

**26 May 2015**

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**Managing Director Regling, the Greek government has been putting its creditors off for months. How much time is there still left for an agreement?**

Klaus Regling: Time is running out. That is the reason why we are working day and night on an agreement. Without an agreement, Greece will not get any new money. This could lead to a risk of a state bankruptcy. This would imply big risks. Also a non-payment of a tranche to the IMF would be dangerous. That would have implications on other creditors like us. On the other hand, the rescue fund grants loans only if reforms are implemented. That also applies in the current situation, because this is necessary for the Greek economy to recover.

**The government in Athens claims that the agreements with the creditors has brought nothing but misery and hardship for the Greeks. Is that true?**

Regling: The truth is that the Greeks had to accept painful cuts in salaries and pensions in exchange for the loans. This was unavoidable in order to correct wrong developments in the past. This is how the budget deficit was significantly reduced and how the economy became more competitive. This is the reason why growth returned a year ago, why unemployment began to fall and why the country was able to borrow money on the market. Prime Minister Tsipras should built on these successes und continue the reform process. Otherwise all the sacrifices of the Greek population would have been in vain.

**How much money could the Greeks still get from the rescue fund?**

Regling: If there is in an agreement and all euro countries consent to this, Greece could get a last loan tranche of €1.8 bn relatively rapidly, as well as another €1.8bn in central bank profits. There is a similar amount available at the IMF. The total is €7.2 bn. To get this money, Greece has to implement further reforms.

**Would the euro rescue fund, ESM, have the money for a third rescue package?**

Regling: The rescue fund has already lent €130.9 bn to Greece. At the moment the focus is on the successful completion of the current programme. Only once this is done can it be determined whether further help is needed. The ESM has sufficient financial resources for all scenarios. That is important to reassure the markets.

**Athens wants to get rid of the International Monetary Fund as a creditor as quickly as possible. Is the IMF still needed?**

Regling: The IMF has decades of useful experience in supporting crisis countries throughout the entire world through emergency loans and reforms. As a result of this Germany and other euro countries insist that the IMF remains involved.