Alexis Tsipras called early elections in an attempt to implement three-year bailout

By ELDA BEGACOS and NICOLAS LAPIES

ATHENS—Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras resigned Thursday and called early elections, an attempt to get a new, stronger mandate to implement a three-year bailout program that sparked a financial crisis in his radical leftist Syriza party, with dozens voting against him during the bailout’s ratification in parliament last week, which was approved thanks to support from opposition parties.

Tsipras has insisted that although he disagrees with the conditions of the bailout, he had no choice but to accept and implement them to keep Greece in the euro, which the vast majority of Greeks want.

With the country’s financial future now secure, Tsipras said he felt obliged to let the Greek people evaluate his work.

Now that this difficult cycle has ended, “I feel deep moral and political obligation to set before your judgment everything I have done, both right and wrong, the achievements and the omissions,” he said in the address. “The popular mandate was not secured (the) Syriza,” he added, referring to the party that won in the most recent elections last year.

The European Union’s executive Commission said “takes note” of the election announcement. “Broad support for [bailout deal] and sticking to commitments will be key for success,” said Commission spokesperson Margaritis Schinas.

Tsipras said he would hold elections within the next two months, with government officials saying kept 20 is the likeliest.

The Brussels-based European Commission said “takes note” of the election announcement. "Broad support for [bailout deal] and sticking to commitments will be key for success," said Commission spokesperson Margaritis Schinas.

Tsipras, who had been in power since January 2015, was the target of a no-confidence vote last month after his party suffered a major setback in local elections.

The previous government, led by conservative New Democracy and the Centre Right, had been in power for 15 years and had been unable to stem Greece's deepening debt crisis.

With Tsipras' resignation, the government will be replaced by a caretaker administration until new elections are held.


greek prime minister resigns

By BY RAPHAEL  SUTTER

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The AP’s investigation found that subscribers included at least two assistant U.S. attorneys, an IT administrator in the Executive Office of the President, a division chief, an Office of Personnel Management, a Social Security Administration and a Department of Homeland Security employee who indicated he worked on a U.S. counterintelligence team.

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Congress, W.H. workers among subscribers

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