

Greece: General strike over soaring prices

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Trade unions took to the streets of Athens on April 6, protesting over rising energy costs, soaring prices of essential goods and lack of protection for the vulnerable. The opposition calls for snap elections.

The conservative New Democracy government says it does what the “fiscal reality” allows, while the opposition looks for political gains. According to polls, New Democracy is still in the lead, followed by leftist Syriza and socialists.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has pushed forward a “positive” agenda to help mitigate the implications of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. However, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that such measures would derail the country’s finances. The IMF instead recommend new austerity-driven policies, which add to the government’s headaches.

The IMF calls for “prudent increase” of the minimum wage that protects the country’s competitiveness. Plans for cuts in social security contributions and taxes should be cancelled.

The next general election is due in more than a year, but given the circumstances, Mitsotakis might go for elections earlier than that.

Edited by industriAll Europe