SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF GREECE
-Established 1977-

Athens, 16 May 2026

Farewell Message: The Legacy of a Transitional Two-Year Period

Growth and Expansion of the Order



The two-year period now drawing to a close has marked a time of particularly strong growth for the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece. The admission of approximately **two hundred and fifty (250) new members** over the past two (2) years, together with an impressive increase in total membership approaching **fifty per cent (50%)**, has created new and substantially greater demands in both administration and oversight.

At the same time, the Order significantly broadened eligibility for admission, extending membership to Brethren belonging to any **regular Grand Lodge** that maintains relations of recognition with one or more of the founding Supreme Grand Chapters. This decision further strengthened the Order's international outlook and engagement, considerably widening its prospects for growth.

Digital Modernisation and Historical Documentation

Particular emphasis during this two-year period was placed on digital modernisation and the systematic documentation of the Order's history.

As part of this endeavour, the official website of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece was completely redesigned. Its original online presence, established in 2004, was transformed into a modern, accessible and comprehensive centre for information and communication.

For the first time, the Order's historical archive was brought together, organised and recorded in a unified format, presenting the history and development of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece from 1976 to the present. This work preserves its institutional memory and gives Companions easier access to its history, decisions and principal milestones through a modern website featuring high-quality graphics.

Education and Masonic Learning

The education of Companions and the advancement of knowledge concerning the Holy

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Royal Arch were central priorities of the administration throughout this period.

To this end, two major educational conferences were successfully organised, one in Athens and the other in Corfu, attracting exceptionally strong participation from Companions throughout the Jurisdiction. Their principal purpose was to inform members and deepen their understanding of the history, principles, philosophy and work of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece.

An important educational work on the Holy Royal Arch, written by Most Excellent Companion Dimitrios Mamas, Past First Grand Principal, was also republished. This made a substantial contribution to the Order's educational literature and its wider programme of Masonic learning.

Institutional and Administrative Reforms

Three New Provincial Grand Chapters

One of the most significant administrative reforms implemented during this period was the establishment of **three (3) Provincial Grand Chapters**, each with its own Grand Superintendent, following the organisational model of the Supreme Grand Chapter of England. This initiative represented a substantial step towards decentralising administration, enabling more effective oversight of Chapters, a quicker response to administrative matters and better coordination of activities throughout the Jurisdiction.

The establishment of the Provincial Grand Chapters was accompanied by comprehensive organisational and logistical support. All three (3) were fully equipped with the necessary materials, insignia and officers' regalia, enabling them to operate effectively, with dignity and administrative competence, from their very first day.

At the same time, the Order's financial management procedures were placed on a sound and transparent footing. Treasury administration was systematically organised, administrative procedures were improved and prudent management of resources was secured, creating a stable operational framework for the entire Jurisdiction.

Particular care was also taken to provide the necessary equipment and facilities for all Chapters. The administration sought to ensure that every Chapter had the resources required to conduct its proceedings smoothly, with dignity and efficiency, irrespective of its size or geographical location.

Four New Chapters

During the same period, **four (4) new Chapters** were established, providing tangible evidence of the Order's vigorous growth. From the outset, these Chapters were supplied with the necessary ceremonial and administrative equipment, together with the appropriate regalia for their officers, ensuring their smooth integration into the organisational structure of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece.

Improvements to Equipment and Infrastructure

Alongside the establishment of new Chapters, an extensive programme was undertaken to improve the equipment of existing Chapters throughout the Jurisdiction. Through the systematic procurement, renewal and supplementation of essential materials, longstanding

deficiencies affecting consistency and operational effectiveness were addressed.

These measures significantly improved the functioning, organisational capacity and overall presentation of the Order's Chapters. Greater consistency in equipment, improved infrastructure and stronger provincial structures made a decisive contribution to the development of a modern, effective and administratively robust Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece.

A Maximum Five-Year Term for Grand Representatives

As part of the continuing improvement of the Order's organisational structure and the strengthening of its international relations, it was decided to reform the arrangements governing Grand Representatives.

For the first time, a **maximum term of five (5) years** was introduced for Grand Representatives. The aim was both to enhance their role and to ensure active, meaningful and sustained communication with their respective Supreme Grand Chapters abroad.

This reform seeks to maintain a dynamic and effective network of international representation, contributing over time to the further development and international engagement of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece.

Honorary Jewels of Distinction

Furthermore, for the first time in the history of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece, special honorary jewels of distinction were commissioned and awarded to two worthy Companions in recognition of their longstanding contribution, outstanding service and dedication to the Order.

Official jewels for Grand Representatives were also designed and produced, establishing for the first time a uniform and distinctive insignia for the office. These jewels were issued both to serving Grand Representatives and to those newly appointed abroad during this two-year period, enhancing the dignity of their office and underscoring the importance of their role in international relations and in representing the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece.

International Relations and Recognition

Particularly significant progress was made in international relations. Within a short period, the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece succeeded in doubling the number of its international recognitions by concluding **ten (10) new agreements of mutual recognition** with corresponding Supreme Grand Chapters abroad.

This development substantially enhanced the Order's international standing and broadened the opportunities for cooperation and fraternal exchange with jurisdictions around the world.

The New Administrative Structure

With a sense of responsibility and a commitment to long-term planning, it was decided to implement a new administrative structure for the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece. Under these arrangements, the head of the Order will be elected separately for a five-year term and will serve exclusively as First Grand Principal.

This ensures institutional continuity and further strengthens the work of the Supreme Grand

Chapter, while enabling the Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Greece to devote himself fully to the duties and increasing responsibilities of his own office.

The need for an administrative separation of the two bodies had been the subject of consideration and discussion for decades. Only in recent years, however, did it become possible to implement this important reform through collective decisions, institutional maturity and coordinated action within the Order.

The Legacy of the Transition

It should also be noted that the term of office of Most Excellent Companion Ioannis Mpenetatos as First Grand Principal began following his election in 2024 and was due to conclude in 2027. A deliberate decision was nevertheless taken not to serve the full term, so that the incoming head of the Order would have the time required to devote himself fully, without distraction and with a long-term perspective, to the work entrusted to him.

This decision represents an act of institutional responsibility and administrative foresight, serving above all the interests of the Order and ensuring a smooth transition into a new era for the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece.

The Place of the Holy Royal Arch within Our Masonic System

The importance of the Holy Royal Arch within our Masonic system remains fundamental and unequivocal. The overwhelming majority of Brethren of the National Grand Lodge of Greece, following the English Masonic tradition as expressed through the Orders Beyond the Craft, regard the Holy Royal Arch as a necessary and essential step both towards completing their spiritual journey in Craft Freemasonry and towards continuing their progress in other Masonic bodies.

Despite the administrative separation, the underlying framework of our Masonic system remains entirely unchanged. The Constitution of the National Grand Lodge of Greece, as formulated in 1993, retains the fundamental principle that:

> *"Craft Freemasonry consists of three degrees, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch."*

This principle continues to form the cornerstone of the relationship between the National Grand Lodge of Greece and the Supreme Grand Chapter of Greece, affirming the enduring unity and complementary nature of the two institutions.

ONE JOURNEY… TO BE CONTINUED

M.E. Comp. Ioannis Mpenetatos
Past First Grand Principal