

Πρόεδρε, εσείς έχετε αντίκτυπο τυπω-  
μένο με ευαναήρωτη ευτύηωση και  
τις παρεμβάσεις. Αν δώ το έχετε  
έχω αντίκτυπο να εως δώσω ΝΘ.

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
THE PRIME MINISTER**

**Global Responsibilities of Europe**

**Address by Prime Minister Mr. Costas Simitis**

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Europe has made remarkable progress over the past few years in advancing a set of fundamental objectives. It has succeeded in promoting the process of enlargement with the countries of Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, a process indispensable for the real unification of the continent and the strengthening of stability, democracy and prosperity across Europe. It has launched successfully the single currency, Euro, and is only a few months away from its circulation as a real, tangible currency, something that will symbolize, in a very concrete manner, the unity of the continent. It has progressed along the path of reforming its economy, modernizing its social model, promoting cohesion and combating unemployment. And, more recently, it has made important steps in fashioning its security and defence identity and fostering its democratic character by adopting the Charter for Fundamental Rights.

All these testify to the remarkable success of the integration process, notwithstanding the multiplicity of problems we face in various fields. Europe is on the whole in a very robust state of affairs. It is a force to be reckoned with in terms of trade, economy, diplomacy, culture. But it must be a force not only for the advancement of Europe's interests and values. Europe should act as global player. It must be visible on the world stage. Europe has international responsibilities to discharge. Europe cannot be an impenetrable fortress. It must be an active power in the international system. It must pull its weight in the international system and face up its responsibilities. This is important if Europe wants to be part of the solution of the global problems, if it wants to ensure that the interests of its citizens are safeguarded in a world that is being transformed by globalization, demographic pressures and, more importantly, if it wants to spread the values of democracy, social justice, solidarity, tolerance, respect of human rights, cooperation.

I see at least **five** areas in which the European Union, living up to its international responsibilities, must take the lead in the effort for shaping a new, more balanced and just global system :

#### **Creating a multi-polar world...**

Firstly, the European Union must contribute to shaping a multi-polar world. Multipolarity is an essential precondition for a stable, peaceful, cooperative and self-restrained world order. A one-polar world is a dangerous world as history has, time and again, taught us. A multi-polar world is also a precondition for a more democratic, multilateral system that respects international law, international treaties as well as fundamental human rights and norms of behaviour.

To contribute to shaping such a world the European Union must match its economic and trade weight, derived from the single market and the single currency, with a higher political profile and role. That's why it is so important for the European Union to evolve eventually into a Political Union underpinned by a strong common foreign policy, security and common defence so that to widen the range of options when dealing with situations of crisis and instability, most notably in its periphery. The surest way to be taken seriously as an equal partner is to develop our political identity and means. As I said, we have made good progress on that, but we need to do a lot more in developing Europe's capacity as credible partner. Developing our political identity and military instruments cannot and does not mean that we are questioning vital links like that of the Atlantic Alliance. Quite the reverse, a properly structured European defence identity must and will strengthen NATO and lead to a more balanced transatlantic relationship. Our aim must be to reinforce the structures that have contributed to peace and stability over the past years. Our aim is not to rival the USA, but to project stability.

#### **Ensuring regional stability...**

Secondly, Europe has a responsibility to ensure regional stability. The bloodshed in the Balkans has made it bitterly clear to us that even Europe is not immune of instability, that it has to tackle instability on its own borders. And moreover it has to make its contribution to resolving conflicts even as far afield as in Africa, East Timor or in the Middle East. "Conflict prevention" is a top item on the international agenda that demands an active role on the part of the European Union and international cooperation on an unprecedented scale.

Europe can make its contribution to regional and international stability in various ways. First and foremost, by accomplishing in time the goal of enlargement. Bringing into the structures of the Union the countries of Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, and eventually the countries of the Balkan region, constitutes the single most important factor for cementing regional stability, democracy and prosperity. Deepening our relations with Russia and other countries or groups of countries can also be a powerful factor for stability.

Furthermore sharing our experience of regional integration amongst sovereign nation-states is one of the most valuable international contributions the European Union can make. Our experience offers a valid and credible model for other parts of the world in their efforts at promoting development and social welfare, in fighting poverty and inequality.



### Advancing democratic global governance...

Thirdly, one of the most pressing challenges facing us is the democratic and effective governance of the globalized economy. The multilateral institutions that we have built in the post-war era need to be adapted to the new realities and conditions created by the spread, globalization, the knowledge-based economy, information, mass communication and deepening interdependence. Europe must work to make these institutions more **representative** of the global community and more **responsive** to the needs of mankind. Better international economic rules governing trade and foreign investment are needed to ensure sustainable economic growth in developed and developing countries. Better governance is the precondition for the type of globalization which will benefit all in a sustainable manner. The current economic architecture is unbalanced. We need to find the right balance between the governments, market, civil society with stable rules that will take into account of the interests of all players.

There is clearly a "democratic deficit", an "accountability deficit" in the global economic and political system. Accordingly, there is a pressing need for global democratic governance and a need for democratically regulating the global economy otherwise the recent failures we have experienced in connection with the trade round will multiply.

One of the greatest advantages of Europe as a global player lies in its **social model**. It is a model that we, social-democrats have built over the years on the values of democracy, social justice, compassion and solidarity. The model combines liberty with equality, social cohesion with economic competition. While it embraces the logic of "market economy", it categorically rejects the notion of a "market society". It is a model that is designed to ensure social justice and give real meaning to the concept of social democracy by eradicating such social scourges as poverty, unemployment, marginalization and providing the opportunity to all to climb the social ladder.

Properly adjusted to the present social conditions, our social model stands as the most effective answer to the negative aspects of the globalization process. It can serve as an example and a source of inspiration for the organization of the globalized system on human values and principles. And without wanting to impose our views on anyone, we feel that our model can provide answers to the developing countries striving for better social organization.

### **Shaping a just world...**

Fourthly, it is the duty of Europe to contribute to shaping a more just and equitable international system by progressively bridging the gap between the "haves" and the "havenots". It is the task of Europe to work towards creating a globalized economy that caters for the needs of all. To be true, the European Union has made a great deal in moulding a more balanced economic system. Its external policies, the Lome convention, its humanitarian assistance programme, its recent initiative "Everything but Arms", which opens the European market to exports of the least developed countries, represent good examples in this respect. The European Union is by now the world's leading provider of development assistance. The EU and its member states provide around 0,32% of their GNP annually in development assistance as compared with only 0,10% for the United States (USA) and much less for other rich countries of the world.

In spite of all that, Europe cannot be complacent and needs to act quickly and effectively to address the growing gap in developmental standards and alleviate poverty in the world. Let me briefly remind you that 10 per cent of the world's population receives 70 per cent of its total income and produces 70 per cent of its goods and services, that 1,2 billion people survive on less than a dollar a day and 2,8 billion people, almost half of the world's population, live on less than 2 dollars a day and these same people, produce only 6 per cent of the world's total output. Recent studies have confirmed that living standards in the developing countries are not catching up with those in developed countries; on the contrary, they are widening, although some individual developing countries are converging.

Understandably enough, people in the developing world are outraged by the unbridled consumerism and the opulence of the developed world. As a result, they react, and occasionally they react violently, to the perceived injustices of the globalization process. Europe has a moral and political responsibility to address the problem of worsening poverty, infectious diseases and AIDS in the developing countries. It has a responsibility to take the lead in fighting poverty by adopting all the required policy measures, be they in the areas of trade, economic assistance, migration, good governance, civil society.

Of course, we must be fully aware that fostering development is a complex and multi-faceted process, but we cannot abandon our responsibilities.

### **Ensuring sustainability....**

Finally, Europe must intensify its efforts for tackling problems and addressing risks that threaten the sustainability, indeed the very

survivability of the planet. Ecological degradation, greenhouse emissions, deforestation, pollution control in general, must be top priorities on our agenda. We have a responsibility to future generations to ensure the sustainability of the planet. Europe must be in the forefront of the international campaign for ecological and environmental protection. Global warming and the depletion of the ozone layer are risks that demand intense international collaboration in order to be addressed effectively and Europe must be the protagonist of such a collaboration. Europe can provide legitimate, moral global leadership in this area.

In short, Europe can play a pivotal role in shaping a new, balanced international system in the twenty-first century. The European Union has abundant skills, resources and experience to address the new issues and challenges which confront us, many of which arise out of the dark side of globalization. We, the forces of European democratic socialism, must have a new level of ambition. We can and must play a central role in the process of building a new global system based on democratic principles and values. We can work to achieve a new balance both between the developed and developing countries as well as between government, state, economy and civil society, thus fostering transnational democracy.

In the globalized system, democracy cannot be confined to the level of the nation state. As the EU experiment shows, the construction of supranational democratic institutions is not a utopian objective. The EU can be a bridgehead to a more globalized democratic system. We need therefore to redouble our efforts to construct more effective, more democratic global institutions. Because, as Antony Giddens points out, "without them the coming century could prove even more brutal and devastating than that which has just closed".