

ΑΡΕΙΟΣ ΠΑΓΟΣ
ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΣ
Cour de Cassation
Supreme Court
President

Athens, 9th July 2015

Dear Mr. President,

Due to the critical situation of our country and due to the vast difference of opinions, which politicians from other Euro-zone Member States are trying to convey to their people, I felt that in my capacity as President of the Supreme Court of Greece, I must inform my counterparts in other Euro-zone Member States, in an objective, impartial and sincere way, as required by my judicial office, regarding the positions of the Greek people and the situation in Greece.

The vast majority of the Greek people **does not wish** Greece's exit from the Euro-zone, but it wants to stay within it. The question posed in the Greek referendum was not the exit from the euro, as some of the representatives of the European institutions and some European politicians incorrectly insisted to support, but it was clearly the approval or not of the proposal of the institutions for new austerity measures without adjustment of the Greek debt, and the Greek people by a majority of 61,3% voted **NO**. The Greek people do not request not to pay the debt of the Greek State, for the creation of which the people themselves bear no responsibility, since it (the debt) is due firstly to the mismanagement of public funds by the Governments and, secondly, due to the improper economic policy which has been implemented in the last five years, based on memorandums imposed by the Troika, which have been proved unsuccessful, since they have led to greater recession, unemployment and impoverishment of a great part of the Greek people.

The Greek people do not want a solution that will be to the detriment of the people of other nations of the Euro-zone, as some

European politicians incorrectly wish to present in order to be agreeable to their own voters, but they expect from its European partners to come to an agreement with the Greek Government, which will provide for an adjustment of the Greek debt in a way that it will both generate economic growth and reduce unemployment. They expect from their European partners to consider not only numbers and financial figures, but also the moral values imposed by the Idea of a United Europe.

Europe was named after the daughter of the king of the Phoenicians, which Zeus fell in love, and after he transformed himself into a white bull, he took her on his back and carried her on the island of Crete, where they lived together and had three children, one of which was King Minos of Knossos. **Europe was worshiped in Crete and in many other parts of Greece as a goddess, and in the 3rd, 2nd and 1st century BC, the coin circulating in these parts bore the pictures of god Zeus on one side and Europe on the bull on the other side. The current Euro (the two-euros coin) bears the same imprint in one of its sides, depicting Europe on the bull. Therefore, we all have to understand that Greece is Europe.** All European partners must understand that the country, in which Republic, Philosophy and European Culture were born, the country which has a dominant geopolitical position for the security of the entire European continent, can not be forced out of the Euro-zone. The Prime Minister of Greece assured the European Parliament on the opinion of the Greek people to stay in the Euro-zone, and to the same opinion have agreed almost all political leaders of other parties, at a meeting chaired by President of the Greek Republic.

The Greeks expect to accomplish a fair agreement for the Greek people, without causing harm to the people of other Member States of the Euro-zone. The Greek government has great historical responsibility to decide on the future of Greece. European partners have the same great historical responsibility to decide on the future of the Euro-zone, also.

I am convinced, Mr. President, that, because of your capacity, you have an increased sense of justice, and that you share the belief which the general principles of law recognize, that is while creditors are entitled to demand satisfaction of their claim, however they are required to respect the personality and dignity of the debtor and to facilitate the repayment of the debt, and they are not allowed to seek the extermination of the debtor, for economic and political reasons.

I am asking you to kindly inform all the judges of the Supreme Court and by exerting the influence of your office, to contribute, in the way you deem best, in finding a fair solution to the Greek problem which is also a European issue.

Yours sincerely

Vasiliki Thanos - Christofilou
President of the Supreme Court