

# Applications on Compensations Submitted

Shop owners, whose shops in urban centres have sustained damages during the late violent incidents, can apply for compensations to OAED (Greek Manpower Employment Organisation) as of today (Monday, 22 December). In parallel, they can join a special programme allowing them to keep their personnel.

This programme, hammered out by the government, aims at protecting employment and keeping the total number of employees in the productive/trade web of the hit cities.

A 12-million-euro worth programme will cover salaries; the employees and employers' social fund

contributions for December 2008, January and February 2009, as well as the Christmas bonus of employees working in shops that failed to open until Saturday 20, December 2008 as they had suffered damages.

The Christmas bonus and December salary will be given in time provided the enterprises meet the criteria of the programme and provided a personal declaration is submitted from 22 December 2008 to 31 December 2008.

The applications are submitted at the local OAED services and the documents required by enterprises are

the following: a personal declaration that states the applicant wishes to join the programme, the last Detailed Periodic Tax Declaration submitted at IKA and the records of social insurance contributions.

After the application is submitted, OAED officials approve the applicants' application to join the programme.

Enterprises should also submit salary records of the last five days of the month and taxes paid to tax offices.

Employers should also submit a certificate verifying IKA-ETAM contributions, so that the employers and employees' contributions follow.

## Greek budget passes amid street violence

**ATHENS (AFP) – The Greek parliament early Monday adopted its government's budget for 2009 after a five-day debate overshadowed by protests and violence sparked by a boy's fatal shooting by police this month.**

The conservatives of Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis secured the budget's approval despite their razor-thin parliamentary majority, which rests on a single lawmaker in the 300-seat house, and amid strong opposition by the left and far-right.

Street violence raged into a third week in Athens as protests sparked by the fatal shooting of a teenager fused with political tension hours before the budget vote.

Clashes between youths and police extended deep into the night after hundreds of people gathered late Saturday in Athens' Exarchia district, at the site of the December 6 shooting of 15-year-old Alexis Grigoropoulos.

Protesters occupying the Athens Polytechnic university hurled fire-bombs and rocks at police who responded with tear gas, while police cars, a government building and banks were targeted in various parts of the capital, the port city of Piraeus and the island of Crete.

Late Sunday, around 100 youths briefly took over an Orthodox church in the northern city of Thessaloniki, remaining inside the church for two hours before dispersing peacefully. The church was undamaged, local police sources said.

It was the first time a church has been targeted in the protests.

It followed an incident on Saturday when around 30 youths occupied the Olympion theatre in the city.

Saturday's unrest in Athens flared after youths gathered on the spot where Grigoropoulos died after being shot by police, and where a makeshift shrine has since emerged.

Flowers and messages of support adorn the scene along with mock street signs bearing Grigoropoulos's name.

The officer who shot the teenager claims he fired into the air whilst under attack by youths, and has attributed the death to a bullet ricochet.

Investigators scoured the crime scene again early on Sunday in search for further clues, accompanied by lawyers for the Grigoropoulos family, the police officer and his colleague who is also implicated in the murder.

"The crime scene search will help lead to conclusions but will not change our position," said lawyer Dimitris Tsovolas who represented the victim.

The unrest later subsided as thousands of Athenians filled the city centre where protestors shared the streets in bizarre scenes this past week with throngs of Christmas shoppers.

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis has argued that the unrest is complicating efforts to reduce Greece's national debt, which this year stands at 93.9 percent of GDP, one of the highest in Europe.

The conservative leader said last week that Greece expects to pay about 12 billion euros (16 billion dollars) in 2009 to service its debt, amounting to over 19 percent of its revenue and nearly five percent of GDP.

The depth of anti-government sen-



### Aeroflot Greek flight lands safely after bomb threat

ATHENS (Reuters) - An Aeroflot flight from Athens to Moscow turned back in mid-air on Monday after receiving an anonymous bomb warning, but the plane landed safely and all the passengers were disembarked, airport officials said.

The Airbus A-319 with 49 passengers onboard had been flying for around an hour when it received news of the bomb threat, said Aeroflot spokeswoman Irina Dannenberg in Moscow.

Greek aviation officials said the plane was being thoroughly checked for explosives.

"An unknown man called and said there was a bomb on the Aeroflot plane headed from Athens to Moscow," a Greek civil aviation official told Reuters.

"We told the pilot to return to Athens for the appropriate checks. The plane was near the border with Turkey at the time."

### Rows leave immigrant dead, another injured

*One migrant was killed and another seriously injured in unrelated incidents in Thessaloniki and Athens over the weekend.*

*A 46-year-old man was stabbed to death during an argument with a countryman in the center of Thessaloniki just before 11 p.m. on Saturday. Police arrested the suspect and were able to find the knife allegedly used in the attack. The nationality of the two men was not made public.*

*About two hours later, a foreign man was shot in the leg in the trendy neighborhood of Psyrri in central Athens, following a row with two other migrants. The victim was taken to the hospital. No arrests were made.*

*Meanwhile, an anti-racist march through the center of Athens on Saturday, organized by migrant organizations and student groups, passed off peacefully and ended with a silent protest in front of Parliament.*

