

It is shocking indeed what we hear, that the Greek Education Minister, Costas Gavroglou, announced last September his plans to abolish Latin from the syllabus of Greek High Schools and from the National Examinations for access to Higher Education. This sounds as a death blow to Latin teaching not only in Greece but definitely also all over Europe.

We have had in the past and are still having highly fruitful professional relationships with valuable colleagues teaching Latin Language and Literature in Greek Universities and we have great respect and concern for our colleagues there and their students.

Latin studies in Greece, as well as Greek studies, are now flourishing and enjoying international reputations, and a number of international collaborations; moreover, they are producing excellent students whose quality is extensively recognised.

If implemented, these shocking plans would have devastating consequences. By destroying the currently promising state of Latin studies in Greek Universities, they will also deprive Greek students the study of a fundamental area of the European literature and culture, which has had a primary effect on their own *longue-durée* history and culture from the time of the Roman Empire.

To the contemporary Greek culture the knowledge of Latin is fundamental, because Latin is the other great language of the European culture together with ancient Greek, as for us Italians is just as essential the study of ancient Greek, unless we intend to renounce a vital part of our own history.

My colleagues teaching Greek and Latin Language and Literature at the University of Urbino Carlo BO and I vehemently protest against this irresponsible proposal, which would prove to be an act of intellectual and educational sabotage, grotesquely inappropriate if one thinks of the noble and ancient cultural tradition of Greece, overlapping with our European cultural tradition.

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