

# Greek ESC Entrant Vows to Do His Best

Famous Greek pop icon and Greece's entrant for the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest Sakis Rouvas wished at the press conference he gave the next contest would be held in Athens. Rouvas, who had landed third place at the 2004 ESC held in Istanbul, stressed he was thrilled that the Greek national broadcaster (ERT) chose him to sing for Greece at the 54th ESC scheduled to take place in Moscow on 12, 14 and 16 May. He confirmed his faith in his team and vowed to do his best.

Apart from Sakis Rouvas, advisor of ERT's President and Project Manager Johnny Kalimeris, head of Public

Relations Fotini Giannoulatou and sisters Maggira, who are to host the night of the Greek national final, also took part in the press conference.

Kalimeris touched on ERT's decision to opt for professionals, who, as he stressed, had already proved themselves in the contest.

Fokas Evangelinos is responsible for direction and choreography and Dimitris Kontopoulos will compose the three songs, from which one will be chosen at the Greek national final in mid February.

Fotini Giannoulatou focused on the changes in EBU's regulations. As was the case in last year's contest, two



semifinals will precede the final. Text messages and televoting will earn contestants a place in the final, while a jury from each participating nation along with televoting will determine the winner of the final.

# Theophanous has been set up: brother

The disgraced brother of a Victorian cabinet minister facing sexual assault allegations says the politician is the victim of a "set up" involving some members of his own party.

Premier John Brumby on Tuesday denied knowing any details of the claims against Labor frontbencher Theo Theophanous, who stood aside from cabinet on Monday pending a police probe into allegations that he sexually assaulted a parliamentary staffer a decade ago.

His brother, Andrew Theophanous - a former federal MP who was jailed in 2002 on corruption charges - has spoken out in his defence.

He accused his brother's opponents, including some within the ALP, of using smear tactics to undermine him and his work as a champion of multiculturalism.

"A number of very nasty people who are against what we are standing for have reverted to the dirtiest tactics possible," Dr Theophanous told AAP.

"There are still people who don't want a fair and just multicultural society, and this is what I believe is behind this."

He said some of the people against his brother were in the ALP, but he would not say whether they were members of government.

"I can't say that. I can say that it's been the case for



some considerable time that there's been tensions in the Labor Party against people who are supportive of a multicultural society."

As the government went into damage control on Tuesday, Mr Brumby said he had Mr Theophanous's word that he had "not done anything wrong".

"In the event that there's no basis to it, he would obviously expect to return to the cabinet. Should other events unfold, obviously that's a different circumstance," he said.

Mr Brumby denied knowing any details of the allegations, saying Mr Theophanous had advised him of the police investigation only on Monday.

This was despite senior parliamentary officials being advised of an investigation by police two weeks ago.

Victoria Police on Tuesday confirmed the sex-

ual crimes squad was investigating an allegation of sexual assault but would not name the accused because no charges had been laid.

Mr Theophanous, who has stepped aside from his three ministerial portfolios, maintains he knows nothing about the complaint against him but expects to be interviewed within the next two weeks.

Police have reportedly flown to Greece to interview a woman at the centre of the claims, who was in her 20s at the time of the alleged incident. In 2005, Theo Theophanous was accused of sexually harassing a junior parliamentary attendant by repeatedly asking her out. He denied the allegations and no further action was taken. A parliamentary source said at the time there was a lot of anger over the allegations and the woman not pursuing a complaint.

Mr Brumby said his minis-

ter for industry and trade, major projects and information and communications technology was adamant he had no case to answer.

"He has indicated to me in the strongest possible terms that he believes that he has no case to answer in relation to any matters which might be under consideration," he said.

"I don't have information to the contrary. I have his assertion to me that he has done nothing wrong and he is entitled, obviously like any other person ... to the presumption of innocence."

Treasurer and upper house leader John Lenders said the matter was "unhelpful" but backed Mr Theophanous's decision to stand down.

Opposition scrutiny of government spokesman David Davis said Victorians deserved an explanation.

"This is clearly a serious situation ... the premier and the minister need to be frank with Victorians and explain what has occurred."

President of Melbourne's Greek Orthodox community, Bill Papastergiadis, backed Mr Theophanous.

"Minister Theophanous has provided an enormous amount of help and support to the Greek Orthodox Community. He is respected in the community."

*caption: Senior Victorian government minister Theo Theophanous has stood down pending a police investigation.*



## Health

### Osteoporosis Causes Thousands of Fractures per Year

15,000 fractures of the thigh bone are recorded among the elderly in Greece per year despite the fact that the disease commences between 45 and 55. The daily intake of calcium through dairy products and exercise helps the peoples' organism. This was stressed today at Press Conference by the members of the Greek Endocrinological Society members Katerina Saridaki and Kostas Mavroudis and Polizozi Makra. The Press Conference was given on the occasion of the pan-Hellenic campaign the Society begins in order to brief the public on serious health problems, such as osteoporosis, obesity and diabetes mellitus.

It was stressed at the Press Conference that one fracture takes place every 30 seconds, while fractures caused by osteoporosis will at least double in the next 50 years.

Finally, it has been estimated that about 200 million women as well as many elderly suffer internationally from the disease.



### Human Limbs in Crocodile's Stomach

The police in northern Australia have carried out DNA tests to discover to whom belonged the limbs found in 4.3-metre-long crocodile's stomach, reported the Australian media today. Wild Life officials said that the crocodile that had been captured in Queensland will not put to death. Three crocodiles in total had been captured during the search of a 62-year-old man reported missing two weeks ago. The man had gone to Endeavour River to check a crab pot during a camping trip with his wife.