



# IARPS NEWS

April – May 2022

28 April 2022

## Dr Lina Mendoni's greetings at the conference "The Parthenon Marbles Case and the Universal Museum Myth: Policies and Politics"

Link:

<https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nlD=4190>

Dr Lina Mendoni, Minister of Culture and Sports, addressing the conference at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York.

Source: Press Office Ministry of Culture and Sports

28 April 2022

## Australians being urged to join fight for the return of the Parthenon Marbles to Greece

Link:

<https://greekherald.com.au/news/australians-being-urged-to-join-fight-for-the-return-of-the-parthenon-marbles-to-greece/?fbclid=IwAR3I6CUjfNpkL4zm4EY5C0KhAQendjAvs3YskQM3KudBP0e1MSVjMkfuUsc>

The Australian Parthenon Association (APS) is launching its restitution campaign, on the heels of UNESCO's recent historical and unanimous decision in favour of the Sculptures' return to Greece, with a seminar "All you ever wanted to know about the Parthenon Sculptures" which will be held during the Greek Festival of Sydney, May 1, 2022.

David Hill, chairman of APS, will be presenting the case against the British Museum which has claimed the Parthenon Sculptures as its own for the past 200 years. He will be joined by George Vardas, APS vice-president, who will also discuss various legal issues regarding the British Museum's disputed claims to ownership of the Sculptures.

Source: The Greek Herald

1 May 2022

## Stephen Fry presents Parthenon Sculptures proposal

Link:

[https://www.ekathimerini.com/multimedia/images/1183244/stephen-fry-presents-parthenon-sculptures-proposal/?fbclid=IwAR3CjZ5IR1C1ifl3DcRS55AcGlbp7xbNvpzc3gUvV1U8\\_vLCC2QGOYI6oYQ](https://www.ekathimerini.com/multimedia/images/1183244/stephen-fry-presents-parthenon-sculptures-proposal/?fbclid=IwAR3CjZ5IR1C1ifl3DcRS55AcGlbp7xbNvpzc3gUvV1U8_vLCC2QGOYI6oYQ)

Stephen Fry presented his proposal to deal with the controversy of the Parthenon Marbles at an event in London attended by a 60-strong audience of politicians, diplomats and critics of the sculptures' repatriation

Source: Ekathimerini.com

5 May 2022

Link:

[https://hephaestuswien.com/a\\_day\\_in\\_the\\_cardozo\\_moot\\_court\\_room\\_the\\_parthenon\\_sculptures\\_case/](https://hephaestuswien.com/a_day_in_the_cardozo_moot_court_room_the_parthenon_sculptures_case/)

### **A Day in the Cardozo Moot Court Room – The Parthenon Sculptures Case**

Video message from the Hellenic Minister of Culture and Sports, Dr Lina Mendoni.

Source: Hephaestus Wien

*12 May 2022*

Link:

<https://hephaestuswien.com/the-parthenon-sculptures-case-its-not-only-the-crime-its-the-cover-up/>

### **The Parthenon Sculptures Case – It's not only the crime, it's the cover-up!**

Oftentimes the lie is worse than the original offense and sometimes the cover-up is worse than the crime and that, sometimes is easier to prove (!)

Source: Hephaestus Wien

*14 May 2022*

Link:

<https://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/en/events/european-night-museums-2022>

### **European Night of Museums 2022**

The Museum participates in the European Night of Museums. Visitors will be able to admire by night the masterpieces of its collections, while on the same day, within the context of the initiative "What does the Acropolis Museum mean to you?", the most representative answers of visitors received recently by the Museum will be projected on a big screen.

Source: Website Acropolis Museum – Activity calendar

Link:

[https://unesdoc.unesco.org/in/referencedAttachment/attachment\\_important\\_c157313f-8180-423a-a475-4c13c475b936?\\_from=1&fbclid=IwAR3Au4ROtG83t586XTfDNlPpPMV-1fK-8XHGH7DBHzTtbS4y1RHY0iol\\_S0](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/in/referencedAttachment/attachment_important_c157313f-8180-423a-a475-4c13c475b936?_from=1&fbclid=IwAR3Au4ROtG83t586XTfDNlPpPMV-1fK-8XHGH7DBHzTtbS4y1RHY0iol_S0)

*17 May 2022*

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Session UNESCO-ICPRCP 18-20 May 2022**

UNESCO announces formal talks between the U.K. and Greece on the Parthenon Sculptures.

See page 5.

Source: UNESCO

*18-20 May 2022*

Link:

[UNESCO - Live Event](#)

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Session of UNESCO's ICPRCP**

For the Parthenon Sculptures case: see 18-May-22 & 20-May-22.

Source: UNESCO

*18 May 2022*

Link:

<https://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/en/events/international-museum-day-2022>

### **International Museum Day 2022 at the Acropolis Museum**

This year's topic is the "Power of museums" focusing on achieving sustainability, innovating on digitalization and accessibility and community building through education. On this occasion, the Museum offers its adult visitors the two new gallery talks "Hidden stories of the diaspora" and "Digital Acropolis Museum. New interactive applications". In addition, the new family trail titled "The Parthenon Sculptures. 6 short stories of separation" will be available for children and their parents.

Source: Website Acropolis Museum – Activity calendar

*18 May 2022*

### **New round of talks between Greece and the U.K.**

Amid mounting public pressure, Greece and the U.K. have agreed to a new round of talks about a possible return of the Parthenon Marbles. Greece may be one step closer to getting the Parthenon Sculptures back from the U.K.

Source: artnet news

*18 May 2022*

### **Greece, UK agree to hold formal talks on the Parthenon Marbles**

A report from the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP) says that Greek Minister of Culture, Lina Mendoni and the Minister of the United Kingdom Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Lord Parkinson have agreed to meet "in due course".

Source: Greek Reporter

*18 May 2022*

### **The Parthenon Sculptures: Greece and the UK agree to formal talks**

George Vardas (APA Inc.): the reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures may be a step closer with the revelation by UNESCO that Greece and the United Kingdom have agreed to stage formal talks.

Source: Greek City Times

*19 May 2022*

**«Ναι» σε διάλογο για τα Γλυπτά με ... αμετακίνητες θέσεις  
[“Yes” to dialogue on the Sculptures with ... unchanged stance]**

Link:

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/restitution-talks-parthenon-marbles-2116907>

Link:

<https://greekreporter.com/2022/05/18/greece-uk-agree-talks-parthenon-marbles/>

Link:

<https://greekcitytimes.com/2022/05/18/the-parthenon-sculptures-greece-and-the-uk-agree-to-formal-talks/>

Link:

<https://www.tanea.gr/print/2022/05/19/lifearts/nai-se-dialogo-me-ametakinites-theseis/>

UNESCO's ICPRCP announced a meeting between Lina Mendoni and Lord Parkinson, but the British Ministry of Culture said to TA NEA that their stand does not change.

Yannis Andritsopoulos reporting from London.

Source: TA NEA

20 May 2022

**Τα «κρυμμένα» 101.691 ελληνικά κειμήλια του Βρετανικού Μουσείου**

**[The 101.691 "hidden" Greek artefacts in the British Museum]**

Link:

<https://www.tanea.gr/print/2022/05/20/greece/ta-krymmena-101-691-ellinika-keimilia/>

Only 6% of the objects are on display in the Museum, the reactions on the bilateral "dialogue" on the Parthenon Sculptures continue – Reactions from the British Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Marbles.

Yannis Andritsopoulos reporting from London.

Source: TA NEA

20 May 2022

**Common press release of the Government of Sicily and the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports**

Link:

<https://culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=4213>

The so called "Fagan Fragment" can for always remain in Athens!

Source: Press Office YPPOA

20 May 2022

**Recommendation of the 23rd Meeting of UNESCO's ICPRCP on the return of the Parthenon Sculptures**

Link:

<https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=4214>

Source: Press Office YPPOA

20 May 2022

**Can Greece and the U.K. finally broker a deal to return the Elgin Marbles to Athens?**

Link:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/can-greece-and-uk-finally-broker-deal-to-return-elgin-marbles-parthenon-sculptures-athens-180980113/>

New talks raise old questions about the ancient Parthenon sculptures.

Source: Smithsonian Magazine

21 May 2022



### Interview on ERT 1 in “Με νέα μάτια”

Dr Kris Tytgat, president of IARPS, interviewed by Dr Kostas Laskaratos on the recent developments on the issue of the Parthenon Sculptures.

Source: ERT 1

22 May 2022

### Hidden stories of the diaspora

Gallery talk at the Acropolis Museum, every Sunday until December 18.

It is a worldwide fact that almost half of the Parthenon sculptures are in the British Museum in London, the result of the monument’s looting by the crews of Thomas Bruce, Lord of Elgin, in the early 19th century. There are, however, smaller fragments, and also other antiquities of the Acropolis, which today are scattered across European Museums. But how did they get there, what were their adventures and who starred in them? The Museum’s archaeologists invite you to discover together with them the answers to all these mysteries and the ‘unknown’, stories of the dispersal of some of the most important works of the Acropolis.

Source: Website Acropolis Museum – Activity calendar

Link:

<https://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/en/gallery-talks/hidden-stories-diaspora>

23 May 2022

### Greece rebuts British Museum claim Parthenon marbles were ‘removed from rubble’

Museum’s deputy director had told UNESCO meeting contested treasures ‘were not all hacked’ from Greek temple.

Source: The Guardian

Link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2022/may/23/greece-rebuts-british-museum-claim-parthenon-marbles-were-removed-from-rubble>

23 May 2022

### Γλυπτά Παρθενώνα: Διαψεύδει το Βρετανικό Μουσείο η Ελλάδα – Μπλόκο στις συνομιλίες [Greece rebuts the British Museum – Dialogue blocked]

A spokesperson of the British Ministry of Culture declared to ERT that the U.K. government did not agree on formal talks about the Parthenon Sculptures. We are always ready to discuss issues of cultural cooperation with our Greek colleagues, the Parthenon Sculptures belong to the British Museum, which operates independently from the government. Consequently, this is a matter of the Trustees of the British Museum. The longstanding stance of the U.K. on the issue has not changed.

Source: ERT News

Link:

<https://www.ertnews.gr/eidiseis/ellada/glypta-toy-parthenona-i-ellada-diapseydei-to-vretaniko-moyseio-quot-mploko-quot-stis-synomilies/>

23 May 2022

Link:

<https://www.skai.gr/news/culture/vretanos-istorikos-se-vretaniko-mouseio-eksofrenikos-o-isxyrismos-oti-o-elgin-pire-ta-glypta-?fbclid=IwAR0mE7xAYXlxcKI-wzOQSL7NVgqzwRRdxIRBI1-oRodeTbCpoEe1VLUhE>

**Εξωφρενικός ο ισχυρισμός ότι ο Έλγιν πήρε τα Γλυπτά «από τα χαλάσματα»: Άγγλος ιστορικός απαντά στο Βρετανικό Μουσείο [Shocked by the claim that Elgin removed the Sculptures “from the rubble”: English historian replies to the British Museum]**

Michael Wood, Professor of Public History at the University of Manchester and one of the newest members of the BCRPM, is shocked by the claim of the British Museum that many of the Parthenon Sculptures located in London were collected by Lord Elgin’s associates not from the monument, but “from the ruins”.

Source: SKY Greece

24 May 2022

Link:

<https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nid=4219>

**Interview Dr Lina Mendoni on the issue of the Parthenon Sculptures**

Minister of Culture and Sports rebuts the recent statements made by the Deputy Director of the British Museum at the last UNESCO’s ICPRCP meeting and repeats the official stand of Greece that the Greek government does not recognize the usufruct, possession and ownership of the British Museum or the U.K.

Source: Press Office YPPOA

24 May 2022

Link:

<https://www.tanea.gr/print/2022/05/24/lifearts/den-kanoume-dialogo-gia-ta-glyptacrden-allazoume-ton-nomo/>

**«Δεν κάνουμε διάλογο για τα Γλυπτά, δεν αλλάζουμε τον νόμο» [“We refuse a dialogue on the Sculptures, we do not change the law”]**

The British government declares – for the first time – that it has no intention to amend the law that forbids the British Museum to concede artefacts.

Yannis Andritsopoulos reporting from London.

Source: TA NEA

24 May 2022

Link:

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2022/05/british-museum-doubles-down-on-parthenon-sculptures-stance/>

**British Museum doubles down on Parthenon Sculptures stance**

Row deepens as Greece rejects museum's claim that marbles were mainly retrieved from rubble.

Source: Museums Association

25 May 2022

**Britain’s major messaging failure on Parthenon Marbles**

Link:

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/05/25/british-delegation-discredits-own-governments-parthenon-marbles-meeting>

The UN says it has facilitated a meeting for British officials to discuss restitution with the Greek minister of culture, but Britain denies this.

The British delegation at the intergovernmental UNESCO's ICPRCP meeting in Paris has dismissed its own government's initiative to discuss the restitution of the Parthenon Marbles with the Greek Culture Minister, Lina Mendoni.

Source: The Art Newspaper

25 May 2022

### **UK isolated at UNESCO over the Parthenon Marbles – Report**

The UK was completely isolated at a recent UNESCO meeting on the fate of the Parthenon Marbles. Numerous delegates, expressing frustration at this seemingly endless passing of responsibility between The British Museum and the UK government, voiced support for the Greek claim. None backed Britain. pointed

Source: Greek Reporter

Link:

<https://greekreporter.com/2022/05/25/uk-unesco-parthenon-marbles/>

26 May 2022

### **Why Britain should want to return the Parthenon Marbles, argued by a professor of Aegean archaeology**

Evangelos Kyriakidis, director of The Heritage Management Organisation and previously senior lecturer in Aegean Prehistory at the University of Kent believes the museum needs to see past the legal arguments. "I think the moral argument is much stronger," he says.

"The British Museum portrays itself as a global museum, but that gives the complete wrong message to the world. Why would you call it a British museum where you learn mainly about Persia or Greece, but there is barely any room for British antiquities in it. It's a remnant of a colonial era. ... What if, instead of the British Museum hoarding antiquities from its colonial past, instead it established open relationships with other countries, opening up the possibility for fascinating temporary exhibitions.

Source: euronews.culture

Link:

<https://www.euronews.com/culture/2022/05/25/why-britain-should-want-to-return-the-parthenon-marbles-argued-by-a-professor-of-aegean-history>

27 May 2022

### **As esculturas do Partenon no contexto da narrativa curatorial do Museu da Acrópole [Parthenon sculptures in the context of the curatorial narrative of the Acropolis Museum]**

Link:

<http://www.idea.unicamp.br/eventos/esculturas-do-partenon-no-contexto-da-narrativa-curatorial-do-museu-da-acropole?fbclid=IwAR2n1IOKRhw>

[04DPWZ19qCIXy4KaafhZuw4WlQ CnLP9FsXDKIFEXm74RfezY](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/may/28/why-shouldnt-greeks-have-marbles-back-we-proved-we-lost-ours-years-ago?CMP=share_btn_fb&fbclid=IwAR0KnWSA8J8ke2FMrrJ1Aob_Zy2GsFqTpde5p9KCUVLBnDLlabkIFWK3O-c)

Lecture by Celina Lage, vice president of the Brazilian Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures.

Source: Institute for Advanced Studies (IdEA) of Unicamp

Link:

[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/may/28/why-shouldnt-greeks-have-marbles-back-we-proved-we-lost-ours-years-ago?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb&fbclid=IwAR0KnWSA8J8ke2FMrrJ1Aob\\_Zy2GsFqTpde5p9KCUVLBnDLlabkIFWK3O-c](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/may/28/why-shouldnt-greeks-have-marbles-back-we-proved-we-lost-ours-years-ago?CMP=share_btn_fb&fbclid=IwAR0KnWSA8J8ke2FMrrJ1Aob_Zy2GsFqTpde5p9KCUVLBnDLlabkIFWK3O-c)

28 May 2022

### **Why shouldn't the Greeks have their marbles back? We proved we lost ours years ago**

Catherine Bennett: antiquated excuses for keeping the sculptures are wearing thin after 12 years of Conservative cultural freeze.

Source: The Observer – Opinions

Link:

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.liberal.gr%2Fpolitismos%2Foi-anepanorthotes-katastrofes-apo-to-bretaniko-mouseio%2F451778&data=05%7C01%7C%7C709e3c2720c54ee2722c08da410febca%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637893833881423012%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NmJi5aw9fhyWb8ANLWC7fTifKR0K79CTX8JRjxDyds%3D&reserved=0>

28 May 2022

### **Γλυπτά Παρθενώνα: Οι ανεπανόρθωτες καταστροφές από το Βρετανικό Μουσείο [Parthenon Sculptures: the irreversible failures by the British Museum]**

The Parthenon Sculptures underwent a series of proven disasters by Elgin's theft of them and their stay in the British Museum, even if the British pretend they saved the Sculptures.

Source: Liberal

Link:

<https://www.tanea.gr/print/2022/05/30/lifearts/elleipsi-sovarotitas-lfkai-simadia-apognosis/>

30 May 2022

### **«Ελλειψη σοβαρότητας και σημάδια απόγνωσης» [“Lack of seriousness and signs of desperation”]**

Dr Kris Tytgat, president of IARPS, comments on the latest evolution in the ongoing dispute over the Parthenon Sculptures between Greece and the UK.

Source: TA NEA

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## Upcoming events

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27 June 2022

### **Desmond Child rocks the Parthenon**

Concert organized by composer Desmond Child. Singing for the reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures: Alice Cooper, Bonnie Tyler and Sakis Rouvas.

Herodes Atticus Odeion

Athens

Follow the link:

[Desmond Child Rocks The Parthenon: Ο Ντέσμοντ Τσάιλντ ζωντανά στο Ηρώδειο | CultureNow.gr](#)

30 July 2022

### **It's time to unite**

Trivia night and Campaign update organized by IOC-A- RPM

Mondale Masonic Club

86 Roberts Ave

Mortdale

Follow the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/ParthenonMarbles.au>

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TA NEA, 30.05.2022

*“Lack of seriousness and signs of desperation”*

[Published in Greek]

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What to think about the recent developments in the 40 years old dispute between Greece and the U.K. on the return of the Parthenon Sculptures from London? Stubborn arrogance from British side? Certainly a lack of seriousness as the U.K. government changed its policy several times in less than a week and a sign of desperation from the British Museum to find new arguments in favour for keeping the Sculptures.

UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP) announced on Tuesday May 17 that Greek Minister of Culture and Sports Dr Lina Mendoni had accepted at the end of April an invitation from the British Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Lord Stephen Parkinson, for bilateral talks on the issue, and that a meeting will be organized in due course. This announcement was considered by some as a milestone, as for the first time the U.K. government accepted to engage into a formal dialogue, something which certainly is a step forward in the dispute.

On May 18, during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ICPRCP, the British representative not only contested the validity of the Decision taken by the Committee during its previous Session concerning the Parthenon Sculptures, but the Deputy Director of the British Museum Dr Jonathan Williams passionately argued that most of the sculptures taken by Lord Elgin were collected from the debris surrounding the building. Both statements are

incorrect: the Decision was taken by consensus and there exists plenty of historical evidence from witnesses and in letters written in those days that most of the sculptures were brutally removed from the Parthenon, a fact abundantly proven by traces on the artefacts themselves. This argument, just like a former statement by the Director of the British Museum Dr Hartmut Fischer, who said that in fact Lord Elgin made a creative act by removing the sculptures and saved them from destruction, shows how desperate the British Museum is to justify its attitude.

On the same day a spokesperson of the British Minister of Culture Nadine Doris, declared to TA NEA, that the British government maintains its stance on the Sculptures. This statement was later on that day confirmed by a source at the office of the British PM. For UNESCO's ICPRCP the issue is clearly an intergovernmental matter, a fact the British government apparently refuses to acknowledge. One may wonder what's the meaning to engage into talks if the other party is not willing to listen to your arguments and rejects any decision-making power in the matter.

The Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports Dr Mendoni repeated in a press release on May 20 that she is ready for a honest and bona fide dialogue with the U.K. Furthermore, in a statement to The Guardian on May 22, she pointed out that "the years, Greek authorities and the international scientific community have demonstrated with unshakeable arguments the true events surrounding the removal of the Parthenon Sculptures."

The latest statement from the U.K., for the time being, came on May 23 when Downing Street announced that there will be no dialogue with Greece on the Sculptures and that the Museum Act of 1963 will not be changed.

Under the increasing pressure to return the Parthenon Sculptures and the absence of international support for its stand, the U.K showed a lack of a consistent coherent policy this week. By criticizing and not respecting the ICPRCP's procedures one may also ask why the U.K. has still a representative in the UNESCO's Committee?

Dr Kris Tytgat  
President IARPS

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IARPS presents:

*International Organizing Committee – AUSTRALIA – for the Restitution of  
the Parthenon Marbles (IOC-A-RPM)*

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The *International Organising Committee – Australia – for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles (IOC-A-RPM)* was founded on 8 October, 1981, by Emanuel J Comino AM. It was the first committee in the world to work for the return of the Parthenon Marbles to Hellas, and since its foundation has taken an active part in the International campaign.

From the beginning the *IOC-A-RPM* has held numerous events in Australia and internationally; operated a nationwide program of lectures and educational activities; solicited and gained the support of prominent Australians; conducted programs for schools; sponsored and supported the British Committee from its inception 1983; established the New Zealand Committee in 2000; participated in and assisted in the organised of three International Colloquies on return of the Parthenon Marbles; and, attended the Commemorative Event in London on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at which both Emanuel J Comino AM and Russell Darnley OAM presented papers.

*IOC-A-RPM* maintains a website and is active on the social media platforms Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Our Committee is listed on the Hellenic Ministry of Culture website.

*IOC-A-RPM* has been assisting in the English interactive digital production *The Parthenon in 3D*, and is currently preparing several new social media initiatives as well as collaborating in a unique promotion, details of which will be released shortly.

Here also is the [link to a radio interview](#) Emanuel gave in Athens, 2015, and a link to the podcast [Ouzo Talks in November 2021](#) in which he also participated together with Theodora Minas Giannotis.

As a strictly voluntary organisation we have always been self-funding and have neither sought or received financial support from the Hellenic Government for our work. We have always supported, and will continue to support, the Hellenic Government's stand on restitution of the Parthenon Marbles.

Emanuel John Comino AM PSPJP  
Founder & chairman

Russell Darnley OAM  
Vice Chair

Newsletter edited by Dr Kris Tytgat, President of IARPS