

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

Nikos Themelis
Head of Staff
Head of Strategic Planning

Platon Tinios
Special advisor to the PM,
Strategic Planning Unit

Athens, 18 May 2001

Mr. Pär Nuder
State Secretary of the Prime Minister
Stockholm, Sweden

Dear Pär,

PROGRESSIVE GOVERNANCE

Many thanks for your letter of 3 May, outlining your very clear instructions for the Experts' meeting on 28 and 29 June in Stockholm. Going down your checklist item by item:

- a) Prime Minister Simitis has accepted the invitation to attend the Stockholm Progressive Summit. Greece's full participation in the June Experts' meeting has also been confirmed.
- b) The list of experts has been communicated in my letter of 4 April. We append it to this letter. Please note that Mr. Themelis' role as Sherpa will be filled by Platon Tinios. The details on accommodation etc will be faxed to you, as well as sent by courier.
- c) There is no problem in making the national reports, as communicated to you, public.
- d) The web-site contact person is Mr. Spiros Gatzounas. We attach a scanned copy of a photograph of the PM and a short CV for the purposes of the web-site.

One final remark on organizational matters. Platon Tinios is scheduled to arrive at 1135. It would therefore be helpful if the start of the Sherpa meeting was to be put back by 30 minutes (to 1230), to allow time for the transfer to the lunch venue.

Best regards,
Yours,

Nikos Themelis

Platon Tinios

CC Mr. N.Ladopoulos,
Greek Embassy, Stockholm

Greek Delegation for the 28-29/6 Experts' meeting

Platon Tinios

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Computer contact person (for the web-site)

Mr. Spiros Gatzounas

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Costas Simitis was born in Athens on June 23, 1936. Both his parents were active in the Resistance during the World War II occupation. He is married to Daphne Simitis, née Arkadiou. They have two daughters: Fiona, a painter, and Marilena, a political scientist.

Academic career

He studied Law and Economics in Germany and in England. He was awarded the Doctor Juris (Ph.D) degree by the University of Marburg in 1959 and engaged in post-doctoral studies at the London School of Economics between 1961 and 1963. He was Reader in Law at the University of Konstanz (Germany) during 1971 and Professor of Commercial Law and Civil Law at the Justus Liebig University (Giessen) between 1971 and 1975. He was appointed Professor of Commercial Law at the Panteion University of Political and Social Sciences (Athens) in 1977. In the course of his academic career he has written extensively in Greek, German and English.

Political Career

In 1965 he co-founded the "Alexandros Papanastasiou Society", a society for research and studies on politics, the members of which subsequently formed the nucleus of "Democratic Defence", an underground group engaged in subversive activity against the military regime. In 1969 an arrest warrant was issued against him forcing him to escape to Germany. He was summoned by the military government to stand trial in a court-martial. In reprisal, his wife was arrested and kept in solitary confinement for two months.

Between 1969 and 1974 he actively continued to oppose the junta from Germany. In 1970 he joined the resistance organisation PAK (Panhellenic Liberation Movement), as a member of its National Council.

After the restoration of democracy in 1974, Costas Simitis became a founding member of PASOK (the Panhellenic Socialist Movement). He participated in the drafting of the founding declaration and was a member of the first Executive Bureau of the new party.

In the first PASOK government in 1981 he was appointed Minister of Agriculture and supervised the integration of Greek farming in the Common Agricultural Policy. He held this position until 1985, when he was elected Member of Parliament for the port city of Piraeus, a post to which he has been re-elected in every successive election ever since. In the same year he was appointed Minister of National Economy and, until his resignation in 1987, he presided over the implementation of the economic stabilisation programme, which had beneficial effects on all macroeconomic indicators. He assumed office as Minister of Industry and Commerce on 1993 and promoted a policy for industrial development based on competitiveness, upgrading of the economic infrastructure, and consumer protection. He resigned from this position in 1995.

On January 18, 1996, following the resignation of Andreas Papandreou for health reasons, Costas Simitis was elected Prime Minister by the Parliamentary Group of PASOK. On June 30, 1996, the 4th PASOK congress elected him President of PASOK. The elections of September 22, 1996 returned a PASOK majority and Costas

Simitis was mandated to form a government. As President of PASOK he also won the next elections of April 9, 2000. On June 19, 2000, he signed the treaty for the accession of Greece to the Economic and Monetary Union, which was the result of the consistent economic policy followed in the last few years.

Costas Simitis is the author of legal monographs in German (on consumer protection as a legal principle) and in Greek (on the law of patents), as well as of numerous articles in Greek, German and English. Since 1979 he has published some ten books of political thought and argumentation on socialist issues (among which: 'The Structural Opposition', 1979, 'Policy for Economic Stabilisation', 1989, 'Nationalistic populism or national strategy?', 1992, 'Towards a vigorous society, towards a vigorous Greece', 1995).

He speaks German, English and French.