

Greece participates in Rome meeting on illegal immigration

The interior ministers of Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Malta met here on Tuesday to certify a united initiative with the signing of an official document, an institutional and political initiative aimed at combatting illegal immigration and intensifying co-operation between these four countries on a closer

basis.

The document contains proposals to the European Commission and the European Union's Czech presidency. Its details will be examined during the EU's informal council of interior ministers to be held in Prague on January 15.

The Greek government was represented at the meeting in Rome by Deputy Interior Minister Athanasios Nakos, who said that the document was prepared speedily and it is very important for Greece that has 18,000 kilometres of coasts and over 9,000 islands and islets.

PASOK Proposes Enquiry Committee on Vatopedi Case

11 parliamentary members of opposition socialist party PASOK ask for the set up of a special parliamentary committee on Vatopedi case in accordance to article 86, paragraph 3 of law 3126/2003 "per Ministers' Penal Responsibility" and articles 153 of "Parliaments' Regulation". The Committee will conduct investigation on:

(a) Corruption against the State possibly committed by ministers Evangelos Basiakos, Petros Doukas, Alexandros Kontos and Georgios Voulgarakis. (b) Instigation of an offence possibly committed by Theodoros Rousopoulos who was then minister of state (c) Participation and instigation of an offence committed by other people (d) Responsibility of ministers and deputy ministers for instigation of an offence

Yesterday, PASOK representative K. Papakostantinou called on ND to support the effort initiated by PASOK so as any responsibilities held by political people to be revealed. Social party parliamentary member Mr. Christos Papoutsis in his interview in Athens 9,84 radio station branded PASOK's proposal a political commitment and stressed that the opposition party has an institutional obligation to proceed to the investigation of the case.

Forged Greek passports confiscated by Albanian police

Over 200 forged Greek and Albanian documents, passports and birth certificates as well as EU member-state identity cards and 90 official seals of foreign national agencies, among them of the Greek Embassy in Tirana, were confiscated by Albanian police.

Two people involved in the scheme were arrested during a police raid in the "forgery factory" in the Albanian capital.

E school comes to the island of Pserimos

Tucked amongst the Dodecanese island chain, is the small island of Pserimos; populated by a mere 130 inhabitants (25 in the winter) or so with a problem that many small islands and communities are facing - the lack of good educational resources available to its young population.

So Pserimos; which has 7 students on the island all of whom are siblings, has created the first e school system for the children. This form of education, called distance education, uses technology and an instructional systems design that aim to deliver education to students who are not phys-



ically "on site".

Rather than attending courses in person, teachers and students may communicate at times of their own choosing by exchanging printed or electronic media, or through technology that allows them to communicate in real time and through other online ways.

So if the children decide to stay on

Pserimos after they finish primary school, which does exist on the small island; they will not need to travel to nearby Kalymnos for higher learning.

PS: While this program is in a pilot phase, it will be interesting to see how successful it is. It can be an education life line so to speak for several small islands and isolated communities in Greece.

Greek-Australian Peloponnesian Cultural, Food and Wine Festival

The Peloponnesian Confederation is holding its inaugural Greek-Australian Peloponnesian Cultural, Food and Wine Festival. The aim of the Festival is to promote cultural, social and economic cooperation between Australia and the Peloponnesian region of Greece.

This is the first time that over 30 Associations from

all seven Prefectures (Nomoi) of the Peloponnese are cooperating to stage the Festival events.

The Peloponnesian Associations invite you, your family and your friends to attend all events to ensure the Festival is success.

Join us and experience the unique Culture, the Flavours, the Sounds and the Traditions of the Peloponnesian region of Greece.

For details on each of the events, refer to the relevant page in this website.

Full details of the Festival and all events can also be found on ANT1 TV, Community Radio stations and local newspapers (Greek and mainstream).

Everyone is Welcome

Peloponnesian Confederation Overview

The Peloponnesian Confederation was founded in 1989 and today represents over thirty organisations with ties to all seven Prefectures (Nomoi) of the Peloponnese and to every major regional centre, town or (in some cases) villages of the Peloponnesian region in Greece.

The Confederation is also a member of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) Inc Oceania and Far East Region.

The Confederation is a non-profit organisation. Its objectives include:

* To raise funds to support charities and other worthwhile causes in Australia such as hospitals, universities etc

* To voice the concerns of member Associations on matters of social, athletic, cultural, educational and any other activity deemed fit

* To promote cultural, social and economic cooperation between Australia and the Peloponnesian region of Greece

* To promote and maintain the cooperation and friendship between all the Peloponnesian Associations in Australia and Oceania

