

Dear Optimist Family
Kalos Irthate stin Thessaloniki

Welcome to beautiful and historical Thessaloniki. Over the centuries, Thessaloniki has welcomed sailors from various corner of the globe, nurturing a rich maritime heritage that we are privileged to celebrate today. Its storied past echoes with the adventures of brave explorers and the resilience of seasoned sailors who have dared to conquer the unpredictable seas. Thessaloniki has always had a special place in the heart of seafarers.

I am very happy and proud to welcome you to the much-anticipated 2023 Optimist European Championship. After 1999 and 2007 this is the 3rd time an IODA Optimist European Championship is taking place in Greece.

292 young sailors from 47 nations gather here with great excitement to witness years of dedication and training. You all deserve being here as you have been training hard to get a spot at this championship. This championship promises to be an unforgettable experience filled with fierce competition, camaraderie, and the forging of lifelong friendships.

The Europeans has always been a unique IODA Championship in which boys and girls compete in separate fleets and we crown two European Champions at the end of the 5 days of Fleet Racing.

The 2023 European Championship Organizers, all its wonderful volunteers, the Nautical Club Thessaloniki, Kalamaria with the Hellenic Sailing Federation, everyone in IODA with its officials coming from all around the World, all welcome you to this historical and beautiful coastal place.

May the winds be favorable, the seas be kind, and the sailing conditions be nothing short of exceptional.

Have fun and let's enjoy sailing on the Thermaic Gulf of the Aegean Sea.

Carmen Casco
IODA VP Europe