

In 2021 Greece will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Greek Revolution, which is considered the birthday of the modern Greek nation and appeared as the result of major changes that happened after the French and American Revolution. The Greek Revolution is a genuine product of classical liberal ideas of the Enlightenment, so we could say with safety that it was not only a national but also a liberal revolution. Furthermore, this is supported by the fact that the first revolutionary constitution was the most progressive, democratic and liberal text of its age.

Today, Greece is found in a very difficult position. The long recession is not only a result of bad economic choices but also a result of a crisis of values. Greece as one of the oldest EU members didn't manage to deal with the fast paced international environment and very soon found itself in a dead-end. On the other hand the EU didn't manage to help effectively Greece and concentrated more to damage control, instead of re-establishing a new relationship with it. This fact shows that EU itself has a lot of weaknesses and couldn't deal with the emerging challenges.

The Greek youth is found currently in a disadvantageous place. Almost, 400 thousand young people, most of them with strong academic background, skills and expertise moved the last years abroad to seek a better future. What they are asking for is not only better paid jobs but also meritocracy. Moreover, high taxation and bureaucracy forced those, who remain to deal with unemployment and uncertainty for the future.

Therefore, we, a number of young Greeks, came together on January 6th of the year 2017 to highlight the need of the Greek liberal voice to be heard on a national and international level and to formally create the "Young Liberals" youth association. This is crucial in order to contribute to the on-going discussions concerning economic, social, political, cultural and environmental issues. The Association's mission is to bring together young liberals from various cities of Greece and provide an open platform for discussing and strengthening the liberal values.

One of the main objectives of the association is to promote the values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, human rights, political independence and openness to the new generation. This is vital given the fact that our country experiences a fundamental lack of understanding and information on liberalism and its importance to the day of everyday Greek citizens. We as "Young Liberals" aim to change that by

communicating basic concepts regarding liberal values in Greek youth society, by promoting dialogue with international organizations which are active in these areas, and by pressuring key decision makers in making such issues a part of their political and social agenda.

Other objectives of the association include the studying and promoting the classical works for freedom of Greek and foreign authors. Moreover we aim to promote abroad the Greek liberal school of thought, as we realized that the majority of people lack on knowledge about Greek liberal works.

To achieve these objectives of the Association we will use various means. We aim to organize events, conferences, seminars and workshops on issues related to our purposes and to create and promote information material, printed and electronic by using the media. Furthermore, we aim to develop and manage programs of public interest either independently or in cooperation with government or European institutions and civil society. Our partners in any case should be in full agreement with the character and the objectives of our Association. We are committed to make a systematic effort to attract people willing to strengthen and support the work and mission of the Association, and also secure the financial resources so that those will be sufficient to ensure the necessary logistics.

The main bodies of our Association are the General Assembly, the Management Board and the Secretary General. The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Association and consists of the regular and associated members. It has the responsibility to decide on any matter not falling into any other body's responsibilities. The Management Board consists of seven members, who have proven knowledge and experience about the purposes of the Association and are elected for two years by the General Assembly. The first Board that will manage the Association consists of the following members: President, Vice president, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and 3 members.

"Young Liberals" shall work on its agenda by maintaining close relations with all the liberal institutes and organizations in Greece and internationally. "Young Liberals" is an independent Association in all decisions.