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## *The True Church*

Louis A. Palivos



The True Christian Church is composed of all those persons who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. In this Church, belong the elect of God, all those who have believed in Jesus, woman, man, kids, and all the True Christians. The persons who belong to Jesus Christ's Church are the ones who have been washed by His blood; have been made Holy by the Holy Spirit; and have the Character of Jesus Christ. The first Christians were members of this Church, which met in homes: St. John's mother's home, Acts 12:12; Lydia's home, Acts 16:40; Aquilla and Priscilla's home, Rom. 16:3-5; Gaius' home, Rom. 16:23; Nympha's home, Col. 4:15 and Philemon's home, 2. See also, Acts 2:42, 5:42 and 20:20. These Churches were guided by spiritual "Elders," or in Greek, Presbuterous, Ἐνθά ὁ ὁδῶν ἱερεῖς.

It is a Church in which all the members share the same characteristics. All are baptized and "born again" Jn. 3:3, by the Holy Spirit. All have repented and believed in Jesus Christ. Their lives are holy. They avoid sins and love God. They worship God in different ways. Some worship by praying silently and some out loud. Some sit and others stand. All worship with one heart. All are led by the Holy Spirit. All are built on the same foundation, Holy Tradition. All believe in the Holy Bible. All are united in one center who is Jesus Christ. All can proclaim with the same heart, Alleluia! All can agree by saying, Amen!

This Church is dependent on liturgies or masses or services, and by its work for God and by its proclaiming the Gospel. The life of this Church is not dependent on being members of this dogma or that dogma, by baptism or by communion, but these are relevant and in God's will and grace. This Church has only one Head, one Sheppard, one Hierarchy, and He is Jesus Christ. Only Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are recognized by this Church, and its priest or pastors direct its members the way to Him. No one can open His door to Him, not bishops, not hierarchs, not counsels, not ecumenical counsels, but only Jesus Christ. If a person repents and believes, he becomes a member of this Church. This Church is "where two or three are gathered in His name," Mt. 18:20. Like the thief on the

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## *Lasting crisis with Ankara not ruled out*



The possibility of a lasting crisis with Ankara is seen in Athens as highly likely, if the diplomatic initiatives to de-escalate the tension do not yield any results.

Athens for its part is reportedly preparing for any eventuality, since despite his recent rhetoric in favor of dialogue, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has not sent signals to suggest the Turkish Oruc Reis research vessel will withdraw from the sea area in the Greek continental shelf.

According to close associates of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Oruc Reis is not conducting exploratory activities in the Greek continental shelf as it is accompanied by 10 Turkish warships. In fact, they add, the presence of the vessel in the area is more a "declaration" of Erdogan's claims.

However, this scenario of lasting tensions may change, as the European Union is launching efforts to defuse the situation and to ultimately bring Athens and Ankara to the table for dialogue.

The US is on the same course as suggested by the meeting that took place in Vienna on Friday between US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias.

The involvement of international players is seen as having been prompted and expedited by the risk of a military incident, after a collision between a Greek and a Turkish frigate on Wednesday.

Ahead of the Foreign Affairs Council teleconference on Friday, Dendias met with his Austrian counterpart Alexander Schallenberg in

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The True Church

(From page 1)

Cross, he may not have had the opportunity to be baptized. However, the thief had the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is superior to water baptism. He did not take part in Holy Communion, but he was synergistically part and parcel of the Body of Jesus Christ through faith, and no one can interfere.

In history and in many parts of the planet, Believers have been excommunicated, persecuted, and forbidden to go to this Church, but no one can forbid Believers to be members of this True Church.

This Church is not dependent on symbols, ceremonies, buildings, monasteries, pulpits, vestments, offerings, gifts, donations, encyclicals, governments, or any human organization; though, these may be relevant to living a holy life. A person is a member of this True Church even though he may be missing all the above. This Church is not the building or the dogma. The members of this Church have many times in history been the subject of persecution and martyrdom; because, they elected to remain faithful to Jesus Christ. This Church is dependent on its members and Jesus Christ. The presence of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are its lifeline. This Church will never cease to exist.

This Church is the beneficiary of God’s promises; the Body of Christ and is the Bride of Christ. This Church is Jesus’ Fold; God’s Household; and the Temple of The Holy Spirit residing in Believers. This Church is the Elect; the Light of the World; and the Salt of the Earth. This is the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of the Holy Creed. This is the Church that the gates of Hell shall not affect it. This is the Church to which Jesus Christ promised, “I am with you always until the end of the age.” Mt. 28:20.

This Church is united; because, it is taught by the Holy Spirit. Take four persons from the four corners of the Earth, and the members of this Church will have the same belief. In this Church, all its members love and are holy. Some more than others, some have different gifts than others, but all are striving towards the “likeness” of Jesus Christ, and *Theosis*. It’s members are not citizens of this country or that country but citizens of heaven. It’s members are temporarily governed by this government or that government. In this Church there is no distinction on whether one is black or white, male or female, rich or poor, citizen or noncitizen, educated or uneducated, Greek or Jew, but all are One in Christ.

This is the True Catholic and Apostolic Church. This Church has as its foundation Jesus Christ, Holy Tradition, the Holy Bible, and lives a life of love and holiness. This Church will be obedient to the end. Many shall persecute this Church, but they will pass into eternal Hell, but this Church’s Members will have eternal blessedness in heaven. Till that day, the Second Coming, this Church shall continue to be faithful and to work for the Kingdom of God.

In this Church, all of its Members, by the uncreated grace of God, are healed, illuminated, and adopted by God as His children. In this Church, love and holiness are experienced and lived.

Do you belong to this Church?

In the book of Revelation, there are Seven Churches mentioned: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. These seven Churches existed historically. Archeologists have found evidence of these Seven Churches. St. John was revealed by Jesus Christ, “To show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass.” Rev. 1:1.

St. John has revealed what would happen to these Seven Churches. Prophetically, the prophecies regarding these Churches were *partially* fulfilled.

Aside from the *partial* historical fulfillment, there is to be a future *fuller* fulfillment.

There are rules for the interpretation of these prophecies regarding these Seven Churches: A) Interpret literally, B) Interpret according to the harmony of prophecy, C) Observe the prospective of prophecy, D) Observe the time relationships, E) Interpret Christologically, F) Interpret historically, G) Interpret grammatically, and H) Interpret according to the *Law of Double Reference*.

The *Law of Double Reference* is extremely important; because, it postulates that there may be a near view and a far view fulfillment of prophesy. Further, there may have been a part near view fulfillment, but the prophecy awaits a complete fulfillment in the future.<sup>1</sup>

These Seven Churches were literal and historical Churches. Let’s review the messages that Jesus Christ conveyed to each Church.

- (1) Ephesus, Rev. 2:1-7 - the church that had forsaken its first love (2:4).
- (2) Smyrna, Rev.2:8-11 - the church that would suffer persecution (2:10).
- (3) Pergamum, Rev. 2:12-17 - the church that needed to repent (2:16) and where Satan’s throne is (2:13).
- (4) Thyatira, Rev. 2:18-29 - the church that had a false prophetess (2:20).
- (5) Sardis, Rev. 3:1-6 - the church that had fallen asleep (3:2).
- (6) Philadelphia, Rev. 3:7-13 - the church that had endured patiently (3:10).
- (7) Laodicea, Rev. 3:14-22 - the church with the lukewarm faith (3:16).

Do the messages to these Seven Churches foreshadow the state of Christendom’s Churches before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? Yes, they do! Do we find common elements of the characteristics of these Churches to today’s Churches? Yes, we do! Which Church do we belong to? Is Orthodoxy the New testament Church? Is Catholicism the New Testament Church? Is Protestantism the New Testament Church? Orthodoxy has maintained a more grace filled tradition, liturgically, dogmatically and ecclesiastically, than the Catholic Church and the Protestant Churches, going back to the Original Church. However, “...when the Son of Man comes shall He find faith on earth?” Lk.18:8.

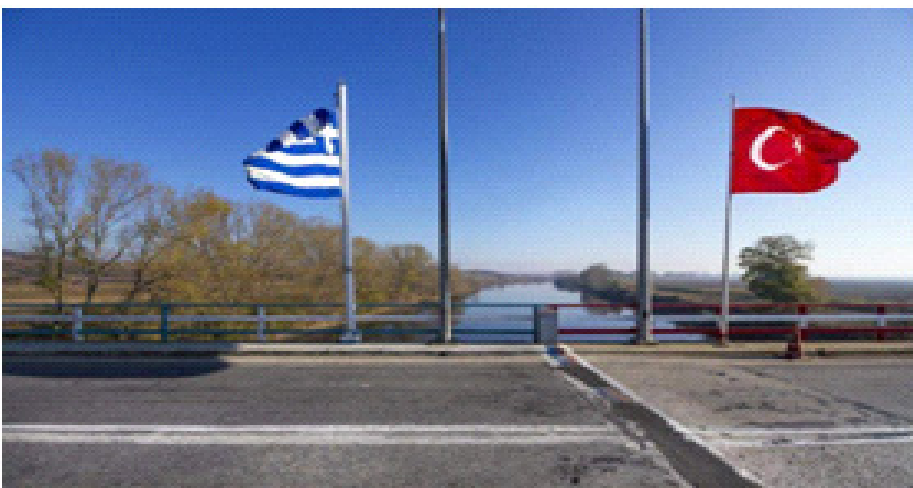
1. J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come, a Study in Biblical Eschatology*, Academie Books, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1958.

Lasting crisis with  
Ankara not ruled out

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Vienna for talks that focused on developments in the East Mediterranean. Earlier in the day, Schallenberg said that the EU should reassess its relations with Turkey in light of recent events.

“I have to say that Austria is very concerned about the dangerous and alarming situation which we believe could escalate,” Schallenberg said at a joint press conference with Pompeo. “Actions taken by



certain states in the Eastern Mediterranean... should lead the European Union to re-evaluate its relations with Turkey,” he said.

Meanwhile, the US ambassador to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt, met Greek Defense Minister Nikos Panagiotopoulos and, as he wrote on his Twitter account, “reaffirmed US support for Greece as a pillar of stability in the East Med and discussed initiatives to deepen our defense cooperation and build on [the Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement] while reducing regional tensions.”

The Greek government had been expecting a strong Turkish reaction to the signing of its agreement with Egypt on the delimitation of the exclusive economic zones between the two countries.

However, it considered the deal with Egypt a necessary risk, as Athens sought to nullify the illegal Turkey-Libya memorandum which included areas of Greece’s continental shelf.

What’s more, the agreement with Cairo will serve as a very powerful diplomatic weapon in the event that the issue of maritime zones is referred to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.



# Rising heat undermines productivity



workers’ experiences of heat on the job and devised ways to help them, said companies had begun responding to the problem. One reason is that technology has allowed scientists to monitor more closely what is happening to exposed workers and to calculate the financial consequences for employers, on top of growing concerns about the effects on their health.

“Now that they are also seeing the impact on their bottom line – the economic costs – they are twice as likely to engage in this,” Flouris said.

Heat safety measures have improved, particularly in the construction industry, he said. On a recent project trip to Qatar, which employs many migrant laborers, workers he saw were permitted to take a lot more rest breaks than he had expected.

Workplace and heat researchers told an online event organized this week by the Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) that some governments are now waking up to the rising health and economic threat to their workforce from scorching temperatures, exacerbated in many cases by high humidity.

In Cyprus, where summers are very hot, for example, the Labor Ministry has issued a decree allowing workers to down tools when the thermometer hits 30C (86F), a provision that helps protect their rights, said Tahmina Karimova, a legal officer with the International Labor Organization (ILO).

A new report out last week from the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council warned of a dangerous confluence of climate stresses and Covid-19 hitting both outdoor and indoor workers in the United States.

They include firefighters already battling an active wildfire season in the west, public health nurses conducting outdoor Covid-19 tests, and teachers who may return to classrooms lacking air conditioning this fall, it said.

Yet, while governments have obligations to safeguard workers from heat under international occupational health protocols, few have specific legislation to deal with the threat, experts said.

Flouris is working with the Greek government on introducing such a law into parliament in the next year, and hopes it will have a domino effect in other European countries.

“The responsibility is obviously in the first place on the government - and then it trickles down to the employers,” mainly via regulation, said the ILO’s Karimova.

The ILO believes efforts to deal with the fast-worsening problem of heat should bring workers, businesses and states together in the kind of social dialogues used to tackle other labour challenges such as working hours or pay, she added.

As policy makers and bosses become aware of the need to tackle heat in the workplace, they should assess risks, put plans in place to lower risk and provide training, Flouris said.

Practical measures include letting workers take more breaks to cool down, and providing fresh drinking water and loose, light-colored, breathable clothing. In some jobs, such as picking grapes or olives, mechanization of certain tasks can also relieve the strain.

Since 2016, Flouris has worked to develop an online platform called HEAT-SHIELD that offers employers and staff weather warnings of heat stress and personalized daily guidance on work schedules, including recommended breaks and water intake.

The project has also produced infographics translated into different languages to raise awareness of heat risks to health and how to reduce them.

Flouris said the huge amount of data and evidence collected on the issue in the past decade should start to drive new policies and improve workplace practices in the next two years.

An associate professor at Greece’s University of Thessaly says that companies worldwide have begun to respond to the effects of rising heat, as a result of climate change, on the productivity of their workers.

Andreas Flouris, who has researched

# Moody’s puts off rating update on Greece



International ratings agency Moody’s on Friday postponed the scheduled publication of a report on Greece’s economy, effectively maintaining a wait-and-see stance, leaving the country’s “B1” rating and “stable” outlook unchanged from a report issued on April 17.

It had estimated at the time that Greece’s economy would shrink by 5 percent this year and rebound by 4 percent in 2021. It had also noted that although the Greek national debt remains very high, the country stands to benefit from its favorable maturity profile and the large cash buffer it has maintained.

The next update on the Greek economy by Moody’s is scheduled for November 6.

Moody’s decision not to update its rating means that despite the exceptional circumstances Greece has avoided a downgrade that could harm its status in global markets and can look forward to the upgrades that started in 2019 continuing once the pandemic has subsided.



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# Coronavirus: Russia plans mass vaccination campaign in October

**Image caption** More than 100 possible coronavirus vaccines are being developed around the world

Russian health authorities are preparing to start a mass vaccination campaign against coronavirus in October, the health minister has said.

Russian media quoted Mikhail Murashko as saying that doctors and teachers would be the first to receive the vaccine.

Reuters, citing anonymous sources, said Russia's first potential vaccine would be approved by regulators this month.

However, some experts are concerned at Russia's fast-track approach.

On Friday, the leading infectious disease expert in the US, Dr Anthony Fauci, said he hoped that Russia - and China - were "actually testing the vaccine" before administering them to anyone.

Dr Fauci has said that the US should have a "safe and effective" vaccine by the end of this year.

"I do not believe that there will be vaccines so far ahead of us that we will have to depend on other countries to get us vaccines," he told US lawmakers.

Scores of possible coronavirus vaccines are being developed around the world and more than 20 are currently in clinical trials.

Mr Murashko, quoted by Interfax news agency, said that the Gamaleya Institute, a research facility in Moscow, had finished

clinical trials of a vaccine and that paperwork was being prepared to register it.

"We plan wider vaccinations for October," he said, adding that teachers and doctors would be the first to receive it.

Last month, Russian scientists said that early-stage trials of an adenovirus-based vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Institute had been completed and that the results were a success.

**Image copyright** EPA

**Image caption** On 15 July Russian scientists announced that early-stage trials of a vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Institute had been completed

Last month the UK, US and Canada security services said a Russian hacking group had targeted various organisations involved in Covid-19 vaccine development, with the likely intention of stealing information.

The UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) said it was more than 95% certain that the group called APT29 - also known as The Dukes or Cozy Bear - was part of Russian intelligence services.

Russia's ambassador to the UK, Andrei Kelin, rejected the accusation, telling the BBC that there was "no sense in it".

In the UK, trials of a vaccine developed by Oxford University have shown that it can trigger an immune response and a deal has been signed with AstraZeneca to supply 100 million doses in Britain alone.



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# NEWS FROM GREECE

## A tricky challenge, a bad track record



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (r) chats with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis (l) and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez (c) on the fourth day of the European Council summits, in Brussels, on July 20. [EPA]

The decisions reached by the leaders summit in Brussels last month on the European Union Rescue Fund may have been beneath the expectations cultivated by France and Germany's initial proposal, as they reduced the level of grants by 22% and increased loans by 44%. And the realization that Europe's grand visions are often cramped by political expediency at a lesser, national level (Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte might have had a completely different stance if he wasn't facing elections next March) may also cause some bitterness. But the fact is that the EU's Next Generation post-Covid recovery plan is an important step toward its further integration. It is the first time that the European Commission will borrow money on behalf of the entire European Union, with 52% of that being distributed among member-states in the form of grants.

Greece can expect to receive 32 billion euros from the EU Recovery Fund, of which •19.5 billion will be in grants and •12.5 billion in loans. It also has funds reaching •40 billion from the new National Strategic Reference Framework (known in Greek as ESPA), including both national and private participation. The total comes to more than •70 billion.

This does not mean that Greece has been given •70 billion nor that it will be raining money for the next seven or eight years. It means that between 2021 and 2027, Greece will need to design and implement projects and initiatives worth •70 billion. The absorption of community funding, however, has never been this country's strong suit. The experience of four support ESPA programs has amply demonstrated that we do not have the political personnel to shape strategy, nor the public administration to define the work that needs to be done to implement the strategy, to describe it precisely, to assign it and to carry it out. The last four ESPAs were a race to absorb community

funds as fast as possible, often with the tolerance of the Commission (which explains why the Netherlands and other member-states did not want leave control of the Recovery Fund entirely in its hands).

Now Greece will have to absorb what amount to two ESPAs in the same length of time. By the end of 2022, in fact, we will have to have submitted finalized proposals for projects and initiatives worth •22.5 billion, along with another •10 billion's worth by the end of 2023.

The decision by EU leaders is an opportunity and an enormous challenge for Greece. And based on the experience of the past, we are more likely to fail than to succeed. The sooner we acknowledge our utter unpreparedness, stop celebrating and start worrying, the faster the relief at not having another bailout with strings attached will be replaced with a sense of the enormous responsibility resting on our shoulders, and the greater the chance of the EU Rescue Fund becoming truly historic for Greece.

## Greece under pressure

The French Tonnerre helicopter carrier is escorted by Greek and French military vessels during a maritime exercise in the East Med. The Greek-Egyptian agreement took Ankara by surprise and Turkey returned to using power politics against Greece.



Sadly, this is a difficult time for Greece, and a journalist does not need to label it as such to be understood. Greece is once again on the verge of an international incident, if not full-on conflict, with Turkey at the same time as there is an uncontrollable outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic which will test the population and our public health infrastructure. All this under the shadow of the destruction which ravaged the island of Evia last weekend. If we also consider the economic problems which will become widely felt in early autumn, it becomes clear what kind of conjuncture of events the country is facing. That is, to be under the threat of war, while facing a pandemic and an imminent economic downturn.

That is the new reality for Greece, and it remains to be seen how prepared we are to withstand these pressures. Firstly, we do not know how heated the tensions with Turkey will get. Second, the predictions regarding the pandemic are not hopeful as the behavior of parts of the population – both here and in other Western nations – is not helping. Finally, on the

domestic level there appears to be no consensus, but rather the opposite.

In essence, there is an observable lack of consensus and unity during these difficult times. SYRIZA-supporting media and party executives are not even attempting to hide their joy at the reports of increasing coronavirus cases, while the party leaders also expressed their intention to criticize the maritime boundaries demarcation agreement with Egypt before even reading the full text (there is, however, an internal disagreement on this issue brought by the so-called Group of 53), and the criticism of the Pissarides report was borderline ridiculous. It is now clear that SYRIZA exudes a spirit of immediate revanchism.

On the other hand, the truth is that in Greece the opposition was never known for its restraint, and as such we should not expect any miracles from SYRIZA.

The hardest thing in this situation is for there to be a correct assessment of Greek-Turkish developments, which currently pose the main threat. The Greek-Egyptian agreement took Ankara by surprise and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan returned to using power politics against Greece – something which he never really abandoned, notwithstanding the intervention of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The conflicting statements by Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, who claims that the Greco-Egyptian agreement assists Turkey and at the same time that the islands do not have a continental shelf, shows that Turkish foreign policy is not grounded in logic, and that is extremely dangerous.

## Coronavirus cases top 7,000; 2 new deaths



Coronavirus cases topped 7,000 in Greece Sunday, as health authorities announced 217 cases over the past 24 hours, 15 of them from incoming travelers.

There are now a total of 7,075 cases, of which 2,488 since Aug.1. Also, two new deaths were announced Sunday, raising the total to 228.

There are 24 patients on ventilators, while 136 have exited intensive care units.

From Monday, bars, cafes, clubs and restaurants in the capital Athens, and several areas across the country, will have to close at midnight.

## Lack of trust hurts markets

Many sectors of the Greek economy would benefit from an injection of confidence. Confidence in

corporate governance and state supervision, that is.

It is no coincidence that one in four of the 172 listed companies on the Athens Stock Exchange are either under surveillance or under suspension.

We need a reboot, almost across the board. It is the natural consequence of the lost five years (2014-19) that has bequeathed so many problems, whether we realize it or – like some of us – insist on denying it.

Some problems have to do with the devaluation of institutions, such as justice and the market supervisory mechanisms, and the lack of initiatives, such as the modernization of the state. All the same, we have to start from the beginning.

The lack of confidence in companies that sidestep established practices in presenting their finances is just one part of the problem. Households also have limited trust in mutual funds and similar investment products. Investment in this product in Greece equals about 4.7% of gross domestic product (GDP). Compare that to Portugal (11.1%), Belgium (35%), Austria (48.7%) and the Netherlands (116.9%). The European Union average is 107.8%.

The government took a necessary step a month ago when it had Parliament vote a bill on corporate governance, the operation of company boards, as well as the adoption of EU regulations on investments.

A necessary step, yes, but because of the delay many more things have to be done to establish the needed trust in companies' accounting and corporate governance practices, in the transparency of management's connections and the transactions they approve.

The issue is more important than it looks, because reforming the operating mode of listed companies, especially, will help the devalued and degraded stock market to grow and attract capital in its search for reliable investment vehicles.

## National interest comes first



People appear to have stopped questioning the fact that Turkey is growing into an increasingly difficult and unpredictable neighbor.

Faced with this constant threat, Greece is able to project a set of strong alliances. Its status as a member of the European Union and the international community are the country's main weapons. The deterrent effect of the Hellenic Armed Forces must also not be underestimated.

That said, we also need to defend ourselves against a blind and dangerous sort of nationalist populism that seems to be directed from the left as well as the right of the political spectrum.

Foreign policy decisions must be guided by cold national interest. Not by emotion or concerns about political cost.



# British novelist Victoria Hislop back on Crete, this time as a Greek



It was a different era when “The Island” was first published in 2005. The book became an international hit, selling more than 5 million copies, and forever tied the author, Victoria Hislop, with Greece. It has

also been 10 years since the TV adaptation of the novel hit our screens, the most expensive local television production of all time, in 2010. So there was an interesting geometry in the decision to make Hislop a Greek citizen earlier this summer. The British writer was named an honorary Greek by decree of President Katerina Sakellaropoulou, “for her important services toward Greece, for the international exposure she gave to the historic site of Spinalonga and her promotion of modern Greek culture and history.”

It is not just the fact that the world is in a state of vigilance and quarantine reminiscent of Spinalonga’s days as a leper colony on a much grander scale; it is also that Greece is opening its doors – and its heart – to Hislop at the same time as her country leaves the European Union. The author has often stated that above all she feels European.

“For me, Brexit was a tragedy,” she told Kathimerini over the telephone in the wake of her being named a Greek citizen. “It has been four years since the referendum, it was something really hard for me and I tried to change it, but it was impossible. It feels like being in a car that is driving toward a wall at high speed. The news from Greece, however, made me incredibly happy. It is like escaping from that dangerous car.”

Hislop had spoken in previous interviews about her desire to get Greek citizenship, but how often do wishes really come true? “It was a great honor, something that I was dreaming of but never thought would happen,” she said. Her Greek is almost perfect, yet she felt the need to apologize for a slight hesitation while searching for the right word. “It has been five months since I was last in Greece. I have forgotten my Greek. I’m sorry. Normally I should already be in Crete, I should have been there since Easter.”

Hislop visited Greece on her first trip abroad at the age 17 and has rarely stayed away for long since then. After all, she says that she makes the best “spanakopita” (spinach pie) in the world. With feta. In her opinion, “everything is better with feta.”

The slight delay in her travel plans came with a benefit. Just a few days ago she finished writing her new book, “One August Night,” in which she returns to Crete. The book is the much-anticipated sequel to “The Island.” The story starts on August 25, 1957, the night when Plaka celebrates the shutdown of the leper hospital as a cure has been found. “I finished it, in English, last night at midnight and sent it to my publisher.” It is expected to be released in the UK this October. “I’m assuming it will not take long before it is also published in Greece.”

As for herself, she was packing up her suitcases when we spoke and hopefully she’s on a beach in Crete right now. “I’m excited. I have been waiting for months.” There is also another reason for why she is so excited to be here with her new identity. “I am incredibly lucky with what has happened. Personally, whatever I can do for Greece I will keep doing it and I am sure I will find more inspiration. I never know what I will write in the future, but I know Greece is always an inspiration for me. It has given me so much and now has given me something more.”

# Erdogan's spokesman at- tacks Biden over past comments



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin, raised the ante Sunday in attacking US Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden over past comments the latter had made about his boss. Speaking to New York Times editors in January, Biden advocated a new U.S. approach to the “autocrat” Erdogan and support for opposition parties. Biden's comments resurfaced in a video that made him the most popular topic on Twitter in Turkey, where Erdogan has governed for 17 years and has good relations with U.S. President Donald Trump. Biden, the former U.S. vice president, says in the video he is “very concerned” about Erdogan’s approach to Kurds in Turkey, his partial military cooperation with Russia, and access to U.S. airfields in the country, a NATO ally. “What I think we should be doing is taking a very different approach to him now, making it clear that we support opposition leadership,” Biden said in the video and verified by a transcript published in January by the Times. “He has to pay a price,” Biden said at the time, adding Washington should embolden Turkish opposition leaders “to be able to take on and defeat Erdogan. Not by a coup, not by a coup, but by the electoral process.” After an initial, relatively mild response by Erdogan’s communications director Fahrettin Altun said the comments “reflect games and an interventionist approach towards Turkey” and are inconsistent with current diplomatic relations, Kalin weighed in today with his own tweet. Kalin told Biden that “the days of ordering Turkey around are over” and dared

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# Salary workers to get a boost



The Greek economic recovery plan to be forwarded to the European Commission in October will attribute great significance to supporting workers through the reduction of taxes and social security contributions that have hampered the real economy and fed the illegal economy, sources from the prime minister's office say.

They note that easing the burden on workers from taxes and contributions will be one of the central elements of the plan as reflected in the intermediary report by the committee led by Nobel Prize-winning economist Christopher Pissarides.

The government is therefore reaching for its election pledges to put them into action. They include the gradual abolition of levies introduced during the bailout period, such as the solidarity levy and the annual fee to practice certain professions; the significant reduction of non-salary costs, aimed at bolstering employment, especially among young people and women; and innovative interventions, such as at the Manpower Organization (OAED), so hundreds of thousands of jobless people can find work.

The immediate objective will be the reduction of the tax and social security burden on households and corporations. This is because government officials say it is time to ease the pressure on the middle incomes that have suffered in recent years.

After last year's tax bill that did not do much to help middle income earners, government sources say that boosting salary workers this year could lead to a growth recovery, with multiplying effects on incomes, along with the expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as it will make the economic pie bigger.

Employment with more attractive salaries will lead to a gradual increase in jobs. The tax cuts will enhance households' disposable incomes, resulting in the growth of savings that will in turn strengthen investments. Along with the bolstering of SMEs, the number of large enterprises will increase thanks to better conditions for more hirings and greater investments, again benefiting the entire economy.

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# Turkey and the West



Turkey belongs to NATO, is a member of the Council of Europe and has been a candidate for accession to the European Union for quite a long time. As a result of these ties, Turkey benefits from significant funding from Europe, enjoys a customs union with the EU and participates in attractive European partnerships in education and research.

Europe also supports Turkey financially for welcoming millions of Syrian refugees on its soil. All this looks like a cloudless sky, doesn't it? Well, not exactly.

Since Recep Tayyip Erdogan became president of Turkey in 2014 and even more so since he faced a failed coup in 2016, storm clouds have accumulated rapidly, and we are now experiencing very disturbed weather conditions.

The most striking recent incident is probably one that happened in June: While participating in the NATO maritime operation Sea Guardian in the Mediterranean and investigating a Turkish vessel suspected of breaking the arms embargo on Libya, a French frigate was faced with blatantly hostile behavior from Turkish warships. Such serious incidents between members of the same alliance rarely happen and are normally attributed to unintentional misunderstandings. Not this one. Turkey didn't apologize and barely hides that it has no intention of respecting the arms embargo on Libya decided by the United Nations Security Council, which NATO is committed to enforce.

This military incident, though serious and unprecedented, shouldn't come as a surprise. Turkey is waging a proxy war in Libya by sending over Syrian militants, some of them affiliated with jihadist groups, and violating not only the arms embargo but also the commitments it made at the Berlin conference on Libya earlier this year to cease interference in the conflict. Turkey's actions only make a political settlement in Libya more difficult and aggravate the risk of a partition of the country, which would have terrible consequences for Libya's neighbors in Tunisia, Egypt, the Sahel and Europe. Ankara doesn't seem to care.

The Turkish government's rationale for supporting the UN-recognized Libyan government in Tripoli hardly covers Ankara's more tangible economic and strategic aspirations in the conflict, which go directly against European security interests and sovereignty. Ankara rushed to support the Tripoli government, and in exchange Tripoli rushed to grant Turkey a maritime agreement that contravenes the legitimate rights of Greece, another NATO member, and Cyprus. Turkey has also proceeded with illegal gas drilling in the territorial waters of Cyprus despite warnings and sanctions from the EU.

The relationship between Turkey and Greece has been complex for a long time but tensions recently spiked. In addition to contravening Greek sea rights, thus disrespecting maritime law, Ankara keeps on pressuring Athens: Groups of migrants trying to cross the border illegally into Greece are supported by Turkey, which does generously welcome millions of refugees but also uses them as a bargaining chip with the EU. In posing such challenges to internationally agreed borders, Erdogan acts as if he thinks of his relations with the West in terms of revenge for the 1923 Lausanne Treaty, which recorded the end of the Ottoman Empire.

But wait: Isn't Turkey bravely countering the influence of Russia in Libya, as it is also doing in Syria, therefore serving NATO's interests? The comparison to Syria is indeed helpful. What is taking place there and what can we expect in Libya? In 2019, Turkey decided on a military intervention in northeastern Syria without asking NATO for consent, but then asked NATO for support and solidarity, which it didn't get. Was the purpose of the intervention to oppose Russia? Not exactly, as the primary reason was to attack Syrian Kurdish soldiers – the very same ones who helped the United States, Britain and France in our common fight against ISIS.

To be fair, Turkey took the risk of confronting Russia when it intervened in Syria last year; except that for quite some time, Ankara had developed a special channel with Moscow and Tehran to discuss the future of Syria through the Astana group, while also purchasing military equipment from Russia. Yes, a NATO member buying Russian military equipment. So guess what happened? Turkey and Russia negotiated their respective influence in Syria. Despite occasional conflicts, they don't seem to have serious problems accepting each other's presence in the country. The direct consequence of this (not so gentle) strongman agreement between Erdogan and Vladimir Putin is that our fight against jihadist terrorists has become much more difficult, thus hurting the security interests of the West. Recall that the Paris terrorist attacks of 2015 were plotted in the very region of Syria that is being contested now. Before the 2019 Turkish intervention, ISIS was deemed defeated. Not anymore.

Could Libya turn out the same way? Judging by the concerns expressed by Libya's neighboring countries, this is precisely what they fear most: a partition of Libya between an area controlled by Russia and another controlled by Turkey – two non-Arab states taking sides in a civil war in an Arab country for no legitimate reason, without the support of the UN Security Council, the Arab League or other international entities. Such an outcome would mean Turkey, a NATO member, consorting with Russia and sharing the spoils of another weakened, war-torn country in Europe's neighborhood.

No wonder Europe is losing patience. You could add to the list of concerns the authoritarian nature of the Turkish regime and its Islamist agenda, which go against Ankara's persistent ambition to become a member of the European Union. This won't be realized any time soon.

Europeans, however, are struck by Washington's continuous silence on Turkey. Ankara's provocations against other NATO members such as Greece or France go unnoticed, as do its violations of a UN arms embargo and the obstacles it has put up in the fight against terrorism. Even Turkey's purchase of a Russian missile-defense system didn't cross a red line for the Trump administration: Not so long ago, the Pentagon announced that it would continue to buy Turkish-made F-35 parts through 2022.

No red lines, only green lights: This is the way the Trump administration has handled its relationship with Erdogan so far. The approach has only emboldened an illiberal regime and increased risks for the Middle East, the Mediterranean and the transatlantic alliance. With friends like these, benign neglect isn't an option.

**Nathalie Loiseau is a member of the European Parliament, where she serves as chairwoman of the security and defense subcommittee. She previously served as France's minister of European affairs under President Emmanuel Macron.**

# My Case for Joe Biden

By Mariyana Spyropoulos



Our country is at its most significant crossroads in decades. We're facing the greatest public health crisis in a century, which has led to economic catastrophe, while we're confronting an overdue reckoning of racial inequality. And we're less than 100 days from a presidential election.

These crises have each exposed our leadership's true priorities and we must ask ourselves if those priorities accurately represent our interests.

**My answer is no.**

Beyond its recent failings in handling the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump Administration has spent nearly four years dismantling much

of what I believe to be at America's heart. From inhumane women's health and immigration policies, to the rollback of environmental protections and the implementation of economic priorities that favor big business over workers, the Trump Administration has been a failure.

I'm proud to be a delegate for and support Joe Biden in this election because...

**I am a woman.**

As a female elected official and attorney, I know the struggles women face getting into positions to make a difference. Women still get paid significantly less than their male counterparts, with women of color suffering from the largest wage gap. Women are too often punished for working while caring for their children or aging relatives, forced to choose one over the other. Joe Biden has pledged to confront these obstacles by fighting for equal pay, providing resources for female entrepreneurs and expanding access to paid leave and childcare.

We can't talk about a candidate's stance on women's issues without talking about healthcare, particularly for women of color. The U.S. has one of the highest death rates in pregnancy and childbirth among developed countries. Joe recognizes the community benefits of improved healthcare, will build on Obamacare and expand access to ensure affordable healthcare for all.

**I am a daughter of immigrants.**

Opportunity was scarce for my parents so they immigrated to the U.S. hoping it could improve their lives. In the process, my parents contributed to this country. They worked hard, started a small business, provided job opportunities for others, raised a family and gave back to their community.

Many of us have a version of this story in our ancestry. And yet, the Trump Administration has turned its back on our history as a nation of immigrants, attacking refugees seeking asylum, implementing travel bans based on religion and separating children from parents.

A Biden presidency will reinstate the DACA program, restore our country's asylum laws and create a path to citizenship for millions of U.S. residents who have been strengthening our country, the same way my parents did.

**I am an environmentalist.**

I am a Commissioner on the board of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, helping ensure clean water and effective infrastructure for Cook County. My fellow commissioners and I fight for environmental justice because we have seen first-hand how something like a lack of clean drinking water can decimate a community. That's why I'm backing the candidate who has committed to safe drinking water is a right and recognizes that this starts with a significant infrastructure investment.

Joe understands two fundamental truths: 1) the U.S. needs to up its game in the fight against climate change and 2) the economy and environment are inextricably linked. Joe will get us back in the Paris Agreement on climate change, prepare our workers to build a clean energy economy and lead the U.S. to a 100% clean energy economy by 2050.

**I am alive during a pandemic.**

It has become painfully clear that the lack of a coordinated response from the Trump Administration to the COVID-19 pandemic has cost lives and put millions in dire financial straits. The U.S. accounts for nearly a quarter of the world's COVID cases but is less than five percent of the world's population. It's embarrassing and unacceptable.

We need a president who can coordinate a national response. Joe's plan guarantees paid sick leave for COVID-positive workers, provides PPE to all employees, implements a national contract tracing program and provides immediate financial assistance to workers and small businesses.

Predictably, this health crisis has caused an economic crisis, with millions losing their jobs and healthcare, and businesses shuttering forever. We cannot restart the economy without solving the public health crisis, which only happens when we have a wide-spread successful vaccine. Joe's plan for restarting the economy puts workers first, ensuring everyone can earn at least \$15/hour because our economy grows when everyone can participate in it equally.

We are living through what we can only hope will be this generation's darkest days. This is not a time to pretend we are an unconnected grouping of states. We are one country that deserves clear leadership, now more than ever. In November, let's speak as a one and send Joe Biden to the White House.

**Mariyana Spyropoulos is an elected Biden delegate from the 5th Congressional District in Illinois. She is a commissioner and former president of the MWRD.**