



ΚΙΝΗΣΗ ΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ  
ΠΑΡΟΥ

## Proposals from the Paros Citizens' Movement for Tourism and Urban Planning

May 2025

1. The Paros Citizens' Movement, taking into account all the factors (economic, political, social, international, and domestic) that influence the island's trajectory, believes that at this moment **the overall character of Paros is at immediate danger of definitive and irreversible loss**. This danger is linked to excessive construction and the massive expansion of tourism. Due to these two factors, which are not identical but have a combined effect, a multitude of pre-existing problems, such as waste and sewage management, water scarcity, the abandonment of the primary sector, etc., are exacerbated to the point where they be resolved in any way, while at the same time, critical new problems such as landscape degradation, the destruction of the seabed, and certain adverse effects on the socioeconomic fabric of the local community are emerging with particular acuity and intensity.

2. The Paros Citizens' Movement **is not opposed to the island's tourism development**. On the contrary, it recognizes its contribution over the past decades to improving economic prosperity, as well as to enriching the local community through interaction with people who have chosen to connect with the island, either temporarily or more permanently. However, it considers that in recent decades, and more intensely in recent years, the influx of tourists inflows to the island have exceeded its natural and social carrying capacity, and therefore **there is no reason for further growth in tourist inflows; on the contrary, there are many reasons to curb and perhaps even reduce them**, while simultaneously reorienting their qualitative characteristics.

3. The Paros Citizens' Movement believes that **excessive construction on the island (and especially outside the plan) poses the greatest danger of all** and considers its immediate restriction a key priority. And this is because:

a. The construction of buildings constitutes an irreversible intervention in the landscape. The alteration is caused will inevitably be passed on to future generations, and the unique Parian landscape will never again regain the charm and natural functionality that characterized it for millennia.

b. Most of the construction activity (and especially that outside the urban plan) on the island is related neither to the needs of the local community nor to local business interests. Instead, it is linked to the interests of major players in the international market, who view the island as a suitable investment destination for their capital and who have little or negative interest in the living conditions and future of the local community.

c. The construction of buildings (mainly outside settlements) as well as accompanying projects (opening of access roads within or outside properties, expansion of networks—waste collection, telecommunications, electricity, water supply, sewage, etc.) places a dramatic burden on the island's infrastructure, burdens municipal services (and, by extension, residents), destroys ecosystems, increases flood risks as well as fire risks,

weakens the area's natural defenses, and creates new demands (such as the creation of spaces for recycling construction debris and building materials, additional desalination projects, etc.) that cannot be met without transforming the island as a whole into a dysfunctional and ultimately repulsive space, haphazardly urbanized.

**4.** The Citizens' Movement, aware that a new Local Urban Plan is being drafted for the island, has developed specific proposals that **it considers necessary to be taken into account in the Urban Planning process.** These proposals are:

**A. No new beds on Paros.** The existing ones, whether in hotels or short-term rentals, are sufficient to accommodate approximately one and a half million people each year. There is no reason to increase them. On the contrary, there are many who advocate halting the expansion of tourism growth.

**B. Total ban on swimming pools or water features.** Paros has existed for millennia without them. They are incompatible with the island's tradition and place serious strain on water supplies.

**C. Ban on private well drilling.**

**D.** A strict plan **to protect the valuable monuments of the island's ancient agricultural tradition,** and in particular:

- the network **of old footpaths,** which must be documented and preserved in their original form, and of course must not grant building rights
- the **dry-stone terraces,** which constitute a valuable green infrastructure because they play an irreplaceable role in soil retention, the replenishment of groundwater aquifers, and the island's flood protection.
- of rural buildings and engineering structures

**E. Careful documentation and protection of all streams throughout the entire watershed** and across the full width of their floodplain.

**F. Preservation (and enforcement!) of all ecosystem protection provisions of the 2012 General Urban Plan (GUP)** for both the island's land area and its coastal zone.

**G.** Protection of Rural and Agricultural Land

**H.** No to industrial-scale wind turbines.

**5.** However, knowing also that the new Local Urban Plan **will not be enacted for several more years,** years—which, given the pace of permit issuance, are considered absolutely critical because there is a visible risk that by the time the Local Urban Plan is enacted, circumstances may already have arisen that render it unenforceable, the **Paros Citizens' Movement calls for the immediate and scrupulous observance of all existing legislation that may prove decisive for the protection of the island.** Specifically:

**A.** Compliance with the restrictions on off-plan construction set forth in the 1985 Presidential Decree (PD 24/5/85, Government Gazette 270/D - 1985) and recently reiterated/confirmed by the Council of State (decision 176/3023). Only plots with a 25-meter frontage on a municipal or community road have the right to build outside a settlement.

**B.** Suspension of the issuance of new building permits in areas outside the urban plan. This may be granted by a decision of the Ministry following a request from the Municipal Authority.

**C.** Prohibition of strategic investments in tourism