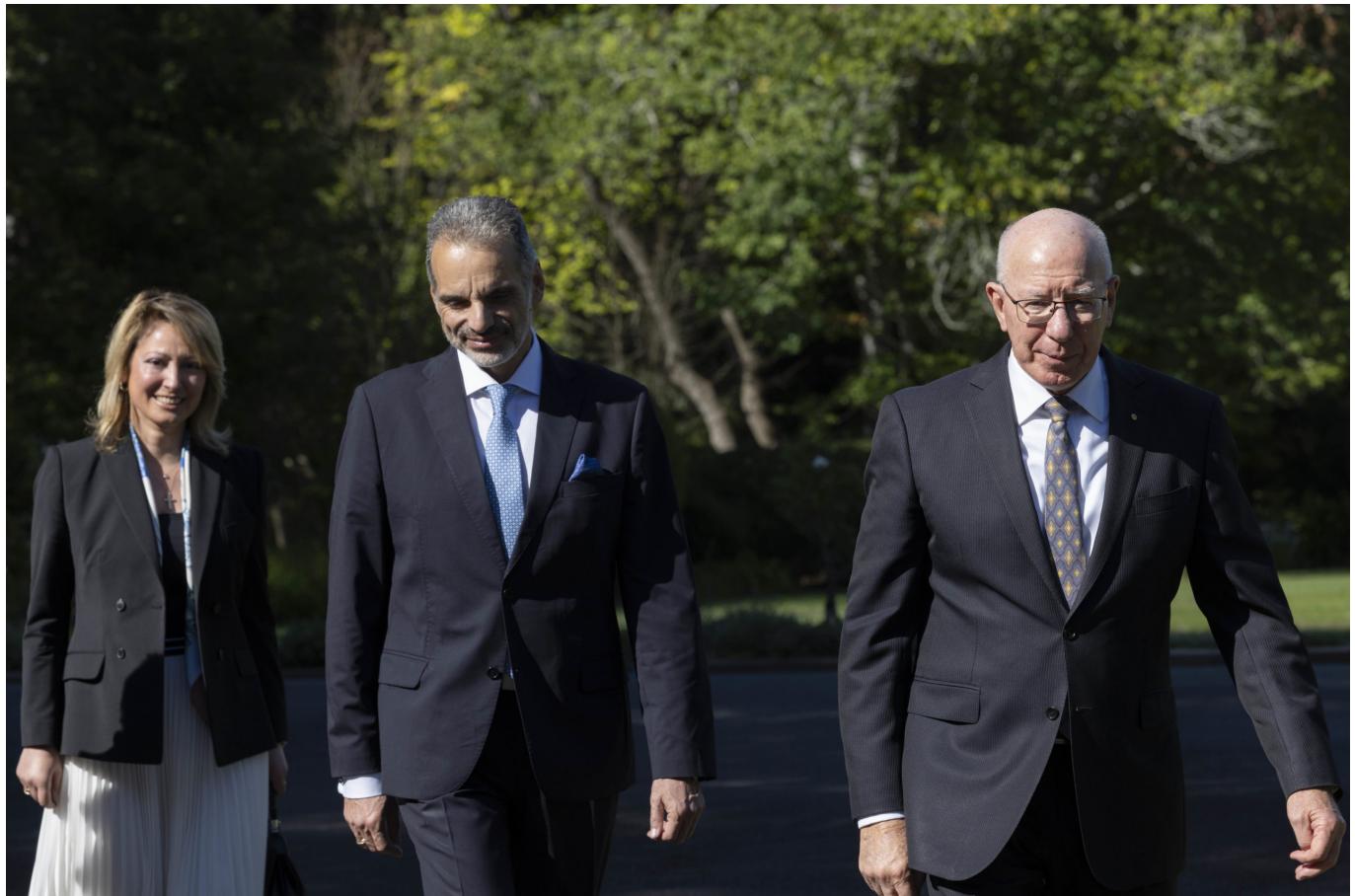


Message by the Ambassador of Greece to Australia, Mr. Stavros Venizelos, to the Greek community on the occasion of officially assuming his duties



The Ambassador of Greece in Australia, Mr. Stavros Venizelos, presented today his credentials to His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, officially assuming his new duties. On this occasion, the Ambassador addresses a personal message to the Greek community in Australia.

Dear friends,

I feel proud and fortunate to represent Greece in Australia. As of sight, your country has won me over with the simplicity and kindness of its people, its organization, the comfort of its cities and the splendor of its nature.

Greece and Australia maintain excellent relations and are united through strong

ties. In the 20th century, we both fought great struggles and endured sacrifices during the two world wars. Our two countries are working together to commemorate the stories of the ANZACs in Greece and the Battle of Crete in Australia. In the 21st century, we are united by the same concepts of an open, democratic society, an international order based on rules, sustainable development, energy transition, protection of the environment, our seas and oceans. In international politics, Australia acquires a special position, important for Greece, in the context of geopolitical developments. Regarding our economic relations, Australia is making significant investments in Greece. During my tenure, it is my wish for our bilateral trade to further grow, as well as our tourist flows.



Needless to say, the strongest bond of all is the one that you, the Greeks of Australia, have forged. For three or more generations you have managed to integrate into the Australian society and to constitute today one of its most vibrant communities, contributing substantially to the multicultural character of the country, to the economy, but also to politics at a local and national level. Meanwhile, you have achieved to preserve your Greek identity, through the Greek-language education institutions, your enthusiastic participation for decades in associations and the organization of numerous events.

Moreover, 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia. For me, the long journey of Greek Orthodox spirituality in this hospitable host country is both amazing and moving.

I would also like to emphasize that, for the first time this year, Greeks living abroad are given the opportunity to participate in the upcoming European elections, through postal voting. The vote of the Greek diaspora is a decades-old request that is now becoming a reality. I am confident that your participation in the elections will enrich the democratic process in Greece.

With the support of my colleagues, Consuls General and Honorary Consuls, we will make constant efforts to address issues of concern to you.

Thank you!

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