

**ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR OF KYTHIRA
TO GENEVA'S UNIVERSITY WORKSHOP
ON "ANTI KYTHIRA SHIPWRECK"
GENEVA, 22/1/2018**

Ladies and gentlemen – dear friends,

It is a great honour for me to be here tonight, at the University of Geneva, after the invitation I received by Mr. Lorenz Baumer to attend today's workshop on the Shipwreck of Antikythera, which according to experts is considered as the most significant known ancient shipwreck in the world.

Our steps tonight go directly to the small island of Antikythera, near the west coastline of Crete, and to the bottom of the sea, from where in 1901 some of the most magnificent archaeological treasures of the whole world were taken to sunlight. One of these artifacts is the famous Mechanism, an astronomical instrument made by the Greeks for which the research is still in progress.

Our Municipality has been visiting Switzerland for the last 3 years, participating in major tourism fairs as the island of Kythera is a quality holiday destination, aiming to meet the demands of the Swiss public. Swiss business and scientific community is increasingly supporting the research of the Shipwreck of Antikythera. These surveys, under the direction of the Greek Ministry of Culture and the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities, have received since March 2015 the high auspices of H.E. the President of the Republic of Greece.

The support on this research from Switzerland is very important. Hublot, the Geneva-based watch industry has invested considerable funds on Antikythera Mechanism research and I would like to thank not only Hublot but every sponsor supporting this huge effort.

The successful exhibition of the Basel Archaeological Museum for the Shipwreck of Antikythera, which took place in 2015, brought these ancient treasures to the heart of Europe. This journey has been continuing since then and reaches today, tonight, when we will have the opportunity to hear the latest scientific data from last year's research on the field.

Antikythera Shipwreck is a place of high symbolism. It is the place where underwater archeology was born and from which hundreds of antiquities, perfect examples of ancient Greek thought, art and science have come to sunlight after 2.000 years of underwater isolation. As my country and its people are trying to exit a ten years social, political and economic crisis, culture and science is the only way for a better future, more stable and less uncertain than today.

Dear friends,

It is my real honor to be here tonight. For this honor I thank you warmly and I invite you to visit my island, Kythira and why not, to dare a visit to Antikythera, to the island of only 20 inhabitants located between Kythira and Crete and from the sea of which a great ancient treasure became known to all of us, became a part of world heritage and respect. Thank you all for being here tonight.