

## Hospital says one Larissa student out of danger, two still critical



Two students remained in critical condition over the weekend after being overcome by fumes from a makeshift grill they were using to keep warm in Larissa, central Greece, though a third admitted with them was recovering, according to the hospital where they are being treated.

Five students were poisoned by carbon monoxide fumes on Thursday after firing up a charcoal grill in their home to cook and then leaving it burning in order to heat the property. Two of the five students were found dead.



## Stournaras discusses nine issues with troika

The first meeting between the heads of the representation of Greece's creditors in Athens and Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras this month took place on Sunday in a good climate, according to sources, without any serious disagreements and with nine main issues on the table. According to a top Finance Ministry official, the discussion that lasted for about four hours came to no decisions as the representatives of the country's international creditors did not have a full picture of the situation.

In the absence of the head of the International Monetary Fund's mission to Athens, Poul Thomsen, the Fund was represented by Mark Flanagan and Bob Traa, who sat by Matthias Mors of the European Commission and Klaus Masuch from the European Central Bank. The discussion concerned estimates on the course

of this year's budget, the course of Greece's macroeconomics for 2013, growth and unemployment, structural changes such as the opening-up of closed-shop professions, the optimum use of some 60,000 ministry employees, tax administration, privatizations, the recapitalization of banks, and the measures that have failed to improve state revenues, with the government asking for changes to the value-added tax on food catering and to the special consumption tax on fuel.

The issue of public sector layoffs was not discussed, but will form a key part of the meeting the foreign representatives will have on Monday with Interior Minister Antonis Maniatis.

They will meet with Stournaras again on Wednesday, as the Greek Finance Minister is in Brussels on Monday and Tuesday for the Eurogroup and ECOFIN meetings.



## Police identify racist attack suspect

Police have released the name and photograph of a 20-year-old man held in connection with four racially-motivated attacks in northern Athens.

Constantinos Kontomous has been charged with attempted manslaughter, arson and membership of a criminal gang.

The police force's new anti-racism unit is still seeking several suspected accomplices.

In the most violent of the attacks, on September 10, Kontomous and another eight assailants burst into a barbershop in Metamorphosi, beat two Pakistani employees and stabbed a Greek customer who tried to intervene.

## 'OAED kept lid on unemployment'

The head of the National Organization for Healthcare Provision (EOPYY) described the situation at the country's biggest healthcare provider as a "ticking time bomb."

Lefteris Papageorgopoulos stressed serious staff shortages at the organization mainly due to the reluctance of Social Security Foundation IKA to transfer its staff to EOPYY after their merger. He said that currently there are 1,000 employees for some 9.5 million insured, while there have also been thousands of complaints regarding significant delays in reimbursements for medical expenses.

On the upside, a new pricing policy aimed at reducing the cost of medicine is to go into effect on Monday.

## Reaction to Commission's 'travel advisory' for Greece continues despite Brussels denials

The European Commission denied on Saturday the authenticity of an e-mail published by To Vima newspaper claiming to be sent from Brussels to EC officials in Greece warning of violent clashes in March that could lead to fatalities. But despite the EU executive arm's claim that the message has been forged, Greek politicians in Brussels sought clarification on the matter.

Greece's representative on the Commission, EU Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Commissioner Maria Damanaki sent an urgent letter of complaint to Jose Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission, asking for clarifications about the alleged travel advisory to EC staff. Damanaki said she had not been aware of the message and was informed about it from press reports. In the letter, Damanaki insists Greece is a peaceful country that is safer for European citizens and officials.

PASOK MEP Marilena Koppa submitted an urgent question to the Commission in which she asks to be officially notified about the alleged e-mail, which claims that EC officials' safety could be at risk.

The message published by To Vima and dismissed by Brussels has numerous grammatical errors and reads as follows:

«Dear sir

This note is confidential, for your information. Contacts information has been removed for reasons of safety of people involved. There is some additional information (only orally distributed), shared with IMF staff, in regard with intelligence collected, concerning violent riots in Athens on March, with Xs (the number mentioned is not possible to communicate) deads.

Kind request for discretionary treatment.

FYI, this is the first travel advice ever issued by Commission for



a mission of officials to a member state.

Greek employees in Commission have been severely upset and they read very carefully the recommendations also for their own safety whenever they will have to travel and accommodate back home.

Kind regards,

J»

The head of the European Commission's representation in Athens, Panagiotis Karvounis told Kathimerini on Saturday that he categorically denied that this message or any e-mail similar to it had been sent to EU officials. He said that the e-mail published by To Vima was a fake.

A Commission spokesperson also dismissed the message as "rubbish and nonsense written in poor English." He also expressed surprise that the journalists who included it in his article could not understand from the poor quality of English contained in the message that it could not have been an official advisory from the Commission.