

Drought-hit Cyprus anticipates emergency aid from EU

NICOSIA, Oct. 25 (Xinhua) -- The European Commission has proposed to grant Cyprus 7.6 million euros (9.58 million dollars) to help the drought-stricken island country cover emergency costs, local media reported Saturday.

The financial aid from the European Union Solidarity Fund will mainly help reimburse costs such as importing water from Greece, according to Cyprus News Agency.

The eastern Mediterranean island has been suffering one of the worst droughts in decades. Decreasing rainfall has made its reservoirs only 6 percent full, forcing water authorities to cut supply to only three times a week, 12 hours per time.

The island's only two desalination plants have worked in full capacity, yet still unable to meet the demand of local people and tens of thousands of tourists.

The Greek Cypriot south has started to import water from Greece by tanks, which has agreed to sell 8 million cubic meters of water by November.

Meanwhile, the breakaway Turkish Cypriot north is pondering over an ambitious project to bring water from Turkey through an undersea pipeline.

The proposed EU financial assistance will be made available for the government-controlled south after approval by the European Parliament and Council.

The EU Solidarity Fund, created in 2002, grants aid to member states and acceding countries in the event of a major natural disaster. However, this is the first time the Commission uses the fund for emergency measures in response to a severe drought.



A woman looks at a 12th-century brazier in the form of a domed building, from Constantinople or Italy, on display in the 'Byzantium 330-1453' exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

activity of our forefathers, a sense of pride that melds into a deep sense of responsibility to spare no labor to make this cultural heritage available to whoever wants to study it and to restore its deepest values to the current situation." While in London on Tuesday, Karamanlis met also with Prime Minister Gordon Brown and had lunch with Greek shipowners based in the British capital. He discussed the international economic crisis and the responsibility of politicians to find an effective way out. This is the first such exhibition in London since 1958 and it reflects the great changes in this field of study due to the many discoveries that have been made in the meantime. It incorporates some 340 objects, including icons, wall paintings, mosaics, ivory, jewelry, enamels, textiles, manuscripts and gold, silver and other metalwork. It will run until March 22, 2009, and has been organized by the Royal Academy of Arts with the collaboration of the Benaki Museum in Athens and is supported by the J.F. Costopoulos, A.G. Leventis and Stavros Niarchos foundations.



The talented Patricia Kara

The talented Patricia Kara has just released her very own 2009 calendar! A portion of the proceeds will be going to Women for Women International. Kara continues her work on the popular U.S. television program Deal or No Deal (both daytime and evening editions) as well as her new duties on the Fox Movie Channel interviewing on the red carpet for the new Fall line up of shows.

Patricia Kara
Model/Television personality, Patricia Kara

Where do you live?

Los Angeles. In the center of Hollywood.

Roots?

My mothers village is from Paleohori tis Kinourias, kovta sto Leonidio. My fathers village is Ayios Vasilis. In Athens we live in Peristeri.

How does a nice Greek girl make it in Hollywood? Really, you should write a book.

A Greek girl or any girl has to work really hard to make it in Hollywood. She needs persistence, dedication and sometimes make sacrifices.

Do you get back to the homeland often?

I try to get back as often as I can. I used to be able to go every summer and the occasional Christmas and New Years. The last few years have been difficult to get away due to my work schedule.

What's the best part of being Greek?

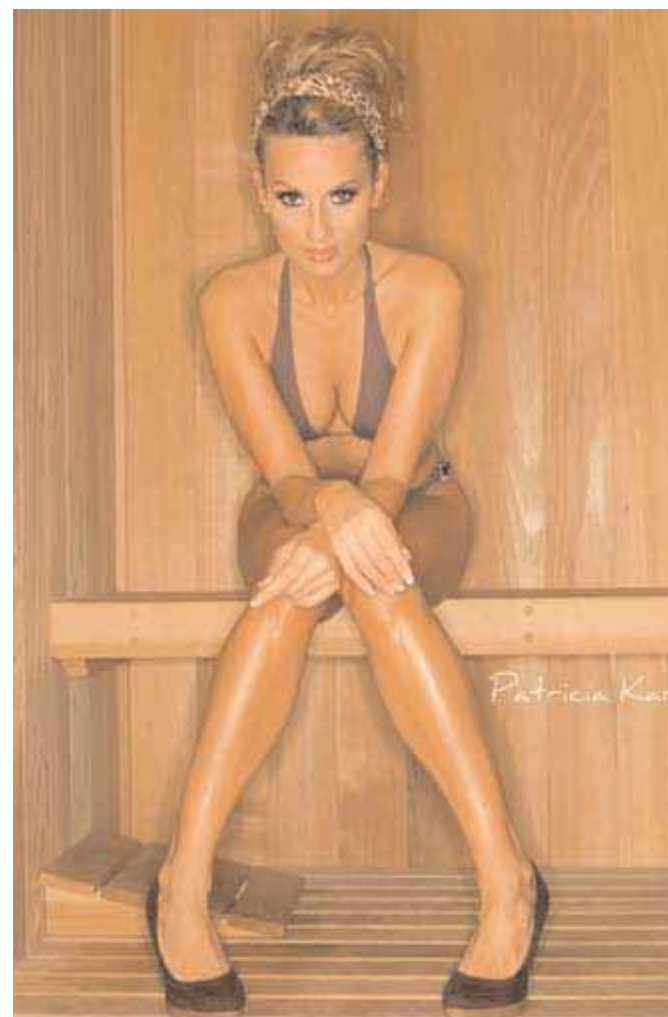
The best parts of being Greek is our culture, traditions, the food, the dancing and the PASSION!!! Its impossible to narrow it to just one thing.

Any authentic Greek restaurants where you live?

There are a few good Greek restaurants nearby, but they don't compare to my home town Greektown in Chicago. We have Sofi's, Ulysses, Le Petite Greek in Hollywood. A fun Greek place is Taverna Tony's in Malibu.

Deal or No Deal is crazy popular. There's even spin offs in Greece ('Deal' and 'Super Deal' on ANTI). What's the experience been like?

Deal or No Deal has become bigger than we ever thought it could be. It has opened many doors for auditions, jobs and appearances. Because of this show I started working on Extra as a Special correspondent.



Its been an amazing time!

If you could get 5 minutes to talk with anyone in Hollywood, who would it be?

Hmmm, that's a tough one. There are so many great influential people, where do I begin? Luckily through work I have been able to meet and talk to a lot of those people. I also have been able to interview some of them. 5 minutes is not enough time!

What's your biggest accomplishment thus far?

My biggest accomplishment has been moving forward with what I wanted to do and not live the norm or what was expected of me. I overcame all the doubts, fears and criticisms.

Your favorite Greek food please..

My #1 favorite Greek food is probably pastitsio. Tough to answer considering all the FABULOUS Greek foods we have.

You've been all around the world. Anyplace you'd rather be in the summertime than Greece?

There really aren't other places I would choose over Greece. There is so much to see. As much as I have been, I still have not covered enough of the islands or cities. Even though I've been fortunate to have traveled the world, I always find myself saying "wow this beautiful, but its just not Greece, nothing compares to Greece". Its not just the beauty of Greece, but the feeling I get when I am there.

London exhibits Byzantine history

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis was in London earlier this week, far from the political headaches in Athens, to attend the opening of the "Byzantium 330-1453" exhibition. "I am proud to be Greek," Karamanlis said. "As a Greek I know that I speak for all my compatriots when I say that I feel a special pride for the cre-