30 – 31 May 2018

21st SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTING THE RETURN OF CULTURAL PROPERTY TO ITS COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OR ITS RESTITUTION IN CASE OF ILLICIT APPROPRIATION

Paris, UNESCO HQ
“the Parthenon Marbles... are our pride. They are our sacrifices. They are our noblest symbol of excellence. They are a tribute to the democratic philosophy. They are our aspiration and our name. They are the essence of Greekness”.

Melina Mercouri
Greece has sought the return of the Sculptures from the British Government from the moment that Greece became an independent state and consistently since then.
The Greek demand for the Sculptures is the most famous and longstanding request for the restoration of cultural heritage in the world.
• British Museum on the ownership of the Parthenon Sculptures:

“long disputed by the Greek Government”

• Foreign Office on the return of the Sculptures:

“a perennial question for the UK”
Both the UK Government and the Board of Trustees of the British Museum rejected in 2015 the mediation initiative deployed in 2013 by UNESCO after request of the Greek Government.
“The negativism and the lack of due respect to the good services of the mediators is striking. The unilateral and continuing effort to degrade the transnational issue in question to an issue between museums is also striking. The Greek Government will continue its efforts in every way possible”

Nikos Xydakis
Former Minister of Culture
The opening in June 2009 of the Acropolis Museum with its special Hall for the Parthenon Sculptures in direct visual contact with the monument outweighs any counter argument by the British side.
Our intention is to make everybody grasp the essence of the ideas symbolized by the Parthenon.
For the integrity of the Parthenon, an emblematic World Heritage Monument
Thank you for your attention