

Αρχείο - Νο 101  
24.2

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS BOTH A PLEASURE AND AN HONOUR FOR ME TO ATTEND TONIGHT'S MEETING ~~OF YOUR CLUB~~, ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IT IS HELD IN ATHENS.

IN VIEW OF THE LONG LIST OF SUBJECTS YOU ARE GOING TO DEAL WITH TOMORROW IT IS ONLY FAIR THAT WE SHOULD GRANT YOU A LITTLE BREATHING SPACE TONIGHT, IN THIS CORNER OF ATTICA WHERE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SPIRIT IN A CLIMATE OF EASE AND TRANQUILLITY. **THEY HAVE ALSO LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF A FREE MARKET SYSTEM AND OF STATE INTERVENTION IF WE BELIEVE DEMOSTHENES. THEY HAD NOT YET INVENTED LONG TERM CREDIT** ON THE BASIS OF THE BRIEFING I RECEIVED CONCERNING THE AIMS AND ACTIVITIES OF YOUR CLUB I CAN SAY THAT YOU HAVE ANTICIPATED IN PRACTICE THE POLITICAL DECISIONS ADOPTED LAST YEAR IN LUXEMBOURG BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL THAT WERE INSTITUTIONALISED BY THE SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT. INDEED, YOUR AIMS, ~~THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB MEMBERS~~, WHICH ARE FOCUSED ON FOSTERING COOPERATION FOR THE FUNDING OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE FORM OF CO-FINANCING, AS IN THE CASE OF PROJECTS LIKE INMARSAT, AIRBUS, OR EUROTUNNEL, AS WELL AS THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, PLANNING, THE JOINT UTILISATION OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROGRAMS, ARE CONNECTED DIRECTLY WITH THE PROSPECT AND THE PROGRAMS OUTLINED BY THE SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTEGRATED EUROPEAN MARKET, THE STRENGTHENING OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COHESION AND THE PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN NEW SECTORS SUCH AS TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

I SHOULD LIKE TO STRESS PARTICULARLY THE INTEREST THAT ATTACHES IN THIS CONTEXT TO THE DISCUSSION YOU WILL HAVE TOMORROW ON :

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MAY BE THIS  
WAS ONE OF  
THE REASONS  
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THE ATHENIAN  
CIVILISATION

- THE PROPOSED EUROPEAN FINANCIAL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION WHICH WILL HAVE AS ITS MAIN TASK THE SUPPORT OF ENTERPRENEURIAL INITIATIVES, PREFERABLY PROMOTED BY SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESS UNITS IN EC COUNTRIES, PREFERABLY IN SECTORS OF ADVANCED OR NEW TECHNOLOGY.
- THE EFFORT TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE LONG-TERM CREDIT INSTITUTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WIDER EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A MORE BALANCED ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND JAPAN. AS FAR AS GREECE IS CONCERNED, THE PICTURE OF ITS TRADE BALANCE WITH JAPAN IS PARTICULARLY UNFAVOURABLE COMPARED WITH THE AVERAGE OF ALL EC COUNTRIES.
- THE PROPOSITION/ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE CLUB PARTICIPATE IN THE SUPPLY MECHANISM OF RISK CAPITAL IN COMBINATION WITH THE OPERATION OF EUROTECH CAPITAL THAT IS BEING PROMOTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

FOR A SMALL COUNTRY LIKE GREECE SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE VERY IMPORTANT IF THEY STRENGTHEN THE COHESION OF THE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES. THIS MEANS THAT THEY SHOULD BE PLANNED IN A WAY THAT THEY ARE BENEFICIAL AND HELP ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN ALL COUNTRIES EVEN THOSE WHICH ARE NOT YET AS DEVELOPED IN ORDER TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN THIS FIELD

AT THIS POINT I SHOULD LIKE TO MENTION THE PROGRAM FOR THE STABILISATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREEK ECONOMY THAT WAS ADOPTED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT LAST OCTOBER. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM WILL SURELY CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE COOPERATION OF OUR COUNTRY WITH THE OTHER PARTNERS IN THE EC IN ALL AREAS AND THEREFORE IN THE AREA OF THE ACTIVITIES OF YOUR CLUB AS WELL.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY BEST WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS OF YOUR MEETING AND A PLEASANT STAY IN OUR COUNTRY.

THANK YOU.

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