

**The HEC Executive Council
c/o Mr Thanos Voudouris
HEC Director**

Maynooth, 16 May 2011

Dear Mr Voudouris

I am writing to you to express my wish to be elected at the Executive Council (EC) of the Hellenic Electronic Centre (HEC).

I am a Greek of Diaspora, born and raised in Florina of Western Macedonia, where I also completed my 1st degree on Crop Production at the Technological Education Institute of Western Macedonia. At the age of 22 I completed an MSc in the Technology of Crop Protection at the University of Reading in the UK, followed by a PhD on the biological control of agricultural insect pests with entomopathogenic nematodes. Subsequent to that, in 1995 and in 1997 I was offered two consecutive postdoctoral positions at the National University of Ireland Maynooth, where I trained in Molecular Genetics, engaging in agriculturally useful projects. Upon their completion in 2000 I was offered an Assistant Lecturer's post in Environmental Biotechnological Sciences at the Carlow Institute of Technology (CIT) in Ireland, where I now hold permanent tenure as a full College Lecturer. I teach Molecular Genetics, Immunology, Cell Biology and Ecology, while my research group works on Molecular Ecology with emphasis on nematodes as indicators of environmental change and as bio-control agents, as well as on the conservation of the bumblebee *Bombus terrestris*. I am a member of numerous professional bodies such the Academic Council of CIT, the National Working Group in Ireland on FP7-Environment, Irish representative in the Management Board of COST 872, The European Society of Nematologists, The Society of Nematologists, The Association of Applied Biologists and the Royal Entomological Society, to mention a few. Since 2002 I have been a member of the Management Board of the Hellenic Community of Ireland (HCI), in 2002 as a Treasurer, in 2004 as a Board Member, and from 2006 to 2011 as the President, completing two presidential tenures. Since 2006 I have been a member of the Parish Council of the Greek Orthodox Community of the Annunciation in Ireland and as of this year I am the Councils' Secretary. I am also blessed to be able to work for my family raising two daughters of 11 and 7 years.

I would like to become a member of the EC of HEC because I believe that this organisation has offered, offers and has more to offer to Ecumenical Hellenism and the Hellenic Civilisation. I consider HEC a serious and admirable organisation, based purely on voluntary work, with which type of work I am very familiar, and from my experience I know that when people work voluntarily into various projects this is when they strive, create and build. Also from my experience, I know that when one wants to really help, influence and make things happen, one shall get involved at management level. I therefore wish to be part of the EC of HEC so that I can offer my voluntary services to Hellenism.

I do not have a specific plan of action in mind as to how exactly I will help in HEC. I am a member of HEC for the last few years, I respect and admire the work carried out in HEC, but at my capacity as a EC member I will initially strive to learn from the people more experienced than me already working in the organisation. What I do have is (1) a flame for Hellenism and our Civilisation, and (2) a nearly decade experience as a voluntary Board member of a small Greek community of the Diaspora, with many challenges, deficiencies and lack of resources. I am proud to say that during my presidency I learned and managed to hold fine balances amongst the Greeks of Ireland, I practiced the solidarity that the HCI constitution dictates and I helped, with the rest of my team, to see our Greek community flourish. In January 2011 I stepped down from the HCI Management Board so that new blood can come and avail of the opportunity to serve the HCI. Thus, having a bit more free time, and

the thirst inside me to cherish Hellenism always unquenched, I would like to help this remarkable organisation.

Unfortunately I am not qualified in information technology to be able to help with this side of things, but my technical knowledge and teaching experience can still be capitalised upon as needed. In my academic career, and as President of the HCI, I have secured external funding on numerous occasions and I could use my experience in fundraising to aid HEC. My most valuable asset however for this post, I feel, it will be my overall past experience as the President of the HCI, having served the Greek community in Ireland often on a nearly 24 hour voluntary basis.

As this letter will be displayed to membership I would also like to make clear that my first priority is my family and that I have a very busy academic schedule. Along these parts of my life I shall devote several hours of weekly work to HEC with dedication and commitment, collaborating with the other EC members, following instructions from more experienced members, but also showing initiative and leadership when required. In the event that I will not get elected in the EC, I will still support HEC at any other capacity I can.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours Sincerely

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