

RESOLUTION
OF THE “INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTRE FOR ARISTOTLE STUDIES”
A.U.TH.

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The “Interdisciplinary Centre for Aristotle Studies” (DI.K.A.M.) was founded a year ago with the unanimous decision of the Senate of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, having as its purpose to study and promote the work of Aristotle—the great philosopher of antiquity, student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great—on an international scale. Aristotle was born in Stagira in 384 BC and, through his work, had a continuous influence on human thinking for a period of 2,500 years.

The aim of the “Interdisciplinary Centre for Aristotle Studies” is to become a pole of attraction and a point of reference for all scholars and students of Aristotle’s philosophy, as well as for every thinking person on a global scale. Therefore, its objectives include: a Summer School for students in collaboration with numerous Universities around the world, the development of research programmes in collaboration with Aristotle scholars from Greece and abroad. Furthermore, the “Interdisciplinary Centre for Aristotle Studies” aims to organize international Scientific Conferences, Seminars and Symposia. These activities will not only be hosted at Aristotle University, but also at the "School of Aristotle" in Ancient Mieza-Naoussa, as well as in ANCIENT STAGEIRA, the birthplace of Aristotle, in the region of Olympiada, Chalkidiki.

The major archaeological excavation of the site, together with the overall archaeological work of the last 20-plus years, has revealed the entire city of ANCIENT STAGEIRA, which is located in a magnificent position, and is surrounded by an exceptional natural environment of the wider region, full of rare primordial forests, beautiful seashores, and rich biodiversity. This unique in its kind biodiversity, which already existed in Aristotle’s time, and remained intact until our days, has been closely studied by the Stageirite philosopher. This is why he is considered, among other things, as the first naturalist of antiquity.

For all the above reasons, the Board of the “Interdisciplinary Centre for Aristotle Studies”, in its 8th meeting on March 19th 2013, taking into consideration the assessments for the irreparable destruction of the wider environment of Chalkidiki, that have been made by eminent scientists and professors of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, as well as by Panhellenic Scientific Institutions, Higher Educational Institutions, Municipal Authorities, and other Organizations, as well as the local community, unanimously decided the following: (1) to express its deep concern about the seriously threatening damage of the natural environment by the planned exploitation activity of the region’s natural mineral wealth, with all its following effects, (2) to demand an absolute respect and a serious care for the site, as well as for

the wider natural environment, in which the spirit of Aristotle, the great philosopher from Stageira, was born and developed.

STAGEIRA IS A MONUMENT THAT BELONGS TO ALL HUMANITY AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH.

We have the diachronic obligation to safeguard the conditions that will enable the birthplace of Aristotle to become a global center for intellectual and cultural activity. The Sustainable Development that harmonizes the protection and promotion of the rich cultural and natural heritage is what suits best for the development of this unique region. This could not take place without the application of the constitutional requirement of environmental protection, as well as of the relevant European environmental legislation. However, the citizen's confidence for the application of the above has been shaken by the exemption of the previous mining operator from this obligation in the past. Moreover, of particular concern is the fact that the main benefit-cost study of this investment's activity, which should have reasonably preceded any decision of the State, has not been made public yet.

The main wealth of Greece is not the gold of the subsoil, but the long history and culture. The combination of these, together with the excellent natural environment, the primitive forests, and the biodiversity of Chalkidiki and ancient Stagira in particular, which is the birthplace of Aristotle, the Universal philosopher, may, among other things, become a strong keystone for sustainable cultural tourism and regional development.