

Andreas Dracopoulos Offers Vision and Hope to Greeks

By Antonis H. Diamataris January 7, 2019



SNF's Co-President Mr. Andreas Dracopoulos, Jan. 3, 2018. (Photo by Eurokinissi/Yiannis Panagopoulos)

Few are the shining stars in the darkened horizon of Hellenism today.

What is visible, as we all see almost every day, is misery, depression, and disappointment.

This is not the case only for Greece.

It also applies to our omogeneia. A community that once, in the not too far past, was full of vitality, excitement, and self-confidence is today almost abandoned, like a ship in the middle of an ocean, facing attacks from huge waves, on almost every side.

Not that there are no stars on the political scene in Greece. On the contrary. They will soon be given the opportunity to apply their knowledge and talents in the common interest.

Stars also exist among Hellenes Abroad, but they seem to be observing from afar, wary of becoming part of a burlesque.

However, one great, shining star of Hellenism has emerged, like so many other times in our modern history, from within the Hellenic Diaspora.

This light shines with exceptional brightness, rising above the shortcomings and limitations of the older generations, which is to be expected, given the world's development and the progress of Hellenes.

Of course, I am referring to Mr. Andreas Dracopoulos, Co-President of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Beyond and above anything else, with a series of impressive initiatives the Foundation that he leads, can be credited with an unprecedented body of work for an individual or institution in the history of the Hellenism.

And his body of work is not merely material. He fills the leadership void, as much as a private citizen can, offering vision and hope to the Greek people.

Here are examples of some of his current activities:

During his recent trip to Greece, Mr. Dracopoulos participated in the New Year's festival presented by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC). During his brief speech on New Year's Eve he also said, borrowing from the author Emmanuel Kriaras, "Real love is the pursuit of our ideals." There's a philosophy of life! It is a vision worthy of being followed by young people, indeed, by all of us.

He also announced a major donation of 20 million euros to the Greek National Opera, so that it can really spread its wings and become known outside of Greece.

At a press conference with its Director, Giorgos Koumendakis, he also said: "For us, as Greek citizens, the Greek National Opera is a real treasure...that the people outside of Greece must get to know."

As Mr. Dracopoulos often states, he does not consider it his mission to replace the state's roles and he does not attempt to. But his efforts certainly bridge many gaps that the state is unable to address, whether due to economic weakness or lack of imagination.