

(ANA) Toussaint interview with WebTV: Proving Greek debt 'odious '

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May 7 (ANA-MPA) -- A full, in-depth examination of Greece's debt and its legality could prove a valuable tool in the framework of negotiations with its creditors, Prof. Eric Toussaint said in an exclusive interview with AMNA WebTV on Thursday, in which he outlined the role and work of the **Committee on the Truth about the Debt** set up in Athens on April 4.

He did not rule out the possibility that a substantial portion of this debt might be found to be "odious" and illegal and said that some of the country's foreign creditors were "crows" speculating at Greece's expense.

Explaining the work done by the Committee, which on Thursday concluded a three-day meeting in Athens, the Belgian professor pointed out that it was now in its second meeting and comprised more than **30 individuals, 15 of which were not Greeks.**

"These are various people. They are **lawyers, economists, experts in checking public affairs,**" he pointed out, and their sole aim was to investigate whether any part of the debt was "illegal" and "odious".

Asked what new thing the Committee might contribute to the situation, Toussaint said it would yield a "stern decision that will judge the legal nature of the demands for Greece's foreign debt."

"If after a detailed analysis it arises that a part of the debt - of significant size - demanded of Greece is irregular, illegal or odious and unbearable, **this will give the Greek authorities arguments in the framework of the negotiation.** It will also **provide arguments to the Greek population,** in order to think about what it must do, independently of the elections.

According to Toussaint, **the Greek public was following exactly what was happening in the framework of the talks and opinion polls showed how public opinion was evolving.**

"Our work is useful in [building] awareness in the population. Awareness both in Greece and on an international level," he added.

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