

## Greece debt crisis: Reforms 'will fail' - Varoufakis

🕒 18 July 2015 | [Europe](#) |



**Former Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis has told the BBC that economic reforms imposed on his country by creditors are "going to fail", ahead of talks on a huge bailout.**

Mr Varoufakis said Greece was subject to a programme that will "go down in history as the greatest disaster of macroeconomic management ever".

The German parliament approved the opening of negotiations on Friday.

The bailout could total €86bn (£60bn) in exchange for austerity measures.

In a damning assessment, Mr Varoufakis told the BBC's Mark Lobel: "This programme is going to fail whoever undertakes its implementation."

Asked how long that would take, he replied: "It has failed already."

Mr Varoufakis resigned earlier this month, in what was widely seen as a conciliatory gesture towards the eurozone finance ministers with whom he had clashed frequently.

He said Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, who has admitted that he does not believe in the bailout, had little option but to sign.

"We were given a choice between being executed and capitulating. And he decided that capitulation was the optimal strategy."

Mr Tsipras has announced a cabinet reshuffle, sacking several ministers who voted against the reforms in parliament this week.

But he opted not to bring in technocrats or opposition politicians as replacements.

As a result, our correspondent says, Mr Tsipras will preside over ministers who, like himself, harbour serious doubts about the reform programme.

Greece must pass further reforms on Wednesday next week to secure the bailout.

Germany was the last of the eurozone countries needing parliamentary approval to begin the talks.

But the head of the group of eurozone finance ministers, Jeroen Dijsselbloem, has warned that the process will not be easy, saying he expected the negotiations to take four weeks.

On Saturday, the Greek government ordered banks to open on Monday following three weeks of closures.

But the decree stated that the weekly withdrawal limit should be a maximum €420.

Separately, **the European Council approved** the €7bn bridging loan for Greece from an EU-wide emergency fund. The loan was approved in principle by eurozone ministers on Thursday and now has the go-ahead from all non-euro states.

It means Greece will now be able to repay debts to two of its creditors, the ECB and International Monetary Fund (IMF), due on Monday.

 [View comments](#)

**Share this story** About sharing



---

## Greek debt crisis



---

### Top Stories

**Chattanooga gunman 'sent war text'**

The US gunman who killed five in Tennessee texted a link to a religious verse about "declaring war", US media reports say, as his family says he suffered from depression.

🕒 19 July 2015

### **UK will help US destroy IS - Cameron**

🕒 19 July 2015

### **Cosby 'paid off accusers after sex'**

🕒 19 July 2015

## Features & Analysis

### **The man who was there**

How I witnessed history during my 50 years as a reporter

### **Inbox secrets**

The guilty thrill of reading other people's mail

### **Colonists for Cuba**

La Gloria, an American experiment from another age

### **History lesson**

Ukrainians learn about Nazi massacres of Jews

### **Your pictures**

Readers' photographs on the theme of hidden

### **Pluto, Aussie slang ...**

... and the other big trends of the week

### **Racial tensions**

How a stolen mobile became a national issue in Malaysia

### **Go Figure**

The big numbers from the week's news, visualised

### **Weekend Edition**

Features to enjoy, including your comments

## Sections

---

Africa

---

Asia

---

Australia

---

**|** Europe

---

Latin America

---

Middle East

Home

Video

World

US & Canada

UK

Business

Tech

Science

Magazine

Entertainment & Arts

Health

In Pictures

Also in the News

Special Reports

Explainers

The Reporters

Have Your Say

## BBC News Services



On your mobile



On your connected TV



Get news alerts



Contact BBC News

## Explore the BBC

[Sport](#)

[Weather](#)

[TV](#)

[Radio](#)

[CBBC](#)

[CBeebies](#)

[WW1](#)

[Food](#)

[iWonder](#)

[Bitesize](#)

[Music](#)

[Local](#)

---

[Terms of Use](#)

[About the BBC](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Accessibility Help](#)

[Parental Guidance](#)

[Contact the BBC](#)

**Copyright © 2015 BBC.** The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. **[Read about our approach to external linking.](#)**