



## ROYAL BHUTANESE EMBASSY BRUSSELS

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### PRESS RELEASE

The 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the European Bhutan Friendship Societies was held from 6 to 9 October 2016 in Athens and Nafplio in Greece. The meeting was attended by 50 members of 14 friendship associations from 12 countries including Bhutan's Honorary Consuls in Germany and the Netherlands.

The meeting was hosted by the Greece –Bhutan Friendship Association. The Mayor of Athens Mr. Yiorgos Kaminis and the Mayor of Nafplio Mr. Dimitris Kostouros were the Chief Guests during the meetings in their respective cities. The meeting also received media coverage in the main regional newspaper.

Ambassador Pema Choden and officials from the Royal Bhutanese Embassy in Brussels participated in the biennial event. Ambassador Pema Choden conveyed the warm greetings from His Majesty the King and the Prime Minister to the gathering. She briefed the meeting of the significant political and economic developments in Bhutan 2016. On behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan, she conveyed her deepest appreciation and gratitude to all the members of the Friendship Societies in Europe for their invaluable role in promoting friendship between Bhutan and Europe and also for supporting Bhutan.

The Friendship Societies reiterated their friendship and support to Bhutan and commitment to continue promoting relations between Bhutan and their respective countries.

The next Biennial Meeting of the European Bhutan Societies is planned for June 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland and Chamonix, France and will be co-hosted by the Society Switzerland-Bhutan and Les Amis du Bhoutan, France.

The list of friendship association which attended the event are:

1. Austrian-Bhutan Society, Austria
2. Friends of Bhutan Society, Czech Republic
3. Danish-Bhutanese Friendship Association, Denmark
4. Bhutan-Hilfe Foundation, Germany
5. Bhutan-German Himalaya Society, Germany
6. Pro-Bhutan Foundation, Germany
7. Greece-Bhutan Friendship Association, Greece
8. Hungarian Bhutan Friendship Society, Hungary
9. Friends of Bhutan, Netherlands
10. Les Amis du Bhoutan, France
11. Swedish Bhutan Society, Sweden
12. Amici del Bhutan, Italy
13. Society Switzerland-Bhutan, Switzerland
14. Bhutan Society of the United Kingdom.