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S&D Group president, Gianni Pittella: Greece

To begin with, I'd like to say that for us Socialists and Democrats, Europe without Greece is something that is unthinkable. Greece is an essential part of Europe and of the eurozone.

Without Greece in the eurozone, Europe would no longer be itself. And that is why we have opposed and will oppose extremists and political speculators who are calling on Greece to leave the euro. I could quote Mr. Varoufakis' misguided words or the extremist position of Schäuble. Or I could reply to some statements that have been made by my colleague Mr. Weber. But I would prefer to underline the sobriety, the seriousness, the constructiveness of President Juncker, who for all these months has worked to find a positive solution.

Today is not the time for friends to apologize to each other or to recriminate against each other. What is at stake is too serious to turn this house into a football stadium. It's not the time for divisions in the House, for divisions in Europe. It is the time for us to stand united.

What is at stake is Europe's future, which includes Greece. I agree with Mr. Weber on one point: President Tusk gave an excellent speech today, but the most important institution in Europe – the Parliament – cannot have its President not taking part in the Eurosummit. So I formally ask him to invite Mr. Schulz to his meetings.

Mr. Tsipras: you are not a member of my party, but at this point in time I am a European, and as a European I say to you that, for the good of Europe, we Socialists will never accept a Grexit. Never. In recent hours, hope has reignited, and I can note that everyone is showing a constructive attitude.

The attitude of all the heads of state yesterday was positive. And the political forces in Greece are positive about a solution. So I think the conditions are there for an agreement to be reached this week. And it's up to the Greek government to decide on reforms: support for labour and investment, combating corruption and tax evasion. These are not measures that are required because Europe imposes them but because they would benefit Greek citizens. And I think it is also right to discuss restructuring the debt, which was a commitment undertaken by the Eurogroup in 2012 which should be honoured now. And I think about having a European conference on debt – we should think about this as well as about the pooling of debt.

I think – and I'm concluding – that what is needed is a bridging loan, to reignite hope in Greek citizens and put the negotiators in the condition of reaching a medium-term agreement. I would say, president, that those who will read about these days in the future, should be able to read that in this Parliament, in the European institutions, there were men and women who knew

how to put aside and rise above party politics and enter into an act of responsibility to save Greece and to save Europe.