

ΤΟ ΜΕΓΑΛΟ ΞΕΠΟΥΛΗΜΑ

The great sell-off

Reportage «Certains sont obligés d'uriner entre les marbres» : sur l'Acropole en Grèce, les conditions d'accueil des touristes pointées du doigt

• **Réservez aux abonnés** Pas de toilettes, pas d'ombre, pas de vente d'eau... Le célèbre site historique d'Athènes accueille mal, surtout l'été, les 4,5 millions de visiteurs qui s'y pressent chaque année. Les salariés dénoncent l'inefficacité de certains services privatisés et une dérive marchande.



«Certains sont obligés d'uriner entre les marbres» : sur l'Acropole en Grèce, les conditions d'accueil des touristes pointées du doigt



WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE TOILETS AT THE ACROPOLIS?

...and how is it connected to the Ministry of Culture's bill, which is due to be voted on the 28th of July?



NO TO THE PRIVATIZATION OF CULTURE

ΟΧΙ ΣΤΗΝ Α.Ε. ΕΜΠΟΡΙΑΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ

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The Minister of Culture stated in Parliament:

“The toilets at the Acropolis have always been located outside the archaeological site, ever since the site was established. There have never been toilets anywhere else within the archaeological site. Let's stop creating false impressions.”

“Now that the Old Acropolis Museum is preparing to reopen, we have created approximately 10 to 12 toilets. These facilities will come into use when the Old Acropolis Museum opens at the beginning of the autumn.”

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Public toilets have **always** been available at the Old Acropolis Museum, on the Acropolis rock. There was also a drinking water fountain there.

The toilets remained in operation even after the Old Acropolis Museum closed.

They were closed two years ago for renovation.

The renovation has been completed.

The toilets have not been reopened to the public.

BUT WHY?



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A joint statement by the trade unions representing employees of the Ministry of Culture and licensed tourist guides revealed that:

“Following a decision by the Minister of Culture (14 April 2026), the Hellenic Organization for the Development of Cultural Resources (ODAP) launched a public tender (17 April 2026) to lease the public toilets and lockers at the archaeological sites of the Acropolis, the Ancient Agora, Kerameikos, and the Temple of Olympian Zeus to a private company.

According to the tender specifications, visitors will be charged €1 to use the toilets and €2 per person for the storage of personal belongings in lockers.”

THE TOILETS REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL THEY ARE HANDED OVER TO A PRIVATE OPERATOR. WHY?



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FOR THE SAKE OF PRIVATE PROFIT



**THE GOVERNMENT HAS CHOSEN
TO LEAVE MILLIONS OF VISITORS
TO THE ACROPOLIS
WITHOUT FREE ACCESS TO TOILETS**

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**THE PRIVATE OPERATOR
WILL PAY RENT OF APPROXIMATELY
€2,258 PER MONTH**

**WHILE COLLECTING MORE THAN
€40,000 PER MONTH IN REVENUE.**

THE TENDER RECEIVED ONLY ONE BIDDER!

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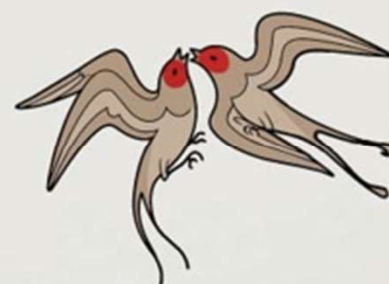
The country's foremost monument is being defamed in the middle of the tourist season.

Our colleagues are forced to apologize to visitors and tour guides.

The restrooms were renovated with public funds, but are not being made available to the public until a private operator takes them over!

These are the results of the privatization that the draft law of the Ministry of Culture deepens.

**SAY NO TO THE
PRIVATIZATION
OF CULTURE**



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