

ROMAN GERODIMOS

“Polity, Anomie and Collective Amnesia”

How many of us are thinking about – or still remember of – the wiretapping scandal? The alleged suicide of K. Tsalikides? The pension fund bonds scandal? The Zorbas report? Last year’s fires, which destroyed a good part of the country’s natural reserves? The Zahopoulos scandal? The Siemens scandal? How many citizens are actually doing something about these “systemic faults”? I suppose not many. I suppose that not many people will be thinking about the latest doping scandal which has – once again – marred Greek sports and the Olympic movement. The reports will be filed away, the reforms will allegedly go on and the rest of us will move on to the next episode of the collective soap-opera that is Greek politics – until that one is over too.

These few examples remind us that it is polity, above all else, that breeds and protects anomie. We do not correct our mistakes because it looks like we never learn from them. And I argue that we never learn because we forget easily. Many things were said regarding the doping scandal within a few days in the Greek public sphere. The former sports minister Mr. Lianis very candidly admitted that we have to choose between medals (with doping) and “clean, amateur sport competitions” that are true to the original values and principles of the Olympic movement. How many of us paid any attention to that statement? And, really, what are the chances that we will act to alter the sick state of international sports? I suppose the chances are minimal – as was the case after the wiretapping scandal, the bonds scandal, the fires and the various suicides (attempted, successful or staged).

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