



The President

Athens 26/03/2015

CENTRAL UNION OF
MUNICIPALITIES OF GREECE

To the Members of the:

- European Committee of the Regions**
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**
- Council of European Municipalities and Regions**

Dear colleagues,

As you know, Greece is suffering from an unprecedented economic crisis, the consequences of which weigh heavily on the overwhelming majority of the Greek people. In these difficult times, European citizens have shown their solidarity in many ways. But the solidarity is not enough by itself.

If Greece is to address this problem in an effective and viable way, new policy initiatives are required to be undertaken by the European Institutions and the Greek Government together, in order to replace the sterile and fruitless austerity that has been implemented so far.

In this context, we need to join forces and create a European Local Government solidarity network, through which we could exert pressure on our national governments in order to speed up the adoption of such necessary new policy initiatives.

The Central Union of Municipalities of Greece at this very critical point in time, concerning both the future of Greece and the future prospects of the European Union, and while the negotiations of the Greek Government with the European institutions for finding a solution to the financial problem of the country is in progress, calls on the Mayors of all the cities of Europe:

- To express European solidarity and support for the efforts made by the Greek people and especially by the Greek Local Authorities, to overcome the consequences of the economic and social crisis experienced by Greece in recent years.
- To join forces and to exert pressure on their national governments in order to promote, throughout the European Union, policies that are targeted at the convergence of the levels of development of national economies, the discontinuation of the practice of deadlock /anti-development austerity policies, and the strengthening of social cohesion and solidarity.
- To undertake actions and initiatives, which will highlight the common European heritage and culture , as well as emphasize the encouragement of citizens' participation in the construction of the common European project, both elements that will gradually inspire the assumption of a European identity

and a sense of belonging to the supranational European family, alongside the national identity of the peoples of Europe.

- To declare absolute respect for the democratic expression of will of the peoples of Europe as a whole, and facilitate in all possible ways citizen co-operation and co-existence, which constitute fundamental elements of the European project.

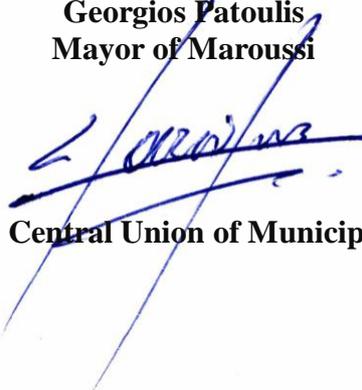
I invite you to endorse this draft Declaration of Mayors, proposed by the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece, as a sign of support and solidarity towards the Greek Local Government which is largely affected by the adverse economic situation but also as an important collective step to strengthen European cooperation, a constituent element of European integration.

Please express your support by replying to the following email proedros@kedke.gr.

Thanking you in advance for endorsing the Declaration.

Sincerely,

Georgios Patoulis
Mayor of Maroussi



President of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece