

# Greek Party Leader Calls For FDR Solution to Crisis

by Dean Andromidas

Dec. 12—A call for the implementation of Glass-Steagall in Greece, Europe, and the United States was delivered by Panos Kammenos, leader of the Independent Greeks, one of the leading opposition parties in the Greek Parliament, in a speech Dec. 8, on the occasion of the Greek Government's submission of the 2014 national budget, which narrowly passed by three votes. As the first such call for Glass-Steagall in the Greek parliament, it will serve as a rallying point to bring the opposition to the European financial oligarchy's genocidal policy behind the growing international movement to push through Glass-Steagall bank separation in the United States and Europe.

Kammenos had just returned from Washington, where on Dec. 3, with the cooperation of the LaRouche political movement, he met with members of Congress to discuss the importance of restoring the Glass-Steagall Act in the United States, as the best way of aiding Greece and Europe.

The driving polemic in Kammenos's speech was that the intention of those who orchestrated the economic and social catastrophe imposed on Greece was to save the European banks and the euro at the expense of the Greek people. Of the EU270 billion forced on Greece as a so-called "bailout," only EU35 billion could be identified as actual Greek state debt, while no less than EU235 billion is the banks' debt that was "passed from the banks' deficits to the citizens' deficit" under orders of the European Central Bank, and with the consent of the Greek government. This has left Greece, Kammenos charged, with a collapsing economy, an unpayable debt which is 175.5% of the country's gross domestic product, and unemployment that exceeds 28%. Since the bailout began, Greece's lenders have raked in EU50 billion while Greeks who have joined the growing army of unemployed have seen their wages cut by 40%, have been losing their homes, and are being crushed under ever-increasing taxation.

Kammenos reminded his colleagues that when Greece, in 1979, signed the agreement to enter the Eu-

ropean Economic Community, as the European Union was known at that time, the then-Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis<sup>1</sup> proclaimed that that Greece was joining "a community of nations which will be based on free consent, in equal cooperation and in mutual respect." That was "a community of nations, and not a community of banks," and that is the Europe that the Independent Greeks believe in, Kammenos added.

Kammenos also took a swipe at German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who, he said, is acting as an agent of the Europe of the bankers, in their plan to enslave the people; he also denounced German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, "who strolls around in Ukraine's squares in order to fund organizations which supposedly talk about European union and the future of Ukraine at the expense of the agreement of the Ukrainian government to negotiate with Russia." He warned, "This is the game, ladies and gentleman, you are going to play, if you vote for today's budget."

## FDR's 'Four Freedoms'

Identifying the emerging trans-Atlantic resistance movement, Kammenos declared: "Of course, there is a resistance by the people from all the European countries and the United States of America. We can see what is going on in the United States. When that country faced the big financial crisis in the 1930s, it had the good fortune of having had a great leader, President [Franklin D.] Roosevelt, who manifested the 'New Deal.' This is the kind of 'Deal' we have to carry out, ladies and gentlemen, a New Deal that will put aside the bankers and will manifest citizens' rights.

"The United States achieved its success with a President who was very sick, who had poliomyelitis and was

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1. Constantine Karamanlis (1907-98), prime minister of Greece from 1955-63 and 1974-80. Karamanlis brought Greece into the European Economic Union through his strong collaboration with French President Charles de Gaulle, and later President Giscard d'Estaing. He founded the New Democracy party in 1974 on the model of the France's Gaullist party.



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*Following an intense round of meetings with members of Congress in Washington, in which he urged passage of Glass-Steagall and a New Marshall Plan, Independent Greeks party leader Panos Kammenos issued a rallying call in the Greek parliament to end the Troika's brutal dictatorship over Europe.*

confined in a wheelchair, but nonetheless, brought back the vision of the nation. Our nation too must have a vision, and the vision is to work hard in order to change our public sector because it is unhealthy. We must change. To be taxed normally, although the state has to protect our property, and we have to operate for the benefit of national sovereignty and not for the benefit of the banks.

“We have to serve that ‘New Deal’ under the Four Freedoms that Franklin Roosevelt described in his great speech: The first one is the Freedom of Speech and Expression everywhere in the world. That is a freedom which is being infringed upon. . . .

“The second principle, according to Roosevelt is Freedom from Want, from poverty, which on a world-wide level, means financial terms must ensure for every nation health and conditions of peace for the citizens all over the world. The state, even in the most liberal of societies, has the obligation to protect the poor, the obligation to care about the sick people who do not have the ability to pay for their health and social insurance fund. It is an obligation of the state to protect the citizen and his rights.

“The third principle is Freedom from Fear, and that fear, we have to confront in this hall today. . . . We have to confront this fear, like it was confronted in the New Deal. Because the New Deal proceeded in specific

laws, that at the moment, are coming back in the world to knock down the immunity of the banks. A Democratic Senator, Carter Glass from Virginia, and a Democratic Representative, Henry Steagall from Alabama, in 1933, introduced President Roosevelt’s legislation that ordered commercial banks to be separated from the banks that take part in, as it is called, ‘Casino Capitalism.’ . . . That legislation, Glass-Steagall put aside the speculators, from 1933 to 1999.”

## Bring Back Glass-Steagall

Referring to his lobbying in Washington on Dec. 3, Kammenos said, “Many Congressmen—I had the good fortune to meet many of them—have brought back the Glass-Steagall legislation, because if Greece blows, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, and the USA will blow too. We have to blow up the bubble of the speculators before they blow the bubble of the citizens. So let’s bring back the Glass-Steagall legislation. The Independent Greeks support this legislation; and for the European elections, with the other European parties, and together with citizens movements, we will raise the flag, asking the citizens to vote for the rationale of the policy of banks, or for the rationale of citizens, the people, the children, and our future.”

Alongside Glass-Steagall, Kammenos called for a New Marshall Plan for Europe: “What Greece needs, dear colleagues, is a New Marshall Plan. And this is the big difference. . . . The real allies were the ones who, from the U.S. in 1947 with Marshall Plan, gave 16 European countries after World War II financial help to rebuild our economies. And the economies were rebuilt. The Greek shipowners took the Liberty ships, and made Greece the first power in shipping.”

Kammenos called for the New Marshall Plan to be implemented in cooperation with the United States and Russia. “Instead of allowing the seizure of our oil and natural gas by our borrowers, as they intend to do, we have to negotiate now with the two powers, Russia and the USA, for the ability to issue bonds against future profits from the mineral wealth in order to proceed to a complete elimination of our debt—I am so delighted, Mr. Tsipras,<sup>2</sup> that you mentioned today the need to eliminate the debt, a shameful and burdensome debt—to proceed essentially in a New Deal, and the people all together to proceed to the reorganization of the society

2. Alexis Tsipras, leader of the Syriza Party and leader of the Parliamentary opposition.

and the national economy.”

He concluded that voting on the budget was “an act of national responsibility that we have at this time individually and not as parties. It is not a defection to vote according to what you believe and according to the consciousness of those whom you represent. It is a betrayal against those to do exactly the opposite, to ignore the citizens that you represent. . . . I wish for the powers of this land to say a big ‘no’ to this budget. The days that will come, if this political scene keeps going, will be days in tears, in blood, days with foreclosures, citizens’ poverty, days that some of them want to drive into days of blood. We have to drive them into days of hope, coming back again to our real allies, and not to those who take advantage of our country.”

### From the Steps of the Capitol

In Washington Dec. 3, Kammenos made a powerful intervention, briefing members of Congress on the gross injustices being forced on Greece and other European countries, and the crucial importance of fighting to get Glass-Steagall passed in Congress, to change the European situation.

In an interview with [LPAC-TV](#) from the steps of the

Capitol, Kammenos spoke of the message he was bringing to Congress, “I have already discussed with many Congressmen, about the possibility to build new economic rules with real banks, with a real economy, with real money. I think this is the moment, everywhere in the world to replace the hedge funds, the bubble economy, with real money, and with real development that will provide jobs for the people, that will provide the possibility to produce again. To produce in agriculture, to produce in industry, to produce in research.

“We also discussed Glass-Steagall, and I think that this is a solution not only for the United States, but also for Europe. Most important for Europe is the next European elections [for European Parliament]. The Independent Hellenes, our party, is in connection with the movements, with parties, new parties, new movements, with people around Europe. I think that we are ready to propose to our nations to support this Glass-Steagall European project, and to send a message to the next European elections. . . . Most important is that we are in touch with the people—you know, many Greek-Americans live here—this is the moment to reach everybody, not via the lobbyists, but via the real people.”

On Dec. 6, the ruling New Democracy party expelled Nikos Kioutsoukis, secretary general of the trade union DAKE, which is aligned to the party, for issuing a statement calling on parliamentarians to vote down the budget because it would continue the policies that have left Greece in “social and economic ruin.”

In his speech before the Parliament Kammenos spoke of Kioutsoukis’s ouster as an example of the violation of FDR’s “Freedom from Fear,” since not only was Kioutsoukis ousted, but a pressure campaign by the pro-government media attempted to isolate and instill fear in him and his family.

Kioutsoukis’s call to vote “no” on the budget was accompanied by a five-page documentation of the “onerous” conditions that have been imposed on the Greek people as a result of three years under the regime imposed by the Troika of the European Union, the European Central Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. The conditions imposed to create a “primary surplus,” the statement declared, have left the “social fabric and economy in ruins.” The “medicine” prescribed was worse than the “disease.” Rather than restoring the economy, it has been thrown into “a sustained and multi-level coma,” and has created “a severe socio-economic crisis that now reaches beyond that of a humanitarian crisis.”

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—Lyndon LaRouche,  
Feb. 11, 2013

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