

**Honorable Madam President of GEMME,**

**Honorable Mr. President of GEMME HELLAS,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**I have the honor to welcome you this year in Greece, in the premises of the Ministry of Justice, and to the 20th anniversary of the founding of GEMME for the promotion of Mediation in Europe. I would like to warmly congratulate all the organizers for carrying out today's event.**

**As this year's event is taking place here in the birthplace of philosophy and rhetoric, I take this opportunity to refer to our ancient Greek philosophers, who undoubtedly had a decisive influence on the western way of thinking and contributed to the awareness and promotion of an early form of mediation.**

**Initially, Socrates' dialectical method lays a solid foundation. Based on critical thinking and the deductive method, it seeks to bring out the true interests of the parties, trying to achieve the convergence of their positions.**

**Greek philosophers, such as Plato, and Aristotle, played a significant role in the development of ethical and philosophical foundations that underpin mediation. Their teachings emphasized rational discourse, the pursuit of truth, and the importance of ethics, all of which are fundamental to the mediation process.**

**In the European area, over the years, mediation as an institution has been cultivated and finally sealed with the adoption of Directive 2008/52/EC, which provided the basis for national regulations to incorporate the institution into the domestic law of**

**the Member States and define its relationship with ordinary justice.**

**Mediation, however, as an alternative form of private dispute resolution, is gaining ground both globally and nationally.**

**In any case, mediation, where it is legislated and implemented, works in favour of citizens, who use it to resolve private law disputes that are amenable to mediation directly and effectively and contributes to speeding up the administration of justice, as disputes resolved out of the court, are no longer needed to be dealt by the civil courts.**

**Taking into account, the annual report of the Central Mediation Commission, it was observed that in the total number of post-mediation disputes, the number of 2022 cases that resulted in an agreement increased by 6% compared to the**

**previous year, with most cases involving family disputes and property disputes. It is therefore commonly accepted that mediation is both contributing to the upgrading of our legal culture as a whole, and is also becoming entrenched in the minds of citizens as an alternative method of resolving their disputes beyond that of litigation.**

**I would like to thank GEMME HELLAS for giving me the opportunity to share with you the view of the Ministry of Justice regarding Mediation, in the broader context of improving the conditions for more immediate and effective administration of justice in Greece. In the NSRF (ESPA) 2021- 2027 Action Plan, the "Strengthening the Institution of Legal Ombudsman" is foreseen, while two projects will be implemented with resources from the Recovery and Resilience Fund, both for the**

## **Strengthening of the Ombudsman and for the Strengthening of Mediation Centers.**

**In this way, in our country we hope to further strengthen the Mediation by encouraging lawyers, Certified Mediators and practicing lawyers to acquire knowledge and skills about their role in the process, starting with our law schools and then continuing with the ongoing training of Judges and Lawyers. It is a fact that many of the disputes in the courtrooms can be resolved out of court.**

**Promoting mediation as an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) method involves raising awareness about its benefits, building a supportive infrastructure, and encouraging its use in various sectors. It requires a multi-faceted approach involving legal, educational, and public awareness initiatives. By addressing the benefits and advantages of mediation, someone can encourage**

**its adoption in various contexts, reducing the burden on the traditional legal system and helping parties resolve conflicts more amicably.**

**Thank you in particular for your presence here.**