

ATHENS, FEBRUARY 18TH 2014

PRESS RELEASE

PRESENTATION OF THE DETAILS OF THE EXHIBITION: “RETHINK ATHENS-TOWARDS A NEW CITY CENTRE”

“The Arsakeion Arcade and the exhibition entitled “Rethink Athens: Towards a New City Centre” is only a first glance at all that is about to follow in Athens after the completion of the intervention”. With this phrase, the President of the Onassis Foundation Dr. Anthony Papadimitriou, offered a comprehensive description of the content of the Rethink Athens Exhibition that opens its doors tomorrow Wednesday, February 19th 2014, as well as of the Athens centre intervention itself.

Today's scheduled Press Conference in the Books' Archway for the presentation of the details of the “Rethink Athens: Towards a new city centre” exhibition was realized in the presence of: Dr. Anthony Papadimitriou, President of the Onassis Foundation, Dr. Christos Tsitouras, President and CEO of Attiko Metro S.A., Ms. Katerina Koutsogianni on behalf of the “Antonas architectural office”, which was the Architectural Curator of the Exhibition (Mr. Aristides Antonas was unable to attend due to illness) and Mr. Panayotis Tournikiotis, Professor at the School of Architecture of the National Technical University of Athens (Scientific Curator of the Exhibition).

Professor Giorgos Panetsos, of the Department of Architecture at the University of Patras and Editor of the International Architectural Edition “DOMES” coordinated the press Conference.

At the event, the President of the Onassis Foundation Dr. Anthony Papadimitriou stated: “Today, with the necessary changes that the passing years have brought, the needs of the new era and the international standards for the creation of competitive cities, Rethink Athens is finally a mature, well-thought of, well-documented plan for the regeneration of Athens. This is the plan we deliver to the citizens. And the Foundation's work does not end here. We will continue, together with our fellow citizens, to put pressure, to check, to demand the realization of the Greek State's promises towards the implementation of this plan, for the return of healthy entrepreneurship, development, and residence in downtown Athens. The President of the Onassis Foundation, concluding his speech, said: "As the Onassis Foundation completes the cycle of Rethink Athens, which began with the announcement of the European Architectural Competition in March 2012, continued with the announcement of the competition's results in February 2013 and closes today with the submission of the studies from the Onassis Foundation to both State and citizens, we note in our calendar a new meeting with you: in a human and lively city in 2016»

Dr. Christos Tsitouras, President of Attiko Metro S.A. stated: “With the opportunity of the Exhibition for the presentation of the Final Studies of the project for the “Reorganization of the Athens centre on the axis of Panepistimiou street” organized by the Onassis Foundation, I first of all wish to thank the Foundation for organizing this Exhibition and for its overall decisive contribution in the implementation and funding of the project’s studies. Furthermore, I would like to provide assurance that Attiko Metro S.A., which from this point forward takes over for the public tender and construction of the project based on its experience and expertise, will make every effort to complete the project on time, with respect to quality and with a strong sense of responsibility, managing a project that will decisively upgrade this sensitive part of the center of Athens”.

Ms. Katerina Koutsogianni stated: “We tried to turn a series of abandoned, empty shops in an Athenian arcade in downtown Athens, into an idiosyncratic, fragmentary reading hall, where one can see and study the technical designs of this ongoing great project for the intervention on the axis of Panepistimiou street”.

Finally, Professor Panayotis Tournikiotis stated: “For the implementation of the final studies of the grand project of the tram line extension and the intervention at Panepistimiou street that extends from the beginning of Amalias Avenue up to Omonia Square and Patission street, Greek and foreign engineers from many fields collaborated. Their studies are not only complete and well-coordinated, but also innovative in a European scale, especially in the direction of the functional reorganization of public space and the multidimensional upgrade of the environment.

Through this new traffic organization, the centre of Athens is being transformed, from being just a space for vehicle circulation, into a destination for all citizens. Through architectural design, the functional and aesthetic quality of the capital’s public space is improved, highlighting its historic and cultural status, while conditions for environmental comfort are being shaped, through plantings, water elements and other bioclimatic interventions that will improve the everyday life of citizens, contributing to the enhancement of the commercial and economic operation of the city. The next day of Athens belongs to the 21st century and will connect history’s heritage with the liveliness of today’s public life. Athens has a long history and looks ahead, because cities that have a long history highlight it by designing their future”.

An impressive video was also introduced during the Press Conference, which presented the future of the city of Athens following the actual implementation of the Rethink Athens reorganization project. The video was produced in total by the Dutch architectural office OKRA LANDSCHAPSARCHITECTEN BV, winner of the European Architectural Competition for the reorganization of the centre of Athens. Visitors of the exhibition will also be able to enjoy the said video for the entire

duration of the exhibition (in rooms D18 and D08). A guided tour of the Exhibition completed the event.

The “Rethink Athens: Towards a new city centre” Exhibition is being hosted in 19 rooms of the Arsakeion Arcade (also known as Orpheus’ Arcade), kindly offered by the Society for Promotion of Education and Learning.

From February 19th until March 10th 2014, the Exhibition will offer its visitors a unique tour around the future of Athens, since they will have the opportunity to see the final studies of the Rethink Athens project, to admire similar reorganization projects in other large cities through the presentation of the European Prize for Urban Public Space (CCCB – rooms D36, D39, D40), and also to get to know the details of the Reactivate Athens - 101 Ideas research project (room D12).

Exhibition - “Rethink Athens: Towards a new city centre”

Arsakeion Arcade

(entry from 47-49 Panepistimiou St., 44-46 Stadiou St., or from 4-6 Arsaki St., restricted mobility access from Books’ Archway)

Duration of the Exhibition:

February 19 - March 10, 2014

Opening hours:

Monday to Sunday / 09:00 - 21:00

Information (09:00-17:00): tel. 210 3713015,

www.rethinkathens.org,

www.facebook.com/RethinkAthens

Architectural curator:

Aristidis Antonas

Scientific curator:

Panagiotis Tournikiotis

Organization – coordination – production – communication:

Onassis Foundation

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