Welcome to Delegates of the Hellenic Australian Lawyers Association International Legal Conference in Rhodes, Greece

by Mr George Hatzimarkos, Governor of the South Aegean Region

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(English translation from original speech)

Your Excellencies, the President of the Hellenic Republic and the Australian Ambassador to Greece, Honourable Chief Justices, Mr President of the Hellenic Australian Lawyers Association and distinguished guests …

It is with feelings of pride, exhilaration and anticipation that I welcome you to the South Aegean and Rhodes in particular for the International Conference of the Hellenic Australian Lawyers Association.

Not only because of the special bond between our islands and Australia, as you well know many Greek islanders have moved to Australia where they live and prosper in all areas of private and public life, keeping at the same time a spot for our islands in their hearts.

Not only because of the well-known bond between Rhodes and international law. 'Lex Rhodia' is a reminder that it was indeed in the trade where islands were involved that the need for international law arose.

But especially because of the importance of the topic of the Keynote Address of the Rhodes Conference.

“Rhetoric and Reasoning” have indeed contributed to common law but are also of extreme importance to political life both internationally and on the domestic level almost everywhere in the world, and in my country it seems more so in present times.

So I wish all success to this year's Conference and remind you that we in the south Aegean will be more than happy to host this prestigious event again here or in any of the other gems that our islands are, we can indeed accommodate you in a different island every year for the next fifty years if you so wish.