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Hellenic News, Culture & Lifestyle



Greek opposition leader lays into government, calls for snap polls

As the fragile coalition struggled to hold its own in talks with the troika on Monday following a decision to freeze a merger between National Bank of Greece and Eurobank, the leader of the main leftist opposition SYRIZA party, Alexis Tsipras, on Monday accused the government of having become the "pushover of Europe" after negotiating feebly with the troika and called for early elections.

"Whatever they tell them, they just accept it," Tsipras told a gathering of Hellenic Railways Organization (OSE) workers in Athens, referring to government officials' stance in talks with foreign envoys. He condemned the government for repeatedly demanding that SYRIZA make public its alternative plan for the country's economic recovery, charging that the coalition's own plan "consists of accepting whatever the troika demands."

In an op-ed published in the Efimerida ton Syntakton daily, meanwhile, Tsipras went further, accusing the government of "surrendering" to the troika and called on Prime Minister Antonis Samaras to seek alliances with Southern European

states in a bid to stop the austerity drive in the eurozone. The leftist also mocked the role of PASOK and Democratic Left in the coalition and called for early elections.

Responding to press reports according to which Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras supposedly told the troika that it was exerting too much pressure on the coalition and he would turn over the keys to the Finance Ministry to the SYRIZA leader, Tsipras said Samaras "might as well hand us the keys now" if he was not prepared to try to forge alliances.

Objections to the government's handling of negotiations with the troika, particularly on the bank deal, were not restricted to opposition parties. Sources close to PASOK leader Evangelos Venizelos noted that the Socialist party had highlighted the potential problems of merger between National Bank of Greece and Eurobank "early on." PASOK is reportedly keen for at least NBG to remain under state control. Democratic Left, the third party in the coalition, has a similar stance to PASOK, Kathimerini understands.



The 31st Greek Festival of Sydney proudly presents

COSTA GAVRAS AND THE CINEMA OF POLITICAL COMMITMENT A TALK BY PROFESSOR VRASIDAS KARALIS

After leaving Greece in an early age, Costa Gavras (born 1933) became one of the most important French and, later, international filmmakers. His movies criticised political power, social oppression and ideological domination. Especially with *Z* (1968), he reinvented the genre of the political thriller by fusing together fictional and documentary techniques. His style became immediately recognisable and his works received the highest awards throughout the world. Gavras continued his career with several very important films, like *State of Siege* (1973), *Missing* (1982), *Betrayed* (1988), *Amen* (2003) and most recently *The Capital* (2012), which confirmed his ideological confrontation with all political establishments, either of the right or the left. The lecture explores the profound political character of his cinema in its constant transformations to depict contemporary anxieties and dilemmas.

INFO

DATE: Wed 10 April

TIME: 7pm

VENUE: Customs House

ENTRY COST: Free 02 9750 0440 or email

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CONTACT: 02 9750 0440 or email

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LANGUAGE: English



Turkey to send seismic vessel off Cyprus by April 15

In a sign of growing assertiveness in the region, Ankara said it will dispatch a vessel to conduct two- and three-dimensional seismic surveys for hydrocarbon deposits in the Eastern Mediterranean. In comments made over the weekend, Turkey's Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said the Barbaros Hayreddin Pasha boat, which was recently acquired from Norway, will arrive off Cyprus's northern coast by April 15. Yildiz said the vessel will conduct research within Turkey's territorial waters as well as in a 800-cubic-kilometer stretch off Cyprus.

Greek officials are concerned the Turkish vessel will try to collect data in the area south of Rhodes and Kastellorizo islands and within Cyprus's exclusive economic zone.



In February, Athens submitted a note verbale to the UN notifying international officials of Ankara's granting of

exploration permits for areas deemed to cover the Greek continental shelf. Turkey has challenged Greece's sovereign rights south of Rhodes and Kastellorizo and the right of the Aegean islands to a continental shelf. It claims that the Aegean should be treated as a special case as the islands are so close to the Turkish coast.

Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who on Sunday met with US Secretary of State John Kerry in Istanbul, repeated that Turkey is ready to negotiate a two-state solution to the Cyprus problem if no agreement is reached with regard to the joint exploitation of the island's natural gas reserves. Davutoglu said the Greek-Cypriot administration was making a "grave mistake" on the issue.