



Ministry of Employment & Social Protection

Deputy Minister

Sophia Kalantzakos

GREECE



On September 19, 2007, **Sophia Kalantzakos** was sworn in as Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Employment & Social Protection. Since 2000, she has been a member of the Hellenic Parliament with New Democracy (ND) representing the State of Messinia. She is the first woman to be elected from her state.

The Deputy Minister was born in Athens in 1965. She received her BA degree from Yale University in History and Italian Literature. After graduating from Columbia University with an M.A. from the School of International & Public Affairs she married Phillip Mitsis, A. S. Onassis Professor of Hellenic Culture and Civilization at New York University (NYU). They have a young daughter, Alexandra.

As Deputy Minister of the **Ministry of Employment & Social Protection**, Ms Kalantzakos is responsible for Labor issues, Health & Safety at work, the Labor Inspectorate Body (SEPE), the Workers' Fund and jointly with the Minister for the Manpower Employment Organization (OAED).

During her 9 years as a member of the Hellenic Parliament, she has been an advocate of issues concerning regional and agricultural development and has worked on many issues relating to education, children and families.

During her second term in the Hellenic Parliament she was appointed an Alternate General Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee of New Democracy. She was head of the Greek delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. In Parliament, she sat on the Home Affairs Committee and the European Affairs Committee. Moreover, she participated in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee as well as the Regional Committee.

During her first parliamentary term from 2000-2004 she sat on the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and was responsible for Greek – US relations. Ms Kalantzakos was also a member of the European Affairs Committee, the party committee responsible for primary education, and an Ambassador for the Olympic Truce. In that capacity, she visited Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2002, both of which signed the Olympic Truce.

Ms Kalantzakos worked from 1987 until 2000 in media, advertising and communications. She is bilingual in English and Greek, and speaks Italian, French and some Turkish. Sophia Kalantzakos is an author of a children's book that aims to foster environmental awareness.