

Dear Mr Mayor Koukodimos and Ms Maria Terzithou,

I recently read that you are promoting tourism and entrepreneurship with Greeks living abroad through a meeting/seminar to take place on Tuesday, August 1st. at the Mediterranean Village. With all due respect, how can you promote tourism in Katerini while the residents are suffering daily? Surely you will reveal to them the beauties of our region, trying to attract the interest of Greeks abroad. But the image may collapse if they try to get to know our City. The environment here is deplorable. To know a place is to walk through it and smell it. Do you expect tourist and expatriates to visit during the day and leave before the daily evening smell from cow and pig excrement or the suffering of burning throat and/or headaches from the burning of chicken carcasses? And if luck is not on your side, on their walk in the sea side area, where you are promoting your ideas to them, a few meters away, they will find themselves in front of the washed barrels from the mussel farm. The rubbish and garbage recently disturbed with sand. The canals are filthy with waste. The waste of a network of an inhumane entrepreneurship that pollutes the soil, waters and air of the Pierian earth. And if they enter the city unaccompanied by you and choose to visit friends or relatives in especially the Evangelical area and neighboring areas, they will be suffocated by the stench that the residents suffer through every day of the year. Expatriates abroad are much, much more sensitive to environmental issues. For us/them, as for any reasonable person, the protection of the environment is a matter of culture. While in theory your promotion is a great idea, the reality of it is that the tourist and expatriates most likely will return to their countries with a less than positive impression. And how will they choose, having the full picture of life here, trust and support you with becoming a part of local entrepreneurship? First you must take initiatives to reverse the degradation of the local natural environment before you invite them to become part of the future of Pieria. You must also make the protection of the environment a priority in school curriculum so future generations will have a positive impact on the environment .

Please don't make the mistake of discrediting us/ them if we speak out about these important issues, saying that we /they are activist or extreme defenders. For us, being active in favor of nature and man is a duty and an obligation of every citizen of this city, our home cities and of this planet!

Respectfully,



Susan M. Sidiropoulos