



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens
—EST. 1837—

**Ceremony of awarding the title
of doctor honoris causa
of the Department of Chemistry, N.K.U.A.,
to Professor of Epidemiology Paul
Anastas**

Athens, November 11th, 2022
Address by the Rector, Professor M.-A. Dimopoulos

It is with great honor and joy, given the stature and significant work of our special guest—and always in keeping with a long-standing tradition of our Institution to celebrate those who have contributed the most to Science and Society—, that we confer today, in this historic Ceremonial Hall, the highest honor of our University, the title of **doctor honoris causa**, awarded by the Department of Chemistry of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens to Professor of Epidemiology (Environmental Health Sciences) and “Tereza and H. John Heinz III” Professor in the Practice of Chemistry

for the Environment, at Yale School of Public Health and Yale School of the Environment, Mr Paul Anastas.

The conferment of this title to Mr. Anastas is a homage to a distinguished Scientist, a professor of Epidemiology, with a wealth of writing and many distinctions and awards. He serves science and especially in subjects related to Green Chemistry, Sustainability and Environmental Protection, areas which he has promoted and promotes both through his academic work and publications, presentations and speeches, as well as through positions of responsibility at academic and governmental level.

Professor Paul Anastas is an American scientist, inventor, author, entrepreneur, professor and public servant. He holds the Heinz Chair in Chemistry for the Environment at Yale University. He is the founding Director of the Yale Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering, and **has served in four U.S. Presidential Administrations.**

Dr. Anastas, known as *“The Father of Green Chemistry”*, has co-founded four manufacturing companies and has published fourteen books on sustainability and green chemistry.

He has received numerous honorary degrees and awards including the 2022 Hoffman Medal, the 2021 Volvo Environment Prize, the 2020 King Carl Gustav XIV Professorship Prize, Royal Society of Chemistry’s Jeyes Medal, and the Heinz Award.

In 1991 he coined and defined the term “Green Chemistry” and one year later he launched the U.S. Green Chemistry Program via the first research funding program entitled “Alternative Synthetic Pathways for Pollution Prevention”.

In 1997 he Co-founded the Green Chemistry Institute.

From 1999 until 2004 he served in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Immediately following Sept. the 11th 2001 terrorist attacks, he served as science coordinator on White House response team on Ground-Zero environmental issues

In 2007 he founded the Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale – Serving as Director.

In 2018 he was Named as Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, at Yale School of Public Health.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The challenges of sustainability are among the most complex and daunting ever faced by society.

This is why we, with the utmost honor and joy, welcome **Professor Anastas** as a select member, a doctor honoris causa of the **Department of Chemistry** of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

We thank him for his contribution in promoting Green Chemistry, Sustainability and Environmental Protection and wish him continued success and prosperity!

Thank You, Everyone.