

CNN GREECE

1. Greece is facing an extremely difficult situation vis-à-vis to the refugee crisis. How you will support and help- financially?

The European Parliament already showed its strong commitment by making sure extra money is available in the EU budget to tackle the refugee crisis and by voting with an emergency procedure its full support to the relocation schemes.

2. You know very well that the refugee crisis adds to the huge financial problem that Greece faces. Is there any possibility the Memorandum to become a bit more flexible?

This crisis has indeed added further strain on the public finances of Greece. Nobody doubts this and I personally believe that indeed such a crisis must be factored into any considerations regarding the country's fiscal position.

Already last week the President of the Commission said that such flexibility would be considered by the Commission. I am glad to note that the President of the Eurogroup has now also indicated a similar line of thinking.

3. Greek government doesn't want every day Greeks to lose their houses for loans that they can't pay due to the crisis. President Hollande seemed to understand that also. What do you think of that ?

There is a humane dimension to this issue which must certainly be reflected in any deal reached on the matter.

For this reason, I am sympathetic to the idea that no first residence is lost. At the same time the government should make sure that those who can pay their loans do not find an excuse not to, because this is socially unjust since an unpaid loan is indirectly transferred to the tax payer who will be paying for the debt caused by the recapitalisation of the banks.

4. Greece is implementing. As far as she keeps on doing so there will be debt relief?

Let us take everything step by step. Currently the Greek parliament is enacting legislation. Further legislation is due to be debated and voted on shortly. After that will come the challenging but essential task of correct implementation of this newly enacted legislation.

This process of adopting and implementing reform will demand much concentration to ensure continued political ownership. This is on what all attention must be focussed for the moment.

5. Really, what do you think of the new Greek government and the Prime Minister ?

This is a government composed to a large extent of a party which has just won the election convincingly. What I or other individuals think of it is irrelevant. The Greek people have chosen it in a clear way. This also goes for the situation of Mr Tsipras who remains the most popular politician among the population.

I hope that this popularity can be translated into support by the people for the reforms that need to be made quickly in the country's economy. That is what is important.