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Hellenic News, Culture & Lifestyle

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST 2013



Clockwise from top: Koza Mostra & Agathonas Iakovidis; Alex Leon with Giorgina, Thomai Apergi; Aggeliki Iliadi

Koza Mostra & Agathonas Iakovidis to represent Greece

Four songs battled it out in the Greek Eurosong Final 2013 in the Gazi Music Hall in Athens, for the honour of representing Greece in Europe's Favourite TV Show, and it was Alcohol Is Free by Koza Mostra & Agathonas Iakovidis that emerged as winner.

In a show that was packed with guest appearances from many former Eurovision acts, the main focus was which of the four songs would the five member jury and the Greek televoters pick as the song and act that would fly the flag for the country in Malmö.

Despina Vandi and Giorgos Kapoutzidis presented the final and the following songs took to the stage.

One Last Kiss sung by Thomai Apergi (Music: Giorgos Gekas. Lyrics: Agis Nikolakopoulos)

Angel sung by Alex Leon featuring Giorgina (Music: Alex Leon. Lyrics: Riskykid and Alex Leon)

Alcohol Is Free sung by Koza Mostra & Agathonas Iakovidis (Music: Ilias Kozas. Lyrics: Stathis Pachidis)

Hilies Kai Mia Nychtes (A thousand and one nights) sung by Aggeliki Iliadi. (Music: Kyriakos Papadopoulos. Lyricist: Ilias Philippou)

Eurovision fans were also treated to appearances by six former winners of the Eurovision Song Contest, with Vicky Leandros, Ruslana, Elena Pazarizou, Marija Serifovic, Dima Bilan and Alexander Rybak who sang along with young Greek singers, and included some familiar names, such as Ivi Adamou (Cyprus 2012), Eleftheria Eleftheriou (Greece 2012), Kostas Martakis (Greek National Final 2008) and Melisses (Greek National Final 2010), as well as Demy and Vegas

Australian peace keepers to remain in Cyprus

In a letter to the Cyprus government, the minister for home affairs on Cyprus, the the honorable Jason Clare MP, has announced the Australian government's decision to renew the presence of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) personnel to the troubled island, as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force.

What follows is Clare's full letter:

Australia has strong people-to-people ties to Cyprus dating back to the 1950s. Relations between Australia and the Republic of Cyprus are underpinned by significant Cypriot migration to Australia. A large Australian community resident in Cyprus likewise makes its contribution to the island's development.

These strong people-to-people links are reinforced by our joint membership of the Commonwealth and Australia's longstanding support for a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus issue in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

Australia has contributed Australian Federal Police (AFP) personnel continuously to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since 1964 making Australia the longest continuous serving contributor to UNFICYP.

To date 101 police contingents have deployed to Cyprus totalling over 1574 officers.

The current commitment of 15 police officers means the AFP is providing the largest component of the United Nations Police (UNPOL) contingent.

The core role of UNPOL in UNFICYP is to resolve criminal or civil disputes, monitor activity and preserve public order in the buffer zone.

Their contribution is highly regarded having won praise in particular for their pragmatic, competent and neutral approach.

An AFP Superintendent has recently taken up the UN position of UNFICYP Senior Police Advisor (SPA) in Cyprus.

This position is responsible for the management, direction, deployment and control of international police in Cyprus.

The 15 AFP contingent members are based in various areas of Cyprus where they work as patrol officers, personnel officers, instructors and political liaison officers.

I assure you that Australia's support for the work of UNFICYP remains an important part of our endorsement of the reconciliation process and for a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus issue.

And that we are as committed to the AFP mission in Cyprus as we have ever been. Australian police will continue to contribute to the ongoing peace efforts.

