

## Interview with the General Consul of France

On Friday the 16th of February a delegation from Aristotelio College visited the French Institute in order to conduct an interview with Mr. Jean-Luc Lavaud, General Consul of the French Republic in Thessaloniki. The delegation was given the opportunity to apprehend the anatomy of diplomacy by discussing its deeper mission of establishing meaningful relations between states, preserving and respecting international treaties and rules of law, as well as developing a stable diplomatic landscape globally. In particular, the Consul underlined diplomacy's contribution in combating environmental and health related challenges which dominate our times. The surge of technology was a common field of concern, with its significance being identified, on the one hand, as a facilitator of diplomatic communication, and on the other, as a groundbreaking redefining factor of the craft of diplomacy and of the international political balance. Mr. Lavaud highlighted the importance of maintaining objectivity and impartiality by adapting to each nation's cultural characteristics as well as understanding the motives and intentions behind each party's actions, a crucial yet challenging aspect of diplomacy. The Consul admitted that building consensus is essential for a successful negotiation, a process that requires promoting a culture of respectful and inclusive collaboration. These are the values that dictate Mr. Lavaud's career from his first diplomatic posting in Vietnam up until now, values that each diplomat should embody.

The members of the delegation were: Stathis Paris, Lagoutari Ismini, Aggelopoulou Evina, Petsiava Maria, Giltidou Lina, Tsipropoulou Maria, Tsoutsas Stella, Kyriakidou Alexandra, Kyriakidou Melina, Siomkou Alice, Tsokortidou Mirto, Theodosiadou Ifigenia, Salamandri Katerina