

1998

# The Balkans and the Olympic Games: A challenge and an opportunity for the development of Greece

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## **The Balkans and the Olympic Games: A challenge and an opportunity for the development of Greece**

By Professor Const. GE. ATHANASSOPOULOS

During the last years there is a constant increase of the percentage of those who «proclaim» that Greece should «penetrate» politically into the Balkans; due to recent political changes, the Balkans offer the opportunity for various collaborations and developments.

If one tries to evaluate the relative Balkan figures, he should probably adopt the above mentioned point of view, realizing at the same time that Greece has already been delayed to involve herself in this attempt.

At this point we indicate some data concerning ten Countries / Areas (Albania, Bosnia, Ergegovina, Bulgaria, Fyrom, Croatia, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovenia): Population: 60.000.000 citizens. GNP of a previous year: 101.000.000.000 US dollars.

The participation of the Private sector (average) 43%. We should also refer to the following information: Albania: political problems. Bulgaria: improvement of its financial situation during the past months due to the significant financial aid that she received from the International Monetary Fund. Romania: political interventions / changes of a structural character, having as a result the appearance of macroeconomics data as negative. Serbia: evident improvement of the entrepreneurial climate.

These data, from the Greek point of view, favor a Greek expansion in the larger area of the Balkans. This expansion must take place, at three levels, in Greece as well as in the Balkans: the political, institutional and economic level.

At the political level, in Greece apart from Governmental action, the various parties should adopt a common position as to the necessity, importance, width, kind and size of the activities, (of the Public as well as of the Private sector), that will be enhanced supported and evidently will be financially covered if for any reason they fail.

Concerning the institutional level, beyond the correct measures, which are currently valid, more precise measures should be taken in favor of those that will attempt

entrepreneurial expansions towards the neighboring Countries: an example of these measures would be, regulations for the creation of various flexible entrepreneurial Agencies of activities and performances, regulations on security matters etc..

Finally, at the economic level, the Greek Banks and Insurance Companies should design policies and measures that would facilitate the Greek businessmen who plan to expand abroad. Therefore, we must not overlook the present situation in the neighboring Countries of the Balkan peninsula as well as the Countries of the

Black sea, which constitute, all together, the sole opportunity for the internationalization and expansion of the activities of Greek Banks and Insurance Companies; this attempt, if accomplished, will have a beneficial impact on the Greek Internal Market itself. The case of the French and German Banks, which have already «invaded» Hungary and Poland, is representative and very instructive; moreover the Association between Greek and domestic (of the neighboring Countries) interests is considered profitable and feasible.

Beyond those, if the development of the various Greek areas would be designed with a lot of attention (as in the case of nine Greek Prefectures-Magnessia, Boeotia, Achaea, Cozani, Florina, Drama, West Areas of Athens/Piraeus-) for which the President of the National Institute of Labor declared the application of the Local Agreements of Employment (September 1997) then, the attempt of the «exporters» of business activity from Greece towards the neighboring Countries, will be easier, since they will have at their disposal raw material from Greece as well as the Executive and labor Force (highly specialized) which will be trained at no cost for these Countries.

Finally, the undertaking of the Olympic Games of the year 2004 ad., by Greece, will «function» in a dynamic way, since it will create various obligations (constructions etc.) that our Country will have to fulfill.

The internal capabilities are there, the institutional and financial plans are feasible and the creation or the taking advantage of the opportunities seem ready for developmental leaps within the Greek territory and the successful «export» of positive entrepreneurial activity abroad. If the involved parties and those interested, show courage and consensus, then maybe the sequence of the values, as they are mentioned by Apostle Paul, may change and instead of Love being considered as the most important among the three, Hope will become the major issue, for a better future of this Country and of its People, who have constantly been deceived during the past and have waited far to long for a better fate...

ΠΑΝΤΕΙΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ  
ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΩΝ  
ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΩΝ  
ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΤΜΗΜΑ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ

ΤΕΤΡΑΔΙΑ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ

Βασίλης Δ. ΚΟΥΓΕΑΣ

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**Η πρόβλεψη κάλυψης  
των δημοσίων δαπανών που  
προκαλούνται από κανονιστικές  
προάξεις και σχέδια νόμων**

Αθήναι, 1998