



Eurobank named 'Best bank of Greece 2008'

The prestigious Euromoney magazine has proclaimed Eurobank EFG the 'Best bank in Greece for 2008'. The printed issue handpicked the winner, taking into account its dynamic growth and high achievements throughout the year.

Eurobank EFG now runs assets worth some EUR 72.2 billion and does business in Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Poland, Ukraine, Cyprus, Switzerland and Luxemburg. It is the second largest bank in Greece with about 300 branches and nearly 10,000 employees.

Migrants kept in dirty center

Hundreds of would-be migrants, chiefly from Afghanistan, are living in cramped and squalid conditions in a reception center on Lesbos with many suffering from serious diseases, according to representatives of French charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) dispatched to help out on the island.

Some 800 migrants are living in a space designed to accommodate 400, according to aid workers who say they are only allowed outside for half an hour every couple of days.

"They do not have adequate access to showers and toilets," said MSF local project leader Giorgos Karayiannis, who added that one ward offers only one toilet for more than 100 people. "They are usually kept locked up," he said.

Some of the migrants are suffering from tuberculosis and skin diseases and have to wait to be seen by the one on-site doctor, according to Karayiannis, who said the risk of contagion was high. "There is not enough staff to meet the demands of the center," he said.

Kids can beat egg allergy, Greek study indicates

A Gradually exposing children with egg allergies to cooked egg could help them overcome the allergy, a new study reports.

In the Greek study, tiny amounts of cake containing heat-treated egg were fed to 94 children every day, with the amount of cake gradually increased over six months. Eighty-seven children (90 percent) were able to eat the cake without allergy symptoms.

After six months, the children who did not display allergic reactions attempted to eat an egg not cooked to the same degree as the one in the cake. More than 95 percent experienced no reaction and were thought to have overcome the allergy.

The findings were to be published in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.



Greek museums slowly catching on to opportunities offered by the Internet

Despite a slow start, the country's institutions have made important progress on the Web

The National Museum of Contemporary Art blog is celebrating its first birthday. The Benaki Museum has become fluent in Spanish, the Museum of Cycladic Art has gone on Facebook and the National Gallery has redesigned its website.

As more organizations get active on the Internet, museums have jumped at the opportunity as well. Well-known museums but also some of the smaller ones abroad even offer digital exhibitions especially curated for the Internet and brimming with lots of detailed information. Greece, with its rich museum and cultural history, had initially made a slow start but has come a long way in just a few years. Some local museums' webpages are exemplary, while others, like the National Archaeological Museum, have yet to design their own website.

The National Gallery inaugurated its new website this summer, with information now available in Greek, English, French and German and a detailed archive of Greek and foreign artists. Despite the delay, this was a pleasant surprise. Two things are missing, however: There is no information about the current Goya exhibition and an e-mail contact should be made available, instead of providing the venue's fax number.

Other museums started using the Internet early on. The Benaki Museum website, active for at least seven years, recently added information in the Spanish lan-



guage as well as an online catalog of its library and digital photography archives.

In Thessaloniki, the Photography Museum has a very user-friendly archive, of great value to students and researchers, with a detailed program of all exhibitions of the past eight years, including the accompanying photographs. Also in Thessaloniki, the State Museum of Contemporary Art has laid

emphasis on communication and provides links to various local art websites. Back in Athens, the Byzantine and Christian Museum as well as the Museum of Cycladic Art have proven that the Internet is useful in areas other than just contemporary art. The former has maintained a blog detailing the progress of its current exhibition. Although the blog was more about the feelings of those involved instead of the ideas behind the display, it was an important initiative. The latter offers a digital tour of its collections in Greek and English, while this year's volunteers created a museum profile on Facebook to attract younger people.

The National Museum of Contemporary Art blog, titled Fixit, follows the former Fix factory's restoration step by step. Museum director Anna Kafetsi explained that the blog "was a good excuse to open a discussion on contemporary art, architecture and museology with texts written by the museum staff and friends." The "friends" include interesting personalities from the arts as well as journalists.

ANTHONY ANDREWS QUILTS LABOR TO RUN AS INDEPENDENT FOR RANDWICK COUNCIL

Councilor Anthony Andrews announced he would run as an Independent Councilor for Randwick Council (Central Ward) in the September elections.

"As an Independent I will fight to stop parking meters being rolled out and keep the major parties honest." Cr Andrews said.

"I know how hard families are doing

at the moment but the big parties on Council just don't get it.

My top priorities for Randwick are:

- No more parking meters
- Extend Maroubra Beach promenade to South Maroubra and continue our famous coastal walkway to La Perouse via Malabar Headland
- Improve Public Safety with CCTV cameras and crackdown on anti social behaviour in Maroubra Junction Town Centre, Maroubra Beach and

Lexington Place.

- Families should be able to go to the beach and not worry about paying for parking. If elected I will ensure that this does not happen.

- "As a Maroubra local with a young family I know the difficulties which families face. With rising inflation, high petrol prices and interest rates we need to make certain that we are not hit with further costs for parking meters on our own beaches.

- "The big parties are more interested in revenue and stopping people driving than taking the pressure off families." Cr Andrews said.

- Cr Andrews also said he strongly opposed the privatisation of electricity but the Local Labor Party supports the sell off.

- "Ask any Senior in Randwick what they are concerned about and it's paying more for their power Bills. I share their concerns and will stick up for them as an Independent.

- Whether it's Electricity Privatisation or the scandals around developer donations in Wollongong Labor Party Candidates aren't allowed to think for themselves.

- Working with the local community I want to make a real difference over the next four years as an Independent Councilor on Randwick Council.