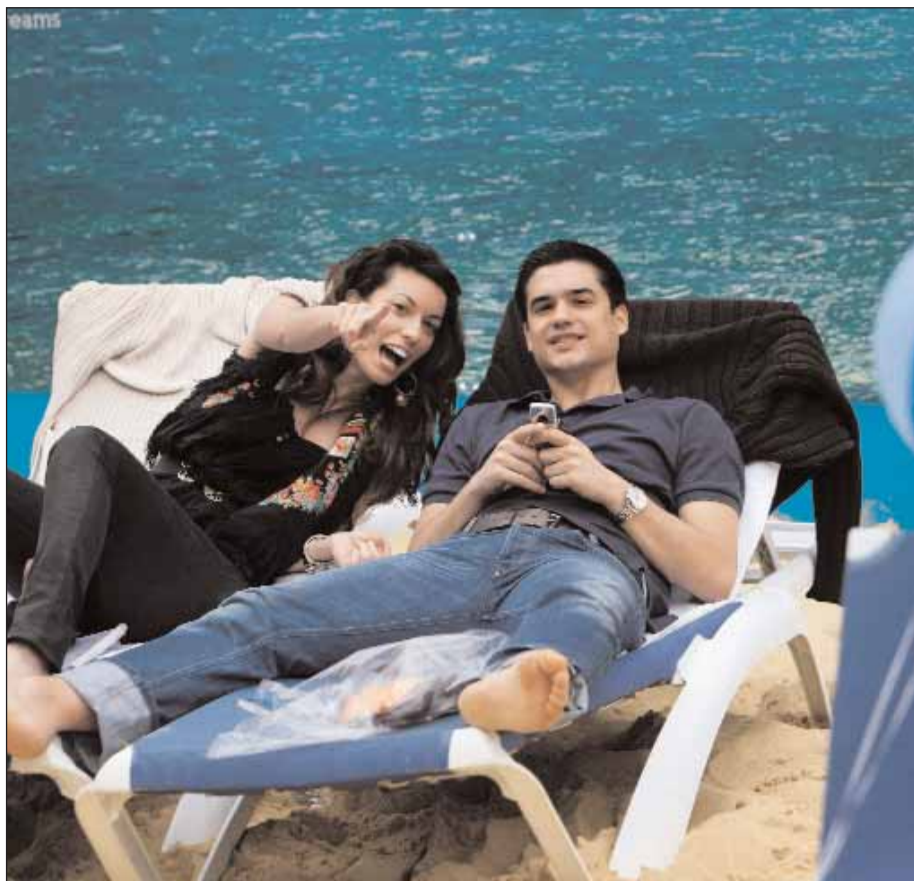


## 'Greek Beach by the river Thames' event in London

Greek tourism is currently being projected on a commercial section of the Thames River, in an event titled "Greek Beach by the Thames" that will run through June 27.

In a specially designed space, visitors are offered the opportunity to relax on sun beds, taste Greek recipes and beverages, enter competitions to win trips to Greece and Greek products, dance to the rhythms of traditional and contemporary Greek music, create sand sculptures, play in beach soccer, beach rackets and beach volley tournaments, and engage in face painting and other activities.



## Shanghai: Greek Day at Expo 2010

Greece looks to greater cooperation with China in the areas of tourism and shipping and hopes to attract Chinese investment to Greece, Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping Minister Louka Katseli told during a press conference in Shanghai during Greek Day at the EXPO 2010.

According to the minister, her contacts with Chinese officials and business people in the city had revealed potential for further business activity between the two countries in these areas.

During the press conference, she also presented the e-book "Invest in Greece" that provides information for potential investors on all the securitisation programmes planned by the Greek government in an upcoming privatisation drive.

Speaking at the Greek Pavilion in the Shanghai EXPO earlier the same day, China Ocean Shipping (COSCO) CEO and President Capt. Wei Jiafu stressed that China gave a vote of confidence to the Greek government's ef-



Shipping Minister Louka Katseli

orts to emerge from the crisis, adding that other Chinese companies had already shown interest in investing in Greece.

Katseli is also due to visit the Shanghai stock market on Monday as part of the effort to support and promote Greek business.

During an event that the Greek Embassy, she had noted that Greece was hoped to promote cooperation with China in areas such as trade, by pro-

moting products and services that could be sold to Chinese markets, by attracting investments from China, in the tourism and shipping sectors and in cultural exchanges.

The minister revealed that the two sides were currently considering a direct air link between Greece and Shanghai to assist tourism development, while China had expressed an interest in buying Greek products such as olive oil, wine, furs, jewellery, medicine and building materials.

Other areas of possible cooperation include those of logistics, technology, construction and transport.

She appeared confident that Greece will be able to overcome the current problems and predicted that inflation would level off sometime in 2011, followed by economic growth.

Earlier on Saturday, Katseli had a meeting with Chinese Vice Minister for Transport Weng Mengyong, after which the two sides appeared confident that Greece and China can further extend bilateral cooperation.

## Carrying any porn? Australian Customs want to know

Visitors to Australia now have another question to answer in addition to declaring whether they are carrying any firearms or illicit drugs. Are they bringing in any pornography?

The additional query was introduced in September 2009, Customs said Friday, adding that it was designed to pick up prohibited items such as child pornography at the border.

But the Australian Sex Party described it as a "monstrous invasion of people's privacy" which would leave laptops and mobile phones of anyone entering the country open to scrutiny.

"If you and your partner have filmed or photographed yourselves making love in an exotic destination or even taking a bath, you will have to answer 'yes' to the question or you will be breaking the law," president Fiona Patten said.

The change means that travelers must declare X-rated erotic material that is legal in Australia and potentially have these items examined by Customs officers, she said.

"Is it fair that Customs officers rummage through someone's luggage and pull out a legal men's magazine or a lesbian journal in front of their children or their mother-in-law," Patten asked.

Customs said many items of pornography were legitimately bought, possessed and viewed and these items would be returned to the passenger.

But offensive material containing child pornography, bestiality, explicit sexual violence and graphic degradation needed to be detected.

"The inclusion of the question on the passenger card is intended to give a traveler the opportunity to declare adult material if they are uncertain as to whether their material would be deemed prohibited," a Customs statement said.

"Declaring the goods will minimize any action that would be considered against someone possessing such goods, unless it involves child pornography."

Customs said the assessment of adult material would be done by officers trained to be tactful and discreet.

## Turkey calls for Cyprus deal by year-end - report

Turkish President Abdullah Gul Friday urged Cypriot leaders to seize the "opportunity" of UN-sponsored talks and find a settlement to the island's division by year-end, the Anatolia news agency reported.

"The talks, of course, cannot go on forever ... They should finish this year," Gul was quoted by the agency as telling a joint press conference with Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu.

The island, divided since 1974, should avoid a repeat of the events of 2004 when Greek Cypriots voted down a UN reunification blueprint that Turkish Cypriots overwhelmingly approved, he added.

"I hope the present opportunity for a referendum will not be missed through the failure of the talks," he said.

The UN-led talks, launched in September 2008, were suspended for seven weeks ahead

of Turkish Cypriot leadership elections in April, in which hardliner Eroglu beat pro-solution incumbent Mehmet Ali Talat. Earlier this month, Cypriot President Demetris Christofias cancelled a planned round of negotiations with Eroglu over his comments doubting the basis of the talks.

"Mr. Eroglu is pursuing the talks in a positive, constructive manner in the same way [as Talat]. I believe the Greek Cypriot side should understand this and the world public opinion should view it as a good development," Gul said.

Eroglu, who heads the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), said his aim was to reach a "sustainable, lasting agreement," a result that could be achieved only if the Greek Cypriot side "displays the same desire."

Greek Cypriots fear Eroglu's separatist views could derail the talks.

The TRNC is only recognized by Turkey, which maintains troops on the Turkish Cypriot side, while the Greek Cypriot south of the island enjoys international recognition.

Christofias expressed doubt that Cyprus reunification talks could produce a resolution this year but said he expected negotiations to continue despite a row with his counterpart this month.

Christofias said during a visit to Brussels he was not "enthusiastic" about the prospects for successful talks since the election of nationalist Dervis Eroglu as leader of the Turkish Cypriot part of the ethnically divided island in April.

"There is a different leader with different options," Christofias, who had good relations with previous Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat, said of Eroglu.