

US-GREEK COOPERATION IN TECHNOLOGY

1. Greece wishes to sign and place in operation a **Protocol for Scientific and Technological cooperation** with the United States. The two countries would share all expenditure regarding exchange visits by scientists and financing of joint technological projects equally. After signing the Protocol, there will follow a procedure of applications from both sides; the process of selection will be handled jointly.

Competent bodies to set in operation this process are:

- In the US: The National Science Foundation
- in Greece: The Ministry for Development (General Secretariat for Science and Technology)

2. Greece is interested to co-found and operate jointly a **Technology Centre** in cooperation with the US.

Activities: The transfer and development of technology, training in new technologies.

Target groups: Greek researchers as well as other scientists from other Balkan and Mediterranean countries.

Possible areas of activity: Technologies and activities that relate to economic development of markets in the wider Balkan - Eastern Mediterranean area, such as:

- Alternative sources of energy
- Water and desalination systems
- Medical services and health technology
- Energy: Petroleum / Natural gas technology, Clean coal technology
- Technology of new materials

Sources of Finance: Joint Greek-US. An important source of funds could be Greek American businessmen as well as other major investment initiatives in the area. (EU programmes Phare for Eastern Europe and MEDA for the Mediterranean).

ΘΕΜΑΤΑ ΠΟΥ ΕΝΔΙΑΦΕΡΟΥΝ ΤΗΝ ΠΛΕΥΡΑ ΗΠΑ

1. Extension of the Natural Gas Pipeline to Ptolemais- Albania

This matter is known by the Petroleum Company. The basic issue at question is the sufficiency of prospective demand, for which there remains doubt. ¹

This market will increase in size if it is accompanied by other investment in the wider area of Epirus, Albania and possibly the southern regions of New Yugoslavia.

2. Motorway Igoumenitsa - Croatia

The first soundings to the EBRD have already been made by the US. The US is hence showing an interest for the development of Epirus, Albania and Montenegro. Similarly there are thoughts of hotel complexes in Epirus if the infrastructure is developed.

3. Cooperation of US firms with OTE (Hellenic Telecommunication Organisation)

The US is interested in participating in joint activity with OTE where OTE has undertaken projects with third countries (Albania, Georgia, Bulgaria, etc.).

4. Matters which give concern to US investors

In order of priority:

1. The frequent change of rules and regulations
2. The impossibility of centrally based negotiations.
3. Problems of telecommunications and transport
4. The problems of operating in Athens

¹ Π.Τ. Υπάρχει βεβαίως και ο ρόλος της ΔΕΗ στην Πτολεμαΐδα, όπου η καύση Φ.Α. θα επιμηκύνει την ζωή του πεδίου και θα "καθαρίσει" την καύση του λιγνίτη.

SPEAKING NOTE

GREECE IN THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

- Digital technology is changing the underlying logic of the global map of comparative advantage. New products, new markets, new industries will create a reality radically different from today's.
- The question for a country to answer is not whether to take part in the Information Society, but when and under what conditions. Delay implies a permanent disadvantage in production, and reduced significance in the superhighway as a side branch of regional, at best, significance.
- A country such as Greece has much to gain:
 - ◇ The new technology limits the disadvantages of small market size and distance from the centres of decisions and from markets.
 - ◇ The fragmented nature of our national territory, with the large number of islands and remote areas magnifies the gains in areas such as telemedicine and distance learning.
 - ◇ Similarly, the information superhighway offers a chance of mutual communication of the large Greek -speaking communities of our Diaspora.
- On the other hand she starts with advantages:
 - ◇ human capital and knowledge are the decisive factor in success.
 - ◇ as a member of the European Union she can take part in the formulation of the "rules of the game"
 - ◇ as she is in the process of major infrastructure investments (in the context of the European Community Support Framework), she can take advantage of the investment wave to "leapfrog" to the technological frontier.

For this reason our Government is trying to implement a comprehensive strategy encompassing all stages of the information society, (infrastructure, means of access and content). This strategy includes the creation of widespread infrastructure in Greece with exits towards the Balkans, the Middle East and Western Europe. It foresees the cooperation of the public and private sectors and involves wide groupings of users - the State, businesses, individuals. At the same time it gives the possibility for multiple parallel applications which can potentially embrace the whole of Greek society.

- We are hence following with active interest international developments in the information society (multilateral, G7, US), many of which, of course, owe their success and their very existence to the personal initiative of the Vice President of the US himself.
- Greece plays an active role in the discussions in the European Union on the Information Society and is doing all it can to help the success of joint actions decided at the G7 meeting last year (e.g. MARIS - Maritime Information Society).
- The information society is one of the best examples why in today's global society the only sensible policy is openness: to ideas, to products, to trade, to competition.