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**THE INFLUENCE OF THE INFORMATION  
STRUCTURE OF GREEK AND ENGLISH ON THE  
USE OF FOCUSING DEVICES BY GREEK  
SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH: THE CASE OF MARKED  
THEME AND CLEFT CONSTRUCTIONS**

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## **Declaration**

This submission is my own work. Any quotation from, or description of, work of others is acknowledged herein by reference to the sources, whether published or unpublished.

Fioralmpo Permeti

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## ABSTRACT

The aim of the dissertation is to explore the influence of the information structure of Greek and English on the use of focusing devices by Greek speakers of English. In particular, it deals with three cleft constructions, namely *it*-, *wh*- and reverse *wh*-clefts, as well as three marked theme constructions, namely extraposition [also known as left dislocation], object fronting [also known as focalization] and subject marking. In Chapter 1, I present some works relevant to the notion of focus in Greek and English. In Chapter 2, I focus on the previous studies relevant to the subject of the dissertation. In Chapter 3, I present the methodological tools of the data collection and analysis. Concerning the data, they were drawn from spoken texts, produced in English by sixty Greek public figures, who belong to four different fields (academia, politics, arts and sports), during the period 2011-2020. In Chapter 4, I analyze the results of the study. In general, the data showed that clefts were used to a considerably greater extent than marked theme constructions. Regarding, now, cleft constructions, *wh*- and reverse *wh*-clefts were the most prevalent trends, whereas *it*-clefts were barely used by the examined speakers. As for marked theme constructions, extraposition was the most dominant trend, while object fronting proved to be a rarity in the examined texts. In Chapter 5, I examine the potential impact of the information structure of Greek and English on the use of the examined constructions by the speakers. In this respect, I argue that the use of *it*-clefts, extraposition and subject marking reflects aspects of the information structure of both languages, whereas the use of *wh*- and reverse *wh*-clefts as well as object fronting predominantly exhibits elements of the information structure of English. In Chapter 6, I summarize the most important findings and the most crucial points of my argumentation, I mention further considerations on the actual study and implications for future research on the subject.

**Keywords:** information structure, focusing devices, marked theme construction, cleft construction, Greek and English influence

## ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Ο σκοπός της διπλωματικής εργασίας είναι να εξερευνήσει την επιρροή της πληροφοριακής δομής της Ελληνικής και της Αγγλικής γλώσσας στη χρήση γλωσσικών σχημάτων εστίασης από Έλληνες ομιλητές της Αγγλικής γλώσσας. Ειδικότερα, εστιάζει σε τρεις δομές δίπτυχων προτάσεων, οι οποίες είναι οι δίπτυχες προτάσεις που εισάγονται με την προσωπική αντωνυμία “αυτό” και οι δίπτυχες προτάσεις που εισάγονται με την αναφορική αντωνυμία “αυτό που”, κανονικές και αντίστροφες, καθώς επίσης και σε τρεις δομές μαρκαρισμένου θέματος, οι οποίες είναι η εξωθέτηση [επίσης γνωστή ως αριστερή μετατόπιση], η πρόταξη αντικειμένου [επίσης γνωστή ως εστίαση] και το μαρκαρισμένο υποκείμενο. Στο Κεφάλαιο 1, παρουσιάζω μερικές έρευνες σχετικές με την έννοια της εστίασης στην Ελληνική και στην Αγγλική γλώσσα. Στο Κεφάλαιο 2, εστιάζω σε προηγούμενες έρευνες σχετικές με το θέμα της διπλωματικής εργασίας. Στο Κεφάλαιο 3, παρουσιάζω τα μεθοδολογικά εργαλεία της συλλογής και της ανάλυσης των δεδομένων. Όσον αφορά τα δεδομένα, τα συνέλεξα από προφορικά κείμενα, τα οποία παρήχθησαν στην Αγγλική γλώσσα από εξήντα Έλληνες, που είναι δημόσια πρόσωπα και ανήκουν σε τέσσερις διαφορετικούς χώρους (ακαδημαϊκή κοινότητα, πολιτική, τέχνες και αθλητισμό), κατά τη χρονική περίοδο 2011-2020. Στο Κεφάλαιο 4, αναλύω τα αποτελέσματα της έρευνας. Εν γένει, τα δεδομένα έδειξαν ότι οι δομές δίπτυχων προτάσεων χρησιμοποιήθηκαν σε ένα σημαντικά μεγαλύτερο βαθμό από ότι οι δομές μαρκαρισμένου θέματος. Σε σχέση, τώρα, με τις δομές δίπτυχων προτάσεων, οι δίπτυχες προτάσεις που εισάγονται με την αναφορική αντωνυμία “αυτό που”, κανονικές και αντίστροφες, ήταν οι πιο κυρίαρχες τάσεις, ενώ οι δίπτυχες προτάσεις που εισάγονται με την προσωπική αντωνυμία “αυτό” χρησιμοποιήθηκαν ελάχιστα από τους ομιλητές στην έρευνα. Σε σχέση με τις δομές μαρκαρισμένου θέματος, η εξωθέτηση ήταν η πιο κυρίαρχη τάση, ενώ η πρόταξη αντικειμένου αποδείχτηκε ότι ήταν σπανιότερη στα κείμενα της έρευνας. Στο Κεφάλαιο 5, ερευνώ τον πιθανό αντίκτυπο της πληροφοριακής δομής της Ελληνικής και της Αγγλικής γλώσσας στη χρήση των υπό εξέταση δομών από τους ομιλητές. Σε αυτό το πλαίσιο, υποστηρίζω ότι η χρήση των δίπτυχων προτάσεων που εισάγονται με την

προσωπική αντωνυμία “αυτό”, της εξωθέτησης και του μαρκαρισμένου υποκειμένου δείχνει στοιχεία της πληροφοριακής δομής και των δύο γλωσσών, ενώ η χρήση των δίπτυχων προτάσεων που εισάγονται με την αναφορική αντωνυμία “αυτό που”, κανονικών και αντίστροφων, και της πρόταξης αντικειμένου δείχνει, κυρίως, στοιχεία της πληροφοριακής δομής της Αγγλικής γλώσσας. Στο Κεφάλαιο 6, συνοψίζω τα πιο σημαντικά ευρήματα και τα κύρια σημεία της επιχειρηματολογίας μου, αναφέρω περαιτέρω σκέψεις σε σχέση με την παρούσα έρευνα και κάποιες κατευθύνσεις για μελλοντική μελέτη στο θέμα της διπλωματικής εργασίας.

**Λέξεις κλειδιά:** πληροφοριακή δομή, γλωσσικά σχήματα εστίασης, δομή μαρκαρισμένου θέματος, δομή δίπτυχων προτάσεων, επιρροή της Ελληνικής και της Αγγλικής γλώσσας

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# **Chapter 1**

## **Introduction**

### **1.1 The aim of the thesis**

The significance of studying the information structure of spoken and written languages lies in the fact that it can offer linguists a thorough insight into the fundamental mechanisms of human communication. It can provide researchers with a greater understanding of the ways in which human communication works. In this context, the thesis aims at exploring how the information structure of Greek and English can influence the linguistic behavior of speakers who employ both languages in their discourse. In the case of my study, the focus was on Greek speakers who would use English in their interaction. My goal was to investigate the impact of the information structure of Greek and English on the linguistic output of Greek speakers. In particular, I emphasized on particular linguistic constructions in the examined spoken texts in order to identify aspects of Greek and English information structure. The analysis of the spoken texts provided me with findings which shed light on the potential impact of the information structure of each language on the speakers' discourse.

### **1.2 Some perspectives on the information structure of Greek**

Modern Greek is traditionally viewed as a language with a relatively flexible word order, enabling speakers to employ a variety of syntactic patterns. In this framework, Lascaratou (1989: 47-48), in her study on active declarative clauses of written texts, identified SVO (Subject-Verb-Object) as the predominant main clause order. In addition to this, Lascaratou (1998: 157) explains that the SVO order is preferred because there is a tendency for arguments positively marked for agentivity and definiteness, such as themes and subjects, to appear in clause-initial position in Modern Greek. This fact is also highlighted by Philippaki-Warburton (1985: 121), who argues that the dominant SVO order occurs naturally in cases in which the subject is the theme. She notes, though, that VSO (Verb-Subject-Object) is the most natural word order pattern that provides us with the simplest grammar

in Greek (Philippaki-Warburton 1985: 140). In other words, she observes that VSO remains the underlying structure from a syntactic point of view, despite the SVO order appearing as the most frequent pattern in sentences, mainly due to communicative reasons, such as the need to foreground themes in discourse.

I will present now some aspects of the relation between information structure and intonation in Greek. To begin with Botinis (1998: 308-310), it is argued that intonation is linked with the focalization process in discourse, which is also observed in the majority of European languages. Greek speakers, in this respect, highlight the most important information by using intonation so that they can draw their interlocutor's attention to the focused element. In another work on Greek phonetics, Arvaniti (2007: 140-142) underlines the fact that non-final words, besides final ones, can carry the sentence stress in cases in which they are in narrow focus or in contrast with other elements within the same sentence, as well as when they constitute new information. Subsequently, she suggests that there are differences between contrastive and non-contrastive narrow foci. For example, the former show an extra lengthening of the stressed syllable.

Concerning focusing in Greek, Tzanidaki (1998: 242-244) examines the relationship between object noun phrases and the realization of focus. In this context, she draws a dichotomy between the two types of foci realized by object noun phrases: new and contrastive. She argues that the flexible word order of Greek enables the occurrence of both types in discourse. In this sense, object noun phrases which are placed after the verb represent new foci, while object noun phrases placed in pre-verbal position represent contrastive foci. In parallel, Georgiafentis (2009: 147-149) deals with the distinction between information and contrastive focus in Greek. He explains that the two types of foci are realised in different ways. On one hand, information focus is accommodated via prosody. On the other hand, contrastive focus is accommodated primarily via syntax. Georgiafentis (2009: 153) as well mentions the relative free word order of Greek as one of the reasons why both prosodic and syntactic focus-marking strategies can be employed by Greek speakers.

As for Tsimpli (1995: 179-182), she draws a dichotomy between topicalization and focusing. She mentions that the former involves the presence of a resumptive

clitic pronoun whereas the latter disallows it. Also, the two processes differ in the type of case which topicalized and focused noun phrases can bear in a sentence and the number of phrases which can be topicalized and focused respectively. Finally, while focusing can trigger a subject-auxiliary verb inversion, topicalization does not. Taking all the facts into consideration, she concludes that focusing, contrary to topicalization, involves the syntactic movement of preposing the focused phrase. Deligianni (2011: 169), now, refers to CL (Clitic Doubling) and CLLD (Clitic Left Dislocation), which she distinguishes from topicalization and focus movement. She notes that both constructions promote objects rather than subjects as topics in discourse. In CL constructions, the object topic occurs as the focus in the immediate preceding discourse. In CLLD constructions, the object topic is activated as the focus rather indirectly, namely through an inferential schema.

### **1.3 Some perspectives on the information structure of English**

Here, I will draw on the existing literature to present some works relevant to the subject of information structure. One of the earliest and most significant contributions to the theory was made by Chafe (1976), who provided a thorough insight into the mechanisms used by speakers and writers of English to mark new and given information as well as the devices used to highlight important information in discourse. In a more recent work, Winkler (2012) dealt with the information structure-related concepts of focus, topic and givenness and their relation. In this context, she investigated how the deviation of focus, topic and givenness marking constructions from the unmarked word order of English affects discourse. In another relevant work, Roberts (2012) argued for a formal theory of information structure. For this reason, he emphasized on the semantic and pragmatic aspects of English focusing devices. For example, he examined the relationship of focus with pragmatic phenomena such as presupposition and conversational implicature.

For Hannay (1991: 146-148), speakers' decisions on the order and the pragmatic functions of constituents in a sentence reflect their communicative strategies in discourse. In other words, the communicative effect varies depending on whether

speakers place a constituent in clause-initial or clause-final position, and whether the clause-initial constituent functions as both topic and focus or only as topic. In the same framework, Birner and Ward (1998) analyzed the relation between non-canonical word order and information structure in the cases of preposing, postposing and argument reversal. In this context, they examined three preposing constructions: topicalization, focus preposing and left dislocation. Birner and Ward (1998: 93-94) distinguished left dislocation from the other two types, because of the presence of a referential pronoun in the canonical position of the preposed constituent. They also noted that in focus preposing, the focus is contained in the preposed constituent, whereas in topicalization, it is not (Birner and Ward 1998: 36-37).

I will consider now the interplay between intonation and information structure. To begin with Steedman (2000), he proposed a theoretical framework which encompasses intonation, information structure, formal syntax and semantics. In this framework, he mentioned two dimensions of information structure, which affect intonation (Steedman 2000: 655-656). One was the contrast between the theme and the rheme, which determines, among other factors, the intonational tunes imposed on the utterance. The other was the contrast between focus and background information, determining which element is marked by pitch accent and which is not. In another work, O'Grady (2014) studied how intonation can signal information structure in spoken texts, and especially what information is considered retrievable and not-retrievable. In particular, he pointed out that speakers' choosing whether or not to make elements prosodically prominent relies on the context of the utterance and their communicative goals (O' Grady 2014: 44-47). This means that speakers may highlight lexical items in their communication regardless of whether they are recoverable or not.

With regard to focusing in English, Gussenhoven (2008: 91-96) mentioned seven categories of foci. He made reference to corrective foci which mark a constituent as a direct rejection of an alternative, counter presuppositional foci which involve a correction of information in the discourse of the hearer by the speaker, as well as definitional and contingency foci which inform the hearer of attendant circumstances. The other three types are presentational foci which introduce new information, reactivating foci which mark old information and identificational foci

which mark the equation of two elements in discourse. Riester and Baumann (2013) on the contrary made three distinctions. The first differentiates primary foci which bear a nuclear pitch accent from secondary foci which do not (Riester and Baumann 2013: 216-217). The second makes a distinction between foci which correspond to an immediate question and foci which correspond to a supplemental question (Riester and Baumann 2013: 221). The third differentiates contrastive foci whose alternatives can be identified in the context from information foci whose alternatives remain unidentified (Riester and Baumann 2013: 233).

#### **1.4 The structure of the thesis**

I will finish this introduction by outlining the basic points of the following chapters. In Chapter 2, I present works relevant to the subject of the current study, which have investigated the influence of the information structure of different languages on the linguistic output of speakers and writers who employ them. In Chapter 3, I analyze the methodology which guided the research process. I mention the characteristics of the subjects of the study and I outline the process of data collection and the theoretical framework of the data analysis. In Chapter 4, I summarize the results of the study and compare them to identify similarities and differences in the linguistic behavior of the subjects. In Chapter 5, I explore the impact of the information structure of Greek and English on the speakers' preference for each examined construction. Finally, in Chapter 6, I point out the most important findings of the study and the main arguments of the thesis. I also mention further considerations in the current study and suggest some directions for future work on the subject.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Literature review**

#### **2.1 Relevant works**

I will start this chapter with the study carried out by Master (2005) on the influence of information structure on ESL (English as a Second Language)/EFL (English as a Foreign Language) learners' accurate use of articles. He examined students at ESL and EFL programs, who were native speakers of different languages, with and without an article system. One of his most important findings was that the ability of the subjects to choose the correct article was better when noun phrases adhered to canonical information structure (Master 2005: 102). Also, in the case of subjects who represented languages with an article system similar to that of English, it was found that this fact did not help them score higher in non-canonical items (Master 2005: 102). The primary conclusion of the study was that canonical information structure seems to affect the ability of non-native speakers of English to choose the correct article, which suggests that these speakers infer some kind of relation between the article system and information structure (Master 2005: 103).

In another study, van Vuuren (2013) investigated the L1 (first language) transfer of specific aspects of information structure in advanced Dutch EFL writing, and especially in the use of clause initial constituents by EFL students. It was observed that the use of place and addition adverbials in clause-initial position was increasingly frequent (van Vuuren 2013: 180-182). In terms of information structure, while addition adverbials in clause initial position are present in both languages, the occurrence of place adverbials in this syntactic position is predominantly identified in Dutch, which suggests a native language influence. Because of this fact, van Vuuren (2013: 184) argued that increased exposure to the target language, like in the case of Dutch EFL students, proves insufficient when learners are asked to recognize subtle cross-linguistic differences. For this reason, the author mentioned the need for teaching materials which could account for the differences between the information structure of Dutch and English and increase the pragmatic awareness of EFL students (van Vuuren 2013: 184).

In a similar research, Verheijen, Los and de Haan (2013) focused on the development of syntactic structures in advanced Dutch EFL writing. Specifically, they examined to what extent L1 interfered in the use of focusing constructions in English. Overall, the results showed two contrasting trends regarding this matter. On the one hand, Verheijen *et al.* (2013: 99-102) observed an increase in the use of *it*-clefts, passive clauses and passive exceptional case-marking constructions, which are typical of native speakers of English. On the other hand, they noticed a decrease in the use of clause-initial adverbials and restrictive focus particles, which are typical of native speakers of Dutch (Verheijen *et al.* 2013: 102-105). These two findings showed a significant progress in the acquisition of typical features of the information structure of English by Dutch EFL students. In this respect, Verheijen *et al.* (2013: 106) argued that information structure notions should be taken into account when evaluating the progress of EFL learners.

In another study, Hannay and Martínez Caro (2008) focused on the written English texts of advanced Spanish and Dutch students and examined how they constructed the theme zone, which concerns all the constituents placed before the subject in theme position. In general, they observed a similarity between Spanish and Dutch learners in the extensive use of pre-subject elements before the subject, showing aspects of a linguistic behavior which was both instruction-driven and L1-driven (Hannay and Martínez Caro 2008: 248). On the one hand, learners could have been instructed to use connectives in clause-initial position in their English texts. On the other hand, they could have been influenced by the fact that their native languages allow such patterns. Besides this similarity, in a more detailed analysis, Spanish learners were more prone to ungrammatical patterns when constructing sentences in their texts, such as omitting dummy subjects (Hannay and Martínez Caro 2008: 241). According to the authors, this could be evidence of L1 interference, since Spanish is a pro-drop language.

As for Boström Aronsson (2003), she compared advanced Swedish EFL learners and native English speakers in the use of cleft constructions when writing in English. Besides the fact that *wh*-clefts were the dominant cleft construction in both groups, the most important finding was that EFL learners used *wh*-clefts to a noticeably greater extent than native speakers (Boström Aronsson 2003: 201-202). Nevertheless, the data analysis showed that the use of *wh*-clefts by EFL learners,

in many cases, was inaccurate in terms of information structure. For instance, learners would place elements as marked themes in cleft constructions, despite the fact that there was no pragmatic need for the particular elements to be thematic (Boström Aronsson 2003: 206). Accordingly, the author suggested that the differences in the information structure of the two languages and the difficulty of the EFL learners to process the target language properly can cause such inaccuracies (Boström Aronsson 2003: 209).

In the same context, Meriläinen (2010) investigated the L1 influence on the written texts of Finnish EFL learners. In particular, she focused on the production of passive constructions, expletive pronoun constructions, certain subordinate clause patterns, expressions for future time and prepositional constructions by Finnish learners. In all cases, it was observed that Finnish learners would frequently transfer elements from their L1, which consequently led to an inaccurate use of these constructions. For example, the examined learners, influenced by the fact that Finnish makes use of cases instead of prepositions, would fail to choose the appropriate preposition or would even omit prepositions in their texts (Meriläinen 2010: 58). What is more, in a period of fifteen years of relevant studies on the matter, it was observed that the frequency of syntactic transfer, unlike lexical transfer, had not decreased (Meriläinen 2010: 60). One major conclusion derived from this fact was that language transfer is more persistent in the syntax than it is in the lexicon. Another conclusion was that the exposure of learners to English input affects positively their lexical development and communicative competence rather than their proficiency in syntactic structures.

Syntactic movement is another linguistic process in which L1 can interfere. A relevant study by Agcam, Coban and Karadeniz Cisdik (2015) dealt with the L1 interference in the acquisition of syntactic movement in English *wh*-clauses by adult Turkish learners. The main finding was that the learners performed quite successfully in the examined syntactic movement tasks (Agcam *et al.* 2015: 30-32). Taking into consideration that Turkish, contrary to English, does not display overt syntactic movement in the two examined cases, the authors claimed that the interference of L1 is not significant (Agcam *et al.* 2015: 34). The results also showed that learners would perform better in the recognition of syntactically correct *wh*-clauses when they involved the presence of an auxiliary verb as well as

when they functioned as objects rather than subjects in the sentences (Agcam *et al.* 2015: 30-32). Therefore, the authors argued that learners have some disposition in recognizing certain structures in *wh*-clauses (Agcam *et al.* 2015: 34).

Lozano and Mendikoetxea (2010) investigated the lexicon-syntax, syntax-discourse and syntax-phonology interfaces regarding the use of post-verbal subjects in the written texts of Spanish EFL learners. In the lexicon-syntax interface, learners would use mainly unaccusative verbs before subjects, which was mostly influenced by English input (Lozano and Mendikoetxea 2010: 491). In the syntax-discourse interface, it was found that postverbal subjects were always used as focus or new information, whereas preverbal subjects would function predominantly as topic or known information, with both patterns adhering to the canonical information structure of Spanish and English (Lozano and Mendikoetxea 2010: 492). In the syntax-phonology interface, learners would prefer more complex subjects in postverbal-position and less complex in preverbal positions, which is equally influenced by Spanish and English (Lozano and Mendikoetxea 2010: 492). The overall picture, in the case of the examined learners, was that L1 interference would hinder the integration of the target language's syntactic patterns, while exposure to the target language's input would clearly facilitate this integration.

Focus constructions are also an aspect of information structure, which proves sensitive to L1 transfer. In a relevant work, Callies and Keller (2008) studied a group of advanced German EFL learners' awareness and use of focusing devices. On the one hand, learners succeeded in recognizing the formal aspects of focusing devices, such as word-order rearrangement (Callies and Keller 2008: 259). On the other hand, it was observed that learners faced many difficulties in recognizing the actual role of devices such as word-order rearrangement in highlighting information in discourse (Callies and Keller 2008: 260). According to the authors, the awareness of the grammatical means of focusing in English proves to be least influenced by the increased proficiency in the target language, as learners move towards advanced levels of language acquisition. Therefore, one pedagogical implication of this research is the introduction of activities in the instruction of EFL learners which could raise their awareness of the pragmatic aspects of focusing (Callies and Keller 2008: 261-262).

## 2.2 The object of the study

In view of the relevant studies, a significant gap can be observed in the literature regarding the Greek ESL/EFL context. This gap was what motivated my research on how the information structure of Greek and English could influence the linguistic output of Greek speakers of English. In my study, I examined the subjects' spoken texts in order to identify which linguistic devices they would use for highlighting information when interacting in English. With respect to this goal, I focused on the use of three cleft constructions, namely *it*-, *wh*- and reverse *wh*-clefts, as well as three marked theme constructions, namely extraposition [also known as left dislocation], object fronting [also known as focalization] and subject marking, in the discourse of Greek speakers of English.

With regard to the three cleft constructions, I drew on the theoretical framework of Collins (2015). In his framework, he outlined the basic characteristics of these three focusing devices and dealt with the pragmatic aspects of these linguistic constructions in discourse. Now, concerning the pragmatic impact of cleft sentences, the following example illustrates their function in discourse as defined by Collins (2015) and other scholars in the relevant literature:

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) a. Mary made a soup.         | non-cleft (canonical) sentence    |
| b. It was a soup that Mary made. | <i>it</i> -cleft sentence         |
| c. What Mary made was a soup.    | <i>wh</i> -cleft sentence         |
| d. A soup was what Mary made.    | reverse <i>wh</i> -cleft-sentence |

So, in all these sentences, the proposition expressed is the same, “Mary made a soup”. Also, in all four sentences, the focused element is “a soup”. Regarding these facts, all four sentences are equivalent. The situation, though, is different concerning the way “a soup” is focused in each sentence. On the one hand, in (1a), “a soup” would have to be specially accented in order for the speaker to emphasize it, to differentiate it from the other unfocused elements. On the other hand, in (1b), speakers embed the focused element in an *it*-cleft construction, so that they could attract the attention of the hearer to this particular piece of information they think is important, with intonation being optional. Similarly, in (1c) and (1d), the



### Hypothesis 1

The marked theme constructions would be a more preferable choice for the examined speakers.

### Research question 2

Did the information structure of Greek and English respectively affect the use of each construction by the speakers?

### Hypothesis 2

The use of each construction by the speakers would illustrate a certain degree of influence of the information structure of Greek and English respectively.

## **Chapter 3**

### **Methodology**

#### **3.1 Subjects**

Taking into consideration that the object of the research is to examine elements of information structure in the discourse of Greek speakers of English, it is important to define the specific groups which this particular study included. The individuals whose spoken texts I examined belong to the category of Greek public figures. In particular, these Greek public figures, the subjects of this study, were chosen from four different fields: 1) the academia, 2) the politics, 3) the arts and 4) the sports. In the initial stage of the data analysis, I focused on twenty personalities from each field and carried out a preliminary investigation. This first examination, though, prompted some changes regarding the process. In this respect, in the later stages, I decided to reduce the number of subjects in each category to fifteen in order to achieve a greater homogeneity among the four groups. This way, I could ensure that the results were both reliable and relevant to the goals of the study.

Concerning the degree of exposure to English of each individual examined in the current study, the results showed, as expected, a divergence among and within the groups. Nevertheless, this divergence does not negate the basic common feature present in each of the sixty subjects, namely the fact that they are characterized as native speakers of Greek. Also, concerning the level of proficiency in English of each individual, the results showed a significant variation among and within the groups. Despite this variation, I argue that all the individuals shared the similarity of being raised and educated in the Greek context, which was a common ground for the choice of the subjects. In other words, regardless of their more or less proficient use of English, as it can be evaluated, Greek constitutes their native language compared to the former. These two basic prerequisites were taken into account in the research process so that the data could be representative of the examined subjects and relevant to the criteria of the study. In addition to this, the results could be drawn on a reliable basis and could contribute to the argumentation

which this study was intended to develop, concerning the influence of certain elements of information structure on the subjects' linguistic output.

Another dimension of the choice of the subjects was the diversity which they should exhibit. The diversity was an element which would provide that the data to be collected would be representative of the Greek speakers of English, at least regarding these social groups. Therefore, there were certain criteria of diversity set out for these four categories of public figures. To begin with the academics, I focused on different scientific fields including, for example, computer science, architecture and medicine. Regarding the politicians, I focused on individuals from all the major political parties which held political offices during the decade 2011-2020, on which the data collection was based. As for the artists, the professionals included in the study came from different fields, such as cinema, music or theater. Finally, I aimed to include athletes who represent both individual and team sports, more or less popular in Greek society.

### **3.2 Data collection and analysis**

Regarding the source from which the data were gathered, I relied on internet platforms, since they could offer a great availability and variety of authentic material. In this context, the data were gathered from video clips published on the online video-sharing platform *YouTube*. Specifically, the video clips which were retrieved for the purposes of the research constituted authentic examples of Greek public figures' communicating, interacting and expressing meanings in English. The occasions in which the subjects of the study were asked to interact in English concerned interviews for foreign networks, press conferences, promotional videos and public speeches. Another reason for using the *YouTube* platform to collect my data was that every video clip featured descriptions of its content, date of publication and publisher. This way, I could focus on particular clips which could be applicable to the examined groups of speakers. Additionally, I could facilitate the interpretation of the data in the next stage by using the information about the content and the speaker on each occasion.

Apart from the source, I should mention the characteristics of each video clip used in the data collection. Taking into consideration the sixty individuals included in

the process, the short videos of their English communication were adequately reliable for the purposes of the current study. Despite their limited length, the videos could provide adequate material, representative of the linguistic patterns employed by each individual while interacting in English. Also, I should highlight that one of the key goals of the study was to compare multiple cases, not to focus on one specific situation, which could require the use of longer videos. With respect to the date of publication of each video clip, the time span which the research covered was the decade 2011-2020. The time span of a decade could ensure the diversity of the material, as primarily intended in the study, as well as enable the examination of sixty different Greek public figures. In addition to this, it was my intention that the study would reflect the current state of Greek public figures to a considerable extent. For this reason, the decade 2011-2020 would offer the most recent picture in relation to the particular social groups. So, the conclusions of the study could be as relevant as possible to the broad context of the study, namely the influence of information structure of Greek and English on native speakers of Greek who employ both languages.

Finally, the form of the material to be analyzed was an important aspect of the research process. In this respect, the audio material from the video clips was the basis for the examination and it was processed to meet the requirements of the research. Then, the linguistic output produced by the subjects in the video clips was transcribed in written texts (see Appendix for the full transcriptions of the clips of each individual included in the study). In relation to the process of transcribing oral texts, I should note that my main goal was to analyze the linguistic choices of each individual. In this sense, there were many paralinguistic elements which were not included in the transcriptions, because they did not constitute part of information structure. Also, in relevance to the content of the transcriptions, the majority of the syntactical and grammatical inaccuracies identified in the text of each speaker were not taken into consideration. The reason for this was that the research focused on the use of particular linguistic constructions and not on the evaluation of the examined speakers' performance in English.

## Chapter 4

### Results

#### 4.1 The outcome of the study

The results of the study provided the general framework in relation to the actual use of the examined constructions by the four groups of Greek speakers while interacting in English. Initially, I should mention that the use of the clefts and the marked theme constructions was limited concerning the data as a whole. Therefore, the study confirmed the markedness of these constructions in the discourse of the examined Greek public figures. Despite not being within the scope of this study, I should underline the fact that the examined subjects would distinguish themes from rhemes and topics from foci in their discourse primarily by the use of other linguistic devices. More specifically, intonation was the most characteristic means of distinguishing the focused element of each information unit. In parallel, it was observed that lexical repetition of the focused element was commonly used by the Greek speakers to emphasize in their English discourse.

Table 1 The frequency distribution of each set of constructions by the four groups overall

	marked theme constructions	cleft constructions	total
four groups	52 (33.5%)	103 (66.5%)	155 (100%)

With regard to the goals of the research, the results helped the first research question to be addressed to a significant extent. So, concerning the first question of the study, the hypothesis that the marked theme constructions would be a more preferable choice for the subjects of the study was not confirmed. On the contrary, the marked theme constructions were used to a considerably lesser extent than clefts, as depicted in Table 1. Following this first finding, I provide the data for the other issues deriving from the first research question. In the following sections of the chapter, I present which linguistic device was the most prevalent overall, concerning all the four groups. Also, I present which marked theme and which cleft construction was most commonly used in each of the four groups: 1)

academics, 2) politicians, 3) artists and 4) athletes. Finally, I compare the results of the sixty subjects in order to define which group was dominant in the use of each construction examined in the study.

## 4.2 The use of each construction by the four groups overall

Table 2 The frequency distribution of each cleft construction

	<i>it</i> -cleft	<i>wh</i> -cleft	reverse <i>wh</i> -cleft	total
four groups	4 (3.9%)	47 (45.6%)	52 (50.5%)	103 (100%)

In the general framework of the study, *wh*-clefts and reverse *wh*-clefts were an overwhelmingly dominant trend among the subjects, as Table 2 shows. So, the use of the two types of *wh*-cleft constructions was the common pattern among the four different groups. The only variation among the examined speakers concerned which of the two types of *wh*-clefts, canonical and reverse, would partly favor in their speech. As for *it*-clefts, they were proven to be a rare pattern in the texts of the Greek speakers, regardless of the group they belong to, suggesting a common linguistic behavior as well. Apart from these findings, a prevalent trend concerned also the demonstrative reverse *wh*-clefts. Their occurrences in the examined texts were strikingly more frequent than any other type of reverse *wh*-cleft construction. This is another finding which suggests a common linguistic behavior among the different groups of speakers when communicating in English.

Table 3 The frequency distribution of each marked theme construction

	extraposition	object fronting	subject marking	total
four groups	36 (69.2%)	2 (3.9%)	14 (26.9%)	52 (100%)

Overall, the marked theme constructions, examined in the current study, were used to a lesser degree than cleft constructions (see Table 1). In this respect, despite having a less complex structure than clefts, and, thus, being a more easily manageable device, extraposition, object fronting and subject marking were less frequent in discourse. Now, as the results in Table 3 show, there are three trends in the use of marked theme constructions. First of all, there is a clear dominance

of extraposition among the three devices, rendering it the most preferable linguistic choice for speakers. In this sense, Greek speakers of English would primarily use extraposition to highlight information. Secondly, subject marking, despite being significantly less popular than extraposition, was proven to be a considerable option for the subjects. Thirdly, the results show that object fronting was considered to be a rather odd choice for speakers when communicating in English.

### 4.3 The use of each construction among academics

Table 4 The frequency distribution of each set of constructions

	marked theme constructions	cleft constructions	total
academics	17 (53.1%)	15 (46.9%)	32 (100%)

As shown in Table 4, cleft constructions were a slightly less preferred choice among academics. Nevertheless, the data showed that the use of cleft constructions was a constant trend within the group. There were only two cases in which the speakers would resort to other devices for highlighting information in their speech.

Table 5 The frequency distribution of each cleft construction

	<i>it</i> -cleft	<i>wh</i> -cleft	reverse <i>wh</i> -cleft	total
academics	1 (6.7%)	11 (73.3%)	3 (20%)	15 (100%)

Concerning the examined constructions, the results rendered the *wh*-clefts the most popular linguistic choice among the academics overall. As Table 5 shows, there is clear dominance of *wh*-clefts when the speakers highlighted information in their discourse. Another interesting observation was that every speaker exhibited conformity when communicating. So, there were instances of academics who preferred the use of canonical *wh*-clefts, whereas there were cases in which the speakers would employ mostly reverse *wh*-clefts. I should also note that demonstrative reverse *wh*-clefts were the most dominant type.

Here, I present some characteristic examples of the clefts identified in the transcribed texts.

- (5) it's nature that is divine. *it*-cleft
- (6) what is needed is to capture tax evasion. *wh*-cleft
- (7) that's why they're putting a lot of demonstrative reverse *wh*-cleft  
pressure on the Europeans.

In the *it*-cleft sentence (5), the focused element “nature” specifies the scope of the proposition expressed by the relative clause “that is divine”. Accordingly, the speaker draws the hearer’s attention to the focused element “nature”. Now, in the *wh*-cleft sentence (6), the relative clause “what is needed” is equated to the infinitive clause “to capture tax evasion”. The relative clause emphasizes the message intended by the speaker, which is the proposition expressed by the infinitive clause. In the demonstrative *wh*-cleft in (7), the relative clause “why ... Europeans”, is the one part of the equation. Unlike (6), the other part of the equation is not identified in the same sentence, since the demonstrative “that” does not contain any semantic information. The second part of the equation is to be rather identified in the previous discourse.

Table 6 The frequency distribution of each marked theme construction

	extraposition	object fronting	subject marking	total
academics	6 (35.3%)	1 (5.9%)	10 (58.8%)	17 (100%)

As shown in Table 4, marked theme constructions were slightly preferable. The majority of the academics were observed to use at least one of the marked theme constructions. On the contrary, there were few cases in which the speakers would resort to other devices for highlighting information. As for the most preferable device, Table 6 shows that subject marking was mostly used by the Greek speakers to highlight information in their English discourse. On the contrary, the occurrence of object fronting was marginal. More specifically, object fronting was employed to mark information in only one case from the group of academics. Similar to cleft constructions, the results suggest similar patterns in the speech of each individual. For example, there was one case in which the academic would employ a series of subject marking constructions, followed by the discourse marker “I think”. On the contrary, regarding another case, extraposition was primarily used to mark information.

The following examples show the typical forms of extraposition, object fronting and subject marking as observed in the spoken texts.

- (8) the surge capacity, it has been exceeded. extraposition  
 (9) these, of course, we have to protect. object fronting  
 (10) the concern, I think, here ... is ... subject marking

So, in example (8), the focused noun phrase “the surge capacity” is placed on the left periphery of the clause and gains prominence, while its anaphoric expression “it” plays the role of the unmarked subject. To proceed with example (9), “these” is extracted from its unmarked position as the object of “protect” and is located in the left periphery of the clause, before the unmarked subject “we”. Accordingly, “these” gains prominence, while being also emphasized by the discourse marker “of course”. Concerning (10), the speaker detaches “the concern” from its unmarked subject position in the clause. This is accomplished by the use of the discourse marker “I think” and the deictic expression “here” between the subject and the verb “is”. As a result, “the concern” is realized by a distinct intonation unit and highlighted in discourse.

#### 4.4 The use of each construction among politicians

Table 7 The frequency distribution of each set of constructions

	marked theme constructions	cleft constructions	total
politicians	9 (15.8%)	48 (84.2%)	57 (100%)

Table 7 shows that cleft constructions were the prevalent trend. In general, a common pattern was observed among the fifteen subjects. With the exception of one case, the rest of the examined politicians would use at least one cleft construction in their discourse.

Table 8 The frequency distribution of each cleft construction

	<i>it</i> -cleft	<i>wh</i> -cleft	reverse <i>wh</i> -cleft	total
politicians	2 (4.2%)	25 (52.1%)	21 (43.7%)	48 (100%)

As it can be observed in Table 8, in the case of politicians, there is not a dominant trend among the clefts. There were two major trends, with *wh*-cleft constructions being a slightly more popular choice. What is evident is that *it*-clefts remain a least preferred device in highlighting information, similarly to academics. Another similar pattern was that the use of clefts was mostly balanced. So, when an individual resorted to clefts, they would equally employ both *wh*- and reverse *wh*-constructions. This is a trend which differentiates the groups of politicians and academics in the study. The two groups, though, were similar in the use of reverse *wh*-clefts. It was observed that politicians as well would prefer demonstrative clefts from other types of reverse *wh*-cleft constructions.

Here, there are some characteristic examples of the cleft constructions used by politicians.

- (11) it was not the economic crisis that would put ... *it*-cleft  
 (12) what is now important is to do our best. *wh*-cleft  
 (13) that’s what we’re trying to do. demonstrative reverse *wh*-cleft

In the *it*-cleft in (11), the speaker focuses on the noun phrase “the economic crisis”. What the speaker intends with this cleft construction is to dissociate the focused element from the proposition expressed by the following relative clause “that would put ...”. In example (12), the focused element is the proposition of the infinitive clause “to do our best”. The relative clause “what is now important” is equated to the focused constituent. The relative clause acts as the starting point which introduces the highlighted information. In example (13), the relative clause “what ... do” is equated with the deictic expression “that”. Although, “that” does not convey any lexical meaning, it is the focused element in the cleft. What “that” refers to in the previous discourse constitutes the highlighted proposition.

Table 9 The frequency distribution of each marked theme construction

	extraposition	object fronting	subject marking	total
politicians	8 (88.9%)	0 (0%)	1 (11.1%)	9 (100%)

The analysis of the spoken texts of Greek politicians showed that all three constructions were slightly used (see Table 7). In the few examples identified in

the texts, there was observed a clear preference for extraposition constructions, as shown in Table 9. Now, the scanty use of the three marked theme constructions in the data is related with the frequent use of cleft devices as shown in the previous analysis. It was typical of the examined Greek politicians to prefer mostly *it-* and *wh-* clefts to highlight the important information instead of marked theme constructions. Therefore, it can be suggested that the lack of the three constructions in the spoken texts of this social group shows a homogeneity, at least on this matter.

Three of the few instances of marked theme constructions are presented below.

- (14) tourism, it was a way out. extraposition  
 (15) today, it was a very good day for Greek-Turkish relations. extraposition  
 (16) people, apparently, according to the Turkish minister subject marking  
 ... have already crossed into Greece.

In the first extraposition in (14), the noun phrase “tourism” is placed in the left periphery of the clause, while its anaphoric reference “it” holds the position of the unmarked subject. As a result, “tourism” is focused as the most important part of this information unit. In a similar way, the speaker in (15) intends to stress the lexical entity “today”. Accordingly, it is placed in the left periphery of the clause, while being substituted by its anaphoric expression “it” in the unmarked subject position. In the case of (16), the focused element “people” is realized by a different intonation unit and is separated from the predicate “have ... Greece” with the insertion of the adverbials “apparently” and “according ... minister”.

#### 4.5 The use of each construction among artists

Table 10 The frequency distribution of each set of constructions

	marked theme constructions	cleft constructions	total
artists	11 (27.5%)	29 (72.5%)	40 (100%)

As Table 10 illustrates, clefts clearly dominated the marked theme constructions in the case of artists. Generally, the vast majority of artists would use at least one

cleft construction. In only two cases, the speakers would prefer other devices rather than clefts.

Table 11 The frequency distribution of each cleft construction

	<i>it</i> -cleft	<i>wh</i> -cleft	reverse <i>wh</i> -cleft	total
artists	0 (0%)	9 (31.1%)	20 (68.9%)	29 (100%)

With regard to artists, I should note the lack of *it*-cleft constructions in their discourse. This is a result which replicates the minimal use of *it*-clefts by the two previously examined groups. Therefore, the only preferred cleft types were *wh*-ones, canonical and reverse. As depicted in Table 11, the use of reverse *wh*-clefts prevailed over that of canonical *wh*-constructions. In addition to this, as an overall picture, demonstrative *wh*-clefts once again were the most dominant trend among the reverse *wh*-clefts. In relation to the linguistic behavior of each individual, there was not a common trend. In this sense, there were artists who would favor the use of one cleft type, whereas there were others who would equally use both cleft types.

Let's see, now, some examples of cleft constructions typical of the group of artists.

- (17) what is important is somebody to believe what is doing. *wh*-cleft  
 (18) beautiful things are what we wish for. reverse *wh*-cleft  
 (19) that's how we kept going demonstrative reverse *wh*-cleft  
 from one to the other.

In example (17), the clefted constituent “somebody ... doing” is the focused element and it is equated to the relative clause “what is important”, helping the hearer to recognize the most important piece of information in the sentence. In the case of (18), the reverse *wh*-cleft consists of two pragmatically equal parts. The first part is the focused noun phrase “beautiful things” while the second is the relative clause “what we wish for”. In the demonstrative cleft in (19), the preceding information which the demonstrative “that” refers to is equated to the relative clause “how ... other” in order to be highlighted in discourse.

Table 12 The frequency distribution of each marked theme construction

	extraposition	object fronting	subject marking	total
artists	9 (81.8 %)	1 (9.1%)	1 (9.1%)	11 (100%)

Overall, the use of the three devices was not a preferable linguistic choice within the group (see Table 10). This is supported by the fact that the artists who would use at least one of these patterns were a minority. Now, among the individuals who favored marked theme constructions, extraposition was the most dominant trend in an overwhelming manner, as illustrated in Table 12. In this context, there were very few instances of the use of object fronting for highlighting information by the speakers. Also, there were few subject marking instances identified in the texts. As for common patterns in the speech of each speaker, there was homogeneity in their linguistic behavior. So, there were artists who would use only extraposition, as well as artists who would prefer object fronting or subject marking.

I have chosen one instance of each of the three constructions.

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| (20) to make a change, it's not that easy.                                  | extraposition   |
| (21) filming, I find extremely stressful.                                   | object fronting |
| (22) the people from Buenos Aires, I mean,<br>really, fight for the houses. | subject marking |

Concerning the case in (20), the infinitive clause “to make a change” moves from its unmarked subject position and is placed in the left periphery of the clause. In this marked position, “to make a change” becomes the focus of the information unit. In example (21), the speaker intends to draw the hearer’s attention to the object of the clause “I find extremely stressful”, the noun phrase “filming”. Therefore, “filming” is emphasized by preceding the clause, whereas it was normally expected as an object to follow the verb “find”. Finally, in (22), the focused element is the subject of the clause, the noun phrase “the people ... Aires”. This element is given prominence, as it is realized by a distinct intonation unit, followed by the discourse markers “I mean” and “really” and, thus, separated from the rest of the clause.

## 4.6 The use of each construction among athletes

Table 13 The frequency distribution of each set of constructions

	marked theme constructions	cleft constructions	total
athletes	15 (57.7%)	11 (42.3%)	26 (100%)

As depicted in Table 13, marked theme constructions constituted the most dominant trend among athletes. In fact, within the group, the individuals who would use at least one instance of cleft in their communication were a minority. The majority would employ other devices for highlighting information in their speech.

Table 14 The frequency distribution of each cleft construction

	<i>it</i> -cleft	<i>wh</i> -cleft	reverse <i>wh</i> -cleft	total
athletes	1 (9.1%)	2 (18.2%)	8 (72.7%)	11 (100%)

With respect to the actual use of these constructions, Table 14 shows that reverse *wh*-clefts clearly prevailed over the other two types. Athletes would confirm as well the common trend among the groups, namely that demonstratives were the most popular choice regarding reverse *wh*-clefts. With the exception of one individual who showed a balanced use of clefts, the rest of athletes would show a constant linguistic behavior. In this sense, if an individual used cleft constructions, they would employ one particular type.

The use of cleft constructions by the athletes is illustrated in the following examples.

(23) it definitely was my family and growing up into the sport that gave me this kind of respect for all the athletes in the sport itself. *it*-cleft

(24) what matters is luck. *wh*-cleft

(25) it's not something different when we play against Maccabi. reverse *wh*-cleft

In the *it*-cleft in (23), the focused elements are “my family” and “growing ... sport”. By highlighting these two elements, the speaker specifies what prompts the respect

for the athletes and the sport, which is the main proposition of the relative clause “that ... itself”. In the *wh*-cleft in (24), the pragmatic result is the equation of the relative class “what matters” to “luck”. Accordingly, the relative clause gives “luck” prominence in discourse. In (25), the relative clause “when ... Maccabi” is equated to “it’s not something different”. Here, the speaker focuses on the property of not being different, which is attributed to the proposition expressed by the relative clause.

Table 15 The frequency distribution of each marked theme construction

	extraposition	object fronting	subject marking	total
athletes	13 (86.7%)	0 (0%)	2 (13.3%)	15 (100%)

In opposition to clefts, marked theme constructions were a dominant trend within the group of athletes (see Table 13). It was observed that the great majority used at least one instance of marked theme construction, which, in most cases, would be extraposition as depicted in Table 15. In this respect, the lack of object fronting and the scanty use of subject marking examples can be attributed to the increased use of extraposition. This fact is confirmed by the occurrences of extraposition in the texts, which solely exceeded those of the cleft constructions as a whole. As a result of these findings, it can be argued that the use of extraposition by the athletes constitutes one of the most constant trends in the study.

Here, I present three typical examples of marked theme constructions used by the group.

(26) the coach, so far, he would like to have discipline in the team. extraposition

(27) Abliazin and the Chinese, they were really strong. extraposition

(28) Italy, for me, let’s say, is my second country. subject marking

The highlighted element in (26) is the noun phrase “the coach”. The speaker gives prominence to “the coach” by extracting it from its unmarked subject position and replacing it with the anaphoric expression “he”. In the same way, the speaker in (27) intends to highlight the noun phrase “Abliazin and the Chinese” by extracting it from its unmarked subject position. So, the noun phrase becomes the focused element of the information unit, while the SVO requirements of the clause are met

with the use of “they”. Finally, in example (28), the speaker emphasizes the noun phrase “Italy” by separating it from the clause with the insertion of “for me” and “let’s say”. This way, it is possible for “Italy” to be realized by a separate intonation unit and be focused in discourse.

#### 4.7 The comparison of the groups in each construction

Table 16 The comparison of the groups in the use of *it*-cleft constructions

	academics	politicians	artists	athletes	total
<i>it</i> -cleft	1 (25%)	2 (50%)	0 (0%)	1 (25%)	4 (100%)

In terms of *it*-cleft constructions, the most important finding was their limited use by the speakers in all groups, in relation to other constructions. In those few instances, as the relative percentages in Table 16 show, *it*-clefts were mostly preferred by politicians. Then, academics and athletes would follow in the use of these constructions with a considerable percentage. As for artists, there were no instances of *it*-clefts identified in their spoken texts. In general, the differences of the groups are overshadowed by the broad picture, the scanty use of *it*-clefts by the subjects.

Table 17 The comparison of the groups in the use of *wh*-cleft constructions

	academics	politicians	artists	athletes	total
<i>wh</i> -cleft	11 (23.4%)	25 (53.2%)	9 (19.1%)	2 (4.3%)	47 (100%)

Unlike *it*-clefts, all the groups would resort to these constructions to emphasize information in their speech, whether to a greater or lesser extent. In this respect, the majority of cases were identified in the texts of politicians. Subsequently, academics and artists would follow with almost similar results. The athletes, finally, would exhibit an extremely low use of *wh*-clefts. Overall, concerning the use of *wh*-clefts, the variation between the four groups is significant as it shows different trends.

Table 18 The comparison of the groups in the use of reverse *wh*-cleft constructions

	academics	politicians	artists	athletes	total
reverse <i>wh</i> -cleft	3 (5.8%)	21 (40.4%)	20 (38.4%)	8 (15.4%)	52 (100%)

Similarly to the canonical *wh*-clefts, the reverse ones were employed by all groups in at least one case. The prevailing type was clearly demonstrative *wh*-clefts, which should be taken into consideration in the analysis. Accordingly, the percentages show that the politicians and the artists produced the highest scores in the use of *wh*-clefts, with the former being slightly the most dominant group. After these two groups, athletes would follow with a fair number of instances. As for academics, their poor results in the use of reverse *wh*-clefts run contrary to their performance in the canonical ones.

Table 19 The comparison of the groups in the use of extraposition constructions

	academics	politicians	artists	athletes	total
extraposition	6 (16.7%)	8 (22.2%)	9 (25%)	13 (36.1%)	36 (100%)

Concerning extraposition, its occurrence in the spoken texts is considered significant, since it was present in all groups. This signifies that extraposition was a common trend among different groups. What is also important is the fact that extrapositions are the only construction in which athletes are the predominant group with a considerable percentage. Next, artists and politicians would exhibit a fair number of extrapositions in their discourse. Academics, now, would employ as well few extrapositions when interacting in English.

Table 20 The comparison of the groups in the use of object fronting constructions

	academics	politicians	artists	athletes	total
object fronting	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	2 (100%)

Object fronting was the most delicate case in this study. It was proved to be the least preferable linguistic choice among the sixty subjects. So, as far as the data of the current study are concerned, object fronting signifies a very odd pattern to highlight information and emphasize for the examined Greek speakers. Now, the

two sole instances of this device in the examined texts were shared by academics and artists.

Table 21 The comparison of the groups in the use of subject marking constructions

	academics	politicians	artists	athletes	total
subject marking	10 (71.4%)	1 (7.1 %)	1 (7.1 %)	2 (14.4 %)	14 (100%)

Last, subject marking was a common trend among the groups, but it was observed to a substantially lesser degree than the instances of extraposition (see Table 3). The most significant finding in Table 21 is the great difference between the first and the second group. The group of academics undoubtedly dominated the other groups in the subject marking instances identified in the texts. The other three groups would follow with slight differences among them.

## Chapter 5 Discussion

### 5.1 The influence of the information structure of Greek and English on the use of *it*-cleft constructions

The second research question, addressed in this chapter, concerned whether the information structure of Greek and English has affected the use of each construction. In other words, I examined whether speakers' preference for each focusing device could be interpreted in terms of the Greek and English information structure. With respect to *it*-clefts, the results tend to confirm the hypothesis, suggesting that the linguistic output of the examined speakers reflects particular aspects of both Greek and English information structure. Regarding the probable English influence, I should mention a finding which can be relevant to this argument, namely that *it*-cleft constructions were a rarity in the texts of the examined Greek speakers. In a similar way, the study of Weinert and Miller (1996: 175-176) on Scottish English speakers showed that *it*-cleft constructions were the least used among the three cleft types. In another study, on American English speakers, Hedberg and Fadden (2007: 51-52) also identified *it*-cleft as the least preferred type. In this sense, I argue that the examined Greek speakers share common features regarding their linguistic choices with native English speakers. Following this observation, the question is whether the fact that *it*-clefts were the least preferred construction can be explained in terms of English information structure.

With the intention to address this question, I analyze two examples of extraposition from the data which can be relevant to my discussion.

- (29) a. you feed the actors with a lot of information.                      canonical sentence  
      b. the actors, you feed them with a lot of information.                      extraposition  
      c. it is the actors that you feed with a lot of information.                      *it*-cleft sentence
- (30) a. my back is hurting me.                      canonical sentence  
      b. my back, it's hurting me.                      extraposition  
      c. it is my back that is hurting me.                      *it*-cleft sentence

Sentence (29a) would be the canonical form of (29b), which is actually used in order to highlight the object “the actors”. Alternatively, the speaker could use the *it*-cleft in (29c) to emphasize “the actors”. In the same way, the canonical sentence (30a) is realized in the form of the extraposition (30b) so that the subject “my back” can be given prominence in discourse. The cleft in (30c) is an option which the speaker could use to highlight “my back”.

What these two examples show is that *it*-cleft constructions, theoretically, could be an alternative option to extraposition. However, the examined Greek speakers preferred the latter in order to highlight information in discourse. In this sense, they would use extraposition as a more appropriate device than *it*-clefts when emphasizing in English. A possible explanation for this fact is that *it*-cleft constructions, compared to extraposition, are proven to heavily emphasize the clefted element. As Delin (1992: 292-294) notes, *it*-clefts do not only emphasize information but also presuppose it. In this sense, the pragmatic impact of *it*-clefts and extraposition on the sentence respectively differs. According to É. Kiss (1999: 226), *it*-clefts express exhaustive identification, namely they exclusively identify the particular subset (clefted constituent) of a set of relevant entities. So, in terms of English information structure, *it*-cleft constructions operate as contrastive rather than information foci. In this respect, contrastive foci, expressed by *it*-clefts, are a less appropriate choice compared to information foci in broad contexts in which speakers intend to emphasize a particular piece of information without exclusively identifying it. So, I argue that the scanty use of *it*-clefts by the examined Greek speakers could have been partly influenced by English information structure.

Apart from English, I propose that the rarity of *it*-cleft constructions in the texts is also affected by Greek information structure. In the context of Greek discourse, *it*-clefts are proven to be an extremely rare linguistic pattern. One of the reasons for the scanty use of this particular construction could be the relatively flexible SVO word order of Greek. This is because Greek speakers are able to change the syntactic position of new and given information, theme and rheme, topic and comment, relatively freely and subtly. So, in Greek information structure, the focused element can follow the verb, even if it is the subject, as well as it can precede the verb, even if it is the object. In other words, speakers can extract the focused element from the clause to which it belongs without resorting to an *it*-cleft

construction. The minimal use of *it*-clefts by the subjects, thus, could have been affected by the status of this construction in Greek information structure as well.

## **5.2 The influence of the information structure of Greek and English on the use of *wh*-cleft constructions**

Concerning *wh*-cleft constructions, they were used to a considerable extent, being the most preferable construction after reverse *wh*-clefts. Now, the question is whether the considerable use of *wh*-clefts could have been affected by Greek and English information structure. Here, the hypothesis was partly confirmed, as I suggest that there can be observed aspects of English but not of Greek influence. To begin with my argumentation, I first draw on the studies of Weinert and Miller (1996: 175-176) and Hedberg and Fadden (2007: 51-52), in which *wh*-clefts were the most preferable option after reverse *wh*-clefts. The preference of the examined Greek speakers for this construction, thus, shares some similarities with the linguistic behavior of native English speakers. Also, I argue that the use of *wh*-clefts by the subjects tends to show elements of English influence. In particular, the distribution of themes and rhemes in *wh*-cleft constructions, in the context of English information structure, could explain why Greek speakers preferred them. To elaborate on my view, I should refer to Heycock and Kroch (1999: 374-376), who pointed out that *wh*-clefts belong to the equative type of sentences, arguing that the two parts of the *wh*-cleft construction, the theme represented by the relative clause and the rheme represented by the clefted constituent, are considered equal. In this equation process, the highlighted information expressed by the clefted constituent, as it is introduced by the relative *wh*-clause, becomes part of the shared knowledge.

Let's see now how this matter can be related to the preference of Greek speakers for *wh*-clefts. What could make this construction preferable for speakers is that the information expressed by the clefted constituent, no matter how controversial it may be, is embedded in a construction typically introducing shared knowledge. From a pragmatic point of view, it can be argued that *wh*-clefts contribute to the building of an argumentation in discourse. This suggestion becomes plausible when taking into consideration the actual data. As shown in the data analysis, the



- (33) a. what we need is to cooperate. actual data
- b. αυτό που χρειαζόμαστε είναι literal translation  
 that-ACC which need-1PL is-IMPR in Greek  
 να συνεργαστούμε.  
 to cooperate-1PL
- c. να συνεργαστούμε, αυτό χρειαζόμαστε. alternative marked theme  
 to cooperate-1PL, that-ACC need-1PL construction in Greek  
 ‘To cooperate, that we need.’

So, (33a), which was drawn from the data, would have the form of (33b) in Greek. The point is that although (33a) and (33b) have the same structure since they are both pseudoclefts, their markedness in discourse differs. The emphatic force of (33a) in English is more significant than that of (33b) in Greek. Despite it being a pseudocleft, (33b) becomes a less marked construction in a free word order language like Greek. This is because the free word order structure makes available for Greek speakers alternative constructions, such as the one illustrated in (33c). In this case, the speaker places the primary proposition of the sentence, *να συνεργαστούμε* ‘to cooperate’, in the theme position and emphasizes it, whereas the rheme *αυτό χρειαζόμαστε* ‘that we need’ acts as its specifier. Therefore, I argue that there are more suitable focusing devices in Greek compared to pseudoclefts. In this sense, the data show that the preference for *wh*-clefts is likely to have been influenced by English information structure rather than Greek.

### 5.3 The influence of the information structure of Greek and English on the use of reverse *wh*-cleft constructions

I should focus, now, on the reverse *wh*-cleft types, which proved to be the most dominant trend among the six constructions examined in the study. As in the case of *wh*-clefts, the hypothesis was partly confirmed, since the use of reverse *wh*-clefts by Greek speakers showed a tendency predominantly toward English information structure. In relation to this tendency, I should note that the dominance of reverse *wh*-clefts confirmed the results of the two previously mentioned studies on native English speakers by Weinert and Miller (1996: 175-176) and Hedberg and Fadden (2007: 51-52), too. Following this finding, the next step is to examine whether the similarities between the native English speakers and the subjects in

the use of this construction can be attributed, to a certain degree, to the influence of English information structure. In this matter, a crucial point is to analyze the relation of information packaging in English and discourse deixis. This relation becomes relevant when considering that reverse *wh*-clefts, especially in the demonstrative type, constitute part of discourse deixis. So, these cleft constructions enable speakers to highlight large chunks of information, such as long sentences, which function in this case as the clefted element, by cohesively linking them to the respective relative clause. This way, Greek speakers are able not only to stress parts of their discourse quite smoothly and subtly, but also exhibit cohesion in their communication in English, which makes reverse *wh*-clefts a preferable option.

As a cohesive link, reverse *wh*-clefts can refer both to prior or succeeding parts of discourse, as shown also in the two following instances from the data.

(34) it will be eight ten, eight fifteen. That's how I usually jump.

(35) this is what we want as a team, to be ready for the championship.

In example (34), “That” refers to the preceding discourse. More specifically, it provides the link between the relative clause “how I usually jump” and the focused information, the clause “it ... fifteen”. In example (35), “this” concerns the succeeding discourse. It relates the relative clause “what ... team” to the focused element, the infinitive clause “to ... championship”. What these examples confirm is that reverse *wh*-clefts can be employed in more ways than the other two types, and, thus, are more probable to be identified in a text.

Regarding demonstrative reverse *wh*-clefts, Calude (2008: 99) underlined that the preference for this type of clefts is primarily identified in spoken discourse, which was also observed in the spoken texts examined in the current study. As she explains, unlike written discourse, which is planned to be coherent and cohesive, spoken discourse, in most cases, is spontaneous and not intended. For this reason, according to her, speakers resort to demonstrative clefts to provide their communication with a certain degree of cohesion. A crucial point, though, is that the function of reverse *wh*-types as discourse markers is solely evident in the demonstrative type. As the data of the sixty Greek speakers of the current study show, demonstrative reverse *wh*-clefts were overwhelmingly dominant to its closest counterpart, canonical reverse *wh*-clefts. In this respect, there are opposing

views in the relevant literature whether demonstrative clefts should be considered a distinct type of clefts or should be dealt with as cases of reverse *wh*-clefts. In my opinion, demonstrative clefts differ pragmatically and semantically from the other types of reverse *wh*-clefts, despite sharing the same structure.

Here, I have chosen two typical examples of demonstrative clefts from the data which illustrate this distinction.

(36) this is what I said.

(37) this is what I believe.

The structure of the demonstrative clefts in (36) and (37) is similar. The focused element is the same deictic expression “this”, where both relative clauses include a reporting verb, “said” and “believe” correspondingly. What is more, both (36) and (37) semantically do not express any particular message, but rather their function is to introduce and highlight the proposition(s) in the succeeding discourse. Their ability to be cohesive links between different parts of the spoken discourse, even when they do not carry any particular information, is a feature which the other types of reverse *wh*-clefts do not have. Also in this matter, Calude (2008: 103-106) pointed out that the way demonstrative clefts highlight information differ from the other types of the category. In this sense, in the context of the current study, the data tend to support the distinction of demonstrative reverse *wh*-clefts.

#### **5.4 The influence of the information structure of Greek and English on the use of extraposition**

Among the three marked theme constructions, extraposition was the most preferable with a significant number of identified instances. It was also prevalent to the competing *it*-cleft constructions, as mentioned previously. In this case, I argue that the use of extraposition is likely to have been influenced both by Greek and English information structure, confirming the hypothesis. Concerning the probable English influence, I will start my argumentation with a relevant work by Netz and Kuzar (2007). In their study on extraposition in American English spoken texts, one of the most important findings was the dominance of extraposed subjects

over objects and adjuncts (Netz and Kuzar 2007: 317-319). In a similar way, among the identified instances of extraposition in the spoken texts of the current study, the overwhelming majority concerned extraposed subjects. In this sense, the examined Greek speakers resembled native English speakers in their preference for extrapositions as a focusing device.

The essential matter, though, is whether the preference for extraposition can be explained in terms of information structure. The following examples drawn from the data can help me address this matter.

(38) the majority of them, they don't want to stay in Greece.

(39) to make change in Greece, it starts with the people.

(40) the recipe we had for Rio, I can repeat it again.

In (38), the subject, “the majority of them” is extraposed and becomes the focused constituent, whereas the anaphoric expression “they” occupies the unmarked subject position. In the same manner, in (39), the subject of the clause, “to make a change”, is extraposed and it is substituted in the unmarked subject position by the anaphoric expression “it”. The only difference here is that the subject is not a noun phrase, but an infinitive clause. Now, in (40), the extraposed element is the object of the clause, the noun phrase “the recipe ... Rio”, which is replaced in the unmarked object position by the anaphoric expression “it”. What these examples show, on the one hand, is that extraposition is a relatively simple syntactic construction, since it only requires the extraction of the constituent which speakers intend to emphasize from the clause and its substitution by an anaphoric expression. On the other hand, these examples show the function of extraposition as a thematic shifter, as explained by Szűcs (2014: 122-125). In other words, extraposition makes possible the shift between marked and unmarked themes subtly in discourse. So, extraposition proves to be not only an easily manageable focusing device, but also a useful construction which enables speakers to highlight particular information avoiding grammatical or syntactical inaccuracies in their discourse. Extraposition, in this sense, can facilitate the process by which Greek speakers present, emphasize, and, in general, organize information when communicating in English. Based on the above argumentation, the practicality of

extraposition is a variable which could have affected the subjects' preference for it.

Now, with the aim of exploring the probable Greek influence, the following Greek structures and their equivalent English sentences provide a basis for a tentative interpretation.

- (41) ο Σωκράτης, αυτός είναι ο πατέρας της δυτικής φιλοσοφίας.  
the Socrates-NOM, he-NOM is-3SG the father-NOM of western philosophy.  
'Socrates, he is the father of western philosophy.' extraposition
- (42) τον Αχιλλέα, αυτόν σκότωσε ο Πάρις.  
the Achilles-ACC, him-ACC killed-3SG the Paris-NOM.  
'Achilles, Paris killed him.' extraposition
- (43) να προσβάλλουν τη νοημοσύνη μου, αυτό με εξοργίζει.  
to insult-3PL the intelligence-ACC my, that-NOM me-ACC infuriates-3SG.  
'to insult my intelligence, it infuriates me.' extraposition

In (41), the original subject *ο Σωκράτης* 'the Socrates' is placed on the left periphery of the clause and is emphasized, whereas the anaphoric expression *αυτός* 'he' replaces it as the subject. In (42), the original object *τον Αχιλλέα* 'the Achilles' is placed on the left periphery of the clause for emphatic purposes, while the anaphoric expression *αυτόν* 'him' replaces it in the object position. In the same way, in (43), the original subject *να προσβάλλουν τη νοημοσύνη μου* 'to insult my intelligence' moves to the left periphery of the clause with the anaphoric expression *αυτό* 'that' replacing it as the subject.

So, in all three examples, a process similar to extraposition takes place. The particular element which the speakers intend to highlight in each case is extracted from the original clause, whereas it is substituted by a referring expression at subject and object position respectively. The difference between the two constructions lies on the anaphoric expression. On the one hand, in extraposition, the anaphoric expression acts as the unmarked subject or object of the clause to which the extraposed constituent is semantically linked. On the other hand, in the Greek examples, the anaphoric expression not only functions as the subject or object of the clause to which the extraposed constituent is linked, but also as the specifier of that particular constituent. Nevertheless, even with this significant

difference between the two constructions, there can be identified a correspondence between them, which should be taken into consideration. The key point here is that speakers, in the framework of Greek information structure, are accustomed to extract a specific element from the clause it semantically belongs to for emphatic reasons. In this regard, I believe the similarities between extraposition and these particular marked theme constructions in Greek make the former a simple and easily manageable device for speakers when communicating in English. In this sense, this factor, among others, could have favored the use of extraposition by the subjects of the current study.

### **5.5 The influence of the information structure of Greek and English on the use of object fronting**

In the case of object fronting constructions, the most remarkable finding was its rarity in the examined data. Object fronting was the least preferable linguistic choice among the six constructions analysed in the study regardless of groups. The examined Greek speakers proved that object fronting is a highly marked theme construction. The question is whether this was a result of the influence of Greek and English information structure. What the data analysis tends to show is that the hypothesis was partly confirmed, suggesting that while English information structure could have had an impact on the minimal use of object fronting, Greek could not. As far as English influence is concerned, the subjects in the current study, as in the previous cases, shared similarities with English native speakers regarding the use of the device. In relevance to this, in the study of Gregory and Michaelis (2001: 1678-1680) on telephonic conversations of native English speakers, the use of object fronting (the authors use the term topicalization in their study) was proven to be significantly inferior to that of extraposition (the authors use the term left dislocation in their study) constructions.

Here, an aspect which can be related to the potential influence of English information structure is what Gregory and Michaelis (2001: 1701-1702) note about object fronting, namely that it occurs in more specialized contexts than extraposition. So, in terms of information structure, when speakers intend to mark the object of an clause as the most prominent piece of information, extraposition

can be employed in diverse contexts, whether specialized or generalized, and, thus, proves to be more useful. Apart from extraposition, cleft constructions are available for speakers when they need to emphasize, to a greater or to a lesser extent, the object of a sentence. In this respect, in the context of English information structure, the presence of alternative focusing devices could have contributed to the marginalization of object fronting in the texts of the examined Greek speakers. For these reasons, I argue that the information structure of English could have influenced, to a certain degree, the linguistic choices of the subjects in this matter.

The next question to be addressed is whether Greek information structure had an impact on the use of object fronting. In relation to this question, I will draw on the theoretical framework of Skopeteas (2016) and analyze the following examples:

- (44) a. τη δημόσια εκπαίδευση πρέπει να στηρίζει η κυβέρνηση.  
the public education-ACC should-MOD support-3SG the government-NOM.  
'the government should support public education.'
- b. τη δημόσια εκπαίδευση η κυβέρνηση πρέπει να στηρίζει.  
the public education-ACC the government-NOM should-MOD support-3SG.  
'the government should support public education.'

(44a) and (44b) are typical examples of object fronting in Greek. Now, their syntactic difference is that the former exhibits an OVS (Object-Verb-Subject) word order while the latter an OSV (Object-Subject-Verb). Their pragmatic difference is that (44b), which syntactically resembles object fronting in English, is a more marked linguistic choice. Regardless of that, in both constructions, the object of the clause is fronted, bearing the main focus.

These two examples provide an insight into the function of object fronting in Greek, suggesting that Greek speakers are already exposed to the syntactic and pragmatic aspects of object fronting. In this sense, the familiarization of Greek speakers with object fronting constructions should have led them to a more significant use of the construction in their English spoken texts. However, as the data showed, object fronting remained an odd choice, resembling the attitude of English native speakers. For this reason, I believe the exposure of the four groups of Greek speakers to English, whether to a great or a lesser degree, has resulted in

their assimilation of particular aspects of English information structure. One of these aspects is object fronting being constrained to very specialized linguistic contexts. So, the examined speakers' judgement on the suitability of object fronting constructions could have been influenced by English information structure rather than Greek.

## **5.6 The influence of the information structure of Greek and English on the use of subject marking**

Finally, subject marking proved to be, in terms of frequency, the second most preferable marked theme construction after extraposition. Following this finding, the next step, as in the previous cases, is to investigate whether there has been any influence of Greek and English information structure. In this respect, my tentative conclusion is that the hypothesis was confirmed, suggesting that aspects of both Greek and English information structure can be identified in the use of subject marking. Concerning English influence, contrary to the previously examined constructions, there was not sufficient evidence on the use of subject marking by native English speakers so that they could be compared to the subjects. This is because, as Netz and Kuzar (2007: 312) note, research on information structure has mainly focused on written and not on spoken discourse. There has been analysis in the relevant literature, though, on the relationship of information structure with intonation, upon which subject marking depends. One of these contributions is by Maidment (2015: 20-22), who argues that intonation is used to mark the focus, the element to which the speaker intends to draw the hearer's attention.

In the following examples of subject marking from the data, I will analyze some of the ways speakers utilize intonation and subject marking to mark the focus.

(45) the initial origin ... we are confident that was the bats.

(46) of course, America ... for them, for that party, equals neoliberal policies.

(47) schools, in general ... are gatekeeping institutions.

In (45), the focused phrase, "the initial origin" is separated from the rest of the clause and it is realized by a distinct intonation unit. Similarly, in (46) and (47), "America" and "schools" respectively are given prominence through prosody. The

difference from (45) is that there are also intervening phrases between the marked subject and the rest of the clause: “for them” and “for that party” in (46) and “in general” in (47). These instances show that the examined Greek speakers would use subject marking and intonation to mark the subject as the most prominent element in the sentence. In this sense, the preference for subject marking tends to reflect aspects of English information structure, and, in particular, the use of intonation to stress constituents which occur in an unmarked subject position.

Intonation and prosody, of course, as defining aspects of information structure, are present in all languages. In a language such as Greek, with a more flexible word order than English, this becomes even more striking. In this respect, because the flexible word order allows speakers to prepose and postpose focused elements relatively freely, it is possible to place foci in syntactic positions in which topics typically occur. For this reason, speakers need to resort to intonation to distinguish the elements which constitute foci from the elements which constitute topics in their discourse. This fact is also highlighted by Baltazani (2006: 1667), who notes that Greek employs both word order and intonation to mark information structure. In other words, intonation is equally important to syntactic movement when highlighting information in discourse.

To clarify this point, I will examine some examples with SVO word order in Greek which resemble the syntax of the subject marking constructions.

(48) η ΕΕ, έχει υψηλά ποσοστά ανεργίας.  
the EU-NOM, exhibits-3SG high rates-ACC unemployment.

‘EU ... exhibits high unemployment rates.’

(49) το να νικάς, είναι το πιο όμορφο συναίσθημα.  
to win-2SG, is-3SG the most beautiful emotion-NOM.

‘to win ... is the most beautiful emotion.’

In both examples, the focused noun phrase, *η ΕΕ* ‘the EU’ and *το να νικάς* ‘to win’ respectively, is placed in subject position, which can also be occupied by topics. Due to this problematic situation, speakers are required to use prosody in order to draw the attention of their addressee to what they consider most important, namely the focused element. These examples show that structures similar to that of subject marking can be identified in Greek discourse, in which Greek speakers use

intonation to distinguish foci from topics, since both can occur as subjects in clause-initial position. In this sense, the examined Greek speakers are familiar with linguistic patterns similar to subject marking in their native language. They are familiar with constructions in which the element to be highlighted occurs in an unmarked subject position. Considering these facts, I argue that the similarities between these structures in Greek and subject marking tend to make the latter an easily manageable device for Greek speakers when communicating in English. In this respect, Greek information structure could have influenced, to a certain extent, the preference of Greek speakers for subject marking constructions in the current study.

## Chapter 6 Conclusion

### 6.1 The broad framework of the study

I will begin this last chapter of the thesis by summarizing the most important findings of the study. To begin with the general picture of the four groups, the first major finding was that the occurrence of the examined constructions in the data as a whole confirmed their markedness in discourse. In this respect, even if it is not within the scope of the current study, it should be noted that the examined constructions were considerably less preferable than other focusing devices, such as intonation and lexical repetition. Now, to proceed with the other major findings, the comparison between the frequency distributions of clefts and marked theme constructions showed the clear dominance of the former. In addition to this fact, the results pointed out the most prevalent trends within each set of constructions. On the one hand, in the case of clefts, *wh*- and reverse *wh*-clefts were identified as the two most dominant devices with approximately equal percentages, whereas *it*-clefts were proven a rarity in the texts. On the other hand, in the case of marked theme constructions, extraposition was mostly preferred by the speakers, while object fronting was barely used.

Apart from the overall view of the four groups, I should summarize the major findings in each category of speakers. So, within academics, the cases of marked theme constructions slightly surpassed the instances of clefts in the data. Concerning cleft devices, *wh*-clefts were the most dominant type. In the case of marked theme constructions, subject marking prevailed over the other two types. As for politicians, clefts overwhelmingly dominated marked theme constructions. Regarding clefts, *wh*-clefts were slightly the most preferable option. In the case of marked theme constructions, on the other hand, extraposition proved the most dominant trend. Here, I should underline the fact that the rarity of *it*-clefts and object fronting was verified in the texts of both groups.

To continue with artists, clefts were a significantly more preferred device than marked theme constructions. Among the three cleft types, reverse *wh*-clefts were

the most favorable option. Concerning marked theme constructions, extraposition evidently prevailed over the other two devices. In the case of athletes, marked theme constructions were more dominant than clefts. Regarding clefts, reverse *wh*-clefts were the most prevalent type. With respect to marked theme constructions, extraposition proved to be the most frequently used device. Artists and athletes, similarly to the other two groups, in their texts, showed that *it*-clefts and object fronting were extremely infrequent constructions. Therefore, the scarcity of *it*-clefts and object fronting instances constituted a common trend in each particular group.

## **6.2 The influence of the information structure of Greek and English**

Another major goal of this dissertation was to examine whether the preference for each construction could have been influenced by the information structure of Greek and English respectively. In the case of *it*-clefts, the most important finding was the rarity of the construction in the texts. Regarding the potential English influence, my main argument is that the property of *it*-clefts to heavily emphasize the clefted element in English renders it a less preferred device than the other two cleft types. This is because *it*-clefts function as contrastive and not as information foci, suggesting that their use in broader contexts could be inappropriate. As for the probable Greek influence, it was argued that the flexible word order of Greek enables speakers to employ the syntactic movement of the constituents in order to focus information. In this sense, *it*-cleft constructions are viewed as redundant, and, thus, they are a rarity in Greek. This fact could have affected to a certain degree the linguistic choices of the examined speakers in their English discourse, too.

In relation to *wh*-clefts, I argued that the property of *wh*-clefts to present information as shared knowledge is what could make them useful in argumentation. In this respect, speakers could highlight not only a particular element, but also its validity by using a *wh*-cleft construction, which is typically associated with shared knowledge. This is an aspect of English information structure which could have had an impact on the preference for this construction.

On the other hand, the markedness of *wh*-clefts in Greek, a language with a more flexible word order than English, differs significantly. The flexible word order of Greek provides speakers with alternative focusing devices, which prove to be more appropriate than *wh*-clefts when emphasizing information in Greek. So, unlike in the case of *it*-clefts, the preference for *wh*-clefts could not have been affected by Greek information structure, since the construction was, in fact, used to a significant extent.

Regarding reverse *wh*-clefts, the most important finding was that they proved to be the most preferable option among the examined constructions. In this case, the linguistic behavior of the examined speakers could have been influenced by English information structure, and, in particular, by its relation to discourse deixis. To elaborate on this relation, reverse *wh*-clefts, especially in the demonstrative type, are considered part of discourse deixis. In this way, demonstrative reverse *wh*-clefts, unlike *it*- and *wh*-clefts, can highlight large chunks of information by providing the link between that information, which constitutes the clefted element, and the relative *wh*-clause. The fact that demonstrative clefts were the dominant trend in the current study could support this argumentation. In addition to this fact, it was argued that the property of demonstrative clefts to function as links between different parts of discourse is not shared by other types of reverse *wh*-clefts, as confirmed in the examined data. In this regard, the results of the current study showed that considering demonstrative clefts as a separate category could be a viable idea.

In the case of extraposition, both Greek and English information structure could have had an impact on the preference of the examined speakers. Concerning the probable English influence, the preference of the subjects for this construction, in terms of English information structure, could be explained by the fact that extraposition enables speakers to highlight information quite smoothly in their discourse, namely by extraposing the focused element and replacing it with a pronoun. Also, extraposition is a relatively simple construction in terms of syntax and grammar, compared to other focusing devices such as *it*-clefts. Concerning the potential influence of Greek information structure, I pointed out some marked theme constructions identified in Greek which resemble the structure of extraposition. In this sense, the presence of similar constructions in Greek makes

extraposition an easily manageable device for the examined speakers. This correspondence, thus, could have affected to a certain degree the preference of Greek speakers for extraposition when highlighting information in their English discourse.

With respect to object fronting, I argue that its rarity in the data could have been influenced by English information structure but not Greek. On the one hand, in relation to the possibility of English influence, an explanation for this trend could be that object fronting is used in more specialized contexts, unlike other constructions, such as extraposition, which could be used in broader contexts, rendering it a more useful focusing device. On the other hand, concerning the possibility of Greek influence, an essential point was that Greek speakers are familiarized with object fronting constructions in their native language, since the flexible word order of Greek enables speakers to prepose objects quite freely. Therefore, the subjects were expected to show a greater preference for object fronting in their English discourse. Regarding this fact, the rarity of object fronting could not have been influenced by the information structure of Greek.

Now, in the case of subject marking, both Greek and English information structure are likely to have influenced the preference of the examined speakers. My main argument is that intonation, which is closely related to the process of subject marking, is used to highlight information in both languages. In English, intonation proves very useful in cases in which speakers intend to highlight particular elements which are placed in unmarked subject positions. In Greek, intonation is useful in cases in which speakers need to distinguish foci from topics. This is particularly important in cases in which foci occur, because of the flexible word order of Greek, in syntactic positions typically occupied by topics. In this context, the use of intonation to focus information in discourse, which is a crucial property of subject marking as well, is familiar to the subjects, since they are exposed to it in both languages. For this reason, my tentative conclusion is that the preference for subject marking could have been influenced by the information structure of Greek and English.

### **6.3 Final considerations and implications for future research**

I will begin this final section by reflecting on my interpretation of the results of the study and my argumentation put forward in this thesis. My first point, here, is that the conclusions drawn from the data were not exhaustive, since they were based on selected texts produced by particular subjects. In this sense, if the study had dealt with different texts or subjects, it would likely have produced different results. Also, my argumentation about the potential influence of Greek and English information structure concerned the six examined focusing devices. So, it did not intend to draw inferences about the process of focusing as a whole, which is a very broad notion in linguistics. Despite these considerations, I believe that this thesis can have significant implications for future work on the subject. For example, it can offer the prospect of examining other focusing devices related to Greek and English and comparing the results of different studies. Another interesting prospect can be the investigation of the six constructions analyzed in the current study by focusing on more typical groups of Greek EFL learners, such as students.

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## Appendix

### Academics

#### **1) Professor Angeliki Ziaka on Islam in Greece**

Is a great opportunity to meet you and to know about your great project. In Greece, there is the so-called old and new Islam. The old Islam, the indigenous Islam ... is the indigenous Islam that still exists from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. And Muslims are located here thanks to the Ottoman Empire, but also some of them, they have been later exislamized during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries ... what we called the Pomacs, of the region of Thrace, indigenous people. And they are the muslims, the Greek muslims ... are today one hundred, two thousand people, located mainly in the region of Thrace, where they do have one hundred and eleven mosques and smaller masjids. And they also have a lot of facilities, as they are Greek citizens. The new Islam is the migrant Islam. That is a new reality for Greece, arriving from the late 1980s, beginning of 1990s, and especially after the 2000, and it is due, due to the dramatical political changes that have been held in the Middle East, and also in the East, starting from Afghanistan. This way, we have a lot of Afghanis. The majority of them, they don't want to stay in Greece. They want to use Greece like a ... first point of entrance in Europe.

Yes, this is ... I think the rise of the right, extreme right politics is due to the economical crisis that we do have in Greece during the last six years. And when the people, they don't feel secure about their jobs, their homes, even about the property of their country. It's very easy to use the ethnic and religious sentiments against the other. And when this other is a foreigner, and also a very poor foreigner, from countries that they have a very bad present. And they don't even know their future ... is very easy to manipulate them and to have a great impact within society. The academia, now, is a practical need and is much more practical the ways to help also the Muslim communities to find themselves in good terms within the European countries, but also to help the local communities to understand, not to be afraid of Islam, and to find ways of communication, not to be side by side within the same country. Europe has established human rights. Europe has to give priority

also to the good implementation of human rights, not only for papers, for the European bureaucracy, but in reality for the countries and the people, because this will reflect the European countries in good or bad terms.

For some people, Greek identity is purely linked to the past, the glorious past of philosophy, open-mindedness of ecumenical approachment of things etc ... For the other peoples, Greek identity is the past after mainly the Ottoman Empire, but is linked mainly to Christianity and to the nation.

We have the “Circle of Light”, starting from Greece, going back to Damascus, then to Baghdad, from Baghdad to Andalusia, and from Andalusia, with great philosophers, Arab philosophers, but also Jewish philosophers like Ibn Sina and Maimonides, to give them the lights for scholastic theology, like has been understood and interpreted by Thomas Aquinas ... and the Renaissance of course. .... and back to the Renaissance. We go back to the Greeks ... we cannot avoid them.

## **2) This Is a Return to Normal Politics in Greece, Says Professor Manoli**

Yes, indeed, this is a return to normality, normal politics. This is a return to the systemic political forces, and of the Greek voters, I think, have actually expressed a clear opinion that they want Greece to go back to stability, to have a strong government for the next four years. So, this is, I think, the message of the current elections held yesterday.

Yes, the interesting thing, I think, is that not only Mitsotakis is the establishment guy, but the voters have indicated that also Syriza is considered to be anymore the establishment as well party, and not a radical anti-establishment political force. So, Mitsotakis, I think, has given the go-ahead voice from the Greek public. It has a very pragmatic ... the New Democracy party has a very pragmatic and down-to-earth economic program that is feasible. It can be done in four years. Mitsotakis has a good knowledge of global finance, the market economy. He knows how international negotiations happen. And I think he will be able, given the time ahead, four years that he has, to negotiate with the creditors over the surplus and other issues. And he ... his main concerns are on job creation, on bringing unemployment down and on helping the private sector, and, especially, on lowering the taxes and assisting the middle class. That middle class was actually the one who paid the bill for the austerity and the re-adjustment in Greece.

I think that he has a great opportunity to succeed, because the EU side and the creditors are also changing. We have the results of the elections and also new heads in the European institutions on one hand. On the other hand, Mitsotakis has a great team of experts with him, who know how to negotiate. And, in this respect, both domestically and internationally, I think, he will have the support to move ahead. Also, the Greek economy has entered a new phase. We are on a growth path, though low growth rates around two percent. But if this goes on, and is speed ... and it is speed up and also foreign investments are attracted, then, Mitsotakis will have a lot of chances to succeed in his plans.

No, I think the public is ready to give him all the four years, you know, ahead. The public has the patience to wait and see the results. The concern, I think, here ... is how the opposition is going to react, and what kind of dynamic opposition we are going to see. Because Tsipras yesterday said that he is going to remain in the parliament and create a dynamic opposition. What we have seen in the past, on Syriza's side, is that historically they have supported street, let say, opposition. That could create some social unrest. This is, I think, the main problem that Mitsotakis will have to face. But let's hope that there would be a consensus found at the end.

I think that's done, that New Democracy and other parties, smaller parties, like the Greek Solution, benefitted from the discontent of people with North Macedonian agreement, the Prespes agreement. But I think the deal is done. The New Democracy is going to accept the agreement, and we are done with that. There are some issues with ... commercial issues related to the trade relations of the countries, but I think this is something that can be managed.

### **3) EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: The Greek Professor who 'broke' the coronavirus DNA sees a vaccine coming soon**

Why is there so much concern about this epidemic? Since this is a new pathogen. It's a new virus, which has been transmitted to humans for the first time. So, this is a main reason why we are in an alerting situation globally. There is no immunity in human beings. There are no specific drugs. There is no vaccine. So, from the very first day, we need to be aware about the situation. We need to monitor, to surveil, to perform surveillance of how many people have been affected, of how many people have died, of how many people or proportion of people have serious

events regarding these diseases, serious symptoms about this disease. What's that we know about the DNA of this virus? We are very lucky, nowadays, to have the technology and to be able to characterize the DNA in a very few days. If it was twenty years ago, it would take probable weeks to be able to characterize the DNA. It depends on the technology. So, the new technology allows us to characterize, to have the DNA sequence in a few days. And this is very important, since we know what is this virus, where it belongs to, in which group and then, what are its characteristics with regard to how it's spreading, with regard to how to develop new diagnostics, but also how to proceed with researching vaccine development. All these are very important as soon as we have the DNA sequence of the virus. From our study, it became apparent that the DNA of the new virus, of the noble virus, is very closely related to the DNA of the virus that infects bats. This means that the putative origin of the new infection in humans is for bats.

This is a very good comment. The similarity is very high, and is ninety-six percent across the genome. But you are right. We are not one hundred percent confident that there is no intermediate. Maybe the bats have infected another animal. And from this animal, then, the infection jumps into humans. We never know if there is an intermediate step during the transmission. But, probably, if there is an intermediate step, the initial origin ... we are confident that was the bats.

#### **4) 2017 8th Annual Greek Shipping Forum Interview-Professor Costas Th. Grammenos**

Bank finance has been for generations the most important source for shipping finance. That's one. Of course, the banks have been hit badly by the crisis, not only in the shipping industry, in other industries as well ... and also by the new capital adequacy rules, which really are extremely demanding. Now, the financial institution has to put aside substantial funds in order to cover their losses. So, decisions regarding the future of bad loans are made on this basis. Also, decisions are made on the basis whether shipping is a risky industry and also whether it is a profitable industry. That's very important. Profitability and riskiness are interlinked in a major way. The financial institutions have to be profitable. Otherwise, they cannot expand. Because they need to put aside capital, to have reserves. So, as long as shipping is profitable business, not only due to the spreads on interest rates, but due to the fees as well ... as long as they are profitable and

not so risky, banking will always be there, in my view. Of course, we have seen the banks have abandoned ... abandoned the shipping industry. We have seen that. But I have seen this film before, in the 1980s, and I am going to say that I will see it again now. But after a period of time and provided that we have a healthy industry, they will be back. Simple as that. Memories are sought, you know, in the international banking industry, in the international shipping industry. Now, we have some more sources, we have equity. In the 1980s, we didn't have equities. We didn't have public equity markers. If you say, if you tell me private equity, I would put a question mark there, because the private equity is for a short period. I mean they are not there to remain. They are investors who invest, and after four, three, five years, they disappear. So, we have to bear this in mind.

If I am optimistic? Also, what I want to say is that there are the ECAs, Export Credit Agencies, which are replacing to a certain extent the banking sector, the financial of the banking sector, when they find new buildings. There, you have an increase in their finance by twenty-five percent of the last, let say, less than ten years. If you have the new building industry, the ship building industry increasing its participation and producing new vessels, and if you are, of course, increasing the level of the active supply, then, you have a problem, in my view. The shipping industry will recover when supply will decrease, and when demand will go up. And we'll have ... when we'll have scrapping as well.

If I am seeing it? To a certain degree, yes. It will happen. Look at that. Life is the same always. Life is ... it goes up, and goes down. We saw it ... from 2002 until 2007, we saw a booming industry. And then, international events, the financial crisis, all these sorts of stuff. There is a period to recover. Simple as that. The banking system is still in a very bad shape, not only for the shipping industry, for every other sector of the industry. It means that the banks, which are the main source for economic development, are not in a position to give a lot of money to ... which is needed. Anyway, am I ... specifically, I cannot say that I'm so very happy. When I see that there are still new buildings coming on a continuous basis. I mean, this ... is the area that gives me a problem. Otherwise ... otherwise, demand continues to be quite high, I would say. I mean, the rate of economic development ... is quite high, I would say. It continues to be high. So, anyway, I would say, overall, to a certain degree, I'm optimistic. Perhaps, I'm an optimist, I'm a born optimist. Perhaps.

I'll tell you. Regarding the award, of course, I'm greatly honored, without a doubt. But what I want to say ... for me, it was a great opportunity to see so very many students, not only from Greece, from other parts of the world. Today was an excellent meeting ... I mean a tremendous meeting. Capital Inc organizes, without a doubt, tremendous meetings. And this is one of the ... one of the best events, I would say that, of this kind that I have attended. So it was only a pleasure to be here.

### **5) Constantinos Daskalakis: A Poet of Computation Who Uncovers Distant Truths**

I'm Constantinos Daskalakis, also known as Costis Daskalakis. I'm a professor of Computer Science at MIT and the department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and in the Computer Science and AI laboratory.

A lot of my work focuses on the interface between computer science and game theory economics. And there are several reasons why I'm interested in this interface. One is a very practical reason. And that's a lot of human economic activity happening online on computational platforms. So, you need some handle to design these platforms in a way that takes into account, besides the computational issues, also the strategic and incentive issues. So, that's a very practical reason why this interface is important, especially now, a lot of economic activities are happening on-line. But there's also a deeper philosophical reason why this is important, and that relates to the foundations of game theory in economics which have to do with bounded rationality. When you make predictions about what humans in a strategic scenario are going to be doing, you should also take into account that humans are not infinitely rational and, in particular, they have computational constraints in what they're able to think about in a finite amount of time. So, you really have to inject into your game theoretic and economic approach to analyzing behavior also the computational barriers that humans are going to be facing, when they're making decisions. So, that's yet another reason why this interface is very interesting. Lastly, there are very interesting mathematics and very interesting computational questions that arise once you start thinking about our interaction that motivates that interface even more.

Nash equilibrium is a mathematical theory whose goal is to characterize what happens in a ... when strategic individuals interact in a game or in a very general notion of what a game is, which is basically a strategic interaction. Roughly speaking, a Nash equilibrium is a strategy for every individual that is participating in that interaction, with the property that given what the other players, what the other individuals are doing, no player unilaterally can improve his position by updating his strategy. So, that's a Nash equilibrium. It's a choice of strategy for every participant so that everybody is happy. At least, they can all ... in the sense, that they cannot unilaterally improve their situation by changing their strategy. It could be that, you know, where some global move can make everybody happier, but every individual move cannot.

So, what my work with Goldberg and Papadimitriou has shown is that when game is very complex, when a strategic situation becomes very complex, it has a lot of moving parts, a lot of notes for the players to attune, to update their strategies, then, it may be computationally really hard for the players to actually arrive at Nash equilibrium ... which philosophically implies that if the agents are computationally bounded, which they are, they will actually not be able to discover a Nash equilibrium, in particular, in this case, the predictions of Nash equilibrium should not be trusted, as you know, characterizing what really happens in the situation of conflicts.

#### **6) COVID-19 related crimes - Professor Nikos Passas, Dr Joe Giglio, Hon Kristy Debono**

Well, it's important to understand the kind of environment in which certain types of misconduct thrive. And, in order to do that, you have to explain three things: what opportunities arise, why people take advantage of these opportunities and what makes the controls inadequate or weaken them. And, what I have found is that one way of weakening, in different competitive factors, is that of criminogenic asymmetries, when you have structural and other disjunctions or differences in the spheres of law, politics, economy, administrative pattern, culture, technology, health and so on. These asymmetries do all these three things at the same time. So let me give you an example so that you can see what I'm talking about. Take one from history. There was a time in the United States we were trying ...

So, I want to give you an example of a legal asymmetry that creates illegal markets. There was a time when the United States were trying to establish what is toxic waste, in order to protect society so that we don't mix what is dangerous by-products of industrial processes with ordinary garbage. So, the problem was that there was no federal definition, and defining toxic waste was left to the states. Each state, therefore, had its own standard. For example, in New Jersey, where you had a lot of chemical industry, they had a very good list and a very good definition of what substance qualifies as toxic, and, therefore, needs to be processed, disposed of in a very particular way, which is more expensive, ten times more expensive than just dumping it in the ground or the lakes or putting it together with the other rubbish. In Pennsylvania, however, next door to New Jersey, had absolutely no definition at all. So, what happened in this situation was that people were picking up what was defined as toxic waste in New Jersey, transporting it across the river to Pennsylvania and dumping it on the ground there. That is what I call a crime without law violation, by the way, because they didn't break any law in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania didn't criminalize this, because they didn't have a definition of what is toxic waste. It was criminal in the other jurisdiction, where the waste originated. So, people took advantage of that in taking this toxic waste, transporting it and inexpensively dumping it and creating a competitive advantage for those industries that were using them for this kind of disposal, right. So, as the world globalizes, every time you have legal differences in the different systems that interact with each other, such opportunities arise. The same example you can find with taxes. Some countries have high taxation, others have more moderate or not. The same things you can find with money laundering laws. Some are very strict and well enforced. In others, they are weak or not enforced. And people take advantage of these, and, sometimes, they have very good advisors to do this. Now, with Covid-19, we have all kinds of asymmetry that create all kinds of difficult markets, because we have new opportunities, when you have demanded supplies, for example in personal protective equipment, the PPE, the masks, ventilators, particular drugs and so on. That gives ... that creates a market for people to sell you what they have, and this would be counterfeit or substandard products. And, take them from one jurisdiction to another and take advantage of the fine pattern.

## **7) MRes Modern Greek Studies**

I'm the Director and Admissions Tutor for the MRes in Modern Greek Studies program. This program combines taught modules, sixty credits, with twenty thousand word dissertation, a hundred and twenty credits. I'm also the person to whom informal inquiries could be addressed. I'm happy to talk to prospective students about their research proposal and offer advice about the feasibility of a project.

What makes this course unique is the fact that this is the only program in the country which combines taught modules and research - a dissertation of twenty thousand words. It also gives the option to the students to focus either on the literature and culture pathway or on the history pathway. This is also ideal preparation for those who are thinking to continue for a PhD. This program is addressed to students with diverse academic backgrounds - students with degrees in literature, including comparative literature, history and film studies have been admitted to the program, students from different countries have applied to this program. Students from the UK, Greece, Cyprus, USA, Russia and Turkey. The topics that students can expect to study on the course are the following. There is a research skills module, which is discipline-specific and aims to train students in methodologies in their area of research and familiarize them in recent trends in critical theory, historical research or cultural studies. Other modules include Modernism and Greek Poetry, Greek Fiction from Realism to PostModernism, Greek Politics and Culture since the Civil War, Nationalism and Conflict in the Balkans on any other ... or they can choose other modules from the History or Classics department. The dissertation is twenty thousand words. They submit a research proposal in advance before they're admitted to the program. The graduates go to different occupations. Some continue for PhD. Others go into teaching. Others into management in cultural institutions, media or journalism. My advice to the prospective applicants is, first, to apply early. And, secondly, I can put them in touch with former students for practical advice and feedback on the program. Our former students are our best ambassadors for this program. The course is normally delivered through weekly lectures and seminars, and regular meetings with their supervisor to discuss their dissertations. Students also have the opportunity to present their research in colloquia organized either by the Center

for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies or the Modern Greek Studies Association. They also attend fortnightly seminars in the Department.

My favorite thing about teaching in the course is that I learn from our students and from the originality of their research. Very often, they come up with challenging and thought-provoking ideas, readings of text or cultural phenomena.

#### **8) Pavlos Eleftheriadis of University of Oxford on Obama's trip to Greece**

Well, it is very good. I mean Tsipras has gone a long way since the time he was an anti-american protester. And, since he became prime minister, he has seen America as one of his closest allies, because the United States always supports debt relief for Greece. The IMF in the United States is Greece's ally on this. The EU is more skeptical. Obviously, it's their money as well. And they're worried that if they give debt relief to Greece, then Italy, Spain or others might also want similar treatment, but ... but, at the moment, Obama is one of Tsipras' best allies. Well, the ... the long-term outlook of the Greek debt is ... not great. I mean it's the ... there is a demand for three and a half percent primary surpluses in the ... in the sort of immediate future, after 2018. And that's very hard to sustain. The IMF agrees that ... that's unsustainable. So, for the United States' administration, stability in the Eurozone is the most important factor. So, they don't want another crisis. So, that's why they're putting a lot of pressure on the Europeans. And, I think, eventually, the Europeans might do something, although not strictly speaking debt relief, some kind of restructuring, lengthening of maturities and so on might happen. Tsipras, by the way, is investing a huge amount on this, the only thing remaining from his original manifesto, which was anti-austerity, anti-memorandum, anti-IMF. So, he's taking everything back of course, but the only ... the only thing remaining for him is to gain some kind of debt relief. So, he's putting a lot of political capital on that. That small victory if and when it happens, it will be a great benefit to him internally.

Well, that's the paradox in Tsipras' government. His party is ferociously anti-american, anti-globalization, anti-EU. He himself has never explained why he had to say yes to the bailout. So, his own party is campaigning against the policies. I mean there is a certain demonology at opposing in Syriza against the EU, and says that it's a neoliberal policy. And, of course, America ... for them, for that party, equals neoliberal policies. I think they're hugely mistaken. They just don't

understand the modern world in my view. So, they are still campaigning. Remember also that there is a left ... left wing, I suppose, tradition of anti-americanism, since the dictatorship of 1967-1974. That has faded from memory somewhat. So, I think the main anti-american protests come from the right at the moment. It seems to me it's a sort of cultural reaction against globalization, against open societies, against Islam in some respects. So, that's why Tsipras has in his coalition partners, the far-right, which is an anti-immigrant, anti-globalization, anti-EU party, the Independent Greeks. The Orthodox Church, or at least parts of it are very anti-globalization and anti-open borders, anti-free trade and so on. So, the ... this is a very organized group, but, maybe, I don't know if they are minority or majority. It's hard to say. But there is a very, very strong anti-american movement in Greece, and has been for many, many years.

#### **9) ECB Monetary Policy Conference: Interview with George Marios Angeletos**

A lot of that monetary policy is communication, is policy communication. Ben Bernanke once famously said that monetary policy is ninety-five percent talk and only five percent action. But an important question is how you communicate, how you talk to the markets. And, especially in the recent crisis, a lot of monetary policy was about forward guidance. So, my work or science can help offer different perspectives, a new perspective on how you communicate. And, in the paper I was presenting, what I'm trying to bring forward is the idea that when you communicate to the market, you may be very cautious, whether you are trying to communicate what the policy path is going to be or what the targets that you are trying to achieve. So, are you going to talk about the interest rates in the next few quarters or are you going to talk about the level of unemployment and output that you are going to achieve to the economy. And, what some science, and particular game theory, is bringing into the table is the following idea. In normal times, people are less worried about incoming unemployment and perhaps a little more worried about mortgage rates. In periods of crisis, and periods where it's very important how confident you are in the economy, people are starting to worry much more about what the unemployment is going to be, what their income is going to be. In such situations, it's going to be much more important for the central banks to talk and commit on targets about unemployment rather than targets on

interest rates. So, my suggestion that's come out from theory is that as we move from normal times to periods, let say, of liquidity trap, where the zero lower bound is going to be binding for a while, when there can be very strong feedback between expectations and economic activity. Precisely on those situations, you should stop talking about interest rates and start talking more about targets, or to paraphrase it: maybe you should start communicate the way that Mario Draghi did during the crisis, when he said famously "I will do whatever it takes to save the euro, I will do whatever it takes to bring unemployment down", rather than telling the markets what the interest rates. what the policy is going to be.

So, two things. One is I like that there was a lot of back and forth between the theory and how we use models, to understand about the economy and about how we do policy in practice. There was a lot of discussion of how to fight the crisis. There was a lot of discussion about how looking forward into the future, what kind of policy reform we should do. So, I like a lot of this back and forth between policy and research. And, I find very interesting the emphasis on how likely a crisis may be in the future and also what lessons we have taken from policy ... from past experiences for policy in the future.

#### **10) Sotirios Tsiodras: Healthcare for Refugees**

Yes, it's essential. We see them as normal people. They're allowed to have free healthcare provision, both in the primary healthcare service as well as tertiary healthcare service in our country. This was established by law in 2016. We have had great assistance from national and international NGOs for primary care health services within the hosting facilities, especially in the islands that are overcrowded right now, and the mainland.

Well, in transit, more than a million over the last couple of years and, right now, more than sixty thousand are stranded in my country. I have to state here that the emergency, the EU relocation scheme hasn't worked that well. Approximately, ten percent of the initial agreement has been fulfilled over the last year. So, there is a huge gap ... it needs to be filled by other countries. Other countries need to take that role and alleviate Greece and Italy as initially agreed. Thank God for the EU-Turkey agreement right now that helped and assisted in decreasing the inflow of migrants in my country.

Over the last few months, has not been sustained. It's much lower than it has been in the last year. And, this is because of the EU-Turkey deal.

Still overcrowded in the EU islands, almost to the point that the surge capacity, it has been exceeded.

Yes, we had a big national campaign, vaccinating, giving more than thirty thousand shots to little kids, especially targeting vaccine preventable diseases like measles, mumps, rubella and poliomyelitis.

No, it doesn't. And we provide them with a card, a vaccination card. So, they have a record of their vaccinations.

Yeah. This has been very,very important and we believe that they're becoming part of our society and we accept them in our school. And kids need to be educated, need to go to school and this is what they are there for, you know, become a part of the country. And so you think diversity we're seeing is amazing, and the Greek people have been very, very welcoming. It has been amazing.

No serious public health threats whatsoever ... very, very few instances of common disease clusters like infections, acute respiratory infections with fever, a flu or diarrhea.

Yes. We need to provide a continuity of care, though. We need to provide follow-up for all those that are hospitalized. We've seen a lot of post trauma stress disorder, and we've seen a lot of people debilitated by injuries suffered during the war that actually brought them over.

### **11) On the Ground - Ep. 5: COVID-19 and the Economy in Greece**

So, I'm a clinical virologist and an epidemiologist at the same time. So, one of my research interests is about super spreading, which is a phenomenon that some people spread the virus much more than the rest. And we knew that was the case for SARS-coronavirus, which was the closest thing that we know to the SARS-CoV-2. Now, one of the things that we tried to do here in Greece was to shut down the places where super spreading events might happen. So ... and I could give you a couple of examples like an early school closure happened, and then, we tried to close down some businesses, because of the effect of the super spreading and the massive viral load that we have in the middle of March. And, okay, of course, the lockdown that was much earlier than that, happened in our academic course. These three things happened early.

Currently, we are monitoring incoming populations in a way that, if there is a resurgence of Covid-19 in another country, we will be able to sense this, even before they sense it within that nation. That happens, because we screen a lot of people randomly. So, for example, we were able to spot the Serbia resurgence one week before that was coming out from the country and we had it on the spot and we can see ... we were able to see the resurgence in Bulgaria and Romania from the screening that we're doing in our northern borders. So, I think if there's a resurgence in any other country or that we have a significant inflow, we will be able to spot it at the borders. The other one is to minimize transmission in the community, and this can be done currently by a broader use of face masks. So, we're trying to convince the professional people who have many contacts per day to use face masks, and also face masks need to be used in all the places, where people are in contact with people that they do not know like, you know, the buses or planes. Obviously, planes are an international thing, but also internal. So, wherever someone is in contact with persons that they do not know, close contact, we are trying to ask people to use face masks.

So, the plan is that there will be many on the spot molecular tests in different islands. Then, there are islands that will be transferring samples to these islands. And then, if we need more samples to be tested, this will be transferred in central labs. So, there's already a contingency plan with respect to testing. There's a contingency plan with respect to transferring tourists to specific places. Now, if a tourist is ... belongs to the high risk groups, they will be transferred closer to a setting that can be ... can offer more specialized support like intubation etc. If a tourist is a low risk they can stay in Covid-19 hotel, because they have, you know, very, very mild symptoms. So, it will depend on the risk profile of each tourist where they will stay if they get infected, and if they get diagnosed.

Yeah. I think the most important part of the intervention is to break super spreading events, to understand where this happens, because we know, now, that more than eighty percent of the transmission happens from less than twenty percent of the people infected. This means that we can ... if we can actually target these people, this twenty percent, we can actually break down the epidemic. And this might ... this happens that we know now. For example, most of the European transmission that ended up in deaths happened in hospitals, happened in healthcare settings. So,

if we can target these places and protect them, then we will bring down the death rate and also the infectivity rate.

## **12) Christodoulakis Says Greece Not at Risk of Debt Default**

Well, I think the government achieved to gain the vote of confidence and I think that this ends a period of political uncertainty in Greece. So, I think we're going to have a new start in Greece, something which will secure the medium-term program of fiscal rehabilitation. So, I think that, now, the government can go ahead as planned to both with fiscal cards and privatizations, although I think that, now, Greece needs a serious injection of growth, and to this effect, I think that what President of the European Union, Mr Barroso, has stated yesterday comes to the point. He's promised that the European Commission is going to approve a huge transfer of community support framework funds. If the Greek government is ready to absorb these funds, I think we may see a recovery quite earlier than initially expected.

I think that approving the austerity measures is not going to be a problem now, because, I mean, giving confidence to the government, when the government was tested mainly on how its fiscal program is going to go ahead. I think it was more or less equivalent to voting in favor of the austerity cuts as well.

I think that, now, Greece needs the injection of growth. This is the parallel policy which has been neglected so far, and I think that it has to be followed very seriously from now on.

No, I do not think so. I think that Greek debt perhaps it has exploded over the last few years. That was not always the case, and there is no reason that this would be the case in the future. I think that one of the reasons that Greece has fallen into this debt trap has been the lack of growth for three consecutive years. So, if the growth resumes, I think that paying back the interests and also servicing the debt, in the long run, will become sustainable again. In the meanwhile, I think that the approval of the second chance of the European Union aid of about a hundred billion euros will be adequate in order to repay maturities which ends over the next five to six years. So, I do not think that Greece will be in the risk of defaulting. I think it will be in a position assisted by the European Union to repay its debt obligations, and if growth resumes which I find absolutely vital, I think that servicing the debt is not going to be the problem for the future.

My advice is trying to find growth again and also revise the tax regime, because what matters now is to assist growth, it's not to increase taxes all over again. Because we have tried this policy, and this policy has failed over the last twelve months. So, I think that what is needed is to capture tax evasion, not just to put additional weight, additional tax weight on those which already paid taxes. Because, if this happens, I think that the majority of citizens is going to see this as social injustice, and this will augment social protestation and will diminish the prospects of achieving the fiscal targets. So, I think that it needs a wider eye on how fiscal policies are designed and applied.

### **13) Vrasidas Karalis on Castoriadis and the Judeo-Christian tradition**

Well, I try to allude to that, as you understand, because I think the idea of Greco-Western I mean today, because we have the political, you know, the cultural wars that we have today, and we think that's against Islam or Buddhism or India but it's not ... it's a critique, essentially, of the other tradition, which we call ... it was called Judeo-Christian. Now, I think that ... It's very strange that you can talk about three thousand years, forgetting that the two thousand years were under Christianity of course, that the Christianity was the dominant system of beliefs. Then, I cannot think that there is any political thinker in the West, especially of the Enlightenment strand without ... who hasn't confronted the dilemmas of politics as raised by Thomas Aquinas for example, or the ideas of poiesis, of creativity, of creation, creativity, as raised by Nicholas of Cusa, or the great Mystics of the late medieval period. So, I think there is a gap there, in his thinking, what happens. But, as you said, it appears in many strange ways in this case. He believed that the concept of God, as you understand, as described in the Bible, especially as a literalist interpretation of God, the father, who says all these sort of things, is essentially the beginning of heteronomy in modern society. Of course, it's an interpretation of God, because what is God in reality ... God is the mystery, the mysterious, the numinous, the unexpected, the non-explicable. God is ... I mean, for me, it's very interesting that he never dealt with the God of Whitehead, for example, or Einstein, or the God of Spinoza, that essentially God is sort of a kind, is not the omnipotent father, is not the principle located, localized somewhere and does all these sort of things. God ... it's nature that is divine. That's why he ... essentially, my perception is that he didn't deal either with the Pre-Socratics in this

case. Actually, you remember the famous statement by the Pre-Socratics, “everything is full, replete with Gods”, you know, just this idea. What do we mean with God ... is the numinous, the unexplained, the mysterious element in history. You don’t have to ... I mean, today, I think like the critique of the new atheists that we have against Christianity is a critique of Churchianity, not of Christianity as such. Essentially, it’s a critique of the Church as a cult, which is a cult, as you understand. It’s an institution like a Danique, like a sort of a respectable investment in establishment. And, you know just, you know, we have to respect them, if they follow the law, as you understand. If they follow the law, that didn’t ... but the Church, as you understand, has lost its spiritual sort of a kind. If you have a spiritual center, there is no spiritual center in the Christian churches or in any other religion if I may say. I mean, I don’t believe that organized religions can give you any answer, but Castoriadis tries to go beyond that, and tries to see, I believe, in this case, the poetic element in this. Don’t forget that, in the Christian creed, God is called the poet. Is not the creator, is the poet essentially. Poet means imagination. So, I believe the concept of the imaginary that creates “cum nihilo”, not “ex nihilo”, not out of nothing, but with nothing, is probably one of his most important sort of kind suggestions. I don’t know if we can call this religious. I don’t know if we can call this pneumatic or whatever you like to call it. But I believe that, for him, the enemy of the people, of the autonomy of the people was always the Christian church ... which, in many occasions, ninety-nine point nine nine percent is true. There is one percent, one point one which is not true, which is probably the most important part of religion in this case. The rest is ritual, cult and essentially the rituals of the tribe.

#### **14) Dr. Ioannidis: Time to Start Opening Up, with Science, not Partisan Politics**

I think that it is time to open up in many locations, and the time is coming for others. I think that if we are careful in collecting information on how the epidemic is evolving to make sure and to offer confidence, self-confidence to all people in our community that we haven't lost control of the epidemic, because many people will still be very fearful ... they would say ... I don't want to go out, I don't want to do anything ... people are still dying. If we do that, if we offer science, if we offer reliable data, if we offer reassurance that this thing is not going to kill you, it

doesn't seem to have a higher chance of killing than, you know, seasonal flu, for each person who is infected ... although we know there are some people who have much higher risk, and these, of course, we have to protect very very carefully. I think if we put that agenda in place, we could open up. And I think it needs to be gradual. It needs to be re-invigorating confidence in the population that the right thing is being done, and it is to the benefit of our society and our citizens, and all people. And then, I think we will do well. We will have to watch it very closely. But if we don't do that, i don't really see an alternative.

I have to reiterate that. I'm just a simple scientist, who is just trying to correct one's own mistakes. I'm just trying to correct my own mistakes and get it right, and save lives. I have absolutely no political agenda behind my thinking and my calculations. Calculations in science are the same, regardless of what political party one belongs to. They should be the same. And I think it is a major shame to really turn this into a political battle. There are lives at stake. There are lives of our fellow citizens. There are lives of people who are disadvantaged. There are lives of our relatives. There are lives of everyone. There are at stake. And I think that it's horrible to turn that into a political battle, either in this country or in any other country. We should remain united. We are homo sapiens sapiens ... humans the wise. That's what we should be ... you know, not just partisan people who want to elect one president or another, or promote the agenda of one political party. We are homo sapiens sapiens.

#### **15) Video interview with Evie Zambeta, Associate Professor National & Kapodistrian University of Athens**

Although European societies have addressed human rights in various significant ways, there are still serious challenges to be met. The refugee crisis represents, perhaps, one of the most important challenges for European society nowadays. But, of course, there are other social groups that are threatened with marginalisation or social exclusions, such as immigrants, newly arrived immigrants or ethnic groups, minorities, children with disadvantages, socio economic background, people on the basis of sexual orientation or disability, can be discriminated against in European schools. So, the most important issue for European schools, nowadays, is to become an all-inclusive institution. You see, European schools, and schools, in general ... are gatekeeping institutions. They

mediate between the new populations, between the citizens and the state. It is very important for schools to develop inclusive strategies in order to incorporate all these populations within their agenda. Our project aims to strengthen, foster these dynamics within schools by using the whole community approach, by engaging the whole community in developing inclusive strategies.

It is important because the school cannot do it alone, it cannot do it on its own. Schools do have very high competent professional teachers, highly educated and well-trained. But this on its own cannot develop a school culture of inclusion. It is very important that the whole community, all the stakeholders, who would have legitimate interests in education policies get involved in this inclusive strategy. Teachers, parents ... students of course ... the school leadership, but most of all, most importantly, I would say civil society ... should get involved and be engaged in developing an inclusive school culture.

We hope that we will develop strategies within European schools in order to include populations that are at the margins, that are threatened with inclusion. We hope that by engaging the whole community, schools can develop strategies that are innovative, and empower people, students, teachers to get involved and be included.

We are six countries in this project apart from Greece. They are Bulgaria, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania and Poland. We plan to collaborate through very close meetings and exchange of ideas and good practice. We intend to work on refugee children and immigrants, on Roma, on disabled people, and with children that are at risk of exclusion. We intend to compare our results, exchange ideas and practices, and develop strategic plans for developing the ability of school to act inclusively.

## **Politicians**

### **1) EXCLUSIVE: Interview with former Greek PM George Papandreou**

Some people might call Greece the weakest link in the sense that we had our problems and brought out the difficulties. But, on the other hand, you might say Germany could be the weakest link, if it doesn't take the necessary steps to or pulls in the wrong direction in a sense ... very strong, but it may pull in the wrong direction ... then Europe faces problems.

There may theoretically be a return of re-nationalization and break up, but I think it's much less a possibility now, and the will in the European Union is of all the political establishment and leaders is not to have a breakup of the euro. So, I think there's a very strong political will. We move forward on this. But, of course, if we did have the hindsight, I think, we would have wanted to put in a place a number of mechanisms: stronger banking union, more fiscal monitoring, more common economic policies, possibly more transfers of resources to strengthen some of the economies that are in the periphery, some of the institutions and the periphery that so that we use the money in a more transparent and more effective and more growth-oriented way.

Well, before I get to the banking system which is very important, I would say that what Lehman Brothers tells us is the ... I think, lack or one of our problems in our democracies. We needed to have more transparency, we needed to have more understanding, we need to have a more institutional oversight of the financial system, because what happened was we were being told that these Triple-A bonds being sold to all over the world, not only in the United States, but to the European, and to others were Triple-A. And, in fact, they were junk bonds. So, it is somewhat of a fraud to be very clear about it. I'm somewhat unhappy that, five years later, we still have lingering problems in our banking sector. And people distrusting each other, banks of banks, banks and governments, governments and banks, even investors. I think we really need to put an end to this, by one hand recapitalizing the banks. Now, what's happened is, because of the financial crisis still lingering on after five years, many banks are looking at their accounts, and are not looking at the real economy. They're not looking at finding investors to invest to make the

economy move. And, of course, at the same time, there's not much interbank lending either. So, this kind of problem is still holding our economy back.

I don't want to be absolute on this, but I think that the US is more linked with the Chinese economy, but I think the European economy is quite crucial for the Chinese economy also ... and its exports, the export of Chinese goods to the European Union. But I think more and more ... if you think about it, it's a well-known fact, but maybe not that well-known, but the European economy altogether is still the biggest economy in the world. Therefore, when the European economy is in recession, that affects the whole world. I think there are many areas, where there can be partnerships. I think the area of Green growth and Green technology is important. There have been a lot of discussions recently about Chinese imports of Green technology into the European Union. I think we need to really open up our markets in a way, as long as we have clear standards.

Oh, that's a good question. That's a ... I think one has to philosophize in life and say that I've done what I've done. I can't be sure about the future, but I'll help my country anyway I can.

## **2) One on One Express: Dimitris Avramopoulos, EU Commissioner for Migration**

Instead of blaming, it is better to try to understand why it is happening. Populism is a threat, a threat of our democracies. Europe in the past has experienced the rise of populism that led some countries to the abyss. Unfortunately, as some people believe it, it was not the economic crisis that would put in danger the European project and would fuel populism and nationalism. It is the refugee and migration crisis, because it has a direct impact on the basic values and principles upon which Europe is built. This is what I meant before when I said it's a threat. And the democratic and progressive forces of Europe have soon formed a sort of alliance and erected a wall to the ones who are threatening directly the European democracy.

It will come as a necessity, because I'm sure that citizens as soon as they realize that their political verb is so divisive, they will understand that it is in their interest to defend and protect democratic values and the unity of the Union.

I wouldn't say it is a failure. When the migration crisis knocked on the door of the European Union, Europe was totally unprepared. European countries had no idea

how to cope with that. Actually, it coincided with the beginning of the life of this commission, and the decision was made immediately. First of all, the portfolio of migration and security was set up. In a very short time of six months, we adopted a common European agenda on migration. And as for that moment, we started managing migration. We are not where we were in 2015. Remember what the situation was at that time, and I can tell you that Turkey has contributed a lot to that, thanks to the fact that the EU-Turkey statement works and Turkey still delivers it. So, the flows stopped from this side of the Mediterranean. But, it's not the same in the Central Mediterranean or in Eastern Mediterranean, where we have seen recently an increase of arrivals, because Libya is an open corridor unfortunately. You've seen horrible, appalling images from there. But as far as the islands of the Aegean Sea are concerned, it is true to say that there are still some problems there.

As long as the flows continue, even if the numbers have gone down, the capacity of the island is very, very limited. But the European Union supported Greece. We have allocated one point six billions euro. The hot spots work properly. Where there is a delay is in the process of asylum applications by the authorities.

It is exactly what we have been doing. I was again ... it sounds strange for a Greek to say that I was in Greece, but last weekend I met with the Prime Minister and the competent ministers, and we told them to step up the efforts in order to give an end to this situation.

Well, it's not going to happen overnight. I have to admit that they should have done it earlier. But it's not ... we are not here to blame. We are here to help. This is the role of the European Union. This is what we have been trying during the last years. That's why the situation is not the same anymore. But, on the islands, yes, the situation has to change. And we are putting pressure. We give the necessary instructions. And we monitor the situation.

### **3) President Obama's Bilateral Meeting with Prime Minister Antonis Samaras of Greece**

We had a very good conversation with the President and analysis on different areas. I, first of all, want to say that our two peoples and our two countries have been more than allies. Not only did they fight next to each other throughout history, always for a noble cause, but they cherished and they supported the same values

like freedom, democracy and independence. So, it's good to be here. In terms of the economy, yes, we have gone through thick and thin. The sacrifices made by the Greek people are huge, but they are not going to be in vain, because what we now need is development of jobs and growth. Of course, we are going to do what it has to be done as far as structural changes are concerned, but our emphasis has to be on growth and on the creation of new jobs, especially for the youth, because as I told the President, in Greece, the unemployment for the youth has reached the incredible numbers: sixty percent, and total unemployment of twenty-eight percent. And the Greek people have sacrificed more than a quarter of the GDP only in the last four years. So, by definition, emphasis is on growth creation. But the other thing I want to say is that, if Greece succeeds -and it will succeed- our success story is going also to be a European success story. And I believe this is very important. On the other hand, we are trying to do as much as we can to stabilize a very destabilized environment where we live. I believe that the region has many problems. We are going to try and solve as much as we can, establish this cooperation which I think is important, in the areas that you have described, being always an advocate of international law wherever there are problems around. I believe that the problems have to do with illegal immigration, internal turbulence in various countries, and even, unfortunately, the problem of terrorism. And I think that there's a lot of synergies that we can have together in order to try and solve as much as we can those problems, including, as you said, the problem of Cyprus, which after the new proposals of the Greek presidency, opens up a window of opportunity as long as we always, as I said, abide by the international laws and the decisions of the United Nations. I would also like to say that I told the President that we have found huge energy resources in the wider region. Cyprus, Israel and Greece can realign those resources in order to be able to satisfy the European demand, especially for natural gas. And, last but not least, I told the President that we will try to do as much as we can during the Greek presidency in the first semester of next year in order to ... with the help of the Italian presidency that will follow in order to be able and conclude the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which I think is very important, because, as you know, Mr President, Europe and the US together in this trade account, as you've said before, more than fifty percent of the world GDP. And, therefore, it's important, especially for Europe, to liberalize that potential and create new jobs, because I think jobs for

everyone is the number one priority, especially to our youth, because everything we are doing has to do with our younger generation. Again, I want to thank you very, very much for this meeting and I'm very glad I'm here.

#### **4) Greece's tourism sector growing strongly**

Well, there are some. We're getting out of the crisis. The situation is much, much better. But tourism is a sector that has actually softened the blow, cushioning the economic crisis for Greece. So, tourism it was a way out if you will.

No, it's not cheap, but it's value for money though. So, we're not saying no to anyone really, but our product is really becoming more and more ... has better quality. Our service level is up. There's been a lot of investment in the previous years. And this shows in the numbers. We have, if you like, single-digit growth in numbers of visitors, but double-digit growth in the tourism revenue. And, this is good.

Well, it included tourism par excellence. I mean the tourism economy is flexible for column increase. Is an economy that changed a lot during the crisis. A lot of investment, a lot of money flowed in the tourism sector, and there's for a good reason. There's return on investment. Is something that we know how to do well. And, during those years, this is ... this is a much better proposition now.

Yes, we've got all that and much more. You can do adventure, you can do diving, you can come a full city break, you can come in the winter. So, Greece has a lot to offer. There are many, many propositions that normally you don't associate Greece with. So, that's if you like the challenge for us to allow people to discover the undiscovered Greece.

Indeed, that's a possibility, but we're moving from less clarity to more clarity. And that's a good thing. People will be able to know what will happen with Brexit as things unfold. And as we get more clarity, they can plan their lives better, they can plan their vacation better. And, we're hoping that this will actually make a difference, not a negative difference, a positive difference. And also, despite the fact that we had ... we had Brexit, we had the financial situation, Greece grew in the UK, much more than the average.

And we're also making sure that employees of tourism enterprises in the UK continue operating in Greece with no problem exactly as they did up to now.

## **5) Interview with Zoi Konstantopoulou at ‘Parliamentarians for an Alternative’ Conference**

I'm Zoi Konstantopoulou, member of the Greek parliament with the Syriza-United Social Front. It is very important that parliamentarians of all over Europe, parliamentarians of the left are uniting today in order to put down common strategies for our future, for the future of the European peoples. It is our democratic duty to fight for an alternative political and social path for Europe. It is our ... it is also our democratic duty to unite and promote the ideas and ideals of the left in Europe, as the only viable alternative, which can ensure the prosperity of the European people and of the European societies. One of our most important and most recent political initiatives in Greece is to help form and help coordinate networks of solidarity all around the country ... networks which form the basis for people in order to, first, survive and, then, resist. These are networks called solidarity for all. And they are destined to help people in their everyday survival, in their everyday needs, beginning from their need for food to their need for education, for social care, for medicines, for legal assistance. These are networks which are promoted by Syriza-United Social Front as a whole party, and which are subsidized by our parliamentary team, by twenty percent of our remunerations.

Another project for Syriza is, really, to promote transparency in the governance of Greece, because a basic political issue is that those who have indebted our country, those who have governed and have signed contracts of huge sums have been proven to be extremely corrupt. This is an issue which is of extreme importance to democracy and it is also of extreme importance to the Greek society today, because the Greek people are being asked to pay back money, which was lent to people, who are corrupt. This is, therefore, a very important project and we're fighting within the parliament and outside the parliament for transparency in the political field.

I would say that it's important that parliamentarians of the left not only meet in order to put down common strategies, but also meet in the streets, and this is an ongoing collaboration and an ongoing project for European parliamentarians. And also, I would say it is very important that, as people of the left all around Europe, we alert public opinion and we use each other's experience in order to show that this austerity experiment, this experiment of the memoranda, which was initiated

in Greece, is a catastrophic policy. It's a destructive plan, which can only lead to the destruction of democracy and to the destruction of the social existence. It is very important that we show that what is now being implemented in Greece and other countries of the south are only images of the future, of what will be implemented in the rest of Europe. And it has to become a common conscience and a common ... it has to become a common conscience that if we don't fight together in the path of democracy, in the path of social justice, in the path of protecting human rights and protecting social justice, then, we are bound to lead the whole of Europe to destruction and to a path of no return.

#### **6) Greek finance minister: High surplus target feeds populists | Squawk Box Europe**

There should be consensus across the political divide on this issue. I think the three and a half percent, and I've said it an awful long time ago, is too high, especially for a country that lost twenty-seven percent of its GDP. I don't think there should be something that we should disagree about. We should go together and say, you know, in a Europe that has taken the lesson from the rise of the radical right and populist forces that's such high primary surplus targets only feeds into discontent, not only with the political parties, but with the political process itself. So, I have no disagreement with the leader of the opposition that we need to do this and it would be nice, if you had a less conflictual attitude, so that we actually could have consensus on this issue.

We wouldn't change our position just because New Democracy was in power. I think it's very likely they will be in power, but in the unlikely and unfortunate eventuality that they are in power, of course, if that was one of their main building blocks of what they wanted to do, we support them. But we wouldn't support them in a large number of other areas, especially since we actually don't know what their program is. My Deputy Minister, the Alternate Minister for economy, in the budget debate, estimated that the cost of their announcements, so far, was five billion in the first year, and another four billion over the next four years. Now, we've had no serious response to New Democracy where that money's coming from. So, you know, we spent the nine hundred million extra, not nine hundred billion, nine hundred million extra in 2019, where the extra four billion to get to

the five point eight billion that they will announce come from. God only knows. Certainly, we don't.

Really, the first strategy is to have this buffer, so it ... effectively Greek debt is collateralized for the next two years, because of the buffer. We've created a debt deal, which means that we have lower repayment schedules than countries like Portugal and Spain over the next fifteen years. That gives us the space in which to be able to have serious discussion with opposition parties, with social partners to have a growth strategy that begins to reduce the debt to GDP ratio from the denominator, in other words from GDP, by having a serious growth strategy. That's what we're trying to do. We've tried to protect Greece in the markets by being very open about our policies on growth. People can look at our growth strategy. It's a public document. It's all budgeted. There are no surprises. And I think that is why markets are looking differently than us. I mean the opposition says, of course, that we have higher interest rates than Portugal. Of course, we have higher interest rates than Portugal, because Portugal left the program quite a few years ago, and we've only just left the program. But the issue is that we're going in the right direction. We're being upgraded by the rating agencies. So, we have every reason to be confident about the future.

#### **7) Varoufakis: Greeks blackmailed to vote 'yes'**

Well, think of what our positions are. What we are saying is we accept your reform package, more or less, as you proposed it, but, we want an answer to the very simple question: Is there going to be a prospect for investors, Greek and foreign investors to look on this proposal and say "I will invest in this country"? And the genuine answer, the only answer that can come out of reading this proposal that was put on us is "no". Why? Because this proposal clearly says we are going to have another review next month, and another review in August, and another review in September, and then, in October, we are having another negotiation in order to come up with another bailout program by November. No sensible investor will invest. What we need in this country is stability. What we need is a reform package that will start implementing next week. And, long horizon, so that the investors have the confidence to say "Ok, cut prices in this country are very low, there is a reason for us to invest, but these people, the

Greeks, the IMF and the Europeans have sorted an agreement that gives us this long horizon. We need this long horizon, Richard.

That is a highly impertinent question to put to a minister of finance. ... Well, there is enough. Clearly, there is enough. ... I am not going to give you numbers on this point. All we need to say ... Well, because it's not helpful. It is clear that we are in a kind of lockdown situation in the banking system, the purpose of which is to allow the Greek people sufficient time until Sunday and Monday to deliver a verdict so that we have an agreement with the institutions, an agreement with our partners in order to be able to build a proper escape plan, so that this economy can put behind the crisis and move ahead.

Oh, Richard. Let's be clear on this. We are democrats. The reason why the banks are closed ... what is the reason? The reason is that the Eurogroup denied the Greek people the right which we wanted to give to be faithful to, to have a verdict on the proposal that was put to us by the institutions. This is the only reason why the banks are closed.

It wasn't the ECB'S decision, Richard. It was the Eurogroup's decision. The ECB did what it could within its rules. What I knew was that Eurogroup, on the 27th of June, put a cruel dilemma onto us that said: Sign an agreement based on a non-viable proposal or we'll close your banks. Now, any decent democratic government facing this dilemma, especially when this dilemma is put to you so that the people are denied a verdict on this proposal, can make only one choice: Do your worst.

Richard, you know the essence of investment? It's foregoing present utility in order to achieve a better outcome in the future. That's the essence of investment. Think of what's going on in the last five months as an investment into achieving an agreement that is mutually beneficial for everyone. Why is Greek economy stagnated so badly in the last few months? Why are the banks closed? It is because the Eurogroup has decided to blackmail our government into extending and pretending further like the previous governments were. And we're not going to do this.

Richard, the reason why we were elected was because the Eurogroup for five years has failed miserably. The institutions have imposed a program of fiscal consolidation that will go down in economic history, global economic history, as the greatest failure ever. This is why I'm sitting in this office. So, perhaps, all sides

should take a step back and reconsider their own contribution to the last five years of this disaster, and, maybe, they should take very seriously the very simple proposition, that is time to stop extending this crisis into the future.

What I can tell you is that adults do not hide problems under the carpet. They do not treat problems of insolvency as if they can be dealt with a few more loan tranches, on conditions of more austerity, which reduces the incomes from which these loans will have to be repaid. This is not what adults do. And, judging by the last five years, the IMF, the European Central Bank and the European Commission has some answering to do.

### **8) Interview with Anna Diamantopoulou on Vision, Rules and Leadership**

Yes, it is a lack of competitiveness, and we have to build competitiveness, and we have to do through reforms and by attracting investments. Because we have very qualified people and a lot of potential in the country, because of its location, because of tourism, because of renewable resources of energy etc. I don't believe that we can rebuild competitiveness through devaluation of the currency.

It is not the way we can do it, because the country, unfortunately, has a problem with the model of production. So, we import everything. Even the industries which produce and export in Greece, and there are not many, they import the first raw. So, there will be a huge problem of importing. and devaluation will not help, will destroy these companies. And there is always an idea that's ... ok, there will be some difficult years, and then, it will recover. How many difficult years and how difficult if there is a complete catastrophe of the country, of two generations?

It is in a very bad shape, but it is still a European country. It is still among the countries with the highest standards of democracy and life, and, as I told you, with very high qualifications, people very qualified. So, it was a very difficult situation for six years. We are not in a good moment. That's true. But I think, and this is what I said, that, now, because of the refugee crisis, because of the geopolitical pressure, because of the geopolitical crisis, because of the terrible economic situation, people have started to understand and to change mentality and culture. And this will be illustrated in the political system. And this is what I believe, that there will be a change in the political system.

Exactly, I think we have to believe in the reforms. Until now, we just accept it as something imposed by others. We have to do it, to believe it, and to make reforms which will change the country.

As you said, I didn't try to find any scapegoats, I think that this is our own problem. We can do it. We have had similar adventures, national adventures in the past. And we recover, and I think that we can do it again. And what we need from Europe is understanding and solidarity, not money ... I mean, when we talk about solidarity, it's not just money.

You know, and I think that all people know that the money which is given to Greece is money for paying the loans, for repaying the debt. There is no money for the Greek state or the Greek people. So, this is the money which stabilizes the European system as well. What we need is to cooperate. We need support for these reforms, we need know-how, and I think good cooperation and no stereotypes. I think stereotypes were really very bad moments for Europe.

Administration does not change in one year, or in two years. But reforms, and potential, and very strong legacy, because this is, I believe, what my speech is about. Strong leadership can change the administrator in a few years with very concrete and immediate implemented decisions.

### **9) George Papaconstantinou on the Greek Crisis**

Well, the adjustment has been massive. The fiscal adjustment, the structural reform has been extensive, not completed though. But we are in a seven year recession. So, you need to give the economy breathing space. And it needs to send a signal to the investors that the country is safe again for investments. In that sense, I think the debt relief, additional debt relief is expected by the markets and it is necessary. But I would say it is also not sufficient, because it needs to go hand in hand with deep institutional reforms. So, some conditional debt relief that allows the uncertainty of the debt hanging over, the medium term to lift together with continuing reforms is, I think, what is necessary, and what I'm expecting from our European partners and the IMF.

Well, there is no desire or appetite for Greece to leave the Eurozone. I think that has been proven very clearly. However, I think that we are now moving from a ... we have already moved from a specific Greek crisis to a broader Eurozone crisis, and following the Brexit decision to a broad European Union an existential crisis.

We used to think it was simply some needed construction repairs to the Eurozone institution architecture, and now turning out to be deeper existential issues about where Europe is going, and about whether the forces of globalisation, which have swept the world are creating the kind of tensions that Europe is unable to respond to. So, I think it's a broader political question. It is a question of how a democracy is functioning. And it is a question of figuring out a new narrative for Europe, which goes beyond the Eurozone, has to do with the kind of values and of the growth paradigm that we want for Europe. And I think that's what we should be focusing on, beyond the necessary adjustments to Eurozone construction, if it is to work. And it is clear that the crisis has shown that the original Eurozone construction was faulty. And we need to repair that. But now it is beyond that, it is a question of the foundations of the European construction.

No, Greece is improving, even though it goes back and forth in many ways. I feel that, in 2015, we took a big step backwards. And I do believe that problem in Greece at the moment is political. And it will be very hard to be convincing to the rest of the world about the real desire to modernize the country without some political change in the country. However, a lot of the fundamentals are now better than they used to be in terms of a primary surplus for example, in terms of the structural reforms being implemented. It is not enough. It needs continuing. And it is also clear that you need the debt relief that we discussed before, to clear the air and allow the investments to come in, because growth will never come back to Greece without massive inward foreign investments.

#### **10) Tourism up in Greece**

Actually, it's a record year for Geek tourism. And it's very important because it is actually the comeback year for Greece.

First of all, we have been very targeted in our campaign, in our promotion activities. And, on the other hand, I think that it was very important that Greece projected a message of stability, both on the political, and also the economic side. And this is what actually helped that Greece was back in business. And people will have a great time coming to our country.

Well, the truth is that there was a lot of exaggerated negative publicity. And I think that this falls under this category. Overall, I think that the tourism sector showed a lot of resilience throughout this crisis and the recession that Greece is having. And

it's actually the sector that can help the economy get back on its feet again. So, I think, overall, you can say that it's not only a very good year in terms of, as I said, arrivals and revenue. It's also that tourism helped sustain local economies and local communities.

The truth is that tourism has always contributed a lot to the Greek economy and of course, it's important that, right now, we have a sector that can continue to contribute largely to the Greek economy, which is going through a very challenging period. McKinsey studies and other studies have shown that Greece can further rely on tourism in the years ahead in order to improve its macroeconomic situation.

Obviously, but what we have seen is that it explores all the potential tourism has. And this is why we aim to promote here at the WTM is the secret Greece. So, more destinations in Greece, destinations for year round tourism, not just for summer months, not just for sea and sun. And this can really help also with the other sectors of economy, because we also aim to combine tourism with the agricultural sector, whereas promoting Greece as a culinary destination for the amazing food and locally grown products.

#### **11) We talk to Pavlos Geroulanos, Greek Culture & Tourism Minister at WTM**

I'm Pavlos Geroulanos. I'm the minister of Culture and Tourism of Greece And here with WTM, I'm trying to increase tourism from England and other countries of Europe.

We claim that it is eighteen percent of GDP, if you include its indirect effects. That means a huge part of the market. And what's interesting is that it is growing really fast. We had a record year last year. We've opened up new markets. And all markets are coming back.

Well, the most important thing that we're doing is that we've been very targeted in who we speak to. And that's why social media is very important to us. What we try to look for signals as to what everybody, the typical market wants to do. One of the things that we did is a TV spot we created in Russia. It was actually much more effective through the Internet than it was on any other media. What happened was we took that and we distributed it to travel agents, and travel agents would show the spot to the couples that they were going to choose what the vacation was

like. Because the spot was in Russia, the message was passed by Russian citizens who had come to Greece and had a good experience. These are the kinds of targeted things we are doing in order to go to the customer we are looking for.

Well, we want our stand to be a place where people come together. The most important thing in this presence is to bring the tour operators together with the airlines, together with the Greek businesses and together with the government ... everybody to feel that they are at home here and to exchange information that they need in order to do their business. We've changed our approach a little bit. What we want to show in this stand, which is a very flexible stand, if you look it's a marginal one, is that everybody is welcome, everything is transparent, you can look around, you can see everything, the ideas that people are coming here together and working and bringing visitors to Greece.

Well, the stand seems packed and the first information that I had from some of the people from the industry is positive. So, I like to keep that positive attitude in the coming year and build the momentum that we had from last year and to new growth.

Greece is going through a completely new period now. Both parties have finally agreed to back up the plan and move Greece forward. And this is a new day and people should start seeing Greece for all the things that it has to offer.

## **12) Tsipras Prime Minister of Greece - Asligul Atasagun Cebi - Dun Bugun Yarin**

First of all, I think that today, it was a very good day for Greek-Turkish relations. I went to the school. I went to this beautiful island. I have met so many Turkish people that they were very friendly to me. And then, I went there to the celebration. And I think that it was a message. And it was a message to the Turkish people, but to the global community, that we can make steps without feeling afraid of each other, without feeling scared. We can make steps and that this school could be reopened soon, because this will be a very significant step for a coexistence and a very significant step that symbolizes our close and friendly relationship between Greek and Turkish people.

I think that this is not an issue that has to do with bilateral relations. But it is an issue that, of course, it is an internal issue of the Turkish government. I believe that president Erdogan will take in mind that this is significant for the Greek

minority. And I think that this is the message that we wanted to give, that religion has to bring people together. has to spread friendship and to spread love for humans. So, I think that it is a clear step forward that I'm thinking that there is no reason not to take it together.

First of all, I think that this was the most difficult migration crisis after the second world war that we faced. And it was a real challenge for Greece and Turkey. And we proved that we can cooperate together and we can face not only regional but global issues effectively. This Greece-Turkey agreement is a difficult agreement. But I think that it is a necessary agreement. First of all, we managed to decrease deaths in the Aegean sea. And this is the most important. But of course, we have to make more steps forward. With president Erdogan, we decided to enhance our cooperation, exchanging information in order to try to tackle these smuggling networks in the Aegean sea. And secondly, I think that European Union has to support Turkey. Turkey now has more than four million refugees in its land. And we have to respect Turkey for that, to respect Turkey that gives to these people aid, host, food. This is very very important. And, in Greece, we have more than seventy thousands. Especially in the five Greek islands in the frontline, the situation is difficult. So, what I am trying to do in the European level, in the European council, is to support Turkey and to try to convince my partners in European Union, in order to accelerate efforts and programs for resettlement from Turkey to EU, and to give support, faster support to Turkey, and to Greece, of course, to handle this crisis.

First of all, I think this is an issue more than forty-five years old. So, we have to solve it. We have to find a just and viable solution for the Cyprus issue. A just and viable solution means a solution for both communities, Gree-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots. And this means that we have to agree in a draft of point of reference. And we have to prepare and communicate closely next time in order for Greece and Turkey to be more closed in the issue of security. Because this is the issue that Greece and Turkey have a specific role. The other is communication between the two communities and negotiations between them. We have to support and encourage them to restart. I think that, if we manage to have, finally, a just and viable solution for the Cyprus issue, mutually beneficial for Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots, then, all the other issues will be solved, including the difficult issue of energy. Energy has to be a tool in order to have people more close together,

to live peacefully with prosperity and not to be a tool to divide and to create conflicts. This is my approach. So, I believe ... I truly believe that we can do it. And at the end of the day, I explained to president Erdogan that my opinion and my intention, and what I tried to convince and I think that Mr Anastasiadis, the president of Cyprus, is already convinced is that the resources belong to the Cypriots, Greek- Cypriots and Turkish- Cypriots, to all the people of Cyprus. And this is very significant for the future.

I think that, in this region, in this point of the world, the populations were very mixed together. We have a common culture. We have common music, common voices ... common food, common tastes. So, I think that this is something that we have to take in mind. For instance, you know that I have a root from Constantinople, my grandfather was born here. So, in my home, we used to eat food with this approach, food that you like and eat in Turkey as well. So, I think that we have so many similarities. And, of course, we have different religions, different languages, but we have common habits, common thoughts, common culture. So we have to live together peacefully and friendly. This is the message that I want to convey.

### **13) Greek Prime Minister criticizes Turkey over migrant dispute**

What we're dealing with is not really a migration or refugee problem. It's a conscious attempt by Turkey to use migrants and refugees as geopolitical weapons to promote its own interests, because the people who are trying to cross into Greece are not people who come from Syria, they don't come from the Middle East. They've been living in Turkey for a long period of time. Most of them talk Turkish fluently. They've been fully supported by the Turkish government in terms of ... the Turkish government providing transfer for them to get to the border. And, of course, Greece is doing what any sovereign state has the right to do, to protect its borders from any illegal crossing. This is what we have been doing. This is what we will continue to do. Now, obviously, we've seen over the past hours, increased tension on the borders. There've been attempts to actually burn down the fence that we have. There've been numerous attempts to throw tear gases on our troops. So, I'm afraid this is a constant and very systematic provocation on Turkey's behalf, which has nothing to do with the plight of these people. They've been used by

Turkey. And this is you know ... the result is the scenes that you currently see on the Greek-Turkish border.

Well, I don't see why we should take any blame for something that we publicly stated that we will do. We have every right, Richard, to protect our borders, and this is exactly what we do. We are not the ones who initiated this crisis. We were not the ones who encouraged people to cross into Greece illegally. And, frankly, you know something ... this is a country that has over the past years accepted hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees. We've opened up our homes. We've opened up our hearts. And it is totally unacceptable, as a prime minister of this country, to be accused of not properly treating these people in times of great need. I mean Greece has demonstrated its humanism throughout this crisis. But what we are not willing to do is that we are not willing to engage in a process by which another country systemically uses and abuses these people to try to send them across the border. Now, in terms of the methodology and the methods that we use, we have not used any excessive force and we are always reacting and never initiating, in terms of responding to the provocations that have taken place in the border.

Richard, right now, let's be honest, the agreement is dead. And it's dead because Turkey has decided to completely violate the agreement, because of what happened in Syria. Turkey has an obligation to stop people reaching the coastline. And it has an obligation to do whatever it can to contain the illegal smugglers and prohibit people from illegally crossing into Greece. This is exactly what the agreement says. They have been doing exactly the opposite. They have assisted ... systematically assisted both at land and sea people in their effort to cross into Greece. So, on the other hand, I've been public about acknowledging the fact that Turkey has also born a big burden by hosting millions of refugees. And I've always been willing to support Turkey in this effort. But this is not going to happen, Richard under a situation of blackmail. Europe is not going to be blackmailed over this problem by Turkey. Mr Erdogan needs to recognize that. Mr Erdogan needs to stop being the instigator of fake news. People, apparently, according to the Turkish minister, have already crossed into Greece. They are completely false accusations in terms of what is happening on the border. So, we are not the ones who are escalating this conflict. But we have every right, Richard, and I will

continue to do so to protect our sovereign borders. We've succeeded in doing so and we will continue to succeed doing so in the future.

Look, this is obviously a very serious issue. And we need a coordinated European response. I think we've done whatever we can within our capacity to contain this problem as much as possible. We haven't had a single death yet in Greece from coronavirus. But we know that this is a problem that is going to spread. Obviously, coordination of the European level would be most welcoming. But this is also a question with speed and every member state needs to assess its own peculiarities and address the problem speedily and by taking the necessary measures. Where I think we need more European response is in mitigating the economic consequences of this outbreak. It is very clear, Richard, we have discussed this before, that even before the coronavirus hit us, monetary policy has reached its limits. And this is a time to take a hard look at how fiscal policy can help us alleviate the pressures on growth that inevitably occur as a result of this outbreak. So, where I expected more European coordination is clearly on the financial, on the economic side where I do hope that the next Eurogroup is going to be more proactive in terms of containing the economic damage which inevitably will occur as a result of this outbreak.

#### **14) Christos Staikouras at The Economist Euro Zone's Quest for a Coronavirus 'Vaccine'**

Thank you Joanne. Thank you for the invitation to participate in the economist event. The Covid-19 outbreak has caused a health, social and economic shock on a global scale. The consequences are multifaceted and great. European economies are shaking. In contrast with the financial crisis a decade ago, Europe has reacted to the coronavirus crisis quickly, collectively, as Mario mentioned before, taking important decisions and activating fiscal and liquidity boosting measures. Fiscal targets and constraints and restrictions are lifted giving the governments the necessary flexibility to take measures to tackle the crisis. The framework for state aid and public procurement became more flexible. The ECB has introduced the pandemic emergency purchase program which was only strengthened yesterday and has adopted a package of temporary collateral easing measures. Europe activated a safety net for states, employees and businesses through the ESM pandemic crisis support, the SURE program to subsidize employment and the Pan-

European guarantee fund from the EIB to strengthen business liquidity. Indeed, Europe has found a mix of drugs to relieve pain, but not the coronavirus vaccine. This could be the proposal of the European commission to create a new recovery instrument, the next generation EU. This proposal is sufficiently ambitious, dynamic, decisive and, at the same time, flexible, realistic and in line with the challenges we are facing. It is rational, fair, and growth-friendly, since it is mainly based on grants rather on loans. It gives every member state the opportunity and the flexibility to draw its national strategy. It includes common borrowing and it emphasizes on sectors that are important for Europe's future. What is now important is to do our best in order to put aside differences and disputes to reach an agreement concerning the final form of the new instrument, to make funds available the soonest possible and to make the best use of them in order to reset our economies and become stronger, more productive and more competitive. In Greece, since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, the top-priority for the government was to protect human life and public health, and then to support households and enterprises in order to tackle the consequences of the crisis. Both goals were achieved, as proved recently by epidemiological data and by the last reports coming up from the European institution about Greece. The Greek government has adopted a comprehensive, dynamic package of policy measures to support public health, employment, business liquidity and social cohesion. During the lockdown period, we supported the public healthcare system and we spread a wide safety net over households and enterprises. This included a special compensation for employees, professionals and businesses affected by the crisis, tax and social security deferrals and, of course, additional employment benefits. Overall, the government has tackled the burden of the whole economy's functioning supporting two millions citizens. In the next phase, during the gradual restart of the economic activity, the government has continued to support households and businesses, while also paying emphasis to boosting business liquidity through national and European instruments and funds. For instance, in this context, more than fifty-one thousand businesses, mostly small and medium size, have received a repayable advance payment. In the current phase, the third phase of the crisis, that of the progressive recovery of the economy, until October, we are acting on three pillars. We continue and expand employment support measures including a new short-term mechanism based on the SURE program. We

further boost business liquidity and we implement targeted measures for sectors most severely affected by the crisis, such as tourism, food service, sports activities, culture, airplane transport, maritime transport etc. Finally, in the fourth phase, that of the re-formation of the economy, the goal is to regain the dynamic it had developed before the health crisis. The more the economy stabilizes and restores, the more opportunities we will have to launch policies with more permanent characteristics so that the country can continue from where it was before the pandemic. We will take advantage of the conclusions from the recovery fund investing in the fields of Green economy, digital transformation, extroversion, research and development, which are included in our strategic plan for economic development. In conclusion, the government has designed and is implementing policies to stabilize and restructure the economy following the sudden shock of the pandemic. It builds on enhancing the liability inside and outside Greece. It invests in a relationship of trust it has built with citizens. It works with a sense of solidarity distributing the burden of the crisis fairly, taking on itself the greatest part of it. It creates the conditions for confirming the predictions for a strong recovery next year so that as soon as possible to restart the recovery from the point where we left it before the health crisis.

**15) Miltiadis VARVITSIOTIS : Tansit migration across the Mediterranean**

Definitely not. We have now almost twenty-five thousand unaccompanied minors in both Mytilene and Greece. Less than half of them have found a proper shelter. The others are locked in camps that are inadequate for unaccompanied minors.

There is a serious improvement. And the lack of a great number of newcomers, that they are less than a hundred per day, led the Greek authority to build up a mechanism for seeing that. Unfortunately, what Greece is lacking is lacking an integration policy. A lot of people have been trapped due to the agreement between the EU and Turkey in the islands. The asylum process is very slow, so people are left there in order for the asylum to be decided. And, while in the meantime, in mainland Greece, half of the people are waiting for family reunification or relocation. So, actually, there isn't any actual integration process going on.

Has there been a serious violation of any human rights asylum seekers? We haven't seen any of the perils that the previous reports of the Council of Europe to be proven or materialized, as we said in the report ... until now. For example, in Italy,

one of the good things that we have spotted is that Italy has moved, has put together a new legal framework for unaccompanied minors in order to adapt to this situation. And this is a very progressive step forward to deal with this issue. These are the good things. The bad things are the lack of quality in reception centers, the slow process of the asylum procedure and definitely the lack of solidarity between the European partners.

This is a great challenge. The challenge hasn't been met. And unless we do something in Libya, then, if we are not doing some in Libya which is a failed state and the challenge there is greater, and the smugglers are the local warlords that control each territory, then I think that we are going to lose this battle. Libya is going to be the challenge for the future.

## **Artists**

### **1) Nana Mouskouri | Interview | Ticketcorner**

I thought that I could manage to do things without singing. But, fortunately, I didn't make it.

I was lucky, all my life to have discovered an audience who followed me. And I was living, it was life for me to have them listening to me, loving my songs. They were giving me a lot of warmth, of courage.

No, because I think retirement is getting out of the world. I'll try to sing as long as it's permitted to me physically also ... you know, if I can stand to sing. But, for the moment, I feel very good.

I didn't try to make something a symbol, symbolic. You know, it's because I had to wear my glasses when I was eleven. And everybody was laughing at me with my glasses. And I decided that because they laugh at me in school, or so that I will stay. If I needed them, I would wear them. I just wanted to be as I am in life, to be also on stage. But I really suffered all over the world. And, slowly, today, I admire all the young girls, the ladies ... that everybody, boys, that, you know, young men. They wear their glasses and I just love that.

For me, what is important is somebody to believe what is doing, to love very much and to propose it with sincerity.

One should go on and believe and see what will happen. But they have to believe it, and not to get discouraged.

At the end of January I'm starting in France, near Lyon. And then, we do Paris and a few other places. And then we come to Switzerland.

Well, no, that is true. I think that I'll do it for myself, because of course, I have my age, you know. It's exactly like I am ... this year, I'm going to eight-four. But no ... I think it's not a question of age, how old you are ... is how so young your heart stays.

### **2) Maria Farantouri Interview - 'Charles LLoyd'**

Recently, it's been two years now, I recorded a record with Charles Lloyd, the legend of jazz music ... saxophonist. And he is special, it had a special meaning for me ... this cooperation. Because he first heard me in Santa Barbara. A friend, a Greek friend and sponsor of this concert in the university invited him to come to

attend the concert. And, he came after the concert to say to me, to pay his congratulations and he told me that my voice ... it could be very good about his song "Blue Wind", I think ... it suits me very much.

We made this composition, the Afro-American jazz music, how married, can be married with the Greek tradition music. It's really a new sound, a very interesting sound that I like very much. And, I think he's a composer ... he has a very rich inner world and this, you can see it when he is playing. It's a social inspiration for everybody, everyone that collaborates with him. And he has enriched me very much. I feel very nice touring with him and making known my music, my poetry all over.

### **3) Interview Jacqueline Lentzou (Hector Malot : The Last Day of the Year)**

What happens in the film is that the protagonist actually ... tells that she received a gift when their ... her parents broke up. And this is a real story. So, this is how I got to know Hector Malot, the book, which I never really liked, because it reminded me of Tom Sawyer, and other adventures like books that I was not interested in as a child. But I was really astonished by the title, because it was really heavy. And, indeed, my uncle gave it to me as a Christmas gift. So, it's a totally true story.

The thing is that the scenes that have dialogue, which is the first and the scenes with the girl mostly, and the celebration, were mostly improvised. So, I gave some things, some topics, because I wanted to create a very realistic and organic and truthful conversation. So, when I was writing the script, I was indeed mostly interested in the mood, in which she is in. I wanted to have a shift in moods, how she tries to, belongs sometimes, then. when she tries to withdraw. So, yes, I haven't thought of what my audience would like, but it would be nice to have them thinking even more. I don't want to make films that are very out there. I think that it's nice to watch something and, then, having the need to re-watch it, to understand it better.

I am really interested in mixing formats in my feature films. And, I'm really interested in this kind of films that have different textures. So, I thought that if I could try this in my short and could work, it would be a good step to move forward to the feature film.

My main actress is a very, very good actress. She is very well-known already in Greece, although she is very, very young. And, although I was very interested in her beforehand, I watched a theatrical play and I really got to the theatre. And, it was the most intense theatrical experience I've ever had, because of her. And, the moment I saw the play, I knew that she was the only one that could pull it off, because, although it's discreet, what she is doing is very, very hard, because she is really shifting emotional curves all of the time.

Another thing that was very interesting studying this film was the treatment of time. And, I think that when you have uncut long takes, again, it creates a very different mood, because you share the actual moment, you don't trick the audience that this is in one minute. It is an actually true one minute of her life, no cut, no edit. And, the way we choreographed the whole shot is to have the essence of variation and sizes, but, at the same time, you have the unity in time. It was very important for me, because I think that when you have this uncut time, as I call it, it allows you more space to really feel for the character and with the character, and gives more time and space to think what I'm watching, why we don't have, we don't change angles. So, it was a very particular target that I had and I want, again, to employ the same technique in my feature film.

#### **4) 20th Sarajevo Film Festival Interview with Syllas Tzoumerkas**

The story started ... the first thing we wrote into the film was the monologue Maria says to the women's group, that it's a story of a woman that sort of has to strip off her past and find a new sense of self. So, the first thing we wrote was actually her words there, and, then, the whole story sort of evolved around that monologue, so, in order to find this, to make this story of a woman in an environment that is under crisis and that herself is in a huge crisis, herself, and sort of tries to find a new sense of self.

What I wanted to do, from the very beginning, and that is something that we try to remain faithful throughout the making of the film, is to be ... had to say, to be faithful and about ... to this character that we thought. To me, I mean, that was the main thing, like to make this woman believable, exploding and in a way using her gender in unexpected ways for the viewer. It's a kind of feminist film in a way. So, to me, that was the main thing. And, then, it ... all this happens in a certain era, in a certain country, because that produces these kinds of stories. Right now, it has

people that live in ... on a certain edge. So, that was the thing. It's ... to me, that was the main thing less. That was more important to me, let's say, than the political aspects. But all this doesn't happen in limbo, you know, it happens in a certain place.

Well, the CineLink actually, the Sarajevo Film Festival was the first time we presented the script anywhere. It was really the first time we came here. And we presented the film and we got the award here, the Eurimages Co-production Award and that sort of set the film off, that's how the whole development started and it was really a kick-start here in Sarajevo. We found one of our co-producers here. That's how the film sort of evolves. So, for us, it was ... it's something, you know... it's really great now that, two years after, we are here presenting the film in the competition, you know, after the way it started.

To me, for example, to this particular film that we did, it was ... it's absolutely ... you know, it was vital, the industry aspect of the Festival at Sarajevo, that we came here, you know, with a Greek project and we presented it to many people from other countries, you know so that we ... you know, it's sort of ... puts the project on the map. And that is essential for any region and for any film-maker. And it's great that it happens here.

There are some things in the film that can be very controversial and things that, you know ... I think that we already so far, what we see is that it really intrigues, you know, discussion and ... you know, it's very different kind of reactions to set an aspects, let's say, of the movie.

##### **5) BRIFF 2020 | Interview Konstantina Kotzamani (Electric Swan)**

"Electric Swan" is a film about Buenos Aires. It's a surreal portrait. And it talks about a building, of a bourgeois building that it moves. And it talks about fears, it talks about the fear of falling down and the fear of getting drowned.

The title was quite unexpected. Actually, it was the first inspiration for the film. And, I mean, I had ... I had a surprisingly first experience in Buenos Aires, when I first went to visit the city. And I was in ... in the lake ... in the lake of the park and where also it's in the film. And next to me it was a family of tourists ... a Chinese family. And we were staring at the lake and we were both staring at the swans in the lake. And, suddenly, one ... one of the family of the Chinese tourists turns and asks me if this one is electric or not.

I was quite shocked by the question. But they explained to me that in their hometown, they ... they kind of use this kind of electric miniatures in their parks for the tourists. So, I was ... I was quite fascinated by the title and by the phrase of an “electric swan”. And I thought that it would be like a very, very nice title for a film. When I started writing the film what ... what really interested me was ... was like my first impression in Buenos Aires, I mean, when I started like meeting people and getting a bit deeper in the culture, I really realized how much the architecture, and also like the architectural structure of the city is something that actually portrays the different like social dynamic of the city. And it’s something that the “deportenos”, the people from Buenos Aires, I mean, really, fight for the houses, and also the scale of the houses. I find it quite interesting to show and to somehow to crystallize this metaphor with the building that moves and it’s ... and it’s ready to fall, and also its residents are ready to fall, because they somehow incarnate this ... this fear.

#### **6) Yorgos Lanthimos Talks ‘Love’ & ‘Suffering’ of Directing Process | Close Up**

Well, the thing is that I love things in every part of the process. And I suffer in every part of the process. So, it’s those little things, you know, when you’re thinking of an idea and you think you know it’s difficult. And, you’re trying. And then, you know, it feels like you found something in that moment. And then, you know, you start the writing process and it is really difficult. And it takes a lot of work and focus, and it doesn’t always work. But then, you know, you start reading something that, you know, you start feeling excited about making. And then, you know, you’re going to be soon confident, you know, to put it in production. Filming, I find extremely stressful.

No, it was just the constant part of it. You know, trying to get everything like Alfonso said before. You know, you’re filming something, you’re doing the scene, you know, you’re probably never going to come back and do something differently, and it’s going to stay there forever for people to watch.

Yes, that’s a bit of a problem. There isn’t such a great educational facility for film-making in Greece and there’s not ... there hasn’t been an industry for many years. It’s like individual efforts here and there. So, that’s a bit of a problem. I kind of learned the technical staff by reading American cinematographer, like going to the

newsstand and waiting when it would come to Greece and, you know. And I was fortunate enough that I started early on to direct commercials, and I experimented a lot and learned a lot technically. But on the actors' side of things, I was also fortunate enough, although I never intended to direct theater, to do plays in the theater in Greece, so that enabled me to figure out how I could work with actors and how to get where I wanted to get. And, in that respect, we do have a luxury in Greece and have like two, three months of rehearsal before we stage a play. And that was a very useful school for me.

Just how to go about, you know, asking them things, asking them to do things, to find indirect ways of showing them what we're trying to achieve, instead of trying to intellectualize it and analyze it. Yeah, try to work in a physical way, and if we could exchange two words only, and then be in the scene, that would be ideal. And, I think I've, yeah, that's how I go about directing. I try not to speak to them a lot and let them do the thing.

To be honest, it wasn't very different for me, and I again, it's that kind of differentiation, what is a studio film and what isn't. So, as long as I have the creative freedom that I need for each film, as Spike says, you know, whoever, you know, believes in the project and is willing to back you up, you know, it's a great opportunity to keep working. So, I really don't see it like that. I see, you know, the stories that interest me, the next film that I want to do, how I want to do it differently or the things that I want to develop further. So, it's all about that, and then, you find the appropriate people to support you and back you up.

Well, the fact that it was a period film complicates things, I think. And, it makes it more expensive. It was the most expensive film to date, but I ... what I find challenging ever since I started making English-language films is that, although, of course, I do have more means than when I used to make films in Greece, at the same time, they come with a lot of more rules and restrictions. And I'm always struggling to find the way of doing things in a different way, doing things the way that they fit the film that I'm making at the time, and not just because there's a system that works in a particular way to adapt the creative part to the machine. So, it's been ... it's been a struggle to find the ways.

## **7) Mario Frangoulis Talks New Album and International Career**

The difference is just geographical, you know. I think people are people and the experience is the same. Music does join the whole world.

I have had the pleasure of performing in the States many, many times. I've done more than a hundred and fifty concerts at least in the States, the whole tour with Sarah Brightman.

My new album is called "Beautiful Things". I'm very happy, because it ... you know, the whole story of the whole album is love. And love is the greatest gift that one can give to another person. And I think beautiful things are what we wish for, you know. We wish for clarity and beauty. And I think beauty ... you have to truly be aware of beauty all around you. And this is what I was raised to believe. I was raised to believe in beautiful things and beautiful people, beautiful hearts. And, you know, my album has been released since last November. Greece was the first place that it was released, because I feel the loyalty to Greek people, in the Greek spirit. And I am proud to be Greek.

I have a second base apart from Athens, you know. New York is the second home for me. This is where I studied at the Juilliard School, you know, 1992 to 1995. I know a lot of people, a lot of friends. And my mentor is actually a great New Yorker, Marilyn Horne. And, of course, this is an amazing year, even though it's very difficult, I understand, you know, back home. And there's a lot of situation that we need to solve. And see ... you know, see ourselves through this situation. But it is important for me to be here at this time.

I'm performing in Santo Domingo in a few days' time. We are releasing the album in the States next September of 2012. Of course, Mexico is our next stop in March. I'm not sure exactly the date, but Mexico, Australia, Poland, London, you know, just a few places around the world ... Latin America of course, and, of course, the States, you know. I hope to be able to tour.

You know, I was born with a classical voice and this is what I do. So, I can't change my nature. But, in a sense, I love the idea of communicating with a bigger audience. And I think classical crossover music did just that for me ... you know, working with Justin Hayward from the Moody Blues, working with a lot of people in the pop world ... you know, recording with some of the greatest singers, you know. I'm very happy to be able to bridge the two worlds ... you know, the classical world and, you know, the pop industry, of course. When I was signed to

Sony, there was the great Tommy Mottola and the great Peter Gelb, who's now the head of the Metropolitan Opera. But once again, that was a great bridge of the two worlds. And I hope to be able to carry that through for the rest of my life.

I think Barbara Streisand was one of my dream duets as a child, of course. When they asked me at Sony, when I first signed with Sony Classical, they said who would you like to work with. Barbara Streisand was otherwise engaged, or maybe as not quite as committed to performing a duet with me on the first album. And sometimes, I dream. But Justin Hayward is one of the greatest rockers of all time ... you know, who composed "Nights in White Satin". And we had the pleasure of singing the song together as a duet on my first tour internationally.

#### **8) ESC 2017 - Interview Demy - Greece**

I'm feeling great, I'm feeling pumped, even though I've woken up till four thirty. But rehearsal went great. I'm really happy to be here. So, I have ... I have everything I want.

It went great. It went smoothly. Of course, we have spotted things that we have to improve. But that's why we're doing rehearsals. And it was, actually, really touching to see on the big screen, and, afterwards, on the hearing room that this is really happening. It was really nice.

Well, the song is about love and we wanted to make a stage performance about love. Fokas Evangelinos is director of the stage performance. And, you know, in love, you go through a lot of phases, when you fall in love. So, we start in a fairytale world, and then, I go up to the stars like love can make you go up to the sky. And then, it becomes more tense, as the music becomes more uplifting. And the boys, actually, the dancers embody love like through being swans, because they have ... they move like swans. And, you may not like, but swans symbolize eternal love, because they fall in love once in a lifetime. So, it was a beautiful message. And, actually, when Fokas Evangelinos told me his idea, I cried instantly. It was really beautiful. So, I was really happy to see it being, become like reality on stage.

No, that didn't happen. They form a big heart. So, the other ... they come really close with each other, but there were no kisses happening. I don't know about somewhere else, but I think it's really touching the way it is.

Yeah, she wrote part of the lyrics. The song, music-wise, is really ... expresses me a lot, but it's the lyrics as well that make it what it is. And talking about love, and talking about loving you and loving me, and you and me being one, and spreading love everywhere and spreading the message of love, being loved and loved, not knowing ... not making discriminations, not knowing boundaries and limits is really important for me. And that's why I'm really happy when I sing this song. Yes, and I really love this song from the beginning. And I really loved it a little more than the other two songs. So, generally, I trust the people. And that's why we put the songs in all this national final voting thing. So, I really believe that they made the right choice.

Well, Eurovision is ... Eurovision. We all watch Eurovision. I think very few people do not watch Eurovision. And I grew up in a country that really loves Eurovision. Generally, the media and the people, and we always are really careful about everything, with the entries and everything. So, I've always watched Eurovision, when I could from the sofa. But sometimes, the past few years, I usually worked, so I watched the next day. And, you know, it's really amazing for an artist to imagine himself, herself. And on the stage it's the biggest thing that happens in Europe.

I'm not sure if this is the summer and the time to finish. But maybe, on September 8, we have exams, because there are a lot of things going on here. You know, in Greece, we have the chance to not sit for exams like now, and say, for example, in September. So, I think this is what I'm going to do. Only five subjects are left. So, courses ... courses. So, I think I'm going to take the degree, but not be a lawyer. Sure. For sure, everything is the way I dreamt it in Greece, and being here in Eurovision, so, I'm going to keep doing what I do, because I love it.

Well, I think we should not have to be fighting for something like that. It's what I said before. It's being yourself and accepting yourself, and accepting somebody else, because they're themselves. So, it should be more simple. But it's not sometimes. So, that's why I have to talk about that and fight for it. But, because I sing about love, I think it's highly connected. And love is love. So, we should accept love in all its forms.

Oh, you have to meet Athens. So, and you know, from Athens, you can get to visit the islands.

## 9) Nikos Vertis Interview Romania

It was a big surprise for me to hear from the production that we're going to play on the second day. And this second day is sold out ... amazing.

I don't love to be famous. I don't love to be famous when I'm off the stage, to tell you the truth. I always say, from the moment that I started my career, if I had a button, a red button, to push on it when I am off the stage and nobody knows me, I will push it every day.

Because I do what I do, because I love music. I do what I do on stage, because I love this moment on stage. But when I'm off stage, I prefer not to be ... yesterday, somebody showed me a group you have here, which is painted to the face and nobody knows their face. They are so lucky.

You have to always be very careful, because everybody has a mobile phone, everybody has a camera. If you are with your girlfriend, you have to be more careful. You don't need paparazzi anymore. I don't like to tell you the truth. I love to be in places, like a normal human being, with my friends, with my girlfriend, with my wife in the future, with my kids in the future, who knows ... and to have my own moment.

I go to the mountain, I go to the sea, I love speed, I love cars, I love bikes ... everything with speed, I love it, from when I was younger. But, I also like to take just my bicycle and to go for one, two hours around the sea ... just normal things. I always said that if I start to make a family, I want four kids. Every time I say to a girlfriend that I have, she leaves me.

No, I have just one brother ... older. But my parents ... my mother had four brothers and sisters ... my uncles ... and my father, three. And when we were home on Christmas, all the brothers and sisters, the house was full of people and it was beautiful. And this is what I always was jealous of. And when I was younger, I was begging my mother and my father to make me a sister. And they didn't listen to me.

Well, a friend, a good friend, was ... is building a half city of Canada ... and he and the mayor decided to give a street name. They came to my concert. And, after this, they decided to give the name to a street and they kept to me as a surprise.

## **10) Interview with Kostas Sommer**

I was in Greece. I started modeling around twelve, yeah. I did a couple of things over there. And then, I left. Actually, well, before that, I went into ... I started directing video clips, started directing commercials, stuff like that.

I started assisting around seventeen, and doing my own stuff around eighteen year. And then, about nineteen, I left for the States. I studied acting and directing at UCLA. And after that, I came for holidays, actually, to Greece. I landed a big part ... not a big part ... but I landed a good part, anyways. I started working in Greece. And then one thing led to another. And after that, I did a couple of very big Greek shows. I have very lucky. I was lucky enough, and blessed enough, to work with very great actors and have very good projects. One of them, obviously, you guys, know, it's "Agapis Mahairia". Another one is "Apostasi Anapnois". It was in MEGA. You guys, I don't if it is shown over here. You guys, have MEGA over here? So, probably, these are the two ones, you know. And then, I was coming and going to the States for many years. I did a couple of movies over there. I went to awards. I did a couple of shows. I did a couple of TV series in Germany. I did music. I did a song with Akon. I did a song last year, which went pretty well, "Party in Mykonos", with Rico Bernasconi.

Yes, we're planning on a song this summer, actually. But, we'll see what happens with that. You know, for me, it's not my main thing. For me, if I have a nice beat and I like it, I write the lyrics, we do the song, you know. I mean it's nothing ... it's not that I have to come out with one or two, three songs whatever the year.

Well, I'm an actor, you know. This is what I do. The others are spin-offs as you say. You know what I'm saying. So, it's just things that they come with the flow as I say. And things that come to me. I love challenges. So, soon as I get a challenge, I take it And, especially, if it's something good and it's something new to me, and it's an experience that I love ... yes, it's something that I like to do and opens up my horizons whatever. For example, what you earlier said, the "Extreme Sommer" thing. "Extreme Sommer" is something I wrote that was ... I was having this project in my hands for two years till I finally got the green light to do it. I got, you know, people to back me up, money-wise. I got a production company. I got all this stuff together. It's like a two-year project that we finally went to shoot the first episode.

I don't know. It's, I guess, what I do. I like doing this stuff. So, I like travelling. I like extreme sports which it's not always sports. It's sometimes ... it's just a situation, you know what I mean, like diving with a white shark for example. You don't call it a sport, but it's something ... it's an experience that I really would wanted to have. So, I wrote down like fifteen, twenty things that I'm crazy about and I really want to live, and have the experience to do it in my life. And I put all together and I made this show. And it went very well. We aired it in a hundred and fifty countries. And it's the first show that actually was Greek produced. It was produced in LA, but, you know, a Greek show that made it a hundred and fifty countries.

I'll tell you why. Because I believe Greece, right now, is in need of people who love the country, who love what they do, who love ... who want to give something back, put it this way. And starting out in something which is more like a city thing, it's more like a mayor thing, you can slowly build up into it and you can give back to your community, you can give back to your city, you can give back to your country. And, like I said, for me right now, it's very important that people step into politics, who are working, who really know what's going on the street, like you say.

To make a change, it's not that easy, you know. I mean it's not an ... it's not up to one person to make a change in Greece right now. To make change in Greece, it starts with the people, not with politicians. Obviously, a lot of faults have been done. A lot of things have to be done. I think it's already starting. For me, Greece right now is on the up and up, it's coming up. And I believe in a very bright future for our country.

I'll tell you what. I believe in the heart of every man, it's at some point to have an offspring, to have a kid, to have a family, to have a wife at home that, you know, that's a home. Obviously, it's something I want as well. But, you know, my life up until now has been a lot of travelling, a lot of, you know, a lot of career things which didn't let me go into as much as I would love to, and as much as I want to do it. If I have a kid at home, I don't want to have a kid and travel the world and see it like, I don't know, once every two months. So, I think, right now, I'm at a point in my life that I can start to consider doing something like that. Obviously you need the right girl for that. You need ... you know, you need ...

But, you know, I'm in a good state right now. I'm happy and, you know, I really believe I'm blessed. And I really thank God for everything that I did. And I said ... and I want to hope everybody's going to be well. And peace and love to everybody.

### **11) Entrevista Alexandros Avranas 'Love Me Not' (S.O.) - 2017**

The story is about a couple hiring a surrogate mother, she is an immigrant, to have a child. They seem to be very rich. They live in a vila, you know.

But, very fast in the story, we find out this wasn't the real purpose of the movie, of the couple. So, and the woman had a car accident and you find her burnt in the car.

The story is based on a true story, OK. Of course, we changed a lot with my co-writer to adjust, you know, the story. We put new elements inside. But I was very interested to have a mixture of somehow a wedding, of American cinema and European. That means using the story following the plot, you know, but still have the time and the moments to feel the characters and to go with them, not just coming after the story. You know what I mean. So, it was very risky in a sense, but I think it worked if I can see from the premiere yesterday.

It looks like a classical three act movie, but all the acts are based on the characters and the plot is totally different. You see, it's based on the truth, but you always find out that it's the biggest lie.

I'm looking for a story that has something to say. And in this specific movie I tried to provoke reaction, because I believe our society becomes more and more apathetic. So, this was ... talking about morality. It's one of the themes of the movie.

Art and society must come together all the time. You cannot make art if you don't speak about the society and their problems, or you don't try to make it better or to wake up the people or show what's going on. Not that you are the prophet or you know better, but you're sharing, you know, needs and also thoughts.

Greece has been in a very difficult situation for a long time now. And that's why, I think, we have the need to talk about it, and express ourselves. You know, Greece is an example of Europe. It's not that it is only a Greek thing. It's not like a dictatorship in Iran, you know. It's more universal I think.

I'm very organised, but this is only preparation to be ready for something new that happens. You know, this is the moment when ... also the actors, you feed them with a lot of information, with rehearsal, thoughts, feelings, ideas. But then there is a moment when they are staring at the camera, they retire. It's magical.

## **12) Eleni Foureira ist süchtig nach Sonne | Zypern | Interview | Eurovision Song Contest**

Oh my God. I've done a lot of jobs. My first job, it was when I was thirteen years old. And I had those papers, you know ... to give the papers to the people. None of my jobs I did in my life ... because we were poor, you know ... we came from Albania, we have nothing. So, it was difficult. None of my jobs were the worst, I think. Every one of them made who I am and made me a better person. But I think I was too young, thirteen, and maybe I was too young. But what could I do? We needed to have money. And I did that and my mother didn't know it and my father. I told her after.

Always was what I am doing right now. And it's not a job. This is a dream, but it's a job too, you know. So, I always dreamt of what I'm doing.

My favorite smell? I like the smell of flowers, always, and cinnamon ... but flowers more. I don't know, like when I smell flowers makes me feel so nice.

Michael Jackson. When I was young, very young actually, I was thinking he is my husband, something. And I was thinking he is going to meet me and he is going to be in love with me. I was sure about it. And I was so in love with him. And I was like ... he inspired me a lot.

Bad flirting? A lot of that actually. You know, some people have no talent, you know, or some people they don't try and they are good on it. But I don't remember one actually, but there were a lot of them, not just one ... come on.

I am addicted to working out, gym ... so, crossfit. So, now I'm one and a half weeks here and I don't have time to work out. So, I'm feeling like something is going wrong, my back it's hurting me. I'm addicted to that. I'm addicted to the sun. I love the sun, I love being on the beach. So, when April comes, and in Greece, you see that sun coming, I'm like outside. And everybody's like it's cold ... I say I don't care. There's sun outside. And I'm in the sun. I can stay like hours in the sun. And I'm addicted to my dog, too.

I start working out for that, so I can handle all that, have breath for that ... and after I become addicted.

No, it's not enough. It's not enough when you do it always, you know ... it's like my body is used to it.

I don't know, a pineapple? Pineapple for sure. I love pineapples. I love the taste of it. It's so fresh, so nice. And, it's beautiful with the crown.

I'm workaholic, and I'm psycho, because they fix my hair and I was like I always have to see, or they fix my makeup and I'm always checking ... let me do this. And I always put my hands in the makeup, in the hair, but, actually, I'm doing nothing, because they already did it and did it very well. But I'm obsessed with, you know ... yes, I have to control everything and it's so bad. It's not because I don't trust them ... I always tell them I trust you guys, it is just I'm psycho, I don't know. I want to control everything and see everything is good, perfect, so I can be relaxed.

Oh my God. I will hang out ... can I say three of them or ten? For sure, I would love to meet Bruno Mars, the Weeknd, and Beyonce for sure. I would die to meet her. She is like a queen. Yes, a lot of them, actually. I am going to say just three.

Oh my God. I don't know what to try first. Heavy metal? Let me try the opera one. I don't know ... something like that, oh my God. First time in my life, I sang opera. Let me send that to the Estonia girl ... girl, take care because I'm coming with opera.

### **13) Alexis Georgoulis Talks New Role in ITV Series 'The Durrells'**

I'm on my way to Corfu. I am in a hurry to catch the plane to Corfu, and go there to start the shooting of my new production, "The Durrells". It's called "The Durrells". The new role that I do is the taxi driver, but not in this car. This is like a brand new car. It's a hybrid. And the car that I would have in the production, the model will be 1925. It's a TV series for the British TV channel ITV. The first season is for six episodes. It's a drama. It's a period drama, actually. It takes place in 1935. And the story is about a family that the mother decides to take the kids to, because the father is missing. Actually, he's dead. And they go to Corfu. It's about forty-five percent in Corfu, and the other in London.

My role is a taxi driver. I have a special relationship with the car. Actually, my car is my alter ego. My name is Spyros Halikiopoulos, and I'm coming from Chicago.

I went there. I worked as a driver over there, and I got a car from Chicago. And I got back to Corfu.

I don't try to work in a specific place. I like to travel a lot. And, you know, work wherever I would like to go in a way. So, last year, I was in Greece. So, I got a new movie in Greece, called "Marionetes". And, actually, we will be releasing the film this September. And I went to find an agent in the UK. And after that, I got this job.

**14) TIFF 12: Athina Rachel Tsangari (THE CAPSULE) - The Seventh Art**

Dakis Joannou is a mega super art collector. And he has this project called the Deste Fashion Collection, where basically what he has been doing for the last years is inviting artists from different disciplines to choose five pieces of fashion or something resembling fashion, and then incorporating this in a piece of art. So, so far it's been a photographer, a painter, a poet, and it's the first time he collaborated with a filmmaker. So, you know, I really wanted to find stuff that was not haute couture per se. I wasn't interested in making, you know, fashion films. So, together with my assistants and researchers we looked online to find people, fashion designers who were working with the idea of clothes as sculptures. And, you know, that's how we kept going from one to the other. And there was one very important discovery which was Ying Gao. She is Chinese-Canadian designer who is based in Montreal, and she works with sensors and with interactive smart clothes. So, she donated to the collection this dress that reacts to light. It has sensors, and every time there is a light beam that's falling on its beautiful kind of orchidea like shape, it starts moving. So, then a combination of these clothes ... Sandra Backlund, she donated this amazing coat that's made out of human hair, that Ariane was wearing. Anyway, it was fun. And it was really like visiting a completely different universe that I had nothing to do with, and then figuring out what to do with this. It's almost like someone giving you five words and asking you to write a story. So, this was my limited dictionary that I had to transform and invest into a story. And then somehow completely intuitively I connected these five pieces with Alexandra Vasilevska's work. She is a tremendous Polish painter. And, so, I visited her in Warsaw and we discussed which of her paintings perhaps we could use in order to create a story, And then, you know somehow naturally, you know step by step, without actually knowing what we were going to doing in the end, the island of

Hydra came into play, the idea of a bunch of women trapped somewhere, and actually not being able to leave or stay alive or die. Then, those girls, those amazing talented actresses came aboard and somehow ... you know, it was almost like a game. And we shot in three days ... and it's a capsule, it's a capsule of something that ... of a bunch of different people who came together.

I was interested in exploring that. I've never done anything like this. And I'm more and more interested in the genre and working with the genre. So, I guess this is sort of my attempt at horror, fantasy, vampire, whatever. And also, I'm interested in the fact that this kind of literature didn't really exist in Greece. We never went through this like Victorian, although you know, we were part of the Ottoman empire back then, and we were hardly a nation, and we hardly had literature. But that island where the capsule was shot was a very important island for the independence of Greece, because lots of shipowners lived there, and they were the ones who led the revolution against the Ottomans. And there were actually a couple of women, you know, very powerful women, who were captains themselves, who led the revolution. So, there was this idea of captured women who at the same time are very strong and eternal.

#### **15) Tonia Sotiropoulou Berberian Sound Studio Interview**

So, Elena is the secretary of the studio. She is someone quite detached from emotions. And she is quite tough and arrogant, and is not really helpful as a secretary would be. I had so much fun with it that I enjoyed every minute of it and building up this character. So, it was absolutely wonderful. And it's a bit stereotypical in my head ... it was, in order to bring this character to life and I hope I did a good job. That's why it's so much fun to do. She is someone that, I think, would make people love through her behavior and response to people's demands. So, she was a wonderful character. I really liked her.

He is absolutely wonderful. And what I like about Peter, of course he is an acclaimed director and he is really magnificent ... but when he ... through the interaction he has with actors, what is so great about him is the fact that he lets you do your own thing and he doesn't interfere with your performance. So, it helps you accomplish what you want to accomplish through the character. And it is absolutely wonderful to have the freedom to move around and, you know, create it yourself.

He is absolutely amazing. And he is one of the actors that I've always admired very much, because he transforms so easily from film to film. And, you know, it was a big lesson for me working with Toby, and the fact that he is so professional, so relaxed and so human. And it was wonderful. I'm honored to be part of this film and have Toby Jones play with me. So, it was great.

I cannot really talk about it, just yet, but thank you so much for asking me the question. Sorry.

Well, Sam Mendes was definitely one of them. I really love Spanish cinema. I really love Almodovar. I love films ... I really love films. And I really hope I'll be able to continue working in them, you know, and moving forward and working with wonderful directors as I've been blessed enough to do it so far.

## Athletes

### **1) MEET THE GOLDEN GIRL OF GREECE ANNA KORAKAKI**

Well, it was amazing. I actually ... I expected to win a medal in the Olympic Games, in an air pistol. But, it was actually ... the happiness was double, because it came in a sports pistol as well. So, it can ... you can only have amazing feelings, you know, like happy, excited, proud and all of these.

Well, actually, there are not many differences ... because the facilities are the same, I can say ... all sports. So, the difficulties are many. But since you have no other choice, you have to train as much as you can.

Well, it was difficult, because I had to prepare for the World Cup finals in Bologna last year, the same competition like this one. So, I really needed the training place. There was none. So, we went into storage. We adjusted the place. We trained. And then, we went to Bologna. I won the medals again, thankfully. We're still there, to be honest. Yeah, we are trying to make the place the best we can. But, yes, since I have no other choice, I can only train there.

Well, I was... yeah, I was very disappointed. I was sad. I was a bit angry ... I can say so. But, yeah, he did it for his reasons ... I mean the mayor. And I could do nothing. I could just take the things and build it on my own again. But, yeah, we tried to find a solution for Bologna as I previously said.

Well, no, that's actually not true. No. My pistols were ok. I was really helped. I was supported by the companies Steyr and Pardini that I shoot. So, it was ... I was really OK. I had the best pistols then. So, my preparation at this point was OK.

Well, we really had a proper preparation, even though the difficulties were many. But I really believed in myself. I ... my training was perfect, beyond perfect. My confidence was at really high levels thanks to my coach. So, that's it. I needed nothing more, actually.

Well, it was actually the facilities as I said. It was really difficult. When it was raining, we had to get into the car and wait for the rain to stop. When it was sunny, we were almost burnt ... so, yeah, because there was no roof for twenty-five meters, actually. So, that was difficult.

I have to say that, for the facilities, the things are the same. I'm in the same places as I was before. And for twenty-five meters, I was a little worse than the previous

one. But yeah, I can do nothing as I told you. I only have this training place. So, I make the best I can ... to make my training.

Well, hopefully, I have many more to go, again. So, I expect more medals. I aim to do this. We always want the best. So, I hope that I will get the proper preparation again and ... like the recipe we had for Rio, I can repeat it again.

No, first of all, I have a second match, the day after tomorrow. So, I really hope that I can get something better then. For today, no, I wasn't disappointed, because I made mistakes. I wasn't in my best day, too. So, there were many things coming together that didn't help me to go some ... to jump some places more.

Well, it's not a thing of proving someone wrong or right. It's ... I find it as a motivation, you know ... especially for the Greek athletes and the Greek young shooters ... that, you know, the perfect shooting range, the beautiful shooting range won't make a shooter since you have your target. You must not care about everything around. So, I found it as a motivation, you know. And yeah, when I cried, I was really emotional, and all these things came to my mind, like flashing within seconds ... of all these years ... the bad times, the good times. It was, you know ... and you have an explosion of emotions that moment.

## **2) Eleftherios Petrounias (GRE) Interview - 2017 World Championships - Rings Final**

That was really weird ... I'm sorry ... because I think it takes three minutes to change totally... to go in a totally different hold with totally different lights and just make a touch for warm-up, and go up and make a routine. It makes you run and it's dangerous in gymnastics to go, to do a routine and running. But, in my case, I was the very, very first athlete, actually, second athlete with my teammate ... and the rings have no chalk, the baguette had no chalk, and these took the time that we needed to prepare for a routine ... so, nobody moved for me. But it's OK. No, I mean I just want to check the lights always. Rings, more or less, are always the same. With just a swing, you can understand what's going on. So, just for the lights, that's the problem.

Yes, it was because when you're already ... first of all, when you already have the title, you feel more weighting your shoulders. But the athletes were better. They were better than Glasgow ... and then Tokyo also. Abliazin and the Chinese, they were really strong. So, I think there was a strong competition and ... I would also

like Samir on the podium, because he did an amazing routine, an amazing try all this year, after Rio and the injury. So, he is the biggest fighter I have seen in gymnastics I think.

Oh, yeah, yeah. Ioannis is the ... we have very ... many mutual friends, so, we are a lot of times in Athens, in the same company. We have known each other for many years. And he is ... he was ... he was always an idol for gymnastics, in Greece ... also Tampakos. We try to follow their steps, and even if someone does more things, he still has the same idols, you know, what I mean.

Yeah, yeah. He texted me today, in the morning, for good luck and everything. He will be probably somewhere outside and waiting with my Greek teammates.

It looks like the first year, after the Olympic Games, went well. So, I think I will do my best to handle that. It's not easy, of course ... not on rings, but in every sport to defend the title, just keep going on like nothing is happening. So, I will do my best to handle it. The first year went well. So, European, World ... I'm happy with that.

Except I got one or two, three more sponsors, the main thing, the biggest gift that I have received from the medal in the Olympics is that the gymnastics clubs, they were full again of kids ... it's like everyone wanted to do rings. So, that's the biggest gift, when you ... and that's the reason, one of the reasons that I'm competing ... to push the kids to the sports, and, especially, in gymnastics ... or anyway. So, I think that's the biggest change in my life ... that the people are coming and saying without expecting something and they are saying "Bravo", "Congratulations", "We are proud of you", and a lot of things ... and the kids going to the clubs, doing gymnastics. That's two big things. You don't need a lot of ... many things more.

I love what I do. When I have holidays, after three or four days, I want to do something, especially in the rings. So, I like to work a lot ... my sport and on rings. And I'm ... even if you have weight on the shoulder, if you work a lot and believe in that, and love what you do, everything is going to happen.

I think it was the most difficult competition of my life, because, as I said, the athletes were really strong. But the biggest pressure was, of course, Rio. It's normal.

### **3) Ekaterini Stefanidi**

I'm very excited. I think it's ... I mean it's a huge honor for me, like I said earlier. I have, actually, followed the awards for many years. I forgot to actually say on stage that not only I never believed I'll win it, but I never believed I'll be invited to even attend, you know. It's truly an honor ... and even more special, because I really knew what awards were, meant and who has won it in the past. And I think it is really great for my country. I'm the first Greek athlete to win it. So, I was ... they're all very excited. They're proud. And I hope that it will bring more young kids into the sport ... and, maybe, more females, too, into the sport.

It has. You know what's funny ... I got to about ten consecutive wins until I realized that ... oh, hey, I have no loss for ten meets in a row. And I didn't even realize until we read it somewhere. I mean we went into every meet. Of course, in every single meet, no matter how, you know, big or no big it is, we want to win. We went in focused. I was ready. I was consistent in training. I've been healthy. I'm ... all these things matter. And I think a lot of what matters is luck, too. I think I was lucky a few times and it worked out.

Yeah. I, actually, think that women pole vaulters, now, have a much better relationship than they used to as you said. I mean, of course, Sandi. She has been the silver medalist this year and last year. So, I have ... I mean I have to say Sandi ... but I will say that, probably, my toughest competitor was Lisa Ryzih in the indoor European Championship. She pushed me so much I had to pass from four sixty-five to four eighty-two, to, actually, be able to win or at least take an attempt that will be a winning jump. So, I mean Sandi has pushed me in very ... in many meets, many years now. But I would say that Lisa pushed me the most on that particular moment.

You know, a lot of people asked me that, but I, actually, think it's a lot more motivating to ... or to I guess it's a lot easier to stay motivated when I'm winning than when I'm losing. I would say I've had a lot harder time in the past, when things weren't going well to come back. I think it's a lot easier when things are going well. You're healthy. Training is going well. I mean it's ... it seems to be a lot easier. I've had a couple of good years in a row. I know that there's good and bad times. I've been through the bad times and I'm sure I'll be through them again. But I think, for us, the most important thing is to stay healthy. I think it's way more

important to be healthy and at eight-five percent, than at a hundred percent and injured. So, that's what we strive for.

You know, I grew up in a very track and field family. Both my parents were on the national team. They didn't really compete at a senior level, but they both competed at a junior level ... I think it was the highest then. They were both very talented. So, I grew up in that kind of family, where we always watched track and field. We ... I mean I really ... I truly think that, at six or seven years old, I started going to like track and field competitions or even compete if they had for young kids. And so, I grew up around that and I think that alone ... I think it raises respect for the sport. And it's, actually, funny, because my coach many times says that I would have already broken the world record if I didn't respect the sport so much. But to me, it's really important. I grew up in a time where four sixty was a great mark for women pole vaulters. So, for me, a few years ago, four sixty was a huge mark, because it gave gold medals or medals and many major championships. So, I think it definitely was my family and growing up into the sport that gave me this kind of respect for all the athletes in the sport itself.

#### **4) Stefanos Tsitsipas - Press Conference after Round 4 I Roland-Garros 2020**

Andrey, we grew up playing together. And he has improved a lot. And we've played each other many times. I think he has a positive record against me. So, going inside that match in two days, it is very important for me to take this opportunity and fight harder this time, and, maybe, do something better. I know he is ... yeah, he is a tough cookie, to ... as Babsi once said. He is going to be difficult to play against. He has a very complete, solid game from all the departments. He has a very ... he has improved a lot. So ... he relies a lot on his power. He has very powerful shots. We have ... share a similar game style, I would say. Mine would probably be more like coming to the net, using the angles a bit more. So, yeah, he is a very challenging player to play against. And I think he, for sure, brings the best out of me, when I step out on the court to play against him.

Every match counts. I'm ... you know, when I go on the court, every match has its own value, its own worth. And it was a very good lesson for me in the first-round match. And, obviously, you do want to avoid as much as possible, situations like this. I think I was just more awakened on the court, and more responsible for what I was doing. And that is also the reason why I've been doing well ... so well in the

last nine sets that I've played. And my game is very aggressive. My game is there. My understanding of what I should do is relatively correct and accurate. So, as I said, it's going to be a difficult challenge. I'm not expecting things to get easier from this point, for sure. Every single round is going to be more difficult than the previous one. And it doesn't mean that if things are this way right now, they are going to be a different way later or tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. It's ... yeah, I keep learning every day, and I think applying that to my game as much as possible, being responsible and being aware of all my choices and decisions on the court.

#### **5) Interview: Diamantidis - Panathinaikos B.C.**

We know that we must win at least one game, because we lost the home advantage three days ago. We know that we had to face one very good team, a very difficult gym, and a large crowd. You know how it is over here. So, we must be concentrated and we're trying to give our best to take at least one win.

It's ... there are two teams that everybody knows, traditional teams, good teams, with many presentations at final fours. So, I think it's a very good couple for the people, generally, to see the games. From our side, you know, our target is to go to the final four. Of course, it's ... this is very difficult. We know that we have to face a great team that's all are very good players, good coaching staff. So, our target is very simple: that we want to win.

No, I don't feel something different. In every game, I want to win. All the opponents, and, generally, in Euroleague, there are very good teams, so, our target is always to win the game, it's not so easy. So, for me, it's not something different when we play against Maccabi. We want to win. But, of course, we know that Maccabi is a very good team. So, we must fight too much, then, to go to the final four.

Last year is past. We beat them. We took the Euroleague title. Now, it's a new series. We want to take three wins in the final four. The series, now, is one-one. We play at their home. It's very difficult here. We must be very concentrated ... and the only thing we have is how to win. Last year, it's finished. Now, we will have new games.

I think the most important thing for us is, from the beginning of the game, we must start very well. We know that the people here, they make a lot of noise, they have

enthusiasm. They give this also to the players of Maccabi. So, I think we must start very well at the beginning and we must be concentrated in small things, turnovers, rebounds ... all of these ... the small details that are very important for us.

Look, game ... the first game was, from our side, was very good ... you know, we came from the beginning, started pressing them and put them always in trouble. And the game goes well. But after, you know, the second game, we didn't start so good, especially and generally, we didn't play so much, so good defense. So, our focus is to be more prepared in a defensive role. We must improve.

#### **6) Pre-season Interview: Fotsis - Milano**

We are very happy, you know. It's a new season for us. We want to have a good season. We have, more or less, the same players and we played together last year. We have a couple of additions. They will try to help our team. We also try to help them. And I believe it is a big opportunity for us to do something good for this year.

I think it is an advantage for us, because we, now know each other better, because we played together, already, for one year. And, you know, for sure, we showed some things last year. We know where we are good at, where we are bad. And I think this year will be more prepared and more ready.

You know, this ... you know, in basketball, is a world where, you know, it matters what you do inside the court and not what you did in the past. This doesn't matter at all. You have to every night ... to give your best. You know, the team is and my teammates are very good and help me very much. And, you know, I give everything and I will do my best to help them also.

You know, the teams that most of them, they had ... they have a very good appearance in Europe late ... the last years. It's a tough job for us, but we want to see every game separately, to give our best and every night, and, you know, try for the victory against everybody.

We want to show, you know, our good face, and to have ... to play good basketball since the first game and the first group, because if you don't do well there, maybe, you do not have a chance to go to the top sixteen. So, we try to give our best since the first minute and every game.

## **7) Kosta Papanikolaou Talks About Life In The NBA + Greek National Team**

Well, it's been great until now for me. I had the opportunity to play a lot of minutes in the beginning of the season. Then, OK, we had two trades coming in, two great players. So, now, I'm in a position I don't know what's going on, trying to find my way back, you know. I had an injury, too. So, it was a tough process. But I'm doing great. I'm in a very competitive team, have great teammates, have great coaching stuff. I got a chance to work really hard. And I appreciate that. And I'm just trying to keep up with the work, you know, and get better ... so, be able to gain more minutes in the court.

Actually, coming here, I knew what I had to face, you know. So, I was kind of ready, you know. I was surprised, in the beginning, playing all these minutes. But now, I'm facing another situation ... you know, I was ready for it. I mean I know the NBA is a tough league, you know, to be on, and you need to be patient, and you need to work very hard, you know, to be playing and to be part of the team. So, all I'm doing right now is just to keep my concentration, and just try to work as hard as I can, so I am ready. That's all I have in my mind.

Well, of course, the speed of the game, it's a big difference, you know. Obviously, all the players here are very athletic. So, you have to be able to work a lot of hours in the gym, take a lot of hours with a strength and conditioning coach. And that's what I'm trying to do, so, I can get my body strong and be ready and ... I mean it's a big change. I didn't expect it to be that big. I know that the guys here are more athletic and all this stuff. But it's a really big difference. And I'm just trying to get to a good level of physicality and be able to give my fights in the court, you know.

Of course ... I mean this kind of competition is very really ... the level is really, really high. And, like you said, a lot of NBA players participate in it. So, I think it was a good test for me too. But it's not really how ... can really understand, how really high is the level until you get here, you know. I mean everybody keeps saying that, keep talking about that, but until you get here and you face it, you cannot really understand how high is the level up here.

Well, it's really nice, first of all, that the Greek basketball has some players now in the NBA. Like you say, it's Giannis, it's Thanasis, it's myself. But it also like Kostas Koufos and Nick Calathes in Memphis. So, I do not think that Greece had

before like five Greek guys in the NBA. So, that's really ... I mean at the same time. And I think that's very important for our Greek basketball and for our Greek national team, too, because all these guys, including myself, will take experiences to a higher level. So, we can get even better and go back to our team, the national team, and give a big push and big help for our country, you know.

Sky's the limit for this guy. I hope he ... stays healthy, you know, and keeps doing what is doing, because I know he works hard. I wish him all the best, because he deserves it. Him and his brother are both great guys. I had the chance to meet Thanasis way before Giannis, and I know what kind of kid he is, and how really loves to play basketball, and how he enjoys being good for his family. So, I really wish for both of these guys all the best. And, like I told you, first of all, to be healthy, and from there on, they have all the things that they need, you know, in order to be at a high level. And, I mean in the NBA.

We had the opportunity to speak a couple of times and during the national team with him, and with Nick ... Calathes and they give me some advice. Yeah, and they talked to me about some stuff and some things that going on here and I was, let say, a little bit prepared about it

Now, that's a whole like ... I don't know. I mean, right now, all I'm thinking is how I am going to make myself a part of the NBA, a part of this team, and just to keep playing here. This is just I have this challenge now in my mind, to keep myself in the NBA. So, that's all in my mind, right now.

#### **8) The Insider interviews - Theo Papalokas and Nikos Zisis**

Honestly, it has been a very strange year for me, because I started in a different team. I started from the very, let's say, early of the competition, from the qualifying round of Euroleague, Unics Kazan. Anyway, life brought me here let's say. I went to Fenerbahce in the middle of the season. And we achieved the main goal of our team, to advance to the final four.

Exactly, it has been some, let's say, crazy Christmas for me. One more time, I would like to thank my ex-team, because they allowed me to make this step. And, for sure, it has been a great opportunity for me to play for Fenerbahce, to work with coach Obradovic and to try to achieve this goal.

OK, for sure, many things change. First of all, somebody yesterday told me that, me with Viktor Khryapa, we are the only two players that have played in that final

four. So, that's ... you can tell that, you know, generation change, great players like you, like J. R. Holden, Trajan Langdon, Matjaz Smodis, David Andersen, we had back then with CSKA ... Ramunas Ciskauskas, don't forget. That was, let's say, our main core of the team. We had a great team. And also, I also see some differences. For example, this hotel ... they make a big reconstruction. So, it's much better now, let's say.

Like all Europe says ... knows, he's a great coach. He knows exactly how to prepare you, basically, not only for the games, but how to teach you the game, every single detail of it, in every practice. There is no day, let's say, that you can pass by the practice of coach Obradovic. There is always a big intensity. And also, he focuses so much on the details of the game. Obviously, for me, for sure, he is a very important factor for our team, because like you said, we don't have ... in fact, we have the less experienced team in the final four. So, I think having a coach like him, preparing us tactically, but also, maybe more importantly, mentally, is going to be very important for us, because he has been here forever.

Ok, maybe, it's a little tough to say in a short period of time. I think, for example, just to say, Turkey, for me, it's, let's say, the country that reminds me much more of my country, Greece. Really, we are so similar in every, let's say, aspect of life. Then, Russia is a little different for us ... for the people from the Aegean Sea and from the Mediterranean, you know. But it's a country with a big tradition. And, obviously, they have CSKA that is a team with so many final four appearances, a great team that we both played together, a very ambitious team that always tries for the best. Generally, Italy, for me, let's say, is my second country, let's say, because I live there for five years. And not only that I have won titles there. I really love life there. My first son was born there. So, I always have a very nice feeling being back there. Every country has its own characteristics, but all of them they are very ... are basketball countries.

Fenerbahce fans, first of all, from the first week that I have been there, I understood how important it was for them to arrive in the final four . It was a goal of a team for many years. And just I want to tell them that we are going to do our best for them and make them proud.

**9) Stefanos Kapino von Werder Bremen: Ich will spielen und bin nicht hier, um die Nummer zwei zu sein**

First of all, it is the trust that the club showed to me. And it was really important that after a short period, because I was injured the first six months, another word it was like almost five months of training, they showed me that they trust me. And it was ... this was really important for me. So, that was the main point.

My perspective is, as I always said ... is like I want to play ... I am not here just to be the number two. The situation is now with Pavlas. It's one of the best, if not the best keeper in Bundesliga, right now ... where it's a good concurrence between him and me and other guys, goalkeeper, other goalkeepers in the team. And I wait for my chance. I am always ready to play, but I wouldn't risk the projects, so go somewhere else and play. I like everything in the team. So, for me, it's important that I feel good. I work well ... with Kiki and Flo, and with everybody in the club. So, this is really important for me.

One hundred percent, yes. This is why I signed. It's the trust that the club showed me and I want to give them back. And I hope in the future that I will be number one.

It's always a competition. Last year, it was always ... it was again a competition. It's because he's playing and he makes good games, so you don't have to put him out. But I am always there to push him. So, I push him to the limit. He pushed me to the limit. So, I wait for my chance. And that's it.

We are really good colleagues like in the team. We speak all the time. We have really good chemistry together and all ... and with the other keepers also. So, yeah, we have a good relationship in the team.

The team is strong, because we have a really strong coach. This is the most important thing for me. Afterwards, we have the players. We didn't ... we lost only Max. And, for sure, it's a really big player. He was helping us a lot. But he makes his decision. So, we have to go forward, to look forward. And I think some players are going to come. So, I'm sure that we will be stronger than last year.

No, with Flo we didn't speak about this. Flo makes his decision. I will respect them. I'm here to play whenever he wants me to play. And, I know ... he knows that I want to play. But, for me, the most important thing is who is going to play to give one hundred percent for the team.

Yeah, it's not doing funny stuff. I'm a little bit funny as a person. So, yeah, you can say that I make fun with my ... the other teammates. Yeah, we have a very good relationship. But this helps me, because a lot of guys are like me in the team, so, we have good chemistry. This is the most important.

It's a combination. It's both. It's fast. He has strong feet. So, rocket is the best, I think, name for him.

#### **10) Kostas Tsimikas: The First Interview**

I'm very happy and very proud to be here. One ... for me, the biggest club in the world ... very honored to be here. And I will give my best.

From the start, I didn't believe it. But after, I was very happy and I was ready to come here and to play for this team.

After this game I was ready to come here ... prepare for all this challenge. And what I said before, I'm ready to play for this jersey.

My brother is a Liverpool fan and he pushed me to come here and sign. And me, from the kid, I would support Liverpool. And for all of my family, for my brother, we are very happy about this.

I think, until now, don't believe I'm here. And now, when I see the pictures, he will understand and I stand here and would be very happy.

As a player, I play left back. I give everything for ... in every minute for the team. Last year, we played very well. We were family. Was the best year for me. And after this year, I signed here. This is the best present for me. And now, I'm here. A new challenge and I'm ready to give everything.

It helps me a lot, because we also play in the Champions League. And I also play with English teams.

Yeah, and this league here I think ... I like it a lot. I watch it on TV. And always was one dream I had from a kid, to come to play in this league. And come through. Yeah, I believe I can ... with a lot of work and focus on what I do, what the coach wants and every day work hard in training. I can do ... I can be at the highest level. I'm very excited, because, for me, is one of the best coaches in the world. I'm very excited to choose me to be one of the left backs of the team.

It's one very good challenge for me. I will give my best to play. I know Robertson is a ... one of the best left backs in the world. But this gives me extra motivation to work hard.

I don't know yet. I have to speak with a manager and he will tell me what I have to do.

I hope to play on this pitch, first of all. Afterwards I hope to feel how the fans sing the song. I think I'm ready for this, and I hope this happens soon.

No, I like numbers. I took it in Holland when I played there. Next year in Olympiacos, and I wear it for two years, and now here.

To achieve the goals, to win the championship ... to win the league again, and to win also the Champions League.

To be close to the team, because we need them, and to sing for the team, and everybody at the end of the season to celebrate.

### **11) Vellios feeling at home**

Yeah, the weather is a little bit different. It's not like Greece. But I like it because it is football weather. It's for training and games.

I feel good ... I feel good to be back here. Also, the players and stuff make me feel nice already, feeling like home.

Yeah, I used to be here when I was eighteen. And I was here around three and a half years. It was nice those years. I learned a lot. And, now, I'm more experienced. I mean I learned some things. I go abroad again, go back home. And I feel OK to continue here.

I think the English football is one of the best in the world. It's very tough ... many goals ... is box-to-box. The way they play is one of my favorites. That's why I always choose England. England is one of my favorite countries about football. I think there are differences.

I also know Championship is one of the hardest leagues of the world ... is very tough ... many games. But, now, we also sign a ... the gaffer we signed is from Europe ... is French, and he's trying to teach us a little bit more with the ball. I mean technical things. So, I think we mixed everything and we got good results.

Yeah, also with the ball you can run also ... is more difficult for the players, I think. We just started. We have about one month before we start the league. The coach, so far, he would like to have discipline in the team. This is nice. So, I think we have a bright future together, the players and the coach.

I don't think we enjoy the pre-season, but we have to do this. We are professional. They pay us for that. So, we must be more focused than ever about the pre-season to be ready in the full season.

Of course, it's not the same as English football and the Greek football. But I knew about it. I mean I played many games in the Greek league, but also trained harder after the training. So, after the game to be ... my level higher, you know. So, I feel OK, until now. But I have a lot to give in this club, I think.

Yeah, when I heard about Nottingham ... first of all, I knew it about Nottingham Forest ... is one of ... is a big name in Europe and also in my country. First of all, I wanted to know if they truly wanted me. They said they truly wanted me. So, I also wanted to come to England. So, for me, Nottingham Forest is one of the greatest choices I ever made.

So far, I've been here for a couple of days here. I see the lads. We have a quality team. And, of course, I think all the lads want to go to the Premier League. We'll try our best. And we can't wait for the first game to start, show what we got.

As I said, I wanted to come here, because I used to be here for about three and a half years. When I came, it was a little bit difficult the first months, but I got used to it. So, the first day here, I truly enjoyed it. So, I feel nice already.

Exactly, exactly ... all the players who want to start play the friendly games to be fit again and start looking for the first game of the league.

## **12) Miltiádis Tentóglou (GRE) after first place in the Long Jump**

Thank you very much. I want to say sorry to my Greek team, because I scared them a lot ... and also my coach. I do not know what happened. The first jump was ... I didn't finish it. You know, it was a bad jump. And the second was a foul. So, I saw the first four guys that they had seven ninety or ... and more. And I needed to jump eight meters to ... you know, to stay in the competition and to give points to my team. And I am to jump eight thirty. I don't know what happened. I don't know. It was OK. It was good. I'm happy.

I didn't want to let them down, because I came here one of the favorites. My team is struggling and fighting to stay in the Superleague, right now. And it would have been bad, if I give them one point, or I don't know, three, four points. So, yeah, I managed to take the maximum points. And I'm happy.

Yes, I also jump eight twenty-two in Greece. I'm very steady in my jumps lately. And that's a good sign, because there is more to come. And stability is the key for great jumps.

I can definitely think that. I feel very good. I feel even better than indoors. But it just didn't come yet ... the big jump. But we're continuing. The season is ... we still have two months, I think, for the World Championships, and, still, got many competitions. So, maybe, it will happen.

No, I don't think about distances. I think about my technique and my feeling of the jump. And if you have that, and big confident, and control yourself, you can jump a lot. I never think about distance. Like this time, I just said myself do the jump like you're always doing, and it will be eight ten, eight fifteen. That's how I usually jump. And, yeah.

### **13) Kostas Stafylidis about win over Armenia**

It was a nice game. Armenia is one tough team. You know that. I think the pitch was not really good. And it was hard, for us, and for the Armenian players to play good, good football. But, OK, we scored a goal. We keep the result. And I think the three points are the most important always.

What a question? I cannot talk about your national team, because, you know, it is your club. I can talk just about my team. I think we were more ... how can I say it ... we had more discipline in our game. We fight until the end. You know this ... you have this feeling. This fighting spirit is always important ... OK, because I know we have the quality to play football. I think this was the most important. Fight until the end. We play good football, I think. I think, first half, the ball possession was like seventy-five twenty-five, or something. We tried to play. Yeah, as I said, happy with the three points.

My best friend, not teammate. Yeah, it's true. Yeah, of course. Before the game, I said to him we are going to win with two goal differences ... so, two-zero ... zero-two, one three. He said to me "no, no chance" ... you know, and stuff like that. And then, we bet. If we won like two goal differences, I have ... he has to go out with me and pay for one dinner. If not, I have to pay for dinner. So, now, I have to go back and pay for him, you know ... good food.

No, is a good player. Is a really good player. And not so ... you know, is always important if you are a good person. And this guy has both, you know. And I wish

the best for him. And you know, you always go inside and score the goal. This guy, one touch, first touch, he scored the goal.

With this injury, now, do you mean? Yeah, I think it's a small thing. Is not something big. It happens. Last game, against Koln. I think he will be back in ... maybe is, now, already back. It was something around five days ... the time, I'm not sure. And, you know, he will be back. We have good fitness coaches. They are going to help him. He will be fit in five days.

#### **14) Sokratis Papastathopoulos' first Arsenal interview**

I feel very good. It's my first day here. Everything is special, beautiful moments. And I'm very happy that I will be here for the next year here.

Arsenal is one of the three biggest teams in the Premier League ... and one very big club ... has a lot of fans ... very big history. And, what I said before, I'm very happy that for the next year I will be ... years I will be here to help the team.

A lot ... Vieira, Henry ... Pires also. It's a lot of players. This team every year, every two years has a lot of players that they write a big history here.

I spoke a lot of times. They said to me the best about this club ... that is one big family. And, of course, they call me also ... not every day, but they call me a lot of times to come here.

Yes, it's a little bit. But, you know, the ... it's also very beautiful that I come in one team, that I have also two players that we were together a lot of years. So, I know both very well and I'm very happy.

I am one normal defender that I like to defend. I like that my team doesn't take goals. I like the zero in the defense, of course. And I will do everything for help to achieve these goals.

Yes, of course. Of course, I agree. I think that the defender, he has first to defend, to protect the goal and after, if you can help us a little bit in the front for the game, it's good. But, first of all, is to defend.

Of course, now, I also have the experience. And whatever happened in the team, also in the national team, but also in my last club ... I was there to help a lot of players. Also, when they ask me about inside of the pitch, outside also ... when they ask me some things and I was here every time. No, this ... I think this is the leader. But the leader has to be first in the pitch and after out of the pitch.

**15) Je veux marquer des buts pour aider mon équipe! la première interview d'Efthymios Koulouris**

I feel already inside of the team. In the start, it was difficult for everybody. And, now, I feel good. I come inside to the team with the coaching staff, with the players having a good relationship. So, it's important for me and for the team as we are here in the training center. So, we are together, and every day, we are getting better and better. And, for me, it was ... it is a very good day for me to be inside of the team and to recognize what is to lose and what coaching staff ask for me and for the team also.

Not yet, you know that these are the first days of preparation. We are tired also. We have some games like training to be one hundred percent fit, because we do a lot of training. We are working very hard. And for me, and for the team, and for the coach also, the most important thing is to be ready for the championship. This is the most important thing. And I think it's important for us to come to automatism and to be better and better. So, in a few weeks, they were going down. So, we must be ready. It's more tactical. And I think we will be ready in the first match of the champion.

It is a bit different, yeah. It's true. We work so hard. It's more hard work. It's another championship. It's a tough championship, and we work. But we don't have any problems and the work that we did it's so good. We work hard and sometimes three times per day. That's why in some games we are not finally ready for this. But they are friendly matches. We can see our problems, our tactical problems and, in a few weeks, we are one hundred percent physically. This is what we want as a team, to be ready for the championship. Is the most important thing.

As a player, they will see and see what I am. But, normally, I am a striker that loves goals. I want to score. I want to be in the box. I really want to score a goals ... a lot of goals, to help my team.

As a man, I'm really ... I'm calm. I want to enjoy the life of France. The people are nice. And I hope to be good as a player, first of all, to help the team that gives me the chance to come to France, to give me the chance to wear this shirt. And I'm really proud of this. And I want to show on the pitch also.

