

Greek Aerospace to work with Russia's Irkut on new plane

ATHENS, - Greece's Hellenic Aerospace Industry (HAI) will cooperate with Russia's Irkut to build its new MC-21 plane, which aims to rival the Airbus 320 and Boeing 737 passenger aircraft, the Greek company said on Wednesday.

The MC-21 is scheduled to enter the market by 2014 and will be able to carry 150, 180 or 220 passengers, Russia's Industry minister Victor Khristenko, said after meeting Greek Development Minister Christos Folias in Athens late on Tuesday.

"HAI will participate in the design and construction of sections of Irkut's MC-21 passenger aircraft under development," the company said in a statement.

The Russian aircraft manufacturer, majority owned by compatriot United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), said earlier this year it was in talks with China over a possible joint venture to develop the civil aircraft project worth \$6 billion.

It has also said deals could be signed with suppliers looking to contribute to building the three versions of the plane.

"Cooperation between the two companies ... will start as soon as the design is initiated," said Khristenko, who gave Folias a miniature MC-21 as a present.

"You can start such a project, knowing you will sell at least 2,000 aircraft. The share of the market it can conquer is by far larger," he said.

Folias said it was impossible to estimate the value of the agreement, and that it depended on demand in Europe.

The MC-21 will mark an expansion by Irkut from the military to the civil aviation market, which the company hopes will account for around half of its business by 2025.

Russia's only other new commercial aircraft under development since the fall of the Soviet Union is Sukhoi's Super Jet 100, which is being developed in partnership with Italy's Alenia Aeronautica.

The firm aims to compete with industry leaders Boeing and Airbus's EADS, which owns 10 percent of Irkut.

Parking fines provoke anger

A crackdown on illegal parking in Thessaloniki has fueled protests by motorists who say the city does not offer enough parking places and that fines for illegal parking are too high.

Municipal police issue as many as 500 fines of between 20 and 80 euros per day, protesters say. "The crackdown is for the purpose of revenue collection,"

Giorgos Theodoropoulos of a residents' group told Kathimerini. His group condemns authorities for failing to provide adequate facilities for motorists and says 30,000 additional parking spaces are needed. "The situation benefits the city's private garages, which charge astronomical amounts for parking," Theodoropoulos said.

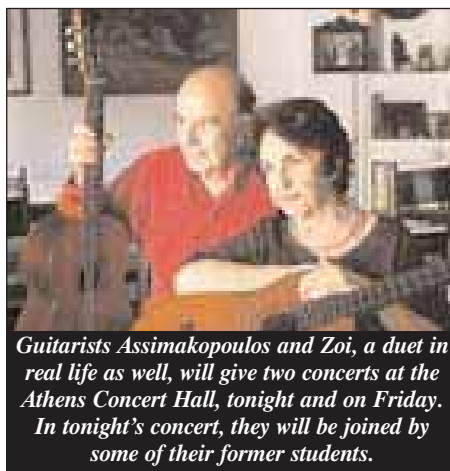
"High fines and policing are not enough," said Petros Kritikos of the Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engineers. He wants central roads to be shut off periodically and public transport services to be boosted.

'The guitar was unknown'

They have been together for almost half a century. It wasn't just their love for one another that brought them together, but their common love of music. Evangelos Assimakopoulos and Liza Zoi, a couple in real life as well as a classical guitar duet, have managed to go against the norm, where poor quality music prevails.

They are a duet that looks to the past but remains firmly rooted in the present. As the two continue on together, they will be celebrating their career with two concerts at the Athens Concert Hall, tonight and on Friday.

It should be noted that Assimakopoulos and Zoi have an international reputation and the great Andres Torres Segovia has praised them highly. But their beginning in the late 1950s was not easy. "It was very daring to tell our parents that we would get involved with music, especially guitar," said Assimakopoulos to Kathimerini. "Greece was still trying to get over the civil war, there was poverty and things were not easy," said Zoi. "The guitar was unknown. We learned it from the songs of Tonis Maroudas and Fotis Polymeris, where it sounded



so pleasant. Other than that, those who were rich enough to own a radio might have listened to some classical musical work from time to time and that was it. When I went to the conservatory, I asked if the classical music I heard on the radio could also be played on the guitar and I was relieved when they said yes," she added.

"We were very lucky to come across two great teachers, the only professional guitarists in Greece at the time, Dimitris Fambas and Gerasimos Milliaressis," said Assimakopoulos.

They met as guitar students. "Liza gave her first recital while still a student, on December 9, 1958, at the Parnassos Literary Society, which at that time was something like the Athens

Concert Hall. This is the occasion we will commemorate this Friday. I gave my first recital a year later," he added.

In 1960, they both received awards and as of 1962 started performing as a duet. "At that point, everybody was playing as a soloist, there were no duets in Greece," said Zoi. "We were inspired by the great Ida Presti-Alexandre Lagoya duet, who played here in 1961."

After the first concerts, their respective parents relaxed and then the pair went off to study in France and Spain, where they received a scholarship from Andres Segovia. "Segovia was already a legend from the early 50s," said Assimakopoulos. "He was the first to include the guitar on a teaching schedule and promote it outside Spain, although the guitar has a 3,000-year history."

Having to earn a living, the couple gradually began giving guitar lessons. "The guitar enjoyed an explosive growth in popularity toward the end of the 60s and the early 70s; it was unprecedented. That lasted until 1980 and then in 1990 it became stable. I remember we had to hire assistants because suddenly we had too many students. Maybe because of record-players and the radio, people became more familiar with the guitar as an instrument of serious music. In 1987, the ministry [of Education] officially recognized a guitar degree."

In tonight's concert, former students of theirs will be joining them. "Back then, in order to study a piece we didn't have the efficiency of photocopiers," said Assimakopoulos when asked what it feels like to still be a guitar teacher today. "We had to copy note by note, with ink, the pieces that Fambas gave us. It was as if the composition ran through us. Today, with computers, this relationship with music no longer exists. Children are in a hurry and have no patience. The other problem is that music today just means having fun. It is noise. Having fun is good, but the other side shouldn't be ignored. There is no longer the feeling of having to strive for things. But we adjust. People move on, change and something will come out of that." Before tonight's concert, guitarist and composer Notis Mavroudis will talk about Assimakopoulos and Zoi's work and contribution to music at 7 p.m. in the Athens Concert Hall's Dimitris Mitropoulos Hall.

TO SUBMIT



The editor
ABC TV News
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ULTIMO NSW 2007

Dear sir/madam

I would like to draw your attention to some anomalies or irregularities that I have observed in the news bulletins lately which in my opinion should be corrected in the future for the sake of truth and avoid dissemination of misinformation.

On the 7p.m. TV news on ABC1 I think it was Monday 10/11/08 the segment referring to the Ballerina who had a special part choreographed for her and it was described as the story God Jupiter who fell for the beautiful girl Semele attracting the irk of Jupiter's wife Juno and finally Jupiter destroyed her with a thunder but before she died Jupiter extracted the embryo from her uterus and implanted it in his upper leg from which god Bacchus or Dionysus was born. That is according to the Greek mythology. Now the problem is Jupiter and Juno were Roman gods although borrowed

from the Greek Pantheon and were established in Rome at least 1500 years later. Why don't you call them with their Greek name Zeus and his wife Hera. What the Romans have to do with the Greek Mythology? Also I have noticed in the news and the current affairs when they referring to the state of FYROM they call it Macedonia. As you are aware there is a dispute about the name Macedonia and the UN and the Australian Government call it FYROM until there is an agreement between the two countries regarding the name of the former Slavic Republic. Why ABC and some of the other channels call it arbitrary Macedonia?

I have been in this country for almost 53 years and I have relied exclusively on the ABC watching the news, documentaries, current affairs and many other interesting and educational programmes for which I want to thank you for it. Correctness and fairness are two very important characteristics that I hope the ABC will not abandon.

Yours sincerely
Louis Rorris