### POTAMITISVEKRIS

# Capital Link Webinar Improvements to the bankruptcy framework

# Deficiencies of current Greek insolvency framework

#### The background against which the new Code is introduced

A very small number of bankruptcies (less than 200 per year)

A large number of zombies (in the tens of thousands)

Lack of a clear path to debt discharge

#### **Causes**:

- The infrequent use of bankruptcy for merchants
- The lack of consumer bankruptcy
   proceeding (a substitute in Katselis
   law did not work in practice)

Debtors lack a legal way to resolve their indebtedness & Creditors lack a credible threat

### Excessive procedural complexity

#### **Causes:**

- Lack of significant creditor input
- Lack of significant court involvement
- Liquidation starts late & can easily be blocked
- Lack of expertise on part of administrators



## The New Code



#### 1<sup>st</sup> important reform

#### The speeding up of liquidation



2<sup>nd</sup> important reform

The strengthening of the role of creditors



3<sup>rd</sup> important reform

The use of a digital registry for all announcements, communications and for the registration of procedural steps



4<sup>th</sup> important reform

The introduction of consumer bankruptcy

4 Important Reforms

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#### 1st - The speeding up of liquidation

- > At the time of bankruptcy declaration, court decides on piecemeal or going concern liquidation
- > Going concern liquidation to be considered if supported by significant creditor percentage
- > If adopted follows the procedure of the existing special administration proceeding
  - Streamlined selling of the business in one or more parts (which may also involve distinct assets)
  - Pubic sale without minimum price. Where applied this process has worked swiftly
- > If piecemeal, assets sold in lots on the e-auction platform

Minimum price adjusted automatically in case no eligible offers received New auction within 20 days After 3rd unsuccessful auction, 3 months to seek bilateral sale

> If no sale then new e-auction without minimum price

Disputes among creditors on distribution to be resolved in one hearing at the time of distribution

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> - The strengthening of the role of creditors

- > The preference of the largest creditor is given particular weight in the court's appointment of the administrator and creditors are entitled to receive reports on progress every semester
- > Creditors are given access to information on debtor through the administrator
- > Creditors are also given the right to sue management for trading while insolvent
- Critically, except for going concern liquidations, bankruptcy to not impede enforcement by secured creditors
- Reducing privileges of the tax authorities and social security funds; towards a more equal treatment among creditors

# 3<sup>rd</sup> - The use of a digital registry for all announcements, communications and for the registration of procedural steps

- > All publications are to be made on the digital platform
- Communications to and from the creditors via this registry
- > The registry is also able to host creditor assembly voting
- The digital platform will allow compilation of statistics and identification of procedural weakness for improvements

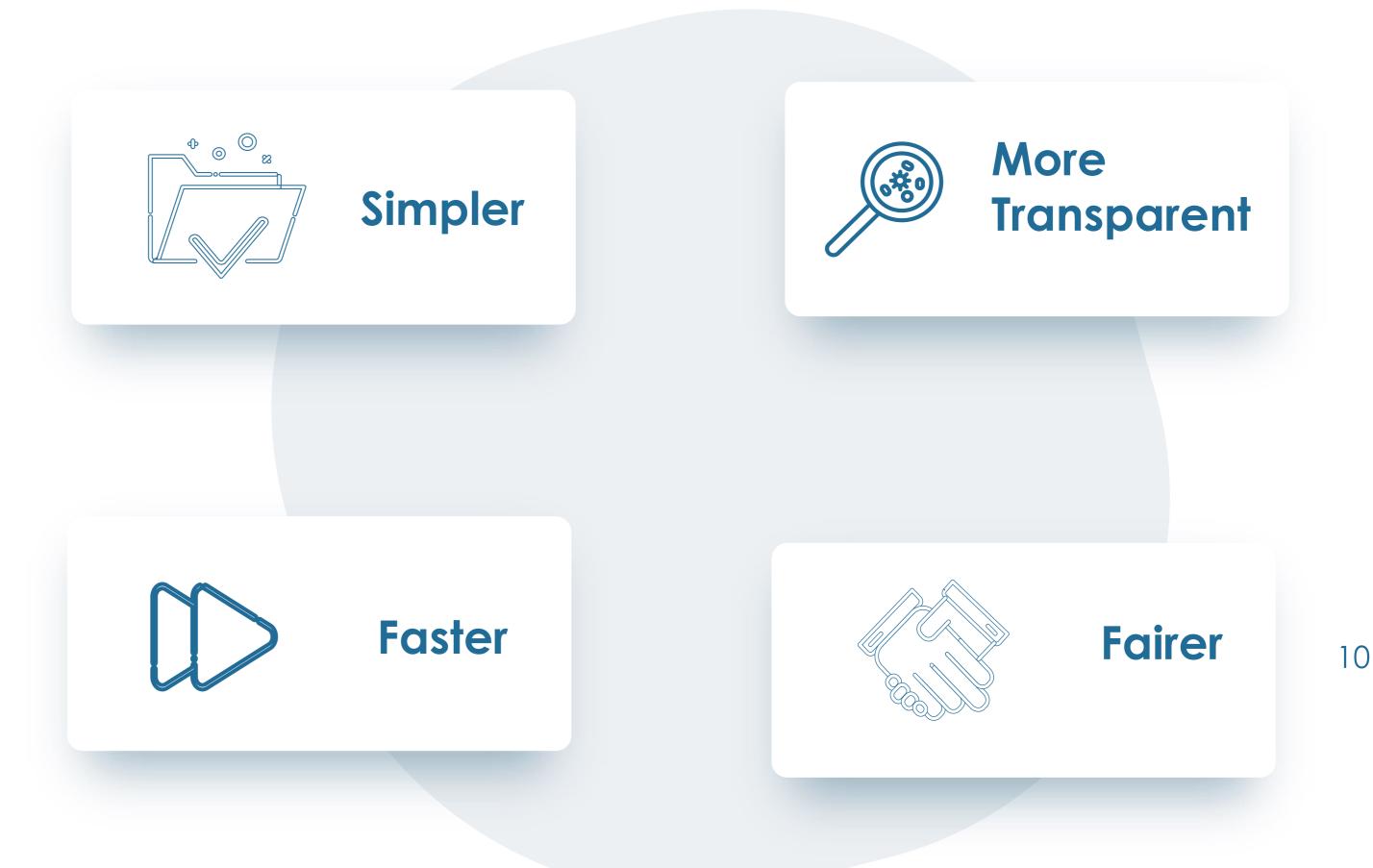
#### 4<sup>th</sup> - The introduction of consumer bankruptcy

- > Bankruptcy proceedings divided between big and small depending on size of debtor
- Small are streamlined and are expected to include most consumer bankruptcies (consumer procedure identical to small enterprises). Only piecemeal liquidation
- Bankrupt individuals discharged on their debts after 3 years, but creditors may object in cases of fraud or lack of full disclosure or lack of cooperation
- Individuals who contribute significant assets to estate may be discharged in one year
- > Debts not discharged limited to certain penal sanctions and family maintenance

### To Summarise:

We are introducing a new framework, making bankruptcy:

Bankruptcy may be expected to have more substantial contribution to a quick restoration of productive means to potentially productive uses, providing creditors with a reasonable recovery and offering good faith debtors with a second (and third and fourth...) chance



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Thank You!