

First statement by the leader of the electoral lists of
SYRIZA-UNITED SOCIAL FRONT
ALEXIS TSIPRAS

(6 May)

The electoral result is a powerful message of rupture in Greece and Europe, despite the fact that neither Mr Venizelos nor Mr Samaras seem to have understood this.

It is a message of a peaceful revolution. The peoples of Europe cannot compromise with the memorandums of barbarity; they cannot legitimize a future of indignity.

The European leadership and especially Ms Merkel must comprehend that her policy, the policy of austerity, has suffered a crushing defeat.

The Greek people, with their vote, give us an order to move forward for the democratic and cultural renaissance of our country, for a new Greece of solidarity, justice and dignity.

The parties that signed the memoranda in the absence of the Greek people are now a minority amongst the Greek people. Their signatures are delegitimized by popular verdict. No matter how much they speak for national salvation, our people now comprehend and they proved in the ballot boxes that national salvation does not pass through the memorandums.

If the two parties of the memorandum eventually manage to achieve a marginal majority in the Parliament, this will happen because of an electoral law that grossly distorts popular verdict and violates the constitutional principle of the equality of vote.

I would like to assure every Greek man and woman, whether he/she honored us with his/her choice or not, that we are fully aware of the difficulties that our country is facing and also fully aware of the big responsibility that we are assigned of, by a large proportion of the electorate.

We fully comprehend that our big increase is not a reward to one party or one person, but a reward of a proposal; of our proposal for a government of the Left, which will cancel the memorandum with the support of the people and will overturn the prescribed course of our people to misery. This proposal brought hope; this proposal managed to conquer a relative majority among our people.

For this reason, our only commitment at this moment is to honor the order that the people gave us, to do whatever we can, so that this country acquires a government which will denounce the loan agreement of submission and will cancel the memorandum of bankruptcy.

From tomorrow we will already aim at the common understanding, firstly with the forces of the Left, in order to exhaust every possibility of having developments to a progressive direction for our people and our country.

I would like to thank the hundreds of thousands of citizens of every age who voted for SYRIZA for the first time. I assure them that together we are starting a journey which will be victorious for the Greek people; a long journey for the restoration of social justice, a victorious course of vindication. We will seek to build a solid relationship with them. We understand their trust as an order to move forward together and not decide without them. We interpret their trust as an order for our own reconstruction; for our own refoundation in the direction of a big, massive, popular and democratic party of the Left.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the thousands of friends that gave a beautiful fight. I understand their emotions, because I feel the same. I also understand their celebrations. But we must quickly realize that we won a battle, but not the war. From tomorrow we must already continue, with bigger confidence, our struggle side by side with the society that suffers; we must try to offer solutions to the big problems, in order to support those who have no voice, those who have no power, those who need most our solidarity, in order to open roads of hope and optimism for our people.

Athens, 6 May 2012 (22.45 local time)