



DIDON D'OR



Fondation Tyr



Programme MED 21

ELISSA / DIDON AWARD

PRESS RELEASE

**The Elissa-Didon Award for the first edition given in Greece
Four women from North and South of the Mediterranean are honored for their
engagement.**

Athens, 15 October, 2014

The **Elissa-Didon Awards** for the first edition were given in Greece during a splendid ceremony on the 12 October 2014 at the emblematic Acropolis Museum with the participation of representatives of the Greek government, local authorities, business and academia from different countries (Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Lebanon, Tunisia). The award was established in 2014 by three organisms: **Tyre Foundatio**, **Programme MED 21** and the **Prize Didon d'Or** (Tunisia) to honor women for their activities in the Mediterranean region.

The awarding ceremony and Gala dinner that followed, decorated in the deep Phoenician purple color consolidated their success and the closing of the **Forum V "The Alphabet Road: Mediterranean Cultural Heritage and Challenges "** organized in Athens and Piraeus by the League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic cities (LCCPP), under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO, with the invaluable collaboration of the Archaeological Museums of Piraeus and Acropolis.

Elissa-Didon Awards, inspired by the Phoenician princess Elissa (known in Tunisia as Didon), founder of the historic city of Carthage (Tunisia) and symbol of female beauty, power and determination were awarded to four extraordinary women from the North and South of the Mediterranean: **Lady Cochrane**, **Yvonne Sursock** (Lebanon), philanthropist and prominent public figure for her engagement in preserving the cultural heritage of Lebanon and the Mediterranean, **Mrs. Rodi Kratsa** (Greece), former MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament for her euromediterranean relations to protect the rights and role of women, **Mrs. Chérifa Kheddar** (Algeria), President of the Organization Djazairouna (Our Algeria) for her fight to protect the rights of violence victims and **Mrs. Souhair Belhassen** (Tunisia), head of the International Committee for Human Rights, journalist and author, for her advocacy to protect of human rights.

The winners received with great excitement and a warm welcome the awards in recognition of their contribution for peace, prosperity and development in the Mediterranean. The awards ceremony was presented by Greek anchor TV journalist and blogger **Mrs. Irene Nikolopoulou** and awards (*work of the art bronze statue of the figure of Elissa rising the Sun and the Moon with her extraordinary faith and power*) were given by the former Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, **Mr. Hervé de Charette**, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece **Mr. Dimitrios Kourkoulas**,



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the Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports of Greece **Mrs. Angela Gerekou** and the President of Tyre Foundation **Mrs. Maha El-Khalil Chalabi**.

The President of the historic Greek House of Jewelry Zolotas **Mrs. Marianne Le Clère Papalexis** offered to the laureates a special gift part of their collection "Princesses of the Mediterranean". The ceremony was accompanied by the City of Athens string ensemble and soprano Mrs. Sofia Karvouna.

The **supporters** of the event included the Archaeological Museum of Piraeus, the Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTO), the Representation of the European Commission in Greece, the Greek companies Zolotas, Apivita, EOS Samos wines, Cair Rhodes sparkling wine, the Greek-French School of Piraeus "St. Paul" and the Lebanon Post. The **sponsors** of the event included the companies BB Energy, Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC), Piraeus Port Authority (PPA) and Tanweer Group.



Lady Cochrane, Yvonne Sursock receives the Elissa-Didon award 2014 by **Mr. Dimitrios Kourkoulas**, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, who was familiar with her important work since the period of his posting as Ambassador of the EU to Lebanon



Mrs. Rodi Kratsa receives the Elissa-Didon award 2014 by **Mr. Hervé de Charette**, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of France



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Mrs. Souhair Belhassen receives the Elissa-Didon award 2014 by **Mrs. Angela Gerekou**, Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports of Greece



Mrs. Chérifa Kheddar receives the Elissa-Didon award 2014 by **Mrs. Maha Chalabi**, President of Tyre Foundation

From the awarding ceremony of Elissa-Didon Prize 2014. The winners, the official award givers and the founders of the Award, **Mrs. Maha El-Khalil Chalabi** (Tyre Foundation), **Prof. Mohamed Aziza** (Programme MED 21) and **Mr. Mongi Loukil** (Didon d'Or)