Greece. I know that other reporters working for various foreign media organisations feel exactly the same way. We fear that without this resource, we will be gravely out of touch with our host community.

These are professional concerns. At a personal level, as foreigners living in your city, we can say that we feel to be more "Athenian" as a result of reading the *Athens News*. It helps us understand Greeks, and it helps diverse immigrant communities succeed in this wonderful and tolerant country.

**Barnaby Phillips**  
*Al Jazeera English, Europe Correspondent,  
Athens*

## Relevant, informative, independent

THE *ATHENS NEWS* is doing more than just a decent job. This is the paper that for decades was dismissed as a joke - despite the best efforts of its harried, underpaid staff - and yet somehow survived. The change of ownership in 1993 led to a massive improvement in quality and respectability which, despite the odd hiccup, continued unabated over 16 years. Out went the junk, in came the features.

So you now have a paper that has never before been in better shape. It is relevant, informative, clearly independent - what Greek publication can claim the same? - and arguably unrivalled in its niche market.

**Nicholas Paphitis**  
*Associated Press*

## A clear window to Greek society

IN THESE very tense times for independent journalism in Greece (and the world), it is imperative to continue publishing the *Athens News*, one of the clear and important windows to Greek society and the region. We journalists really hope that the *Athens News* will survive.

**Hristo Ivanovski**  
*Diplomatic Editor  
Dnevnik (daily newspaper), Skopje*

## Key to Greek-Turkish understanding

LIKE MANY people outside Greece I read the *Athens News* via the internet edition, and regard it as an invaluable source of information and independent critical comment. This is particularly important here in Turkey, where the media coverage on Greece is insufficient. Most people in Turkey, like myself, do not have access to the Greek language media, and the *Athens News* provides us with an essential source, which makes an important contribution to mutual understanding between the two countries. Hence, its closure would be a serious loss.

**William Hale**  
*Emeritus Professor, University of London,  
and Visiting Professor, Sabanci University,  
Istanbul*

## Calling a spade a spade

I HAVE BEEN reading the *Athens News* since I first came to Greece in 1961. What a tremendous improvement it has shown over the years! Today, I rate the newspaper very highly. John Psaropoulos doesn't mince words and calls a spade a spade - something which is much needed in today's world where we are fobbed off with half-truths and where vested interests are so intertwined that much of the media don't comment unfavourably when it is required. Ours is a world of "I'll scratch your back if you scratch my back" and "I'll turn a blind eye to your sins if you turn a blind eye to my sins". The world needs

a person like John to cut through the crap and say what needs to be said.

Being on pension and with only modest resources, I have cut out all my old subscriptions to newspapers and magazines and now depend entirely on the *Athens News* - that's how highly I rate the newspaper.

**David Willis**  
*Thessaloniki*

## Pledge money to save Athens News

I AM a senior executive in a US company who has spent significant amount of time in Athens since early 2002. During that entire time, your newspaper, the *Athens News*, has been my first - and preferred - source of news about what's going on in Greek politics and business. I recommend it to all my clients - and to my Greek friends and colleagues - and they all agree: *Athens News* is the best example of balanced, ethical, thorough, professional reporting in Greece, and is, in my view, the best newspaper Lambrakis publishes.

As a sign of my sincerity, I hereby pledge that I will give an additional \$300 (over and above my annual subscription) to the *Athens News* should you agree to delay the shutdown until January 2009. I am sure there are other dedicated readers like myself who would do the same if an appeal were made to them.

**Jay Creutz**  
*Vice-President, Transnational Venture  
Consultants, Inc*

## A very valuable informer

FOR ME as the Senior Anglican Chaplain to the Anglican Church in Greece the *Athens News* has proved to be almost an essential tool for my work among the Anglophone residents of Greece. It also greatly assists in my role as an interpreter of Greece to institutions in the UK and elsewhere.

Furthermore, the Anglican Church in Greece (which has eleven congregations throughout the country) has relied heavily on the *Athens News* to publish details of its activities and services nationwide. If the closure of the *Athens News* does occur, it would leave the Anglican Church in Greece bereft of virtually the only way in which it has been able to make contact with the widely dispersed Anglophone population of Greece.

The service and benefits the *Athens News* renders to the Anglophone population of Greece is truly incalculable and should not be judged simply on whether or not the *Athens News* realises an acceptable financial profit.

**Revd Canon Malcolm Bradshaw**  
*Senior Anglican Chaplain, Athens*

## Don't silence an essential voice

AS AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING resident of Greece for almost 30 years (22 of them in Athens), I have come to rely on the *Athens News* for its full, varied and impartial coverage of events throughout Greece. Under the editorship of John Psaropoulos, the paper has gone even further in providing intelligent critiques on the political and cultural issues of the day, oftentimes willing to cover stories too controversial for the mainstream Greek press.

If you shut this paper down, you will silence a voice that is essential to the lives of thousands in Athens and throughout Greece.

**Don Schofield**  
*Dean, Perrotis College, American Farm  
School, Thessaloniki*

## A national intellectual treasure

THE *ATHENS NEWS* is a national intellectual treasure, a social and political conscience, and an instrument of the free flow of ideas and debate that must not be silenced.

As a loyal reader of the *Athens News* for several decades, I know that the newspaper in its

present form is the indispensable weekly newspaper for English-language readers throughout Greece.

Jeopardising the future of a strong, popular, and vitally necessary publication denies Greece a powerful means of encouraging the well-informed and dynamic citizenship of a vital sector of the population, namely cosmopolitan members of the upper middle class who trust the journalistic integrity of the *Athens News*.

Responsible investigative reporting in government and political issues; digging behind the scenes in the Greek and international corporate world; exploring the complex, fraught world of education; devotion to making the tough issues of Greek society – the plight of refugees and the struggle of immigrants to assimilate and contribute to the growth of the Greek economy, for example - these things are found nowhere else in the Anglophone press.

Greece needs pluralism to survive as a democracy. Thousands of readers from the British, Canadian, Australian, American, Philippine, and other communities of this country are empowered to be informed, socially aware, and active citizens and residents by reading the *Athens News*.

**Randall Warner**  
Communications Manager, American Farm School, Thessaloniki

## A beacon of good writing

**I HAVE BEEN** a fan of the newspaper since the 1980s and have bought a copy every week for the last seven years that I have lived in Greece. It is a beacon of good writing and provides a vital window on Greece not only for visitors and expatriots but for many Greeks, who wish to read a serious, well-written, politically balanced paper.

**Sofka Zinovieff**  
Athens

## Kick-starting the weekend

**MANY** of the undersigned have been in Athens since the 1970s and over the years have seen many English-language newspapers come and go. Yet the *Athens News* survived, a constant voice reaching out to the foreign community throughout Greece. In fact the weekend doesn't start until one has purchased the Friday copy!

**D M Atherton, R T Burbidge, A Reid, E J Carras, S Robinson, J Vossou, V Panayotopoulou, A Sidiropoulou, S Whitaker (Bring back Churchopoulos!), J Chalikiopoulou, A Consolas, M Nikitakis, S Efstathiadis, S Sthathatos, P Zinelli, J Whitehead, J Sideris, J Owen, S Pergamalis, V Moussoyianni, J Korakaki, J Walter, L Manousakis, G Rackham, M Koralli**  
Members of Staff, Champion School

## Towering above the rest

**THE ATHENS NEWS** is an institution both in Greece and abroad, and it is well respected for its journalistic integrity among English speakers and Greeks alike. The Thessaloniki Organisation for Women's Employment & Resources (TOWER), a support network for professional women from around the world based in Thessaloniki, considers it to be an invaluable source of information for its members.

**Monika Nagy**  
President of TOWER

## Consulted by politicians

**WHEN** discussing Greek journalism with people abroad, I note they are always familiar with the name of the *Athens News*, though they might be hazy of others. I will offer one telling illustration of this. A few years ago I interviewed Mark Leonard (Overseas Political Advisor to Tony

Blair) at the British Embassy. One of the questions asked was where he obtained the information he used to brief the prime minister. He answered that it generally came from embassies and local newspapers. I then pressed the point and asked if he was responsible for advice on Greek affairs. He answered affirmatively, telling me he had the *Athens News* delivered to his office. I further asked if he thought it wise to rely on a newspaper for serious political advice; and was told that he considered it a very well-balanced publication giving him most of what he needed. In addition, he added, it was quicker to read the condensed version of all points of view (not just partisan) in English, in a paper he trusted, than arrange for the translation of a batch of other Greek newspapers.

In addition to this, I can add that former French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing was equally knowledgeable and complimentary about the paper at our last interview.

The *Athens News* has served the needs of a relatively wide community. No other local paper written in English has successfully managed this, though many have tried over the years.

**Andrew Leech**  
Director, British School of Languages  
Faculty of Journalism & Communications,  
Deree College

## Inspiring

**THE ATHENS NEWS** has been one of the great inspirational standard bearers of good journalism. I have been proud of its contents, its standards, its journalists and its journalism. It is an integral part of the Greece I know and love, the country I regard as my second home. The *Athens News* must be saved.

**(Revd Canon) Patrick Comerford**  
Dublin, Ireland

## A disaster for the whole community

**IT WOULD** be no exaggeration to describe a closure of the *Athens News* as a disaster for the English- and even the Greek-reading community of Athens which appreciates serious and reliable news in a comprehensive and matter-of-fact form which respects the reader who cares about what matters and does not use newspapers to kill his time but to save it.

**Dr Constance Tagopoulos**  
University of Indianapolis, Athens Campus

## The finest English-language newspaper in Greece

**WE ARE** prominent Greek Americans who have been subscribing to this newspaper for years and it, in our humble opinion, is the finest English-language newspaper in Greece. Its coverage of news events are fair and balanced and its content is diverse and reflects the glory of Greece in its articles of art, Greek travel, Greek food, Greek history and many more.

**Christos Papoutsy**  
Hellenic Communication Service

## Refreshingly independent

**I AM DISMAYED** that a paper of the quality, breadth and verve such as characterise the *Athens News* should risk closure. It is essential reading for me whenever I am in Greece! It is balanced, informed and refreshingly independent and idiosyncratic in its voice.

**Colin Fraser**  
Senior Tutor for Admissions  
Marlborough College, England

## Vital link

**QUITE** apart from the historical significance of

the paper, with the large number of English-speakers living in Greece, the *Athens News* still has a tremendously significant role to play in providing a vital link between the foreign community in the country and the people of Greece. I know from personal experience. When I lived in Greece (2001-2002), I found it to be an enormously important source of information and views on Greek politics, society and culture for the foreign community living in the city.

**Dr James Ker-Lindsay**  
IAA Defence Analysis Institute Senior Research Fellow  
Hellenic Observatory  
London School of Economics and Political Science

## No bluster

**THE ATHENS NEWS** has the courage to speak independently, intelligently, and informatively on all aspects of Greek life and culture. I have learned much and benefited much. I have used its classified advertisements; I have used its schedules of events, appreciated its editorials, and learned from its pieces on science, the arts, and Greek history.

The *Athens News* is a source of intelligence in a world dominated by panic and bluster. It is a voice of reason in the chaotic world of Greek and international politics. This is a superior product.

**Daniel B Levine, PhD**  
Professor of Classical Studies  
University of Arkansas

## Quality of writing excellent

**I HAVE** been reading *Athens News* for nearly four decades. The quality of writing is excellent and presentation of news is both measured and accurate. I have known for a long time I can rely on the *Athens News* for well-researched information on events Athenian.

**Professor Gregory Gregoriadis**  
Northwood, Middlesex, United Kingdom

## A different standard

**I READ** the *Athens News*, not because it is in English - I read Greek newspapers every day - but because it provides a different standard of reporting and commentary from the mainstream Greek press, providing the reader with the necessary background information to make sense of current news stories. I wish you every success in your endeavour to find an alternative publisher.

**Dr Susannah Verney**  
Department of Political Science & Public Administration  
University of Athens

## A point of reference for all

**THE ATHENS NEWS** has always been a focal point of reference for expats living, not only in Athens, but all over Greece. When we were talking amongst ourselves, we would always ask "Where did you find out about it?" "From the *Athens News*" was always the answer!!

**Ethel Martis**  
Chieftain, St Andrew's Society of Athens

## Invaluable to charity organisations

**THE PROSPECTIVE** closure of the *Athens News* will come as a devastating blow not just to its regular readership but to all the charity organisations like ours - the Caritas Athens Refugee Programme - for whom it has been a lifeline in terms of volunteers and an acutely important reporting source relating to the plight of immigrants all over Greece. The inclusion of our volunteer plea in the community section over the last several years has enabled us to access a wide range of help both in the foreign and in the Greek community for our refugee centre in

Omonia where we feed, clothe and advise over 230 people a day. Furthermore, the continuous coverage of immigration issues has simplified the process of staying up-to-date and in touch for those of us involved in the refugee programme.

I do not know of an alternative comprehensive source which arrives punctually at my door every Friday and tells me everything that's going on.

**Laura Panayotou**  
Committee of the Caritas Athens Refugee Programme

## Strong anti-Junta position

**AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING** newspaper in Athens of the calibre of the *Athens News* is needed now more than ever in the past. I remember the strong position the *Athens News* took against the Junta. Founding editor Yannis Horn was jailed for his stance and ended up in the same prison as I.

**Prof Antonis Liakos**  
Dept of History and Archaeology,  
University of Athens

## You will overcome!

**YOU WILL** overcome! Carry on your good work. *Na ta ekatostiset!*

**Prof Hagen Fleischer**  
Dept of History and Archaeology,  
University of Athens

## Unsurpassed in its coverage

**I SERVED** as assistant news editor on the old Paris Edition of the *New York Herald Tribune* (now the *International Herald Tribune*) and for years was a contract writer for the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Chicago Tribune*. As a reader, I consider the *Athens News* unsurpassed in its coverage of Greek political and social news, the arts and entertainment - everything I need in a newspaper. The paper stands, in my view, head and shoulders above the competition in its depth and variety of reporting. Layout design and photo reproduction have been superlative, as good or better than anything I've seen in big US dailies like the *New York Times*.

**Alan Littell**  
New York, NY

## Culturally poorer without you

**I LIVED IN** Greece for 20 years, as a teacher and then vice-president of Anatolia College (1967-73 and 1978-83) and then as president of the American Farm School (1989-1999) in Thessaloniki. Greece will be a culturally poorer, less diverse, and less truly cosmopolitan country without the *Athens News*.

**George Draper**

## Global readership

**LIKE MANY** of my colleagues across the US, I was stunned to learn of the possibility that you may shut down *Athens News*, the most important source of information and opinion from the Greek world available in the English language today. The editor has successfully transformed a modest local publication into a weekly newspaper with a global readership. Recent events in the world only make it more important that the perspectives found in the *Athens News* continue to be widely circulated.

**Jonathan Scott Lee**  
Professor of Philosophy  
Colorado College, USA

## Our paper!

**THE LAMBRAKIS PRESS** may own the newspaper, but it does not belong to it. It belongs to us, its readership. We are a large and diffuse community of residents, tourists, immigrants, lovers of Greece who live abroad, who rely on the *Athens News* for all kinds of information that

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nowhere else is presented so conveniently and succinctly. This is no ordinary newspaper; rather it is a guide to living in this often contradictory country. It provides services that no Greek and no foreign publications come close to offering and is an invaluable resource that should be subsidized rather than buried alive. Do not be misled. The competition is no substitute for the *Athens News*, which has survived competition before.

**Diana Farr Louis**  
*Kitissia*

## More than just a paper

**THE ATHENS NEWS** is more than just a paper; it is an institution. It has served many English-speaking residents and in particular the millions of English-speaking diaspora across the globe since the 1950s. As the editor of the English Edition of *Neos Kosmos*, Australia's leading Greek paper, I believe it would be a cultural, political and social loss not to allow the *Athens News* to continue.

**Fotis Kapetopoulos**  
*Editor*  
*Neos Kosmos English Edition*  
*Melbourne, Australia*

## A mission in Greece

**THE ATHENS NEWS** is held in high esteem by its readers. It clearly represents the best of the Greek press and performs an invaluable service to those that do not read Greek or prefer to read about Greece in well-written and edited English. In this era of globalisation, the internet, and the increasing reach of the English language, this is a particularly important service rising to the level of a mission in Greece.

**Serge Hadji**  
*New York Bar*

## Invaluable

**I WRITE THIS** on behalf of the 71 University of Washington students who have travelled to Greece these past four years to conduct original research there and who have used the *Athens News* not only as their main source for conducting content analysis, but as a way to better understand Greece and Greek culture.

Here is an English-language Greek newspaper that is intelligent, well-written, thoughtful, engaging and wonderfully free of cant. The *Athens News* can be invaluable in researching Greek media and politics. Further, its emphasis on environmentalism seemed foresightful and engaging. The newspaper is one of those gems that bring intellectual vitality and thoughtfulness to life. I cannot imagine Athens without it.

**Dr Taso G Lagos**  
*University of Washington*

## Regional importance

**THOSE** of us living in the region look to the *Athens News* for coverage of events which are significant, but sometimes escape the attention of the European or global media. The *Athens News* provides coverage which is crucial to understanding events in the Balkans and Asia Minor.

**Fred C. Reece**  
*Koc University*  
*Istanbul, Turkey*

## Stay this death sentence

**COULD** it be that the *Athens News* has become too "independent" at a time when the Greek mass media in general has lost its objectivity in favour of "political" subjectivity?

As an expatriate Greek who has come to rely on the *Athens News* for concise and unbiased coverage of most spheres of Greek life that affect expatriates and visitors alike, whether living permanently or not in Greece, I would ask you

on behalf of myself and my British colleagues with whom I work, to stay this very draconian and undeserved death sentence and give the victim a chance to survive.

**John Belousis, MD**  
*Independent Average Adjusters Ltd, Athens*

## Demise would be a loss

**ON BEHALF** of all the members (over 2,500) of the British Graduate Society as well as the many "friends of the BGS", I would like to say that we feel the *Athens News* plays an important role in Greek society with its independent approach in presenting news, analyses and topics of interest. In the last few years we have seen a great improvement both in content and quality. We should particularly mention areas of community affairs, education, cultural activities and, most importantly, the environment.

**Vassilis Zotos**  
*President, British Graduates Society, Athens*

## Let's not sacrifice it!

**THE ATHENS NEWS** is an indispensable vehicle of information flow to all foreigners in Greece. It has served their needs for so many years. Let's not sacrifice it; let's give it the time needed to find solutions for survival.

**Rea Samara**  
*Executive Public Relations Director*  
*Anatolia College/ACT, Thessaloniki*

## Enhanced Lambrakis

**THE ATHENS NEWS** is now one of the best edited newspapers in Greece, consistently exhibiting standards of journalism that enhanced the reputation of the Lambrakis press. Its occupation of this journalistic space is all the more remarkable given its paucity of resources and staff. Any journal with a readership so loyal, a staff so dedicated and hard working, that has been a consistent feature of the Greek print scene for so many decades, surely deserves the time to find a path to survival.

**Jerry Goldstein**  
*Athens*

## A veteran reader speaks out

**THE ATHENS News** is beyond just being an English-language newspaper. It is *essential* to the vast English-speaking part of Greece... and other countries. Rather than close it down, please try to do more editing, cut costs, add more ads, find more kiosks to carry it, etc. I still keep the edition when the Junta ended and Karamanlis returned from France. Historical!

**Arminio Lozzi**  
*Athens*

## A window for the diaspora

**THE GREEK** diaspora desperately needs an outlet to express its concerns and to also to better understand the realities that Greeks face today. The *Athens News* acts as a bridge to the Greeks abroad. Closing this newspaper would be counterproductive to advancing the Greek position on a number of international issues such as Fyrom and the Cyprus problem. Many non-Greeks are bombarded with misinformation about Greek issues by news sources such as the BBC and CNN. Without an English language newspaper originating from Greece, news stories about Greece get distorted in the foreign press.

**Theodosios Lagakos**  
*Toronto, Canada*

## Bulwark against infotainment

**NO COMMUNITY** can call itself civilised which does not support a newspaper like the *Athens News*, nor can any business which lets it go under call itself a company believing in journalism. The newspaper has long been a bulwark against the

commercialised infotainment that passes as news.

Under the leadership of John Psaropoulos, the *Athens News* has been a beacon of integrity and model for any news-gathering organisation in any country in the world. It is especially needed in Greece, where much of the media operates in murky conditions, and it stands almost alone in pursuing the truth wherever it lies. Perhaps that's part of the problem, in that the *Athens News* has never flinched when it comes to going after sacred cows and any publisher would be proud to have it as the flagship of their media empire.

**Andy Dabilis**  
*Athens*

## Please do not give up

**AS A FORMER** editor of the *Athens News* for a brief 10 months in 1972, I believe the *Athens News* has played an important part in the lives of foreign residents in Athens for almost 57 years, and continues to be a publication which grows and improves, especially so now that it is a weekly. The Lambrakis Foundation has done wonderful work in making the paper ever more relevant to the community it serves.

**Rosemary Donnelly**  
*Programme Director, Athens Centre*

## Closure will leave no alternative

**THE ATHENS NEWS** has been, for the past 15 years, my source to understand the complex Greek news, make connections between the present and the past, learn of community events, read about the latest movie releases, and laugh with the weekly columns. I recently purchased the competition and was comforted by the fact that it posed no threat to the *Athens News*.

**Cindy Camatsos**  
*Secretary, Oxford University Alumni*  
*Association of Greece*

## A loss to immigrants and others

**I GOT MY** start in journalism at the *Athens News* in 2002-2003, when I was hired as an editorial assistant and began contributing book reviews there. I have since gone on to work for the *New York Times*. As a journalist, I believe the *Athens News* has contributed valuable reporting on environmental and human rights issues, namely the treatment of immigrants on Greek soil, in recent years. Closing down the paper would therefore be a loss not only for English speakers, but to all immigrants to your country.

**Annie Correal**  
*Metro section, New York Times*

## Perceptive and intelligent

**THIS IS NOT** an age in which any tradition has an automatic right to continue, but the present direction of the paper by John Psaropoulos seems to me perceptive and intelligent, and the paper seems to me to fill a niche I would hate to see abandoned. Greece is now, more perhaps than at any time since the ancient period, uniquely positioned between the superpower(s) and the emerging nations, between the West and the East, and between the traditional and the entrepreneurial. The *Athens News* is deeply literate in both English and Greek, and it can speak to Anglophones and world citizens in a humane way. The editor should be encouraged to take his vision for the paper to other investors.

**Professor Owen Cramer**  
*Classics Department, Colorado College*

## A staple of my reading life

**THE ATHENS NEWS** has become a major weekly newspaper under the able editorship of John Psaropoulos. This is a paper I have known since 1980. In recent years it has become one of the better sources of information and opinion not only about Greece, but also about the region and

the world. From its level-headed editorials to its political, social and arts coverage, the *Athens News* has become a staple of my reading life. I have had the honour of writing reviews for the paper on occasion, and consider its editors among the best in the English-speaking world.

**David Mason**  
*Professor of English, Colorado College*

## Role in democracy

**AS A JOURNALIST** of six decades in the United States, I am aware of how the expression of independent views in the US has been seriously diminished in this country. I urge you to keep alive an expression of independent spirit long recognised as part of the creation of democracy by Greece.

**George Beres**  
*Former Executive Director of the Hellenic*  
*Foundation, Chicago*

## Followed by diaspora and philhellenes

**THE ATHENS NEWS** is a newspaper that is not only followed in Greece but also by a substantial Greek community overseas as well as philhellenes through out the world. I am sure that with imagination and with skill the paper can develop an attractive marketing and business plan for its online content and its marketing exposure abroad that will encourage potential investors to give their support.

**Christos Stoforopoulos**  
*Athens*

## Valued for journalistic integrity

**AS COORDINATOR** of the British Business Group in Thessaloniki, I know that many of our members also read the *Athens News* and value it for the journalistic integrity with which news is portrayed. Without it, I am sure many of us would be living in Greece without the ability to have such an understanding of the daily events affecting our lives.

**Malcolm Wright**  
*British Business Group, Thessaloniki*

## Part of Greek cultural fabric

**THE ATHENS NEWS** is an important part of the cultural fabric of Greece: it is widely read by those of us living here, by visiting tourists as well as by diaspora Greeks around the world who want to keep in touch. Over the years it has made an immense contribution to the intellectual life of the country and this has been enhanced in recent years by the wide range of books which have been published under its name.

**Nigel Copage**  
*Tyros*

## Unbiased

**WHATEVER** IS necessary to keep *Athens News* circulating, please do. I can't imagine continuing to live in this country without the unbiased take on the news provided by your excellent paper.

**Alice Eppinga**  
*Vasilika*

## Most important Greek information channel

**I HAVE BEEN** a regular reader of the *Athens News* for many years now. It is a newspaper that brings unpartisan and unbiased news on the most important topics of

Greek society. I think *Athens News* is a high quality newspaper and it is my most important information channel with Greek society.

**Frank Lubbers**  
*Exhibition Organiser/Art Adviser*  
*Brussels, Belgium*

## Not just for English speakers

**IN A LARGE**, multicultural and aspiring cosmopolitan city like Athens, it is imperative that there exists a high-quality, English-speaking newspaper which serves the foreign community that calls Athens home. The *Athens News* is unique in this respect. The *Athens News* does not only serve non-Greek speakers. I am a Greek who separates my time between Athens and Brussels, and the only Greek-published newspaper I regularly read is the *Athens News* because it offers independent, intelligent, reliable and critical views of current affairs in Greece and abroad, as well as informed overviews of critical issues in Greece such as the environment and education, which are so lacking in a large part of the mainstream press.

At a time when the media in Greece have become increasingly “yellow”, populist and subservient to political interests, this independent, steadfast position is a rarity.

**Katerina Gregos**  
Brussels, Belgium

## UNHCR backs Athens News

**ΚΑΘΩΣ** αυτή τη στιγμή δεν κυκλοφορεί στην Ελλάδα άλλη εβδομαδιαία αγγλόφωνη έκδοση ευρείας κυκλοφορίας που να παρουσιάζει συνοπτικά την επικαιρότητα, θεωρώ ότι η αναστολή της *Athens News* θα δημιουργούσε «κενό» στην ενημέρωση. Ιδιαίτερα, πιστεύουμε ότι οι πρόσφυγες, οι αιτούντες άσυλο και οι μετανάστες που διαμένουν στην Ελλάδα θα στερούντο ένα χρήσιμο και προσιτό μέσο ενημέρωσης πάνω σε θέματα ζωτικής σημασίας για τους ίδιους, όπως νέες νομοθετικές ρυθμίσεις, κοινωνικά/εργασιακά δικαιώματα, μαθήματα Ελληνικών, κτλ.

**Ketty Kehayoiyou**  
Public Information Officer,  
United Nations High Commissioner for  
Refugees (UNHCR)

## A valuable source

**WE HAVE** found the *Athens News* to be a useful and unbiased source of information. For many of our members it has also proved to be a valuable source of authentic material for teaching purposes.

**Executive Board**  
Tesol Macedonia-Thrace

## Making Athens home

**I’VE BEEN** living in Athens on and off since 1976, and the *Athens News* has always been very important on different matters. When my father was here on visits from my native Finland, he used to read it on regular basis to learn what was going on around the world, since he did not understand any Greek. It has helped me find English teachers for my son or English-speaking nannies for friends. Without the *Athens News*, foreigners in Athens, whether living here permanently or not, would lose that important ‘liaison’ that makes Athens a home for them.

**Maarit Willberg-Bollanos**  
Athens

## Reflection of a nation

**NEWSPAPERS** and magazines are the reflection of the way of living and thinking of a nation. That’s why it’s so interesting to read them when you are abroad, and why it takes some time to get used to them. In the case of the *Athens News*, we have the same situation but in a bit different way. It’s a small newspaper for a small part of the community. It reflects the will of its readers to know and understand properly what’s going on here.

**Marina Verfaillie**  
Belgian citizen,  
Leonidio, Arkadia

## Objective, informed

**I HAVE** personally come to appreciate the nature and extent of the coverage of the weekly newspaper that presents news in an objective way and comment in an informed and balanced manner.

I wish you every success in your efforts to find a solution that will avoid the demise of a very fine publication.

**Antoin Mac Unfraidh**  
Ambassador of Ireland

## An important role

**I AM WRITING** to appeal that the *Athens News* should be given due time to find a new investor. I would like to emphasise that it plays an important role in providing English-speaking readers with news and information. I highly value the role of the *Athens News* and hope that it will continue to exist.

**Takanori Kitamura**  
Ambassador of Japan

## A valuable source

**THE UNDERSIGNED** and other members of the staff of this embassy would certainly very much regret the disappearance of a weekly that they consider to be a very valuable source of information for readers in Greece not able to read fluently Greek language newspapers.

Wishing *Athens News* all the best.

**Paul Koller-Hauser**  
Ambassador of Switzerland

## Understanding and interpretation

**THE ATHENS NEWS** for me has always been a fundamental part of the life of the city. Part of the work of an Ambassador, in addition to all the bilateral and multilateral work of an Embassy, is to convey back to one’s own government a sense of what is happening in another country: the rationale behind the policies, the trends behind the events, the people behind the names and faces. In a sense the *Athens News* does something similar for its readers: offering an understanding and interpretation of Greek reality and Greek priorities to its English-speaking readership. It is always good to know that others are working in the same vineyard, to know them personally, and to learn from them.

In addition, I have long appreciated the paper’s concern for environmental and welfare issues.

So, to end with a nautical metaphor suitable to Greece, I wish the good ship *Athens News*, and above all those who sail in her, the very best of luck.

**Sir David Madden**  
British Ambassador, 1999-2004

## A loss for Greece

**I HAVE BEEN** a reader of the *Athens News* for many years and believe that it would be a sad thing for Greece if it disappeared. I hope that efforts to save the newspaper will be successful.

**Sir Michael Llewellyn Smith**  
Historian  
British Ambassador, 1996-1999

## Independent coverage

**THERE IS** nothing quite like picking up a newspaper for a good read of topical events in Greece over a cup of tea at the weekend. The *Athens News* has fulfilled that role for me over the past 10 years. Greece needs continued independent editorial coverage to keep the foreign community informed.

**Gerald Brown**  
Webmaster, *BritsinCrete.net*

## A welcome relief

**AS A** foreigner living in Greece, I know all too well how essential it is to have access to information in your native language. When I arrived in Athens, I didn’t really know how things worked here, so the fact that there was an English-language newspaper published every week which provided me with the information I needed was a welcome relief. It even helped me to find a job!

**Katharine Massey**  
Kallithea

## Light at a dark time

**I HAVE** been a faithful reader of this newspaper since I first visited Greece in 1968, during the military junta, when that newspaper was, for the foreign, English-speaking community here, our primary source of information - a beacon for news in a very dark period of Greek history. I will honestly admit that during the years when Yannis Horn was the publisher, the quality of the language left something to be desired. It has since become a highly professional publication featuring timely, interesting and pertinent articles by talented writers. As an English teacher, I often use articles from the *Athens News* in my lessons, and I encourage my students to buy and read the newspaper to improve their English. Over the years I have seen numerous other English language publications here come and go. The *Athens News* has always endured. It’s an Athens institution, a constant in this constantly changing city.

**Lia Coulouris**  
Athens

## A number one pick

**I AM A** native English speaker having lived previously in Austria, Hungary, and Switzerland. I have always sought out the local English-language newspaper as a way to connect to my new community. I arrived in Athens this summer and immediately picked up a copy of the *Athens News*. It is, by far, the best publication of its kind that I have experienced. I only wish it came out every day!

**Leslie Murray**  
Varkiza

## Putting the paper to good use

**I WORK** in Italy, as well as Greece, and I never ever miss a copy of the *Athens News* when I am out of the country. I know that my local newspaper vendor has my copy waiting for me. I have kept and used many cuttings from the paper over the years for both the wonderful restaurant reviews and also the social and political issues relating to our country of residence.

**Michael Matthew Curran**  
Athens

## Representing readers’ needs

**I FIRST** read an issue of the *Athens News* in the early 1970s. At that time it was a fairly low-quality newspaper. However, in recent years it has become a top-quality newspaper, one that the English-speaking community in Athens not only enjoys reading but one which we heavily rely on for its excellent coverage of issues important to our survival here: new legal requirements for visas, tax information, guides to buying properties in Greece and running a business here, and analysis of Greek politics and economics - in general, where to find out about the multitude of essential things an expatriate living here needs to know. We also find excellent book reviews, profiles, arts, humour, music and cinema reviews. I personally feel strong loyalty to the *Athens News*, which has made such great strides in representing our needs in recent years.

**Alan Massie**  
Athens

## A time for change

**THERE IS**, definitely, a need for an independent English-language newspaper to serve the ever-growing and diverse English-speaking population in Greece. Yours is an inclusive paper that looks beyond the confines of class and nationality, and beyond the ethnocentrism of Athens, that appeals to a reader looking for information, lively comment and analysis.

The paper has had an illustrious history but, perhaps, now is the time for change and reassessment of exactly who its new audience could be, whilst retaining its loyal readership. The content is interesting: it was certainly the first place I looked when I arrived here for impartial political and economic analysis, but the format does look a tad tired and occasionally the writing is a little bland.

**Lauren Walker**

## Balanced analysis

**THE ATHENS NEWS** has been that for what seems like forever. I have been living in a Peloponnesian village for nearly 30 years, and there have been times when it was just the thought of the *Athens News* that got me through the week. I am not alone; the *Athens News* has helped many, many people over many, many years. It has also provided good coverage of current affairs, balanced analysis and interesting commentary on the culture. It evolved from humble but aspirant beginnings to the worthy publication that it is today.

**Gillian Bouras**  
Australian author  
Arfara, Kalamata

## No angst or drama

**I APPRECIATE** that the *Athens News* may not be a huge profit-making paper and is mainly read by English-speaking residents of Greece, but you should be proud of its qualities. The reporting is top quality without angst or drama, which is unusual these days. It keeps people like myself informed on what’s going on around the world and in Greece. I’m sorry to say that after living in Crete for four years, I am still struggling with the Greek language. The *Athens News* is a lifeline for myself as I’m sure it is for many others.

**Ruth and John Pople-Crump**  
Hania, Crete

## A weekly tradition

**FROM THE** late 1970s to mid-1980s, I worked for a Greek cruiseline and remember fondly buying the *Athens News* at each Greek port of call and reading it over a cup of coffee. Then, in 1984, after making Athens my home, I continued to read the *Athens News* daily. When it became a weekly publication, I was disappointed that I had to wait a week to read the paper over my coffee, but learn to wait I did.

It is still one of the first things I do on a Friday morning. I go to the bakery and on my way pick up my copy of the *Athens News*, return home, pour myself a cup of coffee and see what’s happening in the country I call home. It is the one personal way that an English-speaking person can learn of local current events, international news, opinions, reviews, advice etc.

**Chantal Kielich Kakoliris**  
Athens

## A part of lives

**WE HAVE** only lived in Crete for two years, but the *Athens News* has become a part of our lives. Friday is the one day we buy a newspaper, and you meet all our needs with your take on world and local news, unbiased reporting not

influenced by party politics or a newspaper owner looking for favours from the government of the day. I have given up on the English papers because, with the exception of the very few, they report in a very biased way.

**John and Pat Wade**  
Horafakia, Crete

## Acerbic reporting

I WAS privileged to work for the newspaper for only a few weeks in 1985 (when I first came to this country) alongside its former owner and founder Yannis Horn. For more than half a century, the paper informed and entertained not only visitors to these shores but also many native Greeks who enjoyed its often acerbic style of reporting.

**Makki Marseilles**

## A reminder of good times

WE WERE residents for three years in Kifisia in the late 1970s; the *Athens News* was our lifeline to English news, events and schedules in Greece. We have returned the last three years and our first purchase has been the current edition of the *Athens News*. We still have several issues that were published when we lived in Greece, reminding us of the special years spent living among the wonderful Greek people.

**Mr and Mrs Dale Brown**  
Denver, Colorado, US

## Centre point for foreigners

THE *ATHENS NEWS* galvanises the English-speaking population and is a centre point for foreigners to understand the politics, culture, current affairs and general living in Athens. It opens up Athens in a way that no other website, magazine or newsletter could. It is a platform for not just the expat community, but also tourists as well as Greeks who have spent years living outside the country.

**Prue Robinson**  
Australian citizen living and working in Greece

## Helping job seekers

SINCE COMING to Greece in 1991, the *Athens News* has proved a faithful, weekly companion during my years here.

Particularly in the early stages of settling into life in Greece, the *Athens News* is of vital importance to newcomers who are trying to find their feet. The fact that a main part of the paper concentrates on Greek news and what is happening in our adoptive country means that non-Greek speakers have the opportunity to learn about issues that directly affect them. I would also like to mention that it was through the employment section in the *Athens News* that I found the various jobs that I have done during my years in Greece.

**Fiona McPolin**  
Athens

## An objective view

I AM a foreigner married to a Greek and the *Athens News* has been a clear and concise source on the happenings in Greece. The newspaper also presents an objective view on Greek politics in comparison to the majority of Greek newspapers; my husband, in fact, refers to the *Athens News* regularly as a trustworthy source. As part of a global economy, Greece hosts increasingly more international people and the *Athens News* is required to fill the market need for presenting news facts to this group of people.

**Sinead McGrath**  
Athens

## Value for money

I HAVE been a reader of this newspaper since 1978, when I first arrived in Greece, at which time it was a daily. In those early days, though badly proofread and the target of many disparaging remarks, it was an absolute lifeline for non-Greek speakers, and we were truly grateful for its existence.

Now this weekly, quality newspaper is terrific value for money. For me, personally, it is my vital source of information - not just for news, but for information as to what's on and happening, whether it be TV, theatres, galleries etc, as well as where to find information for travel, utilities, pharmacies, hospitals etc.

**Diane Drymoussi**  
Athens

## Up for praise and criticism

I WAS a foreign university student in Athens in 1981 when I was first introduced to the *Athens News*. The paper, which was a daily at the time, was my only source of international news and a comfortable relief from my college's sociology (my field) textbooks.

Access to information was even more difficult for me when I did summer jobs on the islands as a hotel receptionist. Therefore, every morning after my night shifts at the hotel, I would get on my bike, ride to the shop and buy a copy of the *Athens News*.

Today I have many better means of communication and obtaining information. The world is smaller and the channels and sources of news are enormous. But on Friday mornings I go to the nearest news-stand, have a look around loads of publications and then buy a newspaper. And the newspaper is the *Athens News*.

My job in Greece brings me into contact with many foreigners. We talk about the paper, criticise it, analyse the news, disagree or praise its content and set up and try our knowledge on the local statistics we learn from its articles.

**Faris Nejad**

## Filling a niche

I FIRST visited Greece in 1956 and have been returned many times since - often in the capacity of author of guidebooks to various regions of Greece. I have lived there for extended periods, travelled widely, even had a child born there. And during all those years, I have relied on the *Athens News* for keeping me informed - most especially of what was going on in Greece that would be of interest to Americans, the British and the many other foreigners who are comfortable with the English language. There is really no other publication that fills quite the same niche.

**John S Bowman**

## Favourite writers

I LOVE the *Athens News* and have been a regular reader for years. Twenty-five years ago when I first came to Greece and for years after in those pre-internet days it was an absolute lifeline. And I have continued to buy the paper most weeks. My personal favourite writer is Penny Turner, intrepid horsewoman and absolute gem of a writer. Many of my friends in the UK log on to the site to read her articles. And she is not the only one, every week there is something to stir discussion.

**Susan Leaver**  
Kozani

## A haven of sanity

I HAVE FOUND the newspaper to be a haven of sanity, sensible comment and good

cultural interests in an otherwise mad and vulgar world.

**Ed Emery**  
Cambridge, UK

## Connecting communities

AS A reader of the newspaper for more than 45 years, I remember when it was a flawed funny daily, full of grammar mistakes and malapropisms, definitely amateur but nevertheless a lifeline to what was happening in Greece and the rest of the world before I could speak or read Greek. And it has remained throughout the years a vital connection to both Greek and expat communities. John Psaropoulos, whose sharp editorials are full of insights, has turned the *Athens News* into a real newspaper, a vehicle that not only disseminates news and events, but stimulates thought, provides diversions and supports the immigrant community. The local competition just doesn't have what it takes.

**Laurel Mantzaris**

## Teaching with the Athens News

I SAVE my copies of the *Athens News* for visitors from abroad. I use its articles in my newsletters and for English lessons with Greek bankers, businessmen, academics and adult pupils in general. It is an indispensable source of wide-ranging information for more than the foreign community and Greeks abroad.

**Doolie Sloman**  
Athens

## Informing and enlightening

I AM a Greek American who lives in Greece about six months of a year. While thoroughly acclimated and familiar with topical events and the general state of things, I owe a good deal of those impressions to the excellent coverage of current events by the *Athens News*. The objective, reasoned and lucid way in which the paper presents the events of the week is a credit to the Greek press in general, an establishment, unfortunately, that at times is shrill and partisan. The paper's balanced coverage, coupled with a panorama of events ranging from cultural to political developments, is an example of how objective press should inform and enlighten its readership.

**Ted Caris**  
Washington, DC, and Athens

## Your voice

THE INTERNATIONAL community here in Thessaloniki, the forgotten community in the forgotten city, have been served by the *Athens News*, a newspaper of quality, for two decades and feel that this "our" newspaper has been and is "our voice" in times of need, accommodating us by featuring many members of our community as well as the many projects worthy of a national audience - both the international and national community in Greece - that only the *Athens News* has brought and can bring us. It has also been our point of contact with the rest of Greece.

**Helen Krystallis**  
Thessaloniki

## Replacing the New York Times

MY FAVOURITE day of the week is Friday, the day the *Athens News* is available! As an English-speaking resident, the *Athens News* is my lifeline to Greece. I read it for many reasons. It is carried in my bag for the week until the new edition on Friday. Since my relocation here from New York, the *New York Times* has been replaced with the *Athens News*.

**Deborah Haile**

## An invaluable tool

IN ALL THE years I have lived as an expat in Greece, the *Athens News* has been my primary source of information. It has kept me informed of important political decisions that may affect my life and livelihood, explained how to navigate the complexities of various government departments, entertained me with interesting articles, let me know what time the boat leaves (or that it may not leave), and by keeping me up to date on world affairs been a lifeline to the outside world. In short, it has been an invaluable tool that has helped me build a life in Greece.

**Margot McPherson-Balanos**  
Athens

## In its own league

MY FRIENDS and I use the *Athens News* as a source of discussion topics in Kefalonia. For a relative newcomer to Greece, who has not yet managed to overcome the challenges of the Greek language, I have found your paper invaluable in keeping me abreast of Greek politics, environmental issues, sport and just everyday problems that my Greek friends may be facing. I have tried the competition and, quite frankly, it is not in the same league (especially the crossword).

To all members of staff, I say thank you for keeping me informed of everyday Greek life.

**Paul Northcott**  
Kefalonia

## A serious weekly

THE *ATHENS NEWS* has been transformed over time from being in its early years a quaintly comical English-language daily, read mainly for a chuckle at the misprints, into what is, under its present editorial team, a serious weekly digest of world events as they affect Greece. It also provides comprehensive reporting of national news and matters of substance together with informed comment from seasoned observers, as well as coverage of cultural and sporting events up and down the country. In short it is required reading for foreign residents and visitors whose knowledge of Greek is limited, as it is the only comprehensive and readily accessible source of information with a Greek focus.

**Colin Wright**  
Athens

## A short memory

WHEN I first came to Athens, the *Athens News* was my daily joy. Every morning I would go and get my packet of fags and the *Athens News*. Every day it seemed the same, but I didn't care. I have a short memory.

**Ciaran Watson**  
Thisseio

## Unique, journalistic voice

ΑΠΟΤΕΛΕΙ, άλλωστε, κοινό μυστικό ότι μέσα από τη συνεχή αναβάθμιση του περιεχομένου της η *Athens News* προσφέρει χρόνια τώρα μια ψύχραιμη και πλουραλιστική ματιά, μακριά από κομματικές σκοπιμότητες. Μάλιστα η έμφαση στα ζητήματα περιβαλλοντικής ευαισθητοποίησης και ποιότητας ζωής της προσέδωσαν διαρκινή δημοσιογραφική ταυτότητα και μοναδικό κύρος. Για την δε αγγλόφωνη κοινότητα της Αθήνας αποτελεί πολύτιμο συμπαραστάτη απέναντι στην «αθάνατη» ελληνική γραφειοκρατία, αλλά και σε κάθε πτυχή της καθημερινότητάς της.

**Dr Nikos Papanastasiou**  
University of the Peloponnese