

[Translation]

## **Parliament: Audit committee regarding the debt**

By George S. Bourdaras | 17 March 2015

The President of the Parliament, Mrs. Zoi Konstantopoulou, announced this afternoon the creation (setting-up) of an Accounting Debt Audit Committee with aim and purpose – as she mentioned characteristically – to reveal the truth as to which part of the Greek debt is legal and which is illegal.

Furthermore, Ms. Sophia Sakorafa and the Belgian scientist Mr. Erik Toussaint participated in the press conference, during which Mrs. Konstantopoulou presented her proposal, two persons, who shall play a key role in the functioning of the said Committee.

*“The request of the debt audit derives from the society itself. There is such request for years. However, the audit constitutes also a fundamental obligation of the Parliament to the new and future generations, who are asked to pay a debt that they did not create and are not liable for its existence”* said *inter alia* the President of the Parliament.

*“The creation of the committee is a minimum obligation to society and the European community in order to be revealed the truth and attributed justice,”* she mentioned, to continue saying that the Committee *“will be outgoing, open to society”* and shall operate with subcommittees, which shall study the matter *“by period and by type of the debt.”*

The first meeting shall take place in early April in Athens and there is the expectation for some first results and it is estimated that they may be presented at an international conference in June.

It is also remarkable that it will be requested the assistance of both Greek and international bodies for the progress of the work of the Committee. *“I think that it is obvious that the staff holding positions of responsibility in the public sector realize that they must assist the committee. I find it incomprehensible someone to refuse the provision of information to a Committee of the Parliament, which acts on behalf of the Greek people,”* says Mrs. Konstantopoulou.

*“Five years ago, I had asked in the most formal way before the Plenary of the Parliament the creation of an audit committee. All governments refused to reveal the truth. The current government is different,”* mentioned *inter alia* Ms. Sakorafa and added: *“Greek people will know where, how much, and why we paid. And this truth will be heard in all EU parliaments and the people for Europe.”*

On his part, Mr. Toussaint referring to the decision of the President of the Parliament characterized it *“as a historic decision. The initiative of the President is a lesson at the European level,”* he mentioned.

In reply to a relevant question both Mrs. Konstantopoulou and Mr. Toussaint referred critically to the way that the Press records the initiatives of the Greek side regarding key issues such as the audit of the debt, the German debts etc., mentioning that it is not only the negative reports of European SMEs, but also the many positive ones or and the positive international reactions towards Greece that should be pointed out.

Finally, the President of the Parliament invited to say if there is a “*matter*” in relation to her initiatives taken and the government in the midst of negotiations with partners on the issue of debt, Mrs. Konstantopoulou said with emphasis: “*I feel the need because there are enough disorientating rumors, to say that there is no conflict between the government and the Parliament.*”

<http://www.kathimerini.gr/807716/article/epikairothta/politikh/voylh-epitroph-elegxoy-gia-to-xreos>

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