

# State Modernization and Entrepreneurial Activity

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The recent decision of the Government, to proceed to the abolishment, the merging and transfer of the Agencies of Public Administration, of Corporate Bodies under Public Law and Corporate Bodies under Private Law (which occupy with the State's affairs instead of the State) must primarily be characterized as «just» and aiming at the right direction.

This decision illustrates nothing else but a part of the thoughts of those, Scientists, Politicians, Local Administration Executives, Businessmen, average Citizens, who have declared, from a long time ago and in various ways their opinion on the restriction of the «extent» of the jurisdictions of the State, for the benefit of the State's Administration, those Governed by it, as well as of its Citizens.

On a first stage, (the author hopes that there will be also a second one...) some Departments of Public Services and of Corporate Bodies under Public and under Private Law, which basically belong to 14 Ministries (Ministries of: National Economy and Finance, Development, Agriculture, Environment, Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization, External Affairs, Labour and Social Security, Health and Wellfare, Education, Culture, Social Order and Justice) or they function independently or under the supervision of other Ministries, will have to be abolished, merged or transferred.

The first conclusion drawn, after carefully reading the data concerning the Departments, the Services and Legal Entities, is that quantitatively the «intervention» for the reduction of the size of the jurisdictions of the State is of a limited range, given the

fact, that it leaves untouched the main body of its activities (that have nothing to do with its entity and its national security) that are exerted additionally - with no obligation of doing so-, it proceeds in solutions.

Concerning the latter it must be indicated that in the case of the NAT for example, which by the way it will remain for the time being under the «supervision of the Ministry of Merchant Marine, not transferable, by exemption, to the Ministry of Social Security, which is responsible for matters of Insurance etc.

For those who favor the point of view, that the State can successfully involve itself to anything, entrepreneurial activity included, it must be indicated here that a recent research having as a topic the reasons which decrease the rates of inflation, showed that Public Enterprises and the increases of their bills «nourish» inflation!

It must be set clear that, the times during which the State had the «luxury» and «capability» to successfully occupy itself with anything, is far left behind. Today the State, under the conditions of tough competition going on between the State and Individuals and between Individuals themselves, hasn't got the capability to exert successful entrepreneurial activity. And this entrepreneurial activity can work in favor of such schemes that private initiative can form, organize, and lead to success.

What times demand from the State, is the Organization of its Public Enterprises, in the best possible way. Because a well organized Public Administration is a *condicio sine qua non* for the successful exertion of entrepreneurial activity. And it is well known in Greece, that the financially «healthy» investor-businessman (the one who interests an Economy and a Society - like the Greek -) is at most times interested, not for the motives on financial support, which will be offered to him (as a enticement...) for the realization of investments in Greece, but for an effective, quick, flexible and incorruptible Public Administration, like the one seen in other Countries.

And this kind of Public Administration is the one that the Country must most urgently acquire, because the State hasn't got the capability to effectively substitute the private entrepreneurial activity and it must keep to itself the role of the Chief Coordinator, who designs policies, inspires and determines the productive forces of the State, it creates interests, favorable conditions and creative performances, it secures conditions of credibility and security, having as its final target the fulfillment of the Citizen's needs with resources stemming from private activity; and it is in favor of these Citizens that the State has been created and has a reason to exist...