

Following your request for comment regarding the Athens Review of Books case, I would like to state, on behalf of Mr Kotzias, the following:

1)The truth is that no asset of the said magazine was frozen. Moreover, the magazine's circulation was not impeded, in spite of the fact that the implementation of the court rulings involves Mr and Mrs Vasilakis.

2) There are 3 judgments at all levels of court -court of first instance, court of appeal, Supreme Court- that characterize the attacks by the Vasilakis couple against Mr Kotzias as common defamation.

3) The Vasilakis couple which was fined 10 thousand euros after being convicted for defamation and lies maintains that the court decision does not concern the couple itself, but rather the circulation of the magazine. If you had carefully studied the court decisions, you would not have wasted any time on the above lies.

4)One would have expected from a Financial Times journalist to know that court decisions in Greece are implemented just as they are in the United Kingdom.

5) This case started long before Mr Kotzias became Minister and the judgments of the first and second instance courts were issued before he became Minister.

6) Defamation is a civil and criminal offense and is punishable everywhere in Europe. European law provides for punishments for slanderers and court rulings in Europe are being implemented throughout the European Union. I am rather puzzled by the fact that you are calling on Mr Kotzias to provide explanations for merely requesting the implementation of three court decisions that vindicate him.

7) Finally, I would like it to be known that, through the undersigned, Mr Kotzias has asked the convicted couple, at all three levels of courts, to issue a public apology, telling them that this would be enough for him to end the litigation. However, the Vasilakis couple has categorically refused to express such a simple apology, while at the same time demanding, through various articles in the press, that the court decisions not be implemented. It basically demands that the said couple remain above the law, that it may defame as it deems fit and abolish every notion of rule of law. It seems to believe that it has such access to newspapers and media so as to be in a position to continue waging the defamatory campaign against Mr Kotzias.

I would therefore suggest that you carefully study the relevant court decisions and not restrict yourself to the points of view of those convicted for defamation.

Athens, 30 July, 2017

Ioannis Mantzouranis

Authorized legal representative

Ps: I expect the publication of my letter in full, which, after all, came as a response to your request