

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF SYRIZA-UNITED SOCIAL FRONT, ALEXIS TSIPRAS, AFTER RECEIVING THE MANDATE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC**

**8 May 2012, 14.00 local time**

The popular verdict in 6 May cannot be interpreted in multiple ways. The vast majority of citizens voted against the barbaric policy of the memorandums.

3.300.000 citizens abandoned the two parties of the memorandum and put an end to the plans for the elaboration of 79 new measures in June, the plans for 150.000 lay-offs in the public sector and the extra measures of 11 billion Euro, which were supposed to be elaborated, starting from next month.

Despite all this, some insist on trying to interpret the result according to their own benefit. They speak about a sentimental vote, a vote of rage. They are wrong. This is a mature, conscious political choice.

Greek people decided: Neither 151 seats, nor 51% for the parties that support the memorandums. This was one of our basic electoral targets, which was fulfilled.

The parties of the memorandum do not have the majority in the Parliament anymore, in order to vote for measures of barbarity against the Greek people. This is a very important development, a very important victory for our society.

On the other hand, just a few thousand votes and the antidemocratic electoral law deprive the left and progressive forces of the possibility of having the majorital mandate.

Despite this, the popular verdict clearly cancels the memorandum and the letters of commitment that Mr Venizelos and Mr Samaras sent to Europe and the IMF, and renders a left government as a first alternative choice, which will put an end to the memorandums and the loan agreements of submission.

In the last days, nevertheless, we are observing a complete alignment of the parties of the memorandum and a part of the media with the line that the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) drew yesterday, for a government of national salvation with the participation of SYRIZA and the support, of course, of the parties of the memorandum.

We make clear to them that whatever communicative tricks they might think, there is no chance that we restore from the back door what the people kicked out from the front door last Sunday.

So, let PASOK and New Democracy stop asking for a government that will apply the memorandum and the loan agreement - again, in the name of national salvation.

This is not a government of national salvation, but a government for the salvation of the memorandum. This does not concern us.

If Mr Venizelos and Mr Samaras have sincerely changed their mind for their catastrophic choices that destroyed the society, I invite them to send a letter, until tomorrow when I will meet them, to the leaders of the European Union and the EU member-states, in which they will clearly and categorically state that the commitments they made in their previous letters, their commitment to faithfully elaborate the directives of the markets and the IMF and the barbaric program of the 2<sup>nd</sup> memorandum, are not valid anymore.

If they do not do this, I urge them, even now, to stop cheating the Greek people, because they

cannot even convince their remaining voters anymore.

Concerning us, after receiving the mandate for seeking the possibility of forming a government, we will act exactly as we promised before the elections. We will restate our proposal for a government of the Left.

Our program and our positions are known to everybody, for a series of crucial questions, like the redistribution of taxation burdens, the handling of the fiscal problem under terms of social justice, the productive reconstruction of the country and the ecologic reconstruction of development.

All these positions and proposals of ours are on the table of dialogue, as a basis for the discussion we wish to open with all the left, progressive and ecologic forces of the country, but also with the people.

Moreover, we consider to have more proposals on the table for dialogue, coming from other left parties, like the proposals of KKE for the protection of the unemployed, for the regulation of the debts of overindebted households, along with proposals of other forces which are in a direction of convergence with our positions.

For the needs of this process of dialogue, which we are starting today, I would like to distinguish and insist on the following minimum axes for discussion:

- 1) The need for an immediate cancellation of the elaboration of the measures of the memorandum and especially of those shameful laws, which cut salaries and pensions even more.
- 2) The cancellation of the laws that terminate fundamental working rights and especially of the law that defines that, immediately, in 15 May, the term of aftereffect of collective contracts is terminated and that collective contracts are terminated, too.
- 3) The promotion of immediate changes in the political system for the deepening of democracy and social justice, starting from the change of the electoral law, the establishment of full proportionality and the cancellation of the law for ministers' responsibility.
- 4) The public control over the banking system, which today, despite the fact that it had received approximately 200 billion Euro in cash and guarantees, is still on the hands of the managers that led it to bankruptcy. We are demanding the publication of the Black Rock Report. We are demanding to transform the banks into a tool for the development of the economy and the reinforcement of small and medium-size enterprises.
- 5) Last but not least, a fifth point of dialogue: The creation of a Public Audit Committee, which will investigate the onerous debt; a moratorium for the repayment of the debt and a demand for a fair and sustainable european solution.

The crisis is not a Greek specificity; it is a European crisis and we must seek for a solution on a European level.

With these axes we proceed to a substantial and sincere discussion, both with the progressive, left, ecologic forces and the Greek people; and these axes constitute our contribution to the discussion that has already started for the discovery of a governmental solution.

I would like to stress that we are not indifferent about the governmentability of the country, but firstly we are concerned about the direction of the government of the country; we are concerned about whether we respect the popular verdict and whether the applied governmental policy will be in accordance with the popular verdict and not in full disharmony, as it has been for the last two years.