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Ask the Question: Why is Discussing the Most Important Reform in Greece Totally Taboo?

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Why is discussing transparency and accountability of the Greece government financials, which is the most important reform in Greece, totally taboo? The government is almost half the economy. Taxes of every kind and color take about half of hard earned income. Yet, those who govern have failed to monitor the country's financial position and fairly account for how these resources are used. Elected officials have a civic responsibility to act in the public interest; yet, too many politicians have not been transparent and not held accountable for their use of government resources.

Ask the prime minister and the finance minister the right questions: Why is discussing the most important reform in Greece totally taboo? Why are transparency and accountability of government finances not the most important reform? Why not implement international accounting standards and audits for government financial statements? Why not show the monthly change in government net debt? How can financial decisions be made determining our future, when we don't have a clear understanding of where we stand financially today?

Show the courage to ask the right questions in meetings, in press conferences, and via social media.

To build trust and confidence as a democracy, Greece needs transparency and accountability of government finances. In 2013, the Greece government had over €80 billion in spending and €91 billion in financial assets. No organization can be managed efficiently and combat corruption without good accounting numbers, which for Greece means Ipsas (International Public Sector Accounting Standards).

There is no more glaring example of the absence of transparency and accountability than the taboo of discussing how in 2013 Greece net debt was 18% of GDP and cash interest expense was only about one-third of Spain, Portugal, Ireland, and Italy.

Greece is now in one of its greatest battles as the cradle of democracy, the Battle for Ipsas. Don't be afraid to ask the right questions to win the Battle for Ipsas. Ask the question: Why is discussing the most important reform in Greece totally taboo? The reward is building trust and confidence.

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