

Dear Mr President,

Having regard to the fact that, on one hand, the Ateneo Veneto of Sciences, Letters and Arts is an institute with a presence of over two centuries in Venice in the field of sciences, letters and arts, with special emphasis on its history and culture, and promotes the dissemination of research, studies, projects and various cultural expressions through cultural initiatives of high scientific level, also open to the public, and being aware, on the other hand, that the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens is a prestigious scientific institution for the study of history and culture of medieval and modern Greece and the reception of antiquity in Western Europe and, therefore, in close connection with the political, economic, literary, linguistic and cultural history of Venice, I would like to propose launching a closer cooperation between the Institute and the Association of “Friends of the Gennadius Library”, which I have been presiding over for five years, as you already know. I would like to point out that the Board of Directors of the Association of Friends of the Gennadius Library has unanimously agreed on this positive and mutually beneficial prospect in its meeting on 20 November 2018.

The Association of Friends of the Gennadius Library is a nonprofit organisation whose objective is to support and materially assist, in any legitimate manner, the Gennadius Library in order to more effectively pursue its cultural and educational purposes. Specifically, it aims to support, enrich and publish library collections, assist scholars studying history and, more generally, the culture of Byzantine and modern Greece, as well as support the events organised by the library and promote the work of the Gennadius Library in any expedient way by organising intellectual events such as lectures, meetings, discussions and publications.

Since there is a strong interest in the fruitful collaboration between the academic community and Greek and Italian institutions, as well as in developing lines of research and promotion of knowledge relating to the History of Venice and Greece, it would be beneficial to these institutions to have direct contacts with an aim to identify fields of thought and activity that are of common interest and opportunities to coordinate the implementation of joint actions, meetings, exhibitions, conferences and, more generally, joint initiatives with an aim to facilitate and develop opportunities of scientific exchange between researchers, teaching staff and students, including the general public.

As you have already suggested , meetings could be organised, for instance, in Athens and Venice, such as lectures on early Venetian print shops that produced Greek books destined for

Greek-speaking readers, in the context of the current year during which Athens is the UNESCO World Book Capital (possibly one in Venice and one in Athens) and a meeting on the era of the second period of Venetian Rule in the Peloponnese (17th century- early 18th century), specifically on Francesco Morosini, the 400th anniversary of whose birth will be celebrated in Venice in 2019, as well as exchange of visits, in Venice and Athens, of the Friends of the Gennadius Library and Ateneo Veneto.

It is understood that, to implement the initiatives, some of which are described above by way of example, there will be prompt mutual communication, governed by the principles of rightness, legitimacy, transparency, protection of confidentiality and copyright according to the EU and both domestic laws that govern our institutions.

If the above framework is acceptable to you, I would like to propose that your letter in reply, together with my present letter constitute an understanding on collaboration between the Ateneo Veneto of Sciences, Letters and Arts and the Association of “Friends of the Gennadius Library” for the years 2019 and 2020, that can be renewed and possibly enriched with new activities by common consent .

Tassos (Anastassios) Kriekoukis



President of the Friends of the Gennadius Library *Athens, 11.01.2019*