

The Decentralization and the Local Government

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The issues that concern Decentralization, Local Government, and in general State Administration are themselves of great importance. Their importance, however, is more significant during certain periods, because of special circumstances that a country might find itself. Our country is being under these special circumstances for many reasons. Factually:

Although the Decentralization of the state administration mechanism is being a constitutional demand and a dream of decades in general, it has not been fulfilled yet for a number of reasons. Hardly are reasons of objective inability among these, but mostly reasons of political choices, which are related to an insufficient implementation of the institution. Despite what is controversially been declared here and what is actually happening elsewhere, the same mechanisms are not fully put in practice distantly (e.g. France, Italy).

The Local Government, A' and B' rank, has not always the lack, despite the appropriate constitutional consolidation, to have a better fate. Our country, which has initially given birth to this Idea, has periodically abandoned with irresolution the A' rank and only before later has been able to get involved with the B' rank.

The fact that it has been tried to revise the relevant regulations of the current constitution is enforcing this opinion.

In general the State Administration follows the fate of the previews institutions.

The latest "urgent" regulations of the government and the rash announcements in continuance of the Opposition Party for several subjects of the State Administration, (among the subjects is the one that has to do with the regional

dimensions of the subject) show its “dysfunctional” problem. This appears to be serious and causes a number of side effects in the life of the country.

As a result, it is not accidental that the Minister of Internal Affairs, State Administration and Decentralization does not hesitate to mention in a Preamble of a late law (N. 2839/ 12.9.2000) the following that enforce the present opinion.

“It is of common acceptance the ascertainment of the need, the State Department to be more effective.”

“The success of any kind of reform tries demands the State Administration to get rid of its introvert character. The core of the changes in the State Administration must be sought and found in an environment of cooperation, communication and acceptance, not only among the political Parties, but also among every legal Vehicle of Society (civil servants, users of state services, Representatives of Trade Unions, classes of production). Our aim should be to use effectively the conclusions and propositions of the theory with increased social legalization.”

“Beyond these, the creation of a Consulting Organ that will refer to the Ministry of Internal, State Administration and Decentralization of the National Council Administrative Reform, in which the propositions of the Minister of Internal, State Administration and Decentralization will be introduced for discussion and expression of opinion. These propositions will refer to exceptionally significant interventions in the State Administration. In the Council, Representatives of the Parliament, Social and Financial Vehicles will take part.”

The nature of the applied and proposed from time to time solutions for Decentralization, State Administration and Local Government issues is usually fragmentary and not implemented in a thorough, strong, functional and effective network of political actions and measurements. This nature makes the intentions of their Creators invalid and has put them astray from the lasting results. The continuous changes of the relevant adjustments (of legal and administrative character), in addition to the imperfect implement of the relevant regulations from time to time and the notified inactivity to implement the certain regulations by the state and local organs, in no case do they result to the “production” of “administrative” work, that is so useful this period we are running through.

The same phenomena should not be continued. The general state of the Country and the international conjuncture, in which has found itself to be under the submission of the Maastricht, Amsterdam, Nice Conditions, demand more quick, more bold, more thorough pace (in caution...).

It must also be reminded that apart from the good service of the citizens in subjects of current administrative character, the rationalistic organized and perfectly functioning State Administration is in submission of full Decentralization and Local Government, that are a “condicio sine qua non” of significant subjects as for example the Development in all terms (financial, social, cultural) and in all levels (national, regional, local). The case of the Administrative Regions of France is characteristic. Apart from the production of the administrative work, their interference in subjects of development subjects is very significant. Drawing especially important funds from the European Community proves that exactly.

Taking into consideration the international conditions and conjuncture of cruel competition of any kind, strength, width, character among Nations, Societies and Economies, it is obvious that the real, full and essential reform of the Local Government, Decentralization and the State Administration of the country is now urgent and useful, in spite of the political cost of the Ones in charge, of the loss of power of the Political Parties and the sacrifices of the Society or the Individuals.

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Η έκδοση αυτή αφιερώνεται στη μνήμη του Εμμανουήλ Τ. ΡΑΚΙΤΖΗ, που άφησε, φεύγοντας πρόωρα, δυσαναπλήρωτο κενό. Εκφράζει την ανάγκη της οικογενείας και των φίλων του να συγκεντρώσουν αποσπάσματα ενός έργου, που δεν ολοκληρώθηκε και να περισώσουν τις μνήμες μίας ζωής που άφησε πολύ έντονα ίχνη στο πέρασμά της.

Παράλληλα, επιχειρεί να συνεισφέρει στην ελληνική βιβλιογραφία μία συλλογή κειμένων, μικρή συμβολή στην προσπάθεια κατανόησης των τελευταίων 50 κρίσιμων χρόνων της ελληνικής πραγματικότητας και σκέψης. Χωρίς την πολύτιμη προσφορά, σε όλα τα στάδια της εργασίας, του αγαπητού φίλου Π.Β. ΠΑΣΧΟΥ, την επιμέλεια του Διονυσίου ΑΝΑΤΟΛΙΚΙΩΤΟΥ, αλλά και χωρίς τη συμπαράσταση και συνεργασία συγγενών, φίλων και συνεργατών του Εμμ. Τ. ΡΑΚΙΤΖΗ, η έκδοση αυτή δεν θα μπορούσε να πραγματοποιηθεί.

Ας δεχθούν όλοι τις θερμές ευχαριστίες της οικογένειάς του και από αυτήν εδώ τη θέση.

Φωτεινή, Βύρων και Πέτρος
ΡΑΚΙΤΖΗΣ