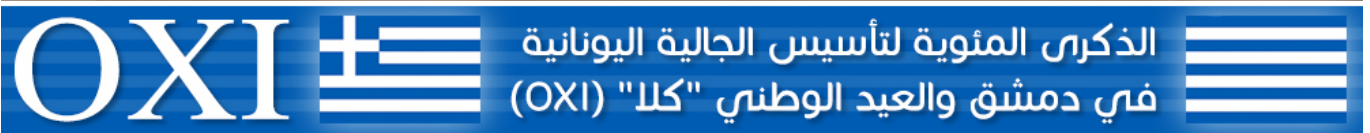


The Centenary for Establishing the Greek Community in Damascus- The Greek National Day (OXI)

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With the blessing and presence of His Beatitude John X, Patriarch of Antioch and All The East, the Greek Community in Damascus celebrated the Greek National Day (OXI), which coincides with its centenary anniversary. Social Affairs Minister, Ms Rima Qadiri, the Community President Mr Habib Saloumi, and MP Dr. Amira Stephanou were present, together with Consuls George Qatini, Ayoub Hanna, and Hazem Daniel, together with a number of the Greek Community members and Damascus citizens.

The celebration began by the thanksgiving prayer in the Church of the Holy Cross presided by His Beatitude, who spoke about the good historic relationships between the two countries on one hand, and between the Antiochian Patriarchate and the Greek Church, on the other hand. He presented to the Community his wishes for the Greek National Day, and for continuous success and development. After this, everybody went to the Church reception area to exchange speeches for the occasion.

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