

30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE EUROPEAN GROUP OF PUBLIC LAW

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*Your Excellency Mr. President,*

*Dear Minister, Dear Member of the Parliament, Dear Member of the European Parliament, Dear President of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court of Greece, Dear Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court of Greece, Dear Vice-Presidents of the Council of State, Dear Ambassadors, Reverend Father, Dear Regional Governor of Attica, Dear Secretaries General, Dear Mayor, Dear Greek Ombudsman,*

PUBLIC Law, as the backbone of Public Administration and State Organisation, constitutes the sound basis on which the natural and legal persons interact with the State, under the surveillance of the democratic institutions. Therefore, the work being carried out by the European Group of Public Law is not only a valuable addition to the science of Public Law, but it is also an indispensable necessity for promoting and strengthening the Rule of Law, both on an academic and administrative level.

It is my great pleasure to be here today at the Roman Agora, for the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the foundation of the European Group of Public Law. It is a special honour, for me, to be surrounded by so many eminent personalities, not as a jurist but as a person who has been devoted for the last 10 years to the First and Second Level of Local Government.

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\* Mayor of Athens

Thus, anyone who has served in a Municipality or a Region, has experienced both on a theoretical and a practical level the importance of Public Law, most notably the importance of the rules that set limits but at the same time safeguard the relationship of the citizens with the State. This is why all of us should remain focused on the reinforcement of those institutions and mechanisms that promote and protect Public Law, instead of interfering with it and altering its spirit.

It is of paramount importance, I think, to follow thoroughly the way in which Public Law embraces a Municipality, a Region, a State and, in the end, the whole Europe and its Member States. Only then, I think, will we all realise that the relationship between the Local Government and the European Union is a win-win relationship. This is so, because the contribution of the Local Government to the European Project, apart from being a need of vital importance for the organisation and function of the latter, also constitutes the most efficient way to further reinforce the political coherence and the overall protection of the democratic institutions of the European Union.

*Thank you very much.*