

June 27th, 2013

**The Stavros Niarchos Foundation organizes
the 2nd International Conference on Philanthropy
on the topic of “*The Role of Philanthropy Within a Social Welfare Society*”**

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation, in collaboration with the European Foundation Centre (EFC), announces today the beginning of the **2nd International Conference on Philanthropy**, which will be held in Athens and conclude tomorrow, June 28th, with the participation of approximately 60 Greek and international speakers from important European and US philanthropic organizations.

Following on from last year’s conference, which focused on the crucial role of philanthropic foundations in times of crisis, the 2nd International Conference brings Philanthropic Action to the forefront, and examines its place within a contemporary Social Welfare Society.

The purpose of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation annual conferences is the exchange of opinions, experience and know-how, as well as the creation of a productive framework for discussion on issues affecting societies worldwide, while also aiming at continuously improving the philanthropic activities undertaken by philanthropic foundations.

During this two-day conference, there will be a total of 15 themed lecture series, and it will also include presentations of numerous philanthropic programs carried out across the world. The Conference’s lectures and presentations will focus mainly on the concept of collaboration as a means of development and progress, and the contribution of different organizations (public, private, philanthropic) in the creation of an effective Social Welfare Society.

The speakers taking part in the Conference will include, indicatively, Anders Aslund (Swedish economist and associate of the *Peterson Institute for International Economics*), William Antholis (Managing Director of the Brookings Institution), Stephen Friedman (Director of the New York Downtown Hospital Surgical Department), Gary Bagley (Managing Director of New York Cares), George Soros (founder of the grantmaking organization *Open Society Foundations*), Garry Kasparov (former world chess champion

and founder of the *Kasparov Chess Foundation*), and Rosanne Haggerty (President of *Community Solutions*), and, on the Greek side, the Minister of Tourism, Olga Kefalogianni, the Mayors of Thessaloniki and Athens, and many others.

In addition, as part of the conference, there will be a visit to the site of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC), **currently under construction through an exclusive grant by the SNF and in the interest of the common good, which, upon completion, will be donated to the Greek state.** The SNFCC is a project of national significance and represents the first public-private partnership of such magnitude in Greece. Guests will have the opportunity to take a tour of the site which, in 2016 – without deviations from the original schedule – will house the Greek National Opera, the National Library of Greece, and the 170,000 square meter Stavros Niarchos Park.

The **President of the Board of Directors of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Andreas Dracopoulos**, remarked: *“The concept of a Social Welfare Society is as simple and, at the same time, as powerful as life itself. We must all work together – the state, the private sector, the philanthropic organizations – and pool our strengths as productively as possible, since only then can we ensure that societies will be in a position to provide a healthy, dignified and civilized environment to their citizens, and restore their right to dream of a better future.”*

The full Conference materials (speeches, speakers’ biographical notes, presentation videos) will be available from next week on the Stavros Niarchos Foundation official website, www.SNF.org.