



THE PRESS & COMMUNICATION OFFICE  
EMBASSY OF GREECE IN BEIJING

*Facing a challenging financial situation, Greece pledges to undertake all necessary reforms so as to tackle its debt crisis and boost growth, supported not only by its EU partners, but also by members of the international community, like China, voicing confidence on the country.*

### Troika statement on Greek Economy

The 6th tranche of EU-IMF bailout loans to Greece, amounting to eight billion euro, will most likely be disbursed in early November, the European Commission (EC), European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced after receiving the report of the 5th EU-IMF review mission in Greece.

The announcement noted that the Eurogroup and the IMF's Executive Board would first have to approve the conclusions of the fifth review.

In statements from Athens, Finance Minister and Vice-President, Evangelos Venizelos, said the troika's statement was "balanced,

practical and positive" while noting that "political and economic time has become greatly condensed".

He underlined that all the things which the government had promised to do would have to be in place before the 6th tranche was disbursed and even before the Eurogroup summit on October 23.

### Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos in Washington

*"If you look carefully at the statements by all the relevant Euro-zone officials and representatives of Euro-zone member-states, you will see that there are two constant messages: Greece is and will be part of the Euro forever, and will not go bankrupt, because this would be catastrophic for the Euro-zone and other countries beyond".*

### European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso

*"Greece is and will remain a member of the Euro-zone and the EU. However, Greece must fulfill its commitments and within the period it has pledged. We must support Greece and the other countries that are facing problems until they stand on their own feet and return, on their own, to the markets" .*

### China voices confidence on Euro-zone economy

China said it believes that the Euro zone will realize steady economic growth. Asked to comment on Greece's approval of a key austerity bill and the country's debt crisis, Foreign

Ministry spokesman, Hong Lei, stated that "the difficulties Greece and some other countries have encountered indicated that there are still unstable and uncertain factors in the

world economic recovery", and added that "the international community should cooperate with confidence and tackle the challenges hand-in-hand".

### Prime Minister George Papandreou in Berlin



Speaking during a joint press conference with German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, in Berlin, Prime Minister, George Papandreou, expressed Greece's strong political will for the

promotion of very serious reforms as well as the full implementation of the measures decided.

The Prime Minister also stressed his government's political will both for the tackling of the crisis and the creation of a competitive economy in Greece, and pointed out that the message of support by European partners to the Greek people, who are going through great sacrifices, is very important.

On her part, Chancellor Merkel said that "we want a strong Greece," adding that Greece must fulfill its commitments.

Besides, addressing the annual conference of the BDI, the umbrella federation of German industry and industry-related service providers, Prime Minister, George Papandreou, issued an open invitation to German industrialists and entrepreneurs to invest in Greece.

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In an address entitled "Looking to the Future: The Europe of Development and Solidarity", PM Papandreou said that "investments in Greece are investments in the future" and outlined the significant steps that have been made over the last two years for transparency and to boost the competitiveness of the

Greek economy.

The Premier noted an increase in Greek exports, improvement in the performance of the tourism industry, and investment prospects via a privatisations programme, particularly in the fields of infrastructure (airports, ports) and energy, while he especially emphasised the

renewable energy sector and the potential export of electricity to Germany.

### [Prime Minister George Papandreou in Berlin](#)

*"Greece can succeed. I can guarantee that Greece will fulfil all its responsibilities".*

## [Prime Minister George Papandreou in Paris](#)

After his meeting with French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, Greek Prime Minister, George Papandreou, made the following statement:

"I had a very constructive discussion with President Sarkozy on the ongoing crisis. I want to make it very clear that Greece is determined – I myself, our government, the Greek people are determined to make the necessary changes. We are making sacrifices and we will live up to our part of the decisions we have

taken, our responsibilities, making all the necessary reforms, first of all because we want to change Greece and make Greece a competitive, socially just and transparent country. I also told President Sarkozy that I would be very happy for him to send, and any country who wants, to send experts to see what we are doing, in full transparency, so that the people know the changes we are making and the efforts we are all doing, the sacrifices the

Greek people are making to change our country. Finally, I wanted to thank Nicolas Sarkozy for his ongoing support during this whole crisis these last two years and of course the support of the French people. It has been absolutely vital. It is recognized by the Greek people, and it is giving us the necessary time to make these changes so that Greece can be a better and a different country, for the benefit not only of the Greek people but of all of Europe.



## [Prime Minister George Papandreou meets with Qatari Emir](#)

The relations of confidence between Greece and Qatar and the prospects opening up for Qatari investments in Greece were underlined after the meeting of Greek Prime Minister, George Papandreou, with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, and the emirate's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Hamad bin Jasim bin Jabir Al Thani, in Athens.

The meeting took place in light of the signing of

a 1.2 billion euros agreement that provides for the inflow of Qatari capital into the "Hellenic Gold" Halkidiki Mining Company, and which is expected to create 1,500 new jobs.

The agreement comes one year after the signing of the Memorandum of Economic Cooperation signed by Papandreou and the Emir last September in New York.

PM Papandreou said that this decision by Qatar sends a message to the

international community and reflects the confidence in the developmental opportunities arising in Greece from the reforms being advanced by the government.

The Emir reaffirmed to PM Papandreou Qatar's interest for investments in Greece, especially in the privatizations in the sectors of energy and tourism, and for the development of the tract of land of the old Athens international airport at Ellinikon.



*(photos from  
www.papandreou.com)*



### [Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos in Washington](#)

*"We are now answering the negative stereotypes that have been circulating internationally about Greece, now that we are taking significant and harsh decisions, now that the Greek people are subjected to new sacrifices".*

## [Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos in Washington](#)

Greek Finance Minister, Evangelos Venizelos, stated that from his meetings with Euro-zone and third country counterparts on the sidelines of the annual IMF summit in Washington D.C. the clear message is that "Greece is and will always be part of the euro, a member of the Euro-zone", and stressed that the measures taken by the Greek government have created a "very positive impression", because "everyone has been convinced that Greece perceives the situation, wants to protect itself, wants to break the vicious circle, and wants to exit from

this condition of reduced fiscal sovereignty that hurts the pride of the Greeks".

In his keynote address "Breaking the vicious circle" to the luncheon of the Institute of International Finance (IIF) Annual Membership Meeting, Mr. Venizelos underlined that Greece is not the scapegoat of the Euro-zone or the global economic crisis, added that the Greek people are making immense sacrifices to save the country and pledged that Greece's fiscal deficit will be reduced regardless of the political cost.

### [Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos in Washington](#)

*"If you look carefully at the statements by all the relevant Euro-zone officials and representatives of Euro-zone member-states, you will see that there are two constant messages: Greece is and will be part of the Euro forever, and will not go bankrupt, because this would be catastrophic for the Euro-zone and other countries beyond".*

## [Foreign Minister Stavros Lambrinidis at the 66<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly](#)



Speaking from the podium of the 66th UN General Assembly, in New York, Foreign Minister, Stavros Lambrinidis, expressed Athens' concern over what he called Ankara's "threats and hostile actions against the Republic of Cyprus".

Mr. Lambrinidis sternly condemned what he called Turkey's hostile "rhetoric" and reiterated Greece's support for the UN-brokered peace process to unify the island republic, while stressing the latter's commitment to exploratory talks with Turkey on the issue of delineating the Aegean's continental shelf.

In other points raised during his address, Greek Foreign Minister referred to the need to broaden and

deepen international cooperation in order to face challenges, such as climate change and desertification, along with security threats, such as nuclear proliferation, terrorism and piracy.

Mr. Lambrinidis cited Athens' standing "Agenda 2014" initiative to promote the European prospects of the western Balkans, while also referring to increased cooperation at the regional and trans-regional level.

Turning to developments in the wider region, FM Lambrinidis expressed Greece's complete support for the "Arab Spring" and what he said was the "rights of peoples" for democracy and a better life, touching particularly on Greek actions vis-a-vis the

recent conflict in Libya, such as the evacuation of thousands of third country nationals from the North Africa country, support of the NATO 'no fly' decision and a continuous Greek diplomatic presence in Benghazi.

Regarding the timely issue of the Palestinian Authority's request for recognition of independence by the UN body -- a matter that dominated the limelight at the 66th General Assembly -- FM Lambrinidis repeated Greek policy in support of Palestinians' right to their own nation, as well as in their right to petition for such recognition.

Finally, the veteran diplomat touched on the thorny and still unresolved "name issue" involving

**Foreign Minister Stavros Lambrinidis in New York**

*"Palestine has the right to exist as an independent state, just as Israel has the equal right to exist in complete and unwavering security"*

Greece and the neighbouring former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM), reiterating Athens' desire for a solution via a "fair compromise" that includes a name with a geographic determinant, for use by all.

On the sidelines of the 66th UN Assembly, Foreign Minister Stavros Lambrinidis met with his Chinese counterpart, Yang Jiechi, who expressed his confidence in Athens and its efforts to exit from the current economic crisis and stated that it is necessary for China and Greece to continue high-level exchange visits, deepen economic and trade ties, and step up cooperation in such fields as shipping and tourism.



On his part, Mr. Lambrinidis said Greece cherishes its strategic partnership with China and their traditional friendship, and

added that Greece is willing to further strengthen cooperation in trade, shipping and other areas, and play a positive role in promoting Europe-China relations.

Addressing the opening session of a United Nations high level symposium on combating terrorism, which took place in the framework of UN's 66th General Assembly, Foreign Minister, Stavros Lambrinidis, underlined the need of adopting strategies that would deter the cultivation of extreme beliefs, and pointed to the importance of reinforcing the cooperation of the international community, noting that "terrorism constitutes a provocation to the values and principles of our civilization, it threatens the pylons of democracy and targets human life and dignity."

Referring to Greece's international initiatives aiming at reinforcing international cooperation in combating terrorism, Mr. Lambrinidis said that Athens has introduced "appropriate legislation" and measures both for shielding the country and

attributing responsibilities to those involved in terrorist actions.

Foreign Minister Stavros Lambrinidis in statements made in New York after meeting with Cyprus Republic President, Demetris Christofias, characterized the so-called "agreement" on the continental shelf reached between Turkey and the regime in occupied northern Cyprus as a "completely illegal action," underlining that it shows "how far Turkey is from international law."

On his part, President Christofias said that Turkey's illegal actions continue and called on Ankara to "directly guide Mr. Eroglu to reach an agreement" with the Greek Cypriots, underlining that "the Turkish Cypriots have nothing to lose. In fact, they have much to gain, because these issues of exploitation of hydrocarbons come under the authority of the central government" and "in its budget, the central government will distribute to both communities, to the two component communities, the revenues from this exploitation."

## **Cooperation between China, Greece in research, innovation**

Cooperation between Greece and China in the sectors of research and innovation, as well as, future prospects dominated in a meeting between Deputy Education Minister, Evi Christofilopoulou, and visiting Chinese Vice Minister of Science and Technology, Wang Weizhong.

Bilateral cooperation has entered a new phase focusing on private sector companies and partnerships between universities, private companies and research centers aimed at associating science and research with economy and the job market.

## Greek Minister elected President of World Tourism Organization Committee for Europe



Greek Culture & Tourism Minister Pavlos Geroulanos, has been elected to the two-year position of president of the UN World Tourism Organisation's committee for Europe, during a WTO congress held in Korea.

Mr. Geroulanos thanked WTO members for his

election, before citing the priorities and targets to be set by the Greek presidency, particularly in the development of tourism within the European Union.

On the sidelines of the congress, Mr. Geroulanos signed a cooperation agreement in the tourism

sector with his Belarus counterpart, Oleg Kachan, and afterwards he had a meeting with Korean Tourism, Sports and Culture Minister, Choe Kwang Shik, with whom he discussed the possibility to further cooperation between the two countries.

## Culture and Tourism Minister Pavlos Geroulanos attends World Tourism Day events in Egypt

Culture and Tourism Minister Pavlos Geroulanos attended events marking World Tourism Day held at Aswan in Egypt.

While in Cairo, Mr. Geroulanos was received by his Egyptian counterpart, Munir Fakhry Abdel Nour, and agreed to lay the foundations for stronger cooperation in

tourism between Greece and Egypt.

The two countries aim to work together to attract visitors from rapidly growing tourism markets such as China, India and Latin America. Mr. Geroulanos emphasized that tourists from these countries place great emphasis on archaeological tourism and

that in this area the two countries could join forces so that they were not competitors but partners.

To promote this effort, the two ministers decided to organize a forum for businesses involved in tourism, possibly from the current year.

## Sea cruise, yachting to grow further in 2012



Addressing a conference on "Shipping Today & Tomorrow - International Developments, Trends and Investments in the Greek and International Shipping-Tourism Market", Culture & Tourism Deputy Minister, George Nikitiadis, expressed his confidence that sea cruise and yachting will grow further next year.

Nikitiadis said Greece

already holds a significant share of the European sea cruise market, reaching the top in 2009 and predicted that Greece will resume this position soon as the government was rapidly implementing a sea tourism development plan. The Greek minister stressed that establishing Greece as a home port for sea cruise could add up to 4% of the country's Gross Domestic Product.

Nikitiadis said that demand for sea cruise grew by 12% on average in the last five years and stressed that Greece could benefit from this trend, although he noted that sea cruise revenues lagged behind the growth rate in the sector.

The Chinese Media on Greece

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[www.gnto.gr](http://www.gnto.gr) (Greek National Tourism Office)

[www.investingreece.gov.gr](http://www.investingreece.gov.gr) (Invest in Greece)

[www.ana-mpa.gr](http://www.ana-mpa.gr) (Athens News Agency)

[China to honor Crete for assistance in Chinese citizens transport from Libya](#)



A Chinese delegation arrived in Crete to express their appreciation to the local people and officials for the assistance offered in the evacuation of several Chinese nationals from Libya earlier in the year.

The delegation met with local officials, before announcing Beijing's intent to honor all those who assisted in the transport and repatriation of Chinese citizens in February and March 2011.