



Newly Elected Greek Prime Minister Demanded to Impose Additional Austerity Measures

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/12/alexis-tsipras-pledged-to-end-austerity-now-he-is-asked-to-sign-up-for-more>

Following his election on 25 January 2015, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has pledged to pursue anti-austerity measures in his political manifesto following a failure in the Greek parliament to elect a new president. Tsipras was reelected on 20 September 2015 winning against the New Democracy party under his Syriza party. The Syriza has just won over 35% of its previous result beating the conservative New Democracy who obtained 28% of votes. This is short of a majority win, however Syriza will form a coalition with the nationalist Independent Greeks.

Tsipras' reelection is following a new €85 billion bailout agreement between Greece and the European Union which provides for increased taxation and new spending cuts. The current austerity measures, which was intended to cut spending, has also taken its own toll in Greece's economy. In

interviews prior to the election, Tsipras reaffirmed the importance of the bail-out deal claiming the deal is an important factor that will allow Greece to retain its usage of the euro. Yet, Greece still faces considerable economic challenges. Being still in recession, the Greek government has to satisfy international creditors that is fulfilling the terms of the €85 billion bailout. Creditors are due to review the progress of the program in October.

However several members of the Eurozone have expressed ignorance whether Tsipras will follow through on its promises. Germany, Finland, and other countries of northern Europe have made it clear that they no longer trust Greece fulfill its promises and have lost patience with Tsipras. In the face of their own domestic pressure, they intend to keep the euro intact however at the same time would not want to

face the consequences if Greece secedes from the euro. Germany, being the Eurozone country with the most stable economy, has always been consistent in proposing a fiscal union, with a mechanism for moving resources from rich to poor parts of the single currency in return for the willingness of individual governments to accept rules that would enforce budget discipline.

Meanwhile, France and Italy have expressed support towards Greece. The two countries understand Greece's position, seeing the dangers of austerity where Greece is suffering from the biggest drop in output and the largest amount in budget tightening, whereas opting not to impose austerity measures would be dangerous in terms of spending in the long run.

(RM)

Australian PM Tony Abbott ousted by Malcolm Turnbull

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-34245005>

Tony Abbott was ousted as leader of the centre-right Liberal Party by Malcolm Turnbull. Abbott, who had been plagued by poor opinion polls, received 44 votes to Turnbull's 54 in the last party leadership ballot. Turnbull is set to become the new Australian Prime Minister due this turn of events. The new leader will be Australia's fourth prime minister since 2013. The prime minister-elect is expected to be sworn in after Abbott officially writes his resignation documents to Australia's governor general. In Australia, the prime minister is not directly elected by voters but is the

leader of the party or coalition that can command a majority in parliament.

Earlier, Abbott had dismissed rumors that his leadership is about to be challenged as mere "Canberra gossip". However, it turned out that Abbott was ultimately ousted by Turnbull, a fellow Liberal Party politician. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop is also voted to remain deputy leader of the party. Bishop stated that she supported Turnbull's bid to a leadership challenge. Turnbull praised his predecessor for his "formidable achievements" as prime minister, when asked to speak following the

announcement of the voting results.

Malcom Turnbull previously served as Minister for Communications under Abbott, before resigning to launch a leadership challenge. Turnbull holds views that are considered unconventional even within his own coalition, such as his views on climate change, gay marriage and making Australia a republic. He led the Liberal Party in opposition from 2008-2009 - but lost a leadership challenge to Abbott by one vote. He previously worked as a successful lawyer and businessman - defending former British spy Peter Wright in the "Spycatcher" case in the 1980s.

Turnbull said Australia needed to have "the economic vision, a leadership, that explains the great challenges and opportunities we face". He further said he would lead "a thoroughly Liberal government, committed to freedom, the individual and the market". Turnbull stated that the decision to launch a leadership challenge was not a light one, but that it was "clear enough that the government is not successful in providing the economic leadership that we need". Turnbull had said if Abbott

remained as leader, the coalition government would lose the next election, which is likely to take place next year.

The last Australian prime minister to serve a full term was John Howard, who left power in 2007.

Labor Prime Minister Julia Gillard was ousted by rival Kevin Rudd in a leadership vote in June 2013 - months before a general election won by Tony Abbott's Liberal Party and its coalition partners the National Party. Gillard herself had ousted Rudd as prime minister in 2010. Turnbull had previously been leader of the Liberals while in opposition, but was ousted by Abbott in 2009. Abbott survived a leadership challenge in February, but his government has consistently been behind the opposition Labor Party in opinion polls.

Abbott has not spoken publicly since he was voted out by his parliamentary colleagues. Current opposition leader Bill Shorten tweeted that "Australia does not need another arrogant, out of touch Liberal leader - Australia needs a change of government".

(RW)

Austria Imposes Border Controls over Influx of Refugees

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/hungary-declares-state-emergency-refugee-influx-150915081707010.html>

Austria has imposed new restrictions at its borders as means to deal with thousands of immigration passing through it to reach Germany. In recent days, thousands of refugees have tried to migrate into Austria through Hungary. They are trying to get to the border before Hungary decide to close its border with Serbia. Hungary had declared a state of emergency earlier, and shut its border with Serbia leaving many desperate refugees stranded at the border. According to the police report, more than 10.000 people have been detained for illegally crossing the border from Serbia. Over 200,000 refugees have reached Hungary so far in 2015, nearly all by walking across the southern border with Serbia. On the last day before Hungary sealed off its Serbian border with a razor wire fence, a record 15,700 people arrived in eastern Austria via the border town of Nickelsdorf. Some 2,500 people spent the night in tents at the Austrian border, which had been set up by the country's army.

Hungarian Prime Minister

Viktor Orban has indicated that asylum requests from refugees trying to enter Hungary from Serbia will be rejected. The rationale is because Serbia is a safe country where refugees do not risk war or persecution. Orvan stated that the border will not be sealed hermetically. He stated that Hungary is simple enforcing the laws that is already in force. Hundreds of refugees between the border of Hungary and Serbia carried handwritten signs and shouted their plea to authorities to let them through the gate.

Meanwhile, Serbia was talking to the Hungarian government about the build-up of refugees on their frontier, a Serbian government minister said, adding Budapest would "have to open the border". UNHCR spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said that it is likely that thousands of refugees will simply divert their route now that Hungary has closed its border with Serbia. UNHCR is ready to move and assist different countries.

Fewer refugees crossed into

Austria from Hungary after Budapest started to clamp down on the flow through the Balkan Peninsula to the richer countries of northern and Western Europe, Austrian police said. Hungarian police said

on Tuesday that two crossings on the border with Serbia have been closed to all traffic as stricter rules about the entry of migrants are applied.

(RW)'

The 5TH EU – Korea S&T Cooperation

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?pg=korea>
http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/policy/eu-korea_jstcc_statement.pdf
<http://www.access4.eu/southkorea/626.php>
<http://gridatasia.ercim.eu/images/seoul/pdf/Joo-HanKim.pdf>

On 15 June 2015 European Union (EU) and Republic of Korea formed the 5th Science & Technology (S&T) Cooperation committee, which was held in Seoul, South Korea. The meeting was chaired by EC Director-General, Robert-Jan Smits and Korean Vice-Minister, Sukjoon Lee. The S&T Cooperation agreement itself was concluded in the beginning of 1990s, which becomes the first contact between Korean and European researchers and the S&T authorities. Since the conclusion of the S&T cooperation agreement in 1992, both parties held five joint seminars on S&T until 2002, which resulted in the inclusion of a Framework Agreement on Trade and Cooperation.

Since the beginning of the EU and Korea Cooperation on S&T, numbers of Korean researchers were increasing in the European research, which covers various different types of major research areas of common interests. This is supported by the cooperation facilitation infrastructure. In 2006, EU-Korea S&T cooperation has much progress in 2006 which they have conclude several agreements on cooperations, such as:

- EU-Korea agreement on GALILEO Project, concluded on 9 September 2006;
- EU-Korea agreement on ITER Project, concluded on 21 November 2006;
- EU-Korea cooperation agreement on S&T and Fusion En-

ergy Research. Concluded on 21 November 2006;

- Miscellany cooperation agreement between Korea and CERN;
- Miscellany protocol on cooperation between Korea and Romania in the Field of Scientific;
- Miscellany Technological Development.

Other than agreement on cooperations, both parties had held large-scale events for promoting S&T cooperation, such as:

- Korean and French Science Weeks to celebrate 120th anniversary of diplomatic ties;
- Opening ceremony of the German government 's Research Marketing Korea Campaign;
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of MOST's visit to EU member countries (i.e. Germany, Sweden, Romania, Finland, France, EU Commission);
- Held Science and Technology Joint Committee Meetings with Germany, UK, Italy, and Switzerland; and
- Held Science and Technology Ministerial Meetings with Germany, Sweden, Romania and Finland.

To intensify and strengthen S&T cooperation between EU and Korea, as well as to develop sustainable cooperation strategies, EU along with Korea have launched KORANET, KESTCAP, and KORRIDOR projects. However, out of three of the projects mentioned above, EU-Korea collaboration projects are only two of them, which are:

1. KORANET (Korean Scientific Cooperation Network with the European Research Area)
2. KESTCAP (Korea-EU Science and Technology Cooperation Advanced Programme)

Other than the abovementioned projects, EU has also included Korean researchers into the EU programmes such as the EU-REKA Multilateral International Collaborative R&D Programme.

At the 5th EU-Korea S&T cooperation meetings, which was held early in the year 2015, both parties had emphasized the importance in continuing and improving the framework conditions for EU and Korean scientists and researchers to work together. During the meeting, the Ministry of ICT and Future Planning of Korea and the Directorate General for Research and Innovation of the Eu-

ropean Commission had further testimony of the breadth and dynamism of the EU-Korea partnership. The meeting also concluded some agreed statements from both parties as to the planning of future activities in relation with S&T cooperation of EU and Korea, which stated that they would improve the framework conditions (1) by agreeing on early exchange of the maximum possible level of maximum programme information to enable provision of matching fund and to allow monitoring of cooperation intensity; deepening, scaling up and opening cooperation in selected thematic areas of mutual benefit (2) include the topics of 5G joint-call communication networks, internet and other facility for mobile cloud services. Both parties had also agreed to engage in similar activities of technology and processes for post and/or pre-combustion of carbon dioxide (CO₂), and other cooperation on technologies in the area of health and bio-medical; promoting researchers' mobility (3), this has been done since EU-Korea summit in 2013 with 2 past calls launched

and many researchers exchange; and emphasizing bottom-up type cooperation (4), bottom-up type cooperation is driven by more voluntary participation of private and public actors, which both parties have agreed to expand support for. Whereas, the opposite understanding of bottom-up type is the top-down type cooperation driven by government-to-government agreements.

Science and technology becomes more important for each day in human life. The sophistication of technology in today's era helps young generation to release their curiosity about life by having a direct access to the internet. It also helps experts, such as doctors or scientists in helping its patients with any health problems. Such cooperation should be done more often around the world to enhance the people's knowledge and to practice the creativity of the people. Science and technology has a role in making people's life better and easier.

(DMH)

Trans-Pacific Partnership to Southeast Asia

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/07/what-the-trans-pacific-partnership-means-for-southeast-asia/>
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/09/05/business/japan-u-s-agree-work-toward-early-conclusion-tpp-trade-pact/#.VfuLL2Sqko>

It has been more than 5 years ago that Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) was launched to negotiations by the Pacific Rim countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Brunei. TPP is a 21st century trade agreement, which include all of the 12 Pacific Rim countries in reaching a free trade deal. The agreement was established to seek lower trade tariffs, set a common framework of intellectual property rights, set a standard of labor law and environmental law, as well as to create an investor-state dispute settlement. The aim of the agreement is to enhance trade and investment between the countries, to develop the economic growth, and to support in maintaining jobs.

The TPP has succeed in one of the toughest congress of the US, the House and Senate agreed to grant President Barack Obama Trade Promotion Authority in order to be able to negotiate and

make trade deals with foreign countries rapidly. However, several group of people are opposed to such idea. This is because, the possibility of failing in such trade agreement with Asia, would let China to set global norms and its Commercial Trade Policy to a low bar standards of environmental both globally and nationally, neglect labor rights, and intellectual property rights.

Even so, a range of issues arises when considering the Southeast Asia countries in joining TPP, which will have major affect and reform the currency manipulation and regulation on their state-owned enterprises. Singapore as one of Asian “tigers” has a rapid in economic growth in the last half century resulted from the policies and high tariffs reducing foreign competition. Along with Singapore, Vietnam and Malaysia are also known as world’s highest tariffs and non-tariffs barriers against foreign businesses, thus a question raised on why these countries

are willing to join such free trade partnership? Notwithstanding the similarities of the countries' high tariffs on foreign businesses, Singapore could be the most trade dependent out of all three. This is because Singapore already has free trade agreements with most of the TPP countries on maritime trade and security.

Some experts argue that, Vietnam in joining the TPP will probably make Vietnamese exports even more competitive, however by joining TPP it will force the government of Vietnam to continue its fundamental political and economic reforms by permitting Vietnamese laborers freedom association and the right to form labor unions in order to meet the criteria of TPP. Similar will happen to Malaysia where the government will be forced to comply with global norms of human rights and improve labor conditions and the rule of law, especially in regards with the human trafficking as the country has not made much progress to tackle the issue. Brunei,

on the other hand, as the smallest economic country between 12 countries has recently introduced Islamic laws clamping down on gay rights and pregnancy outside marriage. It is to be seen whether negotiators wield enough to influence Brunei government to repeal its repressive laws to meet certain TPP expectations.

The changes to the countries whose economy development has been influenced from the export products and/or the high tariffs on foreign businesses will be hard to adjust by joining the TPP with such standards of criteria. Failure to encounter such criteria will bar the countries in joining the partnership and succeeding in meeting TPP criteria will bring the countries into a better economy development and welfare. Even so, it will be hard for those countries as they would have to change fundamental regulation and will also be harder for the people to adapt with the new situation within their countries.

(DMH)