Press Release

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**Children from DYPA's Day Nurseries visit the Hellenic Parliament to celebrate International Children's Book Day**

On a day dedicated to children's literature and the power of knowledge, the Public Employment Service (DYPA), in collaboration with the Library of the Hellenic Parliament, organised a special event on Thursday, April 2, at the Parliament's Peristyle. This initiative offered children from DYPA's Day Nurseries an engaging and meaningful introduction to the world of literature and culture.

Accompanied by their teachers and parents, the children participated in a creative programme that blended learning, play, and discovery – all set within a place of profound symbolic value for Greece's history and intellectual heritage.

The event was graced by the presence of the President of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr. Nikitas Kaklamanis, whose warm welcome underscored the importance of educational initiatives that foster a constructive connection between children and culture.

The event was opened by DYPA's Deputy Governor, Tonia Arachova, who emphasised the significance of early exposure to books and cultural experiences. A greeting was also delivered by Maria Kamilaki, Head of the Directorate-General for e-Administration, Library, and Publications of the Hellenic Parliament.

During the visit, the children explored the exhibition "Alpha Beta: Learning Greek in the West," which traces the intellectual journey of the Greek language from Byzantium to Italy and throughout Europe. This was followed by a guided tour led by the exhibition's curator and an interactive educational game specifically designed for early childhood engagement.

The children also participated in a model workshop titled "The House of Books", held in the Library's Special Collections Reading Room. The workshop focused on enhancing creativity and cultivating the joy of reading through experiential activities.

At the end of the event, Angeliki Argyropoulou, Head of DYPA's Independent Department of Day Nurseries, presented the organisers with a handmade artistic alphabet book. Created by day nursery teachers and children, and inspired by the theme of "Alpha Beta", the gift symbolised the children's creativity and active participation.

**Tonia Arachova, DYPA's Deputy Governor, stated:**

"The inspiration for today's event stems from my long-standing relationship with books and the institutions that support them, dating back to my tenure at the National Library of Greece. In my current role at DYPA, the connection between early childhood education, culture, and fostering the love of reading becomes even more vital. Supporting children and families is a core priority of DYPA's broader social mission. Through initiatives like this, we aim to provide children with meaningful literary encounters, strengthen their creativity, and instill enduring learning values".

**Maria Kamilaki, Head of the Directorate-General for e-Administration, Library, and Publications of the Hellenic Parliament, added:**

"To mark International Children's Book Day, we are delighted to welcome the children, parents, and teachers of DYPA's Day Nurseries to the Hellenic Parliament. Beyond touring the 'Alpha Beta' exhibition, our guests will have the rare opportunity to visit the Special Collections Reading Room and actively participate in the 'House of Books' educational programme. This event was co-organised by the Parliament Library and DYPA, following the initiative of DYPA's Deputy Governor Tonia Arachova, a long-time collaborator in our shared mission to promote book reading".