



## Greeks all over cloning issues

A recent Eurobarometer poll revealed Greeks are well informed on the issues of animal cloning. 87% of Greeks correctly thought that the statement "cloning is making an identical copy of an existing animal" was correct. Denmark topped the list with 91% of Danes agreeing with the statement.

The study also showed that 63% of Greeks saying that animal cloning for food production should never be justified (58 percent for the EU average).

## Cohabitation bill not for gays

Justice Minister Sotiris Hatzigakis yesterday stressed that a proposed cohabitation law, granting heterosexual couples living together the same rights as those who are married, would not be extended to gay couples.

"This (bill) is as far as we need to go to fulfill the demands and needs of Greek society – if new behavior develops in the future, we will examine the issue again," Hatzigakis told Parliament.

The minister was reacting to appeals for the reforms to apply to gays too, submitted in Parliament by the Coalition of the Radical Left (SYRIZA), the National Committee for Human Rights and another group representing lawyers from around the country.

"The law should serve social needs, not vice versa," said criminologist Aliko Yiopoulou-Marangopoulou, noting that other European countries have introduced cohabitation laws specifically for their gay communities as heterosexual couples already have the options of religious and civil marriage ceremonies.

"It is an issue we will have to tackle at some point anyway, due to the European Convention on Human Rights," Sofia Spiliotopoulou of the National Committee for Human Rights remarked.

# Immigrant wave continues

They come from all over the world; fleeing persecution, wars, and famine. Many endure dangerous trips to touch Greek soil from which they hope a better life can begin, albeit in Greece or somewhere else in Europe. Already in 2008, Greek authorities have intercepted 11,000 migrants. A report from a Bulgarian paper stated that nearly 116,000 illegal immigrants have entered Greece this year alone. That number is astounding. And then there are increasing stories of those who don't make it; those who meet danger and sometimes don't finish the journey.

These immigrants are washing up on shores and ports all over the country, and it seems that now no one town or island is immune to it. A great article (in the form of a PDF file) in Athens Plus has a detailed map of where immigrants have been caught so far this year. The top five locations in Greece where immigrants have been intercepted and have been detained are:

1. Samos - 2,850 immigrants intercepted
2. Lesbos - 2,700 immigrants intercepted
3. Leros - 2,668 immigrants intercepted
4. Patmos - 1,420 immigrants intercepted
5. Symi - 203 immigrants intercepted



While Greece is trying to cope with the influx as best as she could; it is getting to the point where it is getting nearly impossible to manage. The WHOLE EU should look into ways to stop the flow of immigrants onto the continent and if they do reach EU soil, to help take care of those who need help. The top three sources of immigrants into Greece come from the some of the roughest countries in the world; Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia; where wars have taken their toll.

Many of us who are reading this are a part of a diaspora because our parents or grandparents left Greece for various reasons. Do you think Greece should be doing more to help this immigrants or should it be more of an EU commitment? Does Greece shut its borders? Or open up the flood gates?

# MAKE POVERTY HISTORY



Federal Member for Blaxland, Jason Clare MP, this week met with students from Cabramatta High School who visited Canberra as part of Anti-Poverty Week.

The group of eight students accompanied by teachers Mr Greg Trainor and Ms Azadeh Shafi-Beigli visited Parliament as part of a national campaign to make poverty history around the world. In Parliament, Mr Clare spoke about the many people he has the privilege to represent having escaped the war in Vietnam, the

killing fields of Cambodia, civil war in Lebanon and Sudan.

"Blaxland is an electorate which has been touched by the horrors of war and one that understands the effects of poverty because, for many, they have lived it. They have come to Australia for a better life for themselves and a better life for their children. When I was a little boy I shared a classroom with many of them. Today, many of their children go to Cabramatta High School," Mr Clare said. The students from Cabramatta High, Vicky Ly, Christine Nguyen, Monica Phan, Hong Kiang, Danny Rauv, Peter Chau, Adam Urbancic and Aaron Moala were presented with congratulatory certificates for their work with Micah Challenge and the 'Voices for Justice' campaign.

In his speech, Mr Clare also went on to praise Cabramatta High School for its commitment in encouraging students to have a social conscience.

"Last year the school helped raise over \$14 000 to help build 31 wells for fresh drinking water in Cambodia.

"For the last three years Cabramatta High School has held an annual Peace Day in conjunction with the Sydney Peace Prize.

"It's a major event in the school's calendar and the winner of the Sydney Peace Prize is the guest speaker. This year it is Patrick Dodson, Chairman of the Lingiari Foundation," Mr Clare said. Mr Clare who is the sponsor of the 2008 Cabramatta High School Peace Prize will be visiting the school again on November 7 to present the award.

## Official: Sarkozy's bank account hacked by thieves

PARIS, France (AP) -- The French Cabinet's spokesman says "swindlers" have broken into the personal bank account of President Nicolas Sarkozy.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy reported the theft from his account last month, say media.

Spokesman Luc Chatel told France's Radio-J an investigation is under way and insists the incident "proves that this system of checking (bank accounts) via the Internet isn't infallible." He did not elaborate.

Weekly Journal du Dimanche reported Sunday that thieves seized Sarkozy's bank account information and swiped small sums of money.

The newspaper said Sarkozy reported the theft last month and that those responsible haven't been found. The report cited an unnamed official close to the investigation for its information.

The press service for Sarkozy's office declined comment.

