

Joint Declaration of European Ministers of Education to strengthen European cooperation on Latin and Ancient Greek

We, the French, Italian, Cypriot and Greek Education Ministers, hereafter "the signatories", strongly believe that Latin and Ancient Greek are the very foundations of a common European and Mediterranean culture, and the essence of each of our languages.

We are aware that our shared origins foster and promote exchanges between peoples and that the knowledge of the languages of Antiquity is a precious and tangible asset for the mastery of modern languages, for academic study and for accomplishment in social, civic, cultural and professional life,

It is our conviction that learning about ancient languages and cultures, acquiring translation skills and forming an understanding of a humanist culture support the acquisition of fundamental knowledge and learning, increase understanding of contemporary society, enhance critical thinking and develop the necessary perspective for students to become autonomous European citizens upholding shared values.

Through strong links between peoples of Latin and Greek heritage, we are eager to set a new direction and a new cultural impetus for the construction of the European educational area,

We affirm a common desire to place the humanities at the heart of learning, thereby demonstrating the contemporary relevance of Latin and Ancient Greek and promoting their revival and uptake as well as invigorating the future of the European Union,

Together, we commit to strengthening our support for Latin and Ancient Greek cooperation through encouraging and developing bilateral and multilateral partnerships as well as exchanges and student and teacher mobility, with the intention of creating a holistic and inclusive dynamic of new joint projects, open to all audiences irrespective of level or education area and routes of education and firmly connected to the most modern and innovative aspects of contemporary civilisation.

The signatories agree to establish a high-level group of international experts to reflect on an overarching and international strategy for the promotion and development of Latin and Ancient Greek resulting in new and tangible proposals. Each of the signatory countries will, in turn, invite partner countries to participate each year in the reflexion and consultation either remotely or during face-to-face meetings.

Signed :

French, Italian, Cypriot and Greek Education Ministers.