

## **Greek PM says Athens ready to return to negotiating table**

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**By REUTERS**

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras hails a “no” vote in Sunday’s referendum on a bailout offer and says his government is ready to return immediately to negotiations with creditors in a bid to get shuttered banks open again.

Dismissing talk that the referendum was effectively a vote on whether Greece stays in the euro, Tsipras said the mandate that Greeks had given him was to reach a viable solution rather than clash with Europe.

“With the difficult circumstances prevailing today you made a very brave choice,” Tsipras said in a televised address to Greeks. “I’m fully aware the mandate you gave me is not one of a rupture with Europe but a mandate to strengthen our negotiating position to seek a viable solution.”

Tsipras said he would ask the country’s president to summon a meeting of political party leaders to brief them on the situation.

**— By Karolina Tagaris & Michele Kambas**

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