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HeDA

The Hellenic-Dutch Association
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www.heda.com.gr

NEWS 10 issue

[Chairman's message]

It was a pleasure...



Dear Members,

During this continuous period of austerity for Greece, of political turbulence for most of Europe and political risks of high density from numerous parts of the world, the meaning of "belonging" becomes more

and more important each and every day. Building relationships seems more and more difficult, despite the fact that technology enables, in unprecedented ways, visual and voice communication and sharing common goals today is regarded more as an utopia, a trivial pursuit for day-dreamers.

Yet, during these last three years that I have had the honor to serve as the chairman of HeDA, I came to realise that our community of 140 members, with a turnover of 7 billion euros and exports worth 200 million annually, in not only generating 3.5% of the GDP of Greece, but also represents a cradle for innovation, a huge and solid workplace for employees, a source of quality products and services for customers and last, but not least, a generous and giving heart for the long suffering Greek society.

During these years you were all involved as you have all assisted in HeDA's multiple efforts to engage our business community as a more active participant and influencer of governmental decisions, you have supported extroversion, you have helped build strong bilateral relationships with all major Associations and Chambers and you have actively participated in all efforts towards building a modern Greek economy, that will encourage investments and will marginalise bureaucracy.

I do consider that there is still plenty to be done in order to guarantee a sunny macro-economic horizon and to overcome the social and financial burdens that prohibit growth. Yet, all us HeDA members are the best proof that even the most optimistic goal is feasible and reachable. All we have to do - and I am sure that we are all determined - is to continue, each and every one and jointly, to advocate innovation, to demand a simple and contemporary public sector, to remain competitive, to exploit new opportunities and to reach out to the most vulnerable members of our society.

George Kotsalos

The crucial compliance review

The long road to Greece emerging from its worst financial crisis in modern times reached another milestone on Tuesday 3 May, as the country concluded a crucial compliance review that will allow it to avert default in July.

At the cost of yet more painful austerity – in the form of extra pension cuts and tax increases – international creditors agreed to disburse €7.5bn in emergency loans to enable Athens to honour maturing debt repayments. More importantly, lenders accepted to set talks in motion on making Greece's debt mountain more manageable – vital if the country is to gain access to the capital markets from which it has been almost completely exiled since 2009. The deal ends more than six months of intense wrangling over the fiscal and structural reforms that Athens must implement in exchange for loans from its third, €86bn bailout programme.

Although the programme was outlined in 2015, discord most recently had focused on labour reforms and pensions – two issues that Tsakalotos, had felt especially strongly about. Under the agreement, the leftist-led government undertook to further slash pensions by 18% as of 2019. Pension payments have now been reduced 12 times since the start of the crisis, and cut by 40% in the past six years. With poorer out-of-work families often depending on them, news of a further drop was met with fury by union leaders, who immediately announced industrial action. The two-party coalition led by the prime minister, Alexis Tsipras, also agreed to broaden the tax-free threshold by effectively dispensing with tax breaks as of 2020.

Helena Smith, *The Guardian*

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Celebrity: Moving with kids - tips to make it more colorful



Many kids thrive on familiarity and routine. So, if possible, while you consider a move, weigh the benefits of that change against the comfort that established surroundings, school, and social life give your kids. The decision to move may be out of your hands, perhaps due to a job transfer or financial issues. In this instance speak with your child as soon as you know that your upcoming move is certain. Before you break the news:

- Come up with a plan so that you can answer questions they might ask.
- Try to determine which school they'll attend and the kinds of classes/activities it offers.
- Gather a collection of websites you can explore together to learn more about your new school and town, including nearby museums, parks, and playgrounds that your kids can look forward to visiting.

Try and get the kids excited above the idea of moving. Give the following a try:

- If you're moving across town, try to plan a visit at the new house and explore the new neighborhood. Even if you can't go inside the new house, walk or drive by and show them which window will be theirs and where the swing set will go, etc.
- Encourage your children to identify 3 things they'd like to do in the new place and make plans to do at least one of them.
- Ask your children to decorate their new bedrooms. Before you move, they can pick out a paint color, draw up a floor plan to arrange the furniture, and shop for new bedding and rugs.
- When packing up your child's toys and clothes, make sure they understand that you aren't throwing the items away.
- Ask them to help you choose which household items to keep and which to get rid of at a tag sale. Give each child a list of tasks to do, including sorting out their room. Try not to insist that they toss anything that they may be clinging to for the sake of familiarity.
- Put your children in charge of a special job. Perhaps responsible for helping a younger sibling pack or for labelling and coloring boxes

Just because you're moving it doesn't mean everything else needs to change about your family life. Remember that children thrive with consistency! Keep your household rules the same. Kids will sometimes try to take advantage of certain situations or misconstrue major changes as meaning that regular household rules no longer apply. Showing a little leeway or turning a blind eye here and there may help to take the sting off negative emotions or make them feel a little more positive about the move. But don't let that nagging guilt get the better of you. Rules

are rules and must apply whether in London or Kuala Lumpur. Celebrity's staff are well trained to create a pleasant atmosphere in your home and to make sure children are happily involved. We offer the children colorful celebrity balloons, coloring books «color my move», cinderella boxes, spiderman boxes, friends books, etc. to ease their moving tension. 🌸

For more information contact us contact@celebrity.gr or visit <http://www.celebrity.gr/>