



ΧΡΗΣΤΙΑΝΙΚΗ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ / CHRISTIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF BYZANTINE
AND POST-BYZANTINE ARCHAEOLOGY AND ART, FOUNDED IN 1884

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Athens, October 2, 2019

RESOLUTION FOR THE THESSALONIKI METRO

The Administrative Board of the Christian Archaeological Society has held an extraordinary meeting because of the announcement by the prime minister at the 2019 International Fare of Thessaloniki regarding the fate of a unique archaeological discovery, namely the *Tetrapylon* and the city's central streets, i.e. the *Mese* (*decumanus maximus*) and the intersecting *cardo*, which led to the port of the second city of the Byzantine empire, Thessaloniki. The Board decided to appeal to the country's prime minister and demand action to resolve the important issue of the Thessaloniki Metro, in order to help preserve this unique discovery in situ as an accessible archaeological site, in harmony with the transportation needs of the city.

As we had argued in an earlier resolution (2014), only the preservation of the medieval palimpsest in situ (in accordance to the resolution by the Central Archaeological Council since 2017), will allow the visitor to grasp the unique diachrony of Thessaloniki, with the modern streets of Egnatia and Venizelou superimposed over the medieval ones.

The Hellenic State must continue the work already in progress and implement the remaining projects aiming at the preservation of the unique antiquities in situ as well as the construction of the metro station. The continuation of the scheduled works will ensure that the monumental ensemble that has been uncovered will maintain its authenticity, by remaining in place, without obstructing the functions of the modern city, in accordance with the possibilities offered by 21st-century technology. The realization of this goal will provide the residents of Thessaloniki with an invaluable monument attesting to their city's centuries-long history and all visitors, Greeks and foreigners, with a distinctive site.

It is reminded that this is the diachronic monumental center of Thessaloniki, a worldwide unique ensemble documenting the development of a medieval city, which we are lucky enough to have in Greece and which makes up, to a degree, for the loss of the urban fabric of the capital of the Byzantine Empire, Constantinople. In this case, our responsibility toward the history of world civilization is enormous and we are obliged to rise to the occasion.

On behalf of the Administrative Board of the Christian Archaeological Society,

The President



Professor Emerita Maria Panayotidi-Kesisoglou
*National and Kapodistrian
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The General Secretary



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