

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΤΥΠΟΥ & Μ.Μ.Ε.
Δ/ΝΣΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΩΝ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΟΥ



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΠΡΕΣΒΕΙΑ ΑΓΚΥΡΑΣ
ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΤΥΠΟΥ

Προς:
 - Μέγαρο Μαξίμου
 Γραφείο Τύπου κ. Πρωθυπουργού
 ΥΠΕΣ
 - Γραφείο κ. Υπουργού
 - Υπηρεσία Επιμέριξης

Προς : Υπουργείο Τύπου και ΜΜΕ
 Δ/νσεις Α' και Γ'
 Κοιν.: - Γραφείο Υπουργού
 - Γραφείο Υφυπουργού
 - Γραφεία ΓΓΕ και ΓΓΤ
 - Γραφείο Γεν. Διευθύντριας
 - Γενικό Προξενείο Κων/λης
 (Ε.Δ : κ. Πρέσβη, ΑΚΑΜ)

12 Ιανουαρίου 2004
 Α.Π.: 91/Φ.320

Συντάκτης: Δ. Γ. Μ.



Θ. Μ.

ΤΟΥΡΚΙΚΟΣ ΑΓΓΛΟΦΩΝΟΣ ΤΥΠΟΣ 12. 1. 2004

(3). ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΘΕΜΑΤΑ

✓ Σας αποστέλλουμε το άρθρο του αρχισυντάκτη της **Turkish Daily News, Ιλνούρ Τσεβίκ**, με τίτλο «**Greece has become a democracy**», το οποίο αναφέρεται στις εσωτερικές εξελίξεις στην Ελλάδα.

*** **

Greece has become a democracy

- While Greece displays democratic maturity the debates in Turkey show we are still a military democracy.

Once upon a time Greece was our arch rival in NATO and at times we even considered it as a threat. Today all we can say about this country is that it has matured into a western-style democracy and a country with resources capable of hosting the summer Olympic Games.

So how has this change come about?

In the past Greece was a military democracy like Turkey. But the incompetence of the Greek military, which became nakedly apparent after the Turkish intervention in Cyprus in 1974, led to the downfall of totalitarianism and the jailing of the military-junta leaders. Greece then chose the path of a genuine democracy and flourished after gaining European Union membership, enjoying the vast resources that Brussels poured into this country.

Last week we saw the level of the Greek democracy's maturity when Prime Minister Costas Simitis decided to step down, scrapping plans to seek a third term in office. He knew that if he insisted on running for elections he and his PASOK party would lose. So, as a mature democrat and a realist, Simitis stepped down, opening the way for Foreign Minister Pa-

Γ. Τ. ΑΙΚΥΡΑΣ σελ. 2

12 Ιανουαρίου 2004

pandreou to lead the party in the elections, thus giving it a genuine chance of victory.

In the past we only saw such democratic and mature gestures in Britain, Germany, France or Scandinavia -- but now it seems this maturity has reached the shores of the Aegean.

The current debates in Turkey show that we are still a military democracy where some officers hold the cards. This is sad, but it is true.

We feel it is up to the leaders of the EU and the elite members of the European Commission to put an end to this situation, though a real effort is needed on this issue from the Turkish government as well.

Greece, Portugal and Spain were still under the influence of totalitarian rule when they were accepted into the EU (or the European Economic Community) because European leaders felt it was their duty to help democratic development in these countries. Yet, this opportunity is being denied to Turkey. Turks are being told to become a full-fledged democracy even before they can start accession talks. Can we call this a sincere move?

Turkey's democratic development is as vital to the EU as the democratic maturity of Greece, Spain and Portugal. You cannot have a potential source of instability at the doorstep of Europe.

The EU leaders have to realize that if Turkey was given a guaranteed date for the start of accession talks in exchange for a aiding a solution to the Cyprus problem we could sail through the current controversies with greater ease. It is clear that Turkish hardliners, several of whom are influential generals, are effectively blocking a Cyprus solution. The government is unable to take bold moves with the fear that if they push for concessions on Cyprus and cannot get a date for accession talks it would be a political disaster.

Yes, looking at the democratic maturity and realism displayed in Greece makes us green with envy, but let us not forget that it was the EU that helped Greece achieve all this.

*** **

Δ. Γ. ΜΟΥΣΤΑΚΑΗΣ