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“INDIGNANT” PROTESTERS _ DIRECT DEMOCRACY TODAY

I have followed the events in Syntagma Square, Athens, Greece, for several days now. I spoke with several discharged citizens about the busted political system and direct democracy.

The following text is an outline of my opinion as an opportunity for debate . It constitutes the core of a proposal that could be implemented directly within the existing national and international legal framework.

The original thesis behind this proposal is that direct democracy is both necessary and a sufficient condition for the creation of an affluent society. A smooth transition to direct democracy is only possible, firstly, through the demolition of the structures of the existing political system, and secondly, by avoiding the bankruptcy of the country.

Direct democracy today means creating new structures for citizen participation in decisions, building on what was successful in the past using the technological possibilities of today.

For this purpose, the “Indignant” citizens, propagate the dialogue with civil society, beyond Syntagma Square, to squares of large municipalities, where they interact daily with citizens on perspectives and solutions to the problems of the country. Thus, they gradually evolve into cells of direct democracy.

The Indignant, pose an immediate and a medium-term objective:

The immediate objective is to exert unbearable pressure on the political system, aiming for funds that have been abusively transferred to foreign banks to return to the country. This way, a portion of these funds could be used to pay back debts, and the rest would finance the country's development.

The mid-term objective consists of creating structures and institutions for the functioning of direct democracy and constitutional revision. The key point is, on one hand, for people to participate in public matters as cells of direct democracy, and on the other hand, for leaders to emerge, partly by lot and partly by voting. Some elements of a first, open to improvement approach are:

1. In each municipality, citizens interested in becoming MPs, submit their applications electronically, and in a public event, candidates are nominated by lot. These candidates from all municipalities constitute a body that claims the vote of citizens. The MPs do not enjoy privileges apart from a decent wage. Their assets are posted on the Internet, and any increase is confiscated by the State unless properly justified.

2. The body of Parliamentarian candidates chooses the candidate Prime Minister as head of the ballot, with a four-year term.
3. Ministers are extra parliamentary. Their assets are controlled for life and confiscated to the exchequer, if not documented. The same applies to the Prime Minister.
4. Cells of Direct Democracy can make bills, seek a referendum, and attribute responsibility to leaders, something which is then examined by the Parliament and Justice.
5. Society, the State, the City and civil rights, are values that every citizen must respect and serve. Anyone who harms the public interest is severely punished.

Citizens, friends, Indignant citizens, this is a brief proposal to build smoothly the Direct Democracy of today.

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