



His Excellency

Michel Spinellis

Ambassador Extraordinary and
 Plenipotentiary Permanent
 Representative of Greece to the
 United Nations

WHO WE ARE

The Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy actively supports UVU's global engagement efforts by advancing UVU's presence and prestige in the International community; helping UVU students become globally competent graduates; promoting cultural literacy and diversity both on campus and in the community.

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Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to the United Nations in 2013, Mr. Spinellis was his country's Ambassador to the Russian Federation (2009-2013). Before that, from 2006 to 2008, he was the Head of Personnel at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and then, in 2008, he was Director General for Administrative, Personnel and Financial Affairs.

In 2005, he served as his country's Ambassador to Israel. Beginning in 2000, he was the Ambassador to the Federal Republic of

Yugoslavia (later known as Serbia and Montenegro). In an extensive diplomatic career that began in the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1979, Mr. Spinellis held a number of posts, including as Director for South Eastern Europe at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (1999); Minister at the Embassy of Greece in London (1996); diplomat at the Embassies

in Belgrade and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1993), and prior to that, head of the Greek delegation in the European Community Monitoring Mis-

sion in Zagreb (1992). Earlier, in 1991, Mr. Spinellis was Deputy Spokesperson at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and, among other posts, served at the Permanent Mission of Greece to the International Organizations in Geneva (1985-1991) and at the Embassy in Algiers (1984).

Mr. Spinellis graduated from the Faculty of Law and Economics, Aristoteleion Univer-

sity in Thessaloniki. Born on 26 March 1953 in Athens, Greece, he is married and has a daughter.

"Many consider ancient Greece as the principle cradle of Western civilization with its advances in philosophy, medicine, mathematics and astronomy. Today, Greece is a key member of the European Union with its ministers chairing EU meetings the last few months," explained Dr. Rusty Butler, UVU's Associate Vice President for International Affairs & Diplomacy. "Ambassador Spinellis will offer his insights into Greece's challenges and opportunities in the EU and with the U.S. UVU students will benefit tremendously from our guest's expertise."

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT

Greece

THE FLAG OF Greece



MEANING

The nine stripes are said to represent the number of syllables in the Greek phrase "Eleutheria H Thanatos", usually translated as "Freedom or Death!", a battle cry during the final revolt against the Ottoman Occupation. However, some say that the nine stripes on the Greek flag represent the Nine Muses of Greek myth.

The equal-armed cross represents the Greek Orthodox Church, the predominant religion of Greece and the only officially recognized one.

The color blue represents the sea which is important to Greece and such a major portion of its economy.

The white represents the waves on the ocean. On the other hand, some believe that the colors of blue and white represent Aphrodite rising up from the seafoam.

Information gathered from: CIA The World FactBook, facts.randomhistory.com, gogreece.about.com, greekpride.com.

- Greece achieved independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1830.
- Considered the cradle of all Western civilization, Greece is the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, and the Olympic Games.
- Greece has the 11th longest coastline in the world with 13,676 km (8,498 mi)
- The Greece uniform, the most widely recognizable Greek military dress, is derived from the dress of the klephts and the fighters of the Greek War of Independence.



- Greece's official name is the Hellenic Republic. It is also known as Ellas or Ellada.
- Tourism funds 16% of the gross domestic products. An important percentage of Greece's national income comes from tourism.
- January 8th is a festive day in which women leave their homes and spend hours in local bars while the men are left in charge of the housework and to care for the children.
- No one in Greece can choose to not vote. Voting is required by law for every citizen who is 18 or older.
- Greek has been spoken for more than 3,000 years, making it one of the oldest languages in Europe.



- The Temple of Olympian Zeus in Athens is a colossal temple in the center of the Greek capital Athens that was dedicated to Zeus, king of the Olympian gods.
- The world's third leading producer of olives, the Greeks have cultivated olive trees since ancient times. Some olive trees planted in the thirteenth century are still producing olives.
- Feta, which is made from goat's milk, is the Greece's national cheese. It dates back to the Homeric ages, and the average per-capita consumption of feta cheese in Greece is the highest in the world.
- Greece has more than 2,000 islands, of which approximately 170 are populated. Greece's largest island is Crete (image below) (3,189 sq. miles) (8,260 sq. km.)

