

ELECTION UPDATE

Prime Minister Samaras in last ditch effort to secure 180

The Prime Minister has asked earlier today the MPs to give their consent for the election of Stavros Dimas to the Presidency of the Republic.

“It is extremely important for the future of the country to conclude the negotiations the day after following the end of the Memorandum and the new shield agreement.

I expect the support of all MPs to move forward and complete the constitutional review so very soon Greece to have the new constitution that badly needs. Greece should not get into adventures and postpone the Constitutional change for many years.

Also, after the presidential election, we can broaden the government's structure, with the participation of other persons who believe in the European perspective of the country, so that the next phase to find us more united.

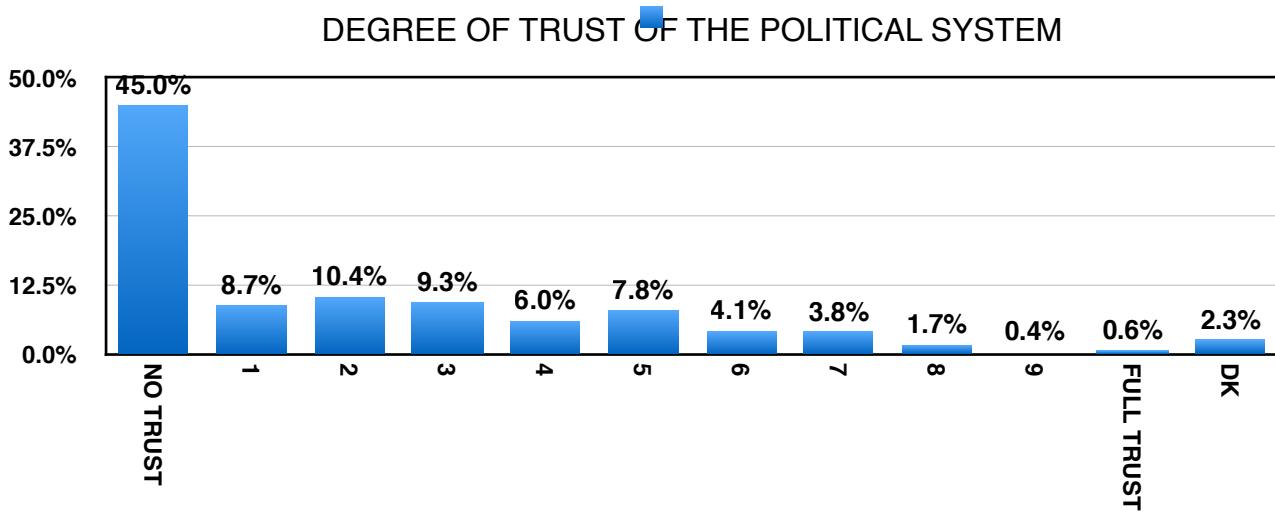
So it is a national obligation, but also common sense, first to finish the negotiation with the lenders and complete the constitutional review in conditions of peace and security. And then, secure in economic and political terms, we can find the appropriate schedule for National elections even at the end of 2015”.

The PM's intervention is aiming to change the mood in the country and inside the Parliament as accusations of bribery have taken the political system by surprise. This latest murky affair seems that it was engineered in an amateurish way. However, Mr. Tsipras the leader of SYRIZA for a second day has defended the Independent Greek MP who alleged that he was the target of a bribery attempt in order to vote for the president. It seems that the prosecutor's office has a different understanding of the events and it is most unlikely that they will press any charges against the intermediary.

The reaction by MPs to Mr. Samaras call was muted. Up to now only a couple of independent MPs have indicated that they might vote for President in the next round. However, until Tuesday more MPs may decide to reconsider their negative vote and move to the majority.



Greek political life is descending into chaos and the voters will have a hard time deciding how to vote as dilemmas and more mud are thrown towards everyone participating in the political process.



It is no coincidence that trust towards the political system has sunk so low. According to a recent poll taken by the Hellenic Statistical Service almost 80% of the population do not trust the political system with 45% not trusting it at all. The surprise is that 18% still has some trust to the political system!