

Sakis in the Biggest TV Show of Netherlands



Sakis Rouvas appeared on Sunday evening at the biggest TV show of the Dutch TV the "Life and Cooking" and performed "This is our night". The TV presenters and the audience of the show welcomed him warmly and the production broadcasted videos of Sakis' participations in Eurovision 2004 and 2006 of

which he was also the presenter. When Sakis was asked to express his opinion regarding Netherlands' entry "Shine" he commented that it is a brilliant song!"

In Dutch Mass Media

After the show in RTL4 TV station, Sakis Rouvas gave an interview in Netherlands' state radio station NCRV and did several shooting for its website. On Monday morning, he gave interviews to "De Telegraf" newspaper and to "Eurovision Artist Magazine". This magazine is issued 4 times every year and focuses of course on Eurovision Song Contest.

On Monday evening, Sakis Rouvas arrived in

Brussels where he met with Greek permanent residents and will spoke to many local Mass Media.

In Belgium

While in Brussels, Sakis Roubas has a very busy program as he has been schedule to give interviews to local newspapers, radio and television channels as well as to websites related to Eurovision song contest. His first interview with "De Rode Loper", one of the most popular shows in Belgium state television channel. Next he is to give an interview to Greek language newspaper "Ebroparaititis" and after to the state channel website which will broadcast the RTBF contest.

Tourism minister to push competitiveness for 2009, Greek Parades recap



Tourism Development Minister, Kostas Markopoulos, has asked that all sectors of the tourism industry work together to be as competitive as possible in 2009 in light of the global economic slowdown.

While some of Greece's competitors, like Italy, have lowered accomodation prices this year by about 3%; Spain and Portugal have raised their prices by about 7%. Greek hotels have added a whopping 15% to some of their hotel prices for this year - um turn on the television or radio, has the word recession not crossed your ears yet. We hope that they come more in line with some of their neighbors.

"The Kingdom of Paramithi" by the Wiggles

Australia's richest entertainers The Wiggles have produced a TV show, currently showing on channel 9, which does not require them to wear a colored skivvy. For the first time, they have put together a project outside their famous children's singing group and plan to market it around the world.

The brainchild of Blue Wiggle Anthony Field and his brother Paul, who is also the group's producer and director, The Kingdom of Paramithi (Greek for fairytale) is a children's program based on telling the story of well-known nursery rhymes. Now none of them is Greek or of Greek descent. So how did they learn the word paramithi and why? It seems that the answer is **Michaela Patisteas**. In spite of being named as "Bachelor of the Year" in Cleo Magazine, Field married Michaela Patisteas, of Greek descent in 2003.

Greeks to paint Eiffel Tower

PARIS (AP) — Spring has arrived and it is time for a makeover of France's most emblematic edifice. Once every seven years, every crevice, nut, bolt and beam of the Eiffel Tower is re-painted by hand.

But this year's face lift has a European touch. The 25-member painting crew comes from Greece and Romania, and the special paint from Norway.

"In France, we don't adequately recognize the importance of the symbol of the Eiffel Tower," said Jean-Francois Ferrer, director of the French branch of Jotun Coatings, which won the paint-supply contract for the tower. "Maybe it's because we're a bit blase."

The project costs a total of euro4 million (\$5.29 million). But Ferrer said Jotun isn't in it for the money.

"It's peanuts," he said. For the Norwegian company, it's all about image.

The Eiffel Tower, constructed in



1889 for the World's Fair that marked the centennial of the French Revolution, and the world's tallest building until 1929, has become the most visited paying monument of France.

Last year, 7 million visitors flocked to the brown iron giant on the banks of the Seine, according to SETE, the company that runs the Eiffel Tower.

This year, the tower's maintenance has taken on a similarly international flavor, leaving its overseers defensive

and on edge.

"We didn't investigate the nationalities of the people who are working here, nor did we discriminate," Jean-Bernard Bros, president of SETE, said at a news conference. "We did not ask about their passports or their nationality. These are working people. They're paid for their work."

The 25 painters, invited to the news conference, sat quietly. Only a handful speak French.

Asked again about their nationality, Bros said that Stelma, their employer, is a Greek company.

"Had they been Italian, Portuguese or Spanish, it would have been the same," he said. "And even if they had been French, if they had been good enough we would have hired them."

The painting of the tower's tangled latticework is no small undertaking, requiring an estimated 60 metric tons (66 tons) of patented, signature "Eiffel Tower brown," 50 kilometers (31 miles) of climbing rope, and 18 months of work by painters willing to scale the lofty beams.

The painters still work with small, circular brushes, as they did in 1889, instead of sprayers or paint-rollers.

The tower has in the past been painted red, orange and yellow. It's maintained a signature brown color, which overseers say best accents the Paris skyline, since 1968. In the seven years between paintings, about 55 tons of paint erodes, they say.

Like the tower's previous coat, this year's paint is lead-free.

Greeks smoke more than the Bulgarians

The Greeks appear to be the biggest smokers in Europe, shows a research of the European commission. According to the EC report three out of every ten Europeans aged over 16 are smokers, informed EUBusiness.

42% of the Greeks answer that they smoke every day or in some occasion. The second place is for the Bulgarians among which 39% are smokers. 37% of the Latvians also answer that the smoke actively. Most of the smokers answer that they lit a cigarette every day. In comparison only 22% of the Slovaks smoke. At the "bottom" of the research is Sweden where only 25% of the citizens smoke. The Britons also are not tobacco supporters – the smokers are 28% of the population.

According to the research prepared by Euro barometer, 22% of the Europeans have quitted smoking and nearly 46% answer they have never smoked. The majority of the European support the zones for non-smokers in restaurants, offices and other public spaces.

Very few of the interviewed, however, believe that the signs "Smoking kills" on the cigarettes boxes have any effect on the smokers.

