



ΙΑΡΥΜΑ
HEYDAR ALIYEV



ΠΡΕΣΒΕΙΑ
ΤΟΥ ΑΖΕΡΜΗΑΤΖΑΝ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ

PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 1 October 2014

The First Lady of Azerbaijan, presented the 1st European Games BAKU 2015

The First Lady of Azerbaijan, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, Goodwill Ambassador for UNESCO and President of the Organizing Committee of the “European Games Baku 2015”, presented the course of preparations in the city of Baku, for the 1st European Games “Baku 2015”, at the Dinner Gala organized by the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Greece on Sunday September 27, in the Acropolis Museum.

6.000 athletes from all European countries, will compete in 20 Olympic and non-Olympic sports in a challenging, innovative and modern major multi-sport event, for 12 days starting from 12 June 2015.

The First Lady of Azerbaijan, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, referring to the responsibility of organizing the games, highlighted in her speech:

“Despite the fact that the **Olympic Ideals were born in Greece**, Europe has not had their own games; we are proud in Azerbaijan that our country has this historical opportunity to organize these games and this decision made by the European Olympic Committee was welcomed with enthusiasm and support by the citizens of Azerbaijan”.

Additionally, Mrs Aliyeva noted that the **bilateral relations** between Greece and Azerbaijan are enhanced through the fields of energy culture and sports, based on mutual respect and interest. As she said:

“Over the last years, the relations between the two countries have been significantly improved in several areas: political, economic, cultural and scientific. The dynamic growth of the Azerbaijani economy, has created favorable conditions for the development of the bilateral relations in critical areas, in particular in investments and commerce”.

First Lady of Azerbaijan made a special reference to Mrs **Marianna Vardinoyiannis**, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and President of the “Marianna V. Vardinoyiannis” Foundation:

“I would like to express my deep and honest gratitude to my dear friend Mrs Marianna Vardinoyannis, for her invaluable contribution. I am very happy that in her I have found a real friend with who I have had an

excellent collaboration for years, both between among the two us and through the UNESCO activities”.

During the Gala Dinner, welcome speeches were addressed by the Minister of Administrative Reform **Mr Kyriakos Mitsotakis**, the Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports **Mrs Angela Gkerekou**, the President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee **Mr Spiros Kapralos** and the Olympic Winner and President of the Association of Greek Olympic Winners, **Mrs Voula Kozompoli**.

Among the guests of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and H.E. **Mr Rahman Mustafavey**, Ambassador of Azerbaijan in Greece, were the Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan **Mr. Azad Rahimov**, the President of the Hellenic Parliament **Mr. Evangelos Meimarakis**, the Minister of Tourism **Mrs. Olga Kefalogianni**, the Representative of the Government **Mrs Sophia Voultepsi**, the Members of the Parliament **Mrs M. Antoniou**, **Mr. Kyriakos Virvidakis** and **Mr Alexis Mitropoulos**, the Members of the European Parliament **Mr M. Kefalogiannis**, **Mr. D. Papadimoulis**, **Mr N. Marias** and distinguished personalities from the areas of business and culture, among which **Mr Vardis Vardinoyannis with his wife Marianna Vardinoyannis**, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and President of the “Marianna V. Vardinoyannis” Foundation, Mr. V. Marinakis, the President of SEV, Mr. T. Fessas, the President of the “Constantinos Karamanlis” Institute for Democracy, Mrs. Rodi Kratsa, the former Minister Mr Apostolos Kratsas, Mr Leonidas Antonakopoulos, Head of the European Parliament Information Office, the President of the Acropolis Museum professor Dimitris Pantermalis, the President of Tyre Foundation, Mrs Maha El Khalil Chalabi, Mimis Plessas and his wife Loukila Karrer, Sakis Rouvas and Katia Zigouli, the Managing Director of Media Strom Mr. Nikos Radis etc.

Mr Alexis Kostalas was the presenter of the evening.

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