



PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

Helsinki, 25 March 2021

Madame President,

On the occasion of the Day of Independence of the Hellenic Republic, in this landmark bicentennial anniversary year of the Greek Revolution of 1821, I wish to convey to you, Madame President, my most sincere congratulations and warmest wishes for the well-being, success and happiness of your country and its people.

Allow me also to stress the importance that Finland attaches to the friendly relations between our countries. Finnish people have great respect and admiration for the rich history of Greece. The political and philosophical achievements of ancient Greece formed a legacy with unparalleled influence on the entire Western civilization. Political systems and procedures such as democracy and legal equality originated in Greece.

Furthermore, ancient Greek thinkers laid the intellectual foundations of many fields of study, be it mathematics, engineering, medicine or linguistics. It is inspiring that this forward-looking ethos continues in the programme of this anniversary year, with topics such as sustainable development and artificial intelligence included.

At this moment, there are many challenges facing Europe and the world. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought new uncertainties to our lives. However, we have also been able to witness unforeseen international collaboration, especially in the field of science. I am convinced that by working together, in solidarity with each other, we will overcome this challenge.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sauli Niinistö'.

Sauli Niinistö

President of the Republic of Finland

Her Excellency
Ekaterini Sakellariopoulou
President of the Hellenic Republic
Athens