

Speech by Andreas Dracopoulos, SNF Co-President

Ceremony for the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Greek State and the SNF for the SNF's Initiative "Supporting Greece's Health Sector"

Prime Minister,

First of all, I would like to thank you on behalf of all of us at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for your hospitality today.

Almost 13 months after the delivery of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center to Greek Society, we are once again pleased to be undertaking yet another vital grant, for the benefit of all our fellow citizens.

As always, I want to thank my great-uncle and Founder of our Foundation. It is thanks to him that we are able to contribute with grants in Greece and worldwide, always for the benefit of society. Without the late Stavros Niarchos, we would not be here today.

At this point, I would like us to watch a short video together on the new grants we are beginning to implement today. (Video)

It has been 10 years since we signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the development of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in 2007. The completion and delivery of the project to Greek Society took place in 2017.

Apart from the success of the SNFCC, which has already been visited and enjoyed by millions of visitors from Greece and around the world, a key element of this success was—and still remains—the excellent cooperation throughout all phases and aspects of the project's creation and execution, in a climate of transparency and professionalism, with a common vision between the public and the private sector for a philanthropic purpose.

It is precisely this spirit of cooperation that we are looking forward to throughout the new initiatives in the Health sector, which we are starting to implement together today. Everything we have seen during these first steps is positive, leading us to believe in the successful completion of this new grant initiative.

And, yes, this project is also quite intricate, as it involves the construction of two new hospitals in Komotini and Thessaloniki, a new building that will host the Chair of the University's Faculty of Nursing at Evangelismos Hospital in Athens, the procurement of specialized medical equipment, the strengthening of the capabilities of EKAV's air ambulance services, and the training of medical and nursing staff.

The infrastructure projects included in our new major grant initiative will be designed by a friend of our country, distinguished Italian architect Renzo Piano, known for his particular sensitivity towards the natural environment and the public using his projects.

We believe that we will be successful in this endeavor. Access to healthcare is a basic and fundamental need for every citizen, and we feel fortunate and proud to be able to continue supporting a better and more effective Public Health system and a more just society. A big thank you to all of my colleagues and associates at the Foundation. As long as we are able, through hard work and dedication, we will continue to contribute to a better tomorrow...

Thank you.