



## Greece to cover cost for stranded tourists

Greece is promising to cover the extra costs of visitors stranded in the debt-ridden country, in a bid to boost the vital tourism industry.

Culture and Tourism Minister Pavlos Geroulanos says the pledge will apply to tourists whose visits are prolonged due

to strikes or even natural disasters.

Geroulanos said "we are guaranteeing to pay any extra room and board any visitor in Greece pays even if stuck here because of a volcano in Iceland".

He spoke at a press conference on a new internet drive to advertise Greece

as a tourist destination.

Tourism accounts for more than 15 per cent of Greek gross domestic product. Industry experts say they are seeing a drop of about 10-12 per cent in bookings this year as the country faces a budget crisis.

## Greek exports clothing to China!

While the biggest Australian enterprises of clothing have closed down and have transferred their production units in China, a busy man from the Pontus Euxinus living in Melbourne, not only did he resist the competition but also he exports his own products in the biggest industrial country of the world.

This is Tasos Tseprailides, whose life was presented in an event that was carried out in order to celebrate his wedding anniversary. It was a special event where many Greeks living in Australia were present to celebrate the anniversary of this couple.

In 1987, Tasos set up "Ktena Knitting Mills), an enterprise for the production of woolen underwear. Very soon, the enterprise was transferred to a very modern factory equipped with machines of modern technology. Apart from the high demand of this products in Australia, Tasos and his wife Maria export them in more than 20 countries among which it is also China.



In 2002, "Ktena Knitting Mills" won the first prize in "Ethnic Business Awards", an event organized by the National Bank of Australia.

## Greece attempts to lure culture

Greece is offering to guarantee stranded holidaymakers the costs of their accommodation in an attempt to salvage some of its 2010 tourist season.

The authorities see the outlook as being less gloomy now than after anti-austerity riots last month and are seeking visitors from China or Japan who are more interested in Greece's ancient culture than its sunshine.

"I'm not saying it's going to be a good year for Greek tourism but we hope to recover many of the losses," culture and tourism minister Pavlos Geroulanos said.

Many foreign visitors cancelled trips after the deaths of three people in Athens on May 5th during rioting against government cuts imposed to secure an EU and IMF bailout worth 110 billion.

Mr Geroulanos said Athens was hardest hit by cancellations,

while some islands were barely affected. In an incentive, Greece would guarantee hotel costs for tourists stranded, for instance by strikes or flights grounded by ash from the Icelandic volcano.

Mr Geroulanos said Greece wanted to attract more tourists from countries including China, India and Japan. "The more tourists we have like that, the more we can preserve the culture of Greece as we want it to be. We don't need to become too accommodating to changes in our culture."

Some British tourists, for instance, merely wanted to "experience a British pub in a warm place".

So far this year "you see a drop in numbers [of tourists] from England and Germany, but we see a huge increase from Russia, and they tend to spend more money per capita," he said.

## Teachers yield

The Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OLME) appealed to members to resume grading students' university entrance examinations papers "so as not to jeopardize the credibility of the exams," following weeks of refusing to mark exam papers due to a pay dispute with the government. Talks with Education Minister Anna Diamantopoulou last week failed to resolve the spat. An OLME spokesperson said the union would resume its demands in the fall.

## Gruesome finds

Police in the northern city of Drama were questioning a 20-year-old man and a 40-year-old woman believed to be behind the murder of a 39-year-old man, whose corpse was found buried under a henhouse in the couple's backyard in the village of Sitagroi. According to police, the 20-year-old has admitted to strangling the victim a month ago before burying him with the help of his girlfriend. The 20-year-old is also charged with using the dead man's credit cards. Meanwhile, police in Arta, western Greece, were probing the circumstances surrounding the death of a man whose body was found in an irrigation canal near the village of Aneza. The victim is believed to be a 54-year-old local man who disappeared 18 months ago.

## Thessaloniki unrest

A group of hooded youths torched garbage dumpsters and hurled stones at riot police officers stationed outside the premises of the city's Aristotle University, causing minor damage and no injuries. The youths took refuge on the grounds of the university before any arrests could be made. In a related development, two fans of Thessaloniki soccer team Iraklis were arrested yesterday on charges of participating in clashes with police on Monday night. The fans had been protesting the team's relegation.

## 'Pedophile' arrested

Police in Athens yesterday searched the home of a 42-year-old Greek national after the latter was arrested in Colorado in the USA on charges of attempting to sexually abuse minors. According to police, the man had been in contact via the Internet for several months with an American woman who told him she had two children, aged 5 and 7. The man allegedly expressed his desire to sexually molest the children before traveling to meet the woman in Colorado. There he discovered that the woman was a police officer who arrested him.

## Road accidents

A 35-year-old motorcyclist was killed yesterday when he veered out of lane on the Athens-Patra national highway, near Patra, and collided with a car being driven by a 46-year-old man. The driver of the car was not injured. A few hours later, a 67-year-old motorist veered off the same highway near the Corinth junction and hit a 41-year-old pedestrian, injuring him fatally.