

## **RECENT QUOTATIONS FROM SYRIZA LEADING SPOKESMEN**

SYRIZA is making a number of promises on the run up to elections. These promises indicate that they are not fully grasping the seriousness of the situation. The economic program announced back in September 2014 had a cost tag of 12bn euros according to SYRIZA calculations. Now, further commitments are made, to stop privatisations and establish new public corporations without providing an estimate of the costs involved. You can make up your mind about the motives lying behind these statements and the impact on the economy if they are implemented. You can also assess the state of the internal SYRIZA politics.

### **1. We will discontinue the current evaluation**

In an exchange with former minister and MP of New Democracy Konstantinos Arvanitopoulos, Ms. Valavani, said that the new party line is that "we will not continue with the fifth assessment" to add "it would be ridiculous to say that we want to disengage from the Memorandum and saying that to do this we must first pass many other measures. "

Asked by Mr. Arvanitopoulos whether he SYRIZA would get the last tranche, Ms. Valavani confirmed once again, that "we have voted against all measures of the Memorandum and loan contracts. Why take the 7.5 billion. Euro?"

Of course, such an attitude raises concern as to how a future government will finance in 2015 a total of about 35 billion required to pay back existing loans and also the electoral program of SYRIZA.

### **2. We will establish a new state owned ferry-company**

Mr. Dritsas talked about establishing a public ferry company as SYRIZA considers that private companies cannot offer adequate services. The logic is that "a government must protect the interest of the public and invest in public companies, especially in markets and areas where private initiative fails or is indifferent to invest." He also said that there is "need to maintain the public character and state participation in many companies in the field of transport and the larger public interest."

### **3. We will introduce a new tax rate of 50% for high incomes**

Mr Tsakalotos "Taxation wants many tax rates with an upper threshold. When we get the wealth register and real incomes are known, the top tax rate should at least be 50%. Do not give the impression that the rich in Greece have paid. Those who are listening to us know very well that the thing he had to do from the beginning even a right-wing government was to give a sense of justice. "

### **4. We will stop all privatisations**

Ms. Valavani, in an interview in Omegapress.gr, answering a question about the attitude of SYRIZA on privatization and the decisions taken by HRADF emphasized that a SYRIZA government, will check all sale transactions of public wealth, during the MOU years for their legitimacy. "We will restore the legality which has been violated," he says, noting that the privatization policy will end, so HRADF will not have a reason to exist".

### **5. We will introduce state participation in bank management**

QUESTION: What is your policy for the banking sector and what will you do with the bank management controlled by the FSF?

Today the banks are owned by the FSF i.e. that the state and private investors. Although they are partners, the FSF is not able to intervene in

the management of banks. This will change. To State will exercise its rights, not to give loans without return as it happened in the past as some privately controlled boards did but to ensure optimal performance of banks. Private investors in banks have nothing to fear from this development. Instead you should feel safer because the State's participation in the management would seek to ensure system stability.

#### **6. We will abolish the current real estate tax**

Mr Voutsis: "We say that would repeal the real estate tax and will go back to the previous regime (large assets tax) on the basis of the codes that have been recorded in the period 2008-2009, with this tax estimated to raise 750-900 million. Euro. This is what I know about this issue and a shortfall of 1-1.5 billion will be created, which will be found through the modernization and reform of the tax system".

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