

Scholars' Appeal for Greece - "respect the decision of the Greek people"

Monday 9 February 2015, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 5 February 2015).

We the undersigned call on the governments of Europe, the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the IMF to respect the decision of the Greek people to choose a new course and to engage the new government of Greece in good faith negotiations to resolve the Greek debt.

The government of Greece is correct to insist on new policies because the previous policies have failed. They have not brought economic recovery. They have not brought financial stability. They have not brought jobs or foreign investments. They have stressed and damaged Greek society and weakened Greek institutions. There is therefore no value in that approach and no progress to preserve. We urge Greece's European partners to accept this reality, without which the new government would never have been elected.

Greece needs immediate humanitarian measures, a higher minimum wage, new jobs, new investments, and steps to restore and improve basic services such as education and health care. It needs a stronger and more progressive tax system, less dependent on VAT and better able to tax incomes and wealth. It needs to fight, punish and root out corruption. The new government needs fiscal space to implement these measures and to demonstrate their worth, and it needs continuing financial support from the European Central Bank to stabilize the financial sector meanwhile. We urge Greece's European partners and institutions to provide that fiscal space and that support.

The government of Greece is correct to ask for a write-off of debts owed to European partners. These debts are unsustainable and so will not be paid in any event. There is therefore no economic loss involved, for any other nation or its taxpayers, in writing them off. On the contrary, a fresh start for Greece will help bring new activity, income, jobs and profit to her partners. We urge Greece's creditors to seize this chance, and to explain these facts clearly and candidly to their own peoples.

These issues also engage the future of Europe as a whole. A policy of menace, threats, deadlines, obstinacy and blackmail will demonstrate to all Europeans that the European project will have failed. It will have failed morally, politically, and as a matter of economics. We urge Europe's leaders to reject and condemn all efforts to coerce the government and people of Greece.

Conversely, success for Greece can show the path toward renewed prosperity and stability for Europe, with a new role for democracy and a new openness to elections that bring constructive change. We stand with Greece and with Europe, with democracy and with change. We urge Europe's leaders to recognize the special basis of Greek decision-making in hard-fought and decisive democratic choice, and to choose the path of realistic assessment and reasonable negotiation.

Elmar Altvater (FU, Germany)

Philippe Askenazy (CNRS, France),

Clair Brown (University of California, Berkley, US)

Dorothee Bohle (Central European University, Hungary)

Giovanni Dosi, (Pisa Institute of Economics, Italy)

Cédric Durand (Université Paris 13, France)

Gerald Epstein (UMASS, USA)

Trevor Evans (Berlin School of Economics and Law, Germany)

James Galbraith (University of Texas at Austin, US)

Gaël Giraud (CNRS, France)

Stephany Griffith-Jones (Columbia University, US)

Laura Horn (Roskilde University, Denmark)

Robert Jessop (University of Lancaster, UK)

Steve Keen (Kingston University, UK)

Marc Lavoie (Ottawa University, Canada)

Tony Lawson (Cambridge, UK)

Dimitris Milonakis (University of Crete, Greece)

Andreas Nölke (Goethe University Frankfurt/Main, Germany)

Dominique Meda (Paris Dauphine, France),

El Mouhoub Mouhoud (Paris Dauphine, France)

André Orléan (EHESS, France),

Henk Overbeek (VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Mario Pianta (University of Urbino, Italy)

Alfonso Palacio Vera (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

Anwar Shaikh (New School for Social Research, US)

Jacques Sapir (EHESS, France)

Robert Wade (LSE, UK)

For other signatures, see:

<http://blogs.mediapart.fr/edition/english-club/article/050215/scholars-appeal-greece>

P.S.

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