



Tripartite Social Summit
Brussels, October 17, 2011
CEC European Managers

“We need more Europe, not less Europe, we have no other alternative”

“Managers in an economy under crisis” has been the topic of the conference organised recently by CEC European Managers in Athens. Given the urgency of the situation for Greece but also for the European Union, it is meaningful to present here the conclusions of the CEC works. CEC European Managers wishes to contribute in finding solutions to the Greek crisis in order to strengthen the European Union as a whole.

What it is still going wrong in Greece?

- Young Greek graduates leave the country and look for a future elsewhere.
- Privatisations were supposed to be done, this has not happened yet.
- Lots of real estate is property of the state and no use is made out of it.
- Greece lacks management but Managers’ voice is not heard; politicians refer to Managers as technocrats.
- Salaries in the public sector are almost the double compared to salaries in the private sector.
- Nevertheless, the current salary of a teacher in Greece is 630 €. How can a teacher live with 630 € per month in a euro zone country? Education is crucial for the next generations.
- Ten days of strike per year on average it is too high.
- Changes are necessary in mentalities, culture and institutions.
- Solidarity from outside has to be deserved; attitudes must change.
- Taxes increase in a recession period increase recession.
- The tax system in Greece needs to be reworked so as to encourage investment.
- Greek Managers are motivated to find solutions and have ideas about what to do. Why not listen to them?

The European vision and European Union responsibility

- We need more Europe, not less Europe.
- To have peace we need first social peace all around the Union.
- How are the youth suppose to believe in Europe?
- Greece needs technical advice and communication tools in order to move from the “crisis mood” into action.
- Euro € brought immense benefits to companies and states.
- The cost of saving economies in difficulty like Greece is less than the cost of returning back before Euro.
- Banks that were lending to Greece had knowledge of the wrong figures regarding the Greek economy, but lending was continuing.
- European funds should focus on Green Economy and Renewable Energy projects. Sun, wind and tide energy are available in Greece all around the year.
- We can consider Germany as a model which invested into the industrial base, cutting public expenditure, having responsible unions and introducing a debt brake in the constitution.
- Germany got additional wealth over the past two years thanks to the free market access and the € currency.
- If the monetary Union had not existed Germany’s export benefits would have probably suffered by a strong DM.
- Europe should come up with a warranty fund over the ten next years for Greece and promote investment on Green energy projects.

The crisis Greece has been facing over the past two years reveals that there is a European structural problem linked to the monetary Union. This is not to minimize efforts Greeks have to undertake but the solution to the problem cannot come only from inside the country, it should also come from Europe. We need more Europe not less Europe. We have no other alternative. If all Euro-countries really begin to act as a stability-union we will have a common future in Europe.

As a responsible social partner, CEC European Managers together with two Managers organisations in Greece, EASE and EEDE, is contributing to find a solution to the Greek crisis. We would have appreciated if some more attention had been paid by the Commission to our efforts.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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President