

# Cyprus President Anastasiades Says Talks with Turkey are at an Impasse Yet Again

**ATHENS** – A frustrated Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades has joined a long list of government officials, envoys and negotiators to see a likely dead-end in hopes to reunify the island divided since an unlawful 1974 invasion by Turkey, telling Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras there's no progress.

As did his predecessor, former Cypriot leader and Communist chief Dimitris Christofias, who grew so exasperated that Turkish-Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu wouldn't budge an inch that he decided not to run again, Anastasiades blamed what he called Turkish intransigence for the latest breakdown.

Anastasiades had predicted there could be a breakthrough but than ran into Eroglu, who has been a stonewall hardliner unwilling to make any concessions, even though the Cypriot leader offered so many before talks began that one of his coalition parties walked out of the government in protest.

The 40th anniversary of Turkey's invasion and occupation of the northern third of the island, which it still holds and calls a Republic no other country in the world recognizes, just passed and Anastasiades said he was so vexed at the lack of progress he feared a permanent partition with no hope of unifying the two sides.

Turkey, which wants to join the European Union, still keeps a standing army on Cyprus and refuses to recognize the government.

Anastasiades told Samaras the main stumbling blocks remain the same as have been obstacles in decades of fruitless and broken-off talks: Turkish-Cypriots want to keep the properties they unlawfully seized chief among them.

In comments after the meeting – which was attended by Greek Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos, the PASOK leader who is a partner in the government, and Cypriot counterpart Ioannis Kasoulides – Samaras said Turkey was responsible for low expectations for a solution.

"Talks will continue but will only lead to a settlement if the other side displays genuine political will," said Samaras, who has otherwise tried to build a cozy relationship with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"Greece and Cyprus will continue our peaceful struggle to overturn the fait accompli of the Turkish occupation," he said, adding that Turkey has yet to fall in line with international law and its EU obligations.

Analysts say volatility in the Middle East and upcoming Presidential elections in Turkey have moved the Cyprus issue down on Ankara's political agenda.

In May, Turkey said it wouldn't pay \$123 million in damages to Cyprus that was ordered by Europe's top human rights court. The furious Turks said it was a big blow to peace talks on the island and refused to recognize the order of a court despite its EU ambitions.



Pictured Left to Right: Greece's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos, Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades, and Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras.

## TURKEY TALKS TOUGH

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Turkey must pay the damages to Cyprus for its 1974 invasion and the island's subsequent division.

Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called the ruling unfair and said it put all the blame for Cyprus' division on Turkey. He said the ruling was "non-binding" because Turkey does not legally recognize Cyprus' government.

Anastasiades said he's worried that the island country's di-

vision may become permanent, as unification talks broke down again, as they have for decades.

Anastasiades said that Cyprus's Greek and Turkish communities must work together to make sure that partition does not go on, but that was offset by continued demands from Turkey it be allowed to keep a standing army on the northern third it controls.

Troops have been there for 40 years and Turkey, which wants to join the European Union but won't recognize Cyprus – which

is a member – said it will not change its position that its army is going to stay, a potential deal breaker even for Anastasiades, who has shown signs of being willing to make big concessions to get reunification.

He and his Turkish-Cypriot counterpart Dervis Eroglu earlier this year said talks would resume after a two-year hiatus during which the Turkish leader dug in his heels and wouldn't negotiate, which prompted Anastasiades' predecessor, Communist Dimitris Christofias, to

throw up his hands in frustration and decide not to run again.

Both sides are also being squeezed by the international community, especially the United States, United Nations and European Union, to find a resolution, with much of the pressure on the Greek-Cypriot side to relent and accept the results of the unlawful Turkish invasion.

"All the conditions are ripe for a solution to the Cyprus problem, but the point has to be driven home to the Turkish-Cypriot side as well as Turkey," Anastasiades said a day before the July 20th date of Turkey sending in troops after a coup on the Cypriot side set off jitters.

But Turkish-Cypriot negotiators are reportedly insisting on the continued presence of Turkish troops over a Greek-Cypriot proposal for the EU and UN to act as guarantors on the island.

In a statement to Cyprus News Agency, Anastasiades said he still thinks there's a chance for an agreement although Eroglu, a hard-liner, has shown no signs of compromise.

He said that a solution that will safeguard the rights of Greek Cypriots, without denying the rights of Turkish Cypriots, was feasible and would have political, social, and financial benefits. Turkey though, doesn't want to return seized property and wasn't even willing to accept a previous proposal from Christofias to allow a Turk to be the island's President on a rotating basis. It didn't work.

# Fearing "Social Unrest" Protests, Next Greek-Troika Debt Talks Will Move to Paris

**ATHENS** – Greece's government says its next meetings with international debt inspectors will take place in Paris instead of Athens – a move it says signals the country is no longer under "intense pressure" to make austerity measures, although it doesn't want to face more social unrest.

Government spokesperson Sofia Voultepsi said the meetings will take place in early September with officials from the Troika of the European Union-International Monetary Fund-European Central Bank (EU-IMF-ECB) that has put up 240 billion euros (\$327 billion) in two bailouts.

The venue, she said, had been changed from Athens at the government's request to avoid disruption from protests and strikes with Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, the New Democracy Conservative leader, eager to avoid the kind of social and political instability that brought down his predecessor, former premier and previous PASOK Socialist leader George Papandreou.

"The (inspectors) have no reason to be here," Voultepsi said. "Our program is on course and ... our economic output is set to start growing for the first time in many years." Troika of-



Government spokesperson Sofia Voultepsi.

officials will come back to Athens after the debt talks to check on reforms.

PASOK, under current leader Evangelos Venizelos, who was made Deputy Premier/Foreign Minister in return for backing more of the pay cuts, tax hikes, and slashed pensions imposed first by Papandreou, is a coalition partner in the government.

New Greek Finance Minister Gikas Hardouvelis, who will lead a team of ministers to Paris for the Sept. 3-5 talks, said Greece will continue to push reforms demanded by the Troika while noting that people must accept them "as their own."

He noted Greeks must see their income rise for this to happen although the government has for four years slashed salaries along with big tax hikes and slashed pensions.

"We are facing a period of strong growth," he predicted, although the government has admitted it won't help bring down the unemployment rate for years.

"The reforms have failed to tackle vested interests, such as trade unions, monopoly suppliers and incumbents, which have opposed steps to free up and diversify the highly regulated economy. Without reform, many

critics believe Greece will fail to attract the foreign investment that will be essential to making any recovery sustainable," the Financial Times reported.

Often tense meetings with inspectors have occurred in Athens regularly since the country was bailed out in 2010 to monitor Draconian public spending cuts.

The country's major opposition Coalition of the Radical Left (SYRIZA), which is leading in polls and is vehemently opposed to austerity, said the switch to Paris was a stunt to deflect criticism and keep the talks out of the public eye.

SYRIZA leader Alexis Tsipras said if he comes to power he would revise the terms of the bailouts or default on the loans, which critics said would leave Greece broke and even bring down the 18-member Eurozone.

Samaras, who has blasted Tsipras for that stance, nonetheless is also trying to change the bailout terms, either through restructuring with a longer repayment period and lower interest, or through a so-called "haircut" in which Greece would walk away from a big chunk of what it owes.

That would force the taxpayers in the other 17 Eurozone countries to pick up the bill for

generations of wild overspending and runaway patronage by successive New Democracy and PASOK governments, largely the cause of the country's crushing economic crisis.

The austerity measures Samaras embraced – after previously opposing – have created record unemployment and deep poverty, and which signs of a recovery, he now opposes the terms again and said he would not implement any more.

**SHAVE AND A HAIRCUT**  
Though no longer facing the threat of imminent bankruptcy, Greece relies on rescue loans and is hoping for concessions from other Eurozone members to make its runaway national debt sustainable.

The government submitted legislation to Parliament, continuing a tax administration overhaul that had been demanded by bailout creditors who have complained that successive governments have done little to go after tax cheats.

Haris Theoharis, the former General Secretary for Revenues, a new position created at the Troika's behest to boost tax revenues, resigned last month for what he was said "personal reasons," but for which Greek media reported was out of frustration that the government was

protecting high-profile tax evaders and didn't want him going after them.

While German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose country puts up much of the loans and who has insisted on tough austerity, said she will not allow a debt write-down, Greece can count on France for support.

In an interview with the newspaper Kathimerini, French Finance Minister Michel Sapin gave the assessment but said his country will support Greece's bid to re-do or walk away from a big chunk of the money it owes, even though French taxpayers would take a hit.

"It's too early to predict the needs of Greece, we will jointly examine the overall situation of [Greece] debt this Autumn. Based on the information we will have, we will take decisions on financing issues," said Sapin.

He added that, to his view, Greece is now "in a much better economic, financial and fiscal situation, which allows the country to stand off from the storm area. The harshest measures belong to the past, although I have to agree that the conditions are difficult for Greece and Greeks".

(Material from the Associated Press was used in this report)

# Crete Fertility Centre's Success: 20 Years and More than 4,000 Babies

**CRETE, GREECE.** – Crete Fertility Centre, established more than 20 years ago by Dr. Mattheos Fraidakis, has a long history in provision of quality services in assisted reproduction and reproductive surgery to the highest clinical and scientific standards without losing focus on the specific needs of couples who have sought care at Crete Fertility Centre.

Before founding the Centre, Dr. Fraidakis was appointed for three years as clinical fellow and assistant researcher in the Academic Unit of Obstetrics, – Gynecology and Reproduction Physiology, directed by Professor J.G. Grudzinskas, at the Royal London Hospital.

During this time Dr. Fraidakis was also invited to join the medical team at Bridge Fertility Centre, one of the largest centers of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) in UK, at London Bridge Hospital. He also acted as visiting lecturer to the Academic Unit at the Royal London Hospital in ART and endoscopic surgery.

Dr. Fraidakis and his team since 1993 planned to offer comprehensive ART services in collaboration with established ART centres of excellence to ensure that his patients benefitted from his active network of colleagues in United Kingdom, USA, Italy, France, Australia, Scandinavia, University of Crete and the Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser of Crete. In addition to providing international level care for routine ART treatments like IVF and ICSI, Crete Fertility Centre has attracted patients who require more complex and specialised treatments, such as oocyte donation with specific oocyte



Above: Inside the laboratory of the Crete Fertility Centre, which has achieved over 4000 successful births. Right: Dr. Mattheos Fraidakis, who established the Centre over 20 years ago.

donor characteristics, namely Mediterranean lineage, host surgery authorised by Greek court decree, third party host surrogacy for women who have survived cancer treatment and have undergone ovarian tissue transplantation and now whose own genetic embryos are ready for transfer, preimplantation genetic screening and donor insemination for couples seeking donors with their familial and ethnic characteristics.

Couples who travel to Crete Fertility Centre have reported being impressed and reassured by the supportive and wise counsel of the nursing and medical team. Notably the setting of the Centre in a friendly small modern hospital has enhanced

the patient experience by the welcoming reception, especially greeting patients who have travelled far to come Crete for the first time. Experienced administration team members strive to ensure that by their suggestions for accommodation and local knowledge couples enjoy a stress free stay.

Given the international outlook of all team members of the Centre and their experience of providing for the very specific individualised needs of women and couples, it is evident that every effort is made to optimise the likelihood of a successful outcome to treatment in a relaxed setting.

Our unit has high success rates, comparable with the high-

est in Europe and United States, for women who have undergone treatment with IVF/ICSI and related procedures as well as in the egg donation program.

From 2007 to 2013, our success rates are based on 2049 embryo transfers performed at our centre leading to our success rate of 56.6% (1161 successful pregnancies).

From January of 2014 to June of 2014, the pregnancy success rates in fresh egg donation program has been 57.7%.

We are proud to know that more than 4000 children born all around the world have resulted from ART techniques in our unit.

Sensitivity to patients' needs especially to those who have

come from afar, striving to provide best practice and easy access to expert opinion has resulted in the latest advances to enhance the success rate being available to patients at Crete Fertility Centre, these include:

Pre-IVF/ICSI endometrial procedure (also known as scratching, local endometrial injury) to enhance embryo transfer implantation rates

Adjuvant hormonal medications to support the luteal phase and enhance implantation rates

Complementary techniques such as acupuncture and aromatherapy are just two of the approaches to eliminate as much avoidable stress as possible to maximise chance of success outcome.

Recent Publications and presentations:

Administration of DHEA augments progesterone production in a woman with low ovarian reserve being transplanted with cryopreserved ovarian tissue ;Strauss S, Greve T, Ernst E,



Individualized ovarian stimulation to optimize oocyte number and quality for IVF/ICSI

Pre IVF/ICSI hysteroscopy and biopsy to ensure that the assessment of the uterine cavity has been complete, this keyhole technique permits diagnosis and treatment of endometrial conditions missed by ultrasound scans.

Diligent and comprehensive assessment of best prognosis oocyte/egg donors and well as sperm donors to ensure the best possible outcome.

Fraidakis M, Grudzinskas JG, Andersen CY.

J Assist Reprod. Genet. 2014 31(6):645-9 (2014)

Third harmonic generation in preimplantation embryos in Congress of the 14th International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction, 28 May – June 1 2013, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. (abstract) Journal of Reproductive Immunology. This scientific study was voted as one of TOP-20 best scientific studies of TEDMED BioBiz workshop.