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Hellenic News, Culture & Lifestyle



Sharp rise in number of Greek teachers looking for work in Cyprus

The number of Greek school teachers looking for work in Cyprus has doubled over the last five years. According to figures published by Cypriot authorities, there are 10,200 Greek teachers who submitted applications to work on the island this year.

This means that one in four teachers looking for work in Cypriot state schools is from Greece, according to Cyprus's Educational Service Committee.

Currently, 24 percent of primary school teachers, 26.5 percent of junior high school teachers and 6.5 percent of senior high school teachers on Cyprus are from Greece.

Police arrest 17 in Katerini after raiding an illegal dog fight

Police arrested 17 people in Katerini, northern Greece, on Sunday after raiding stables where illegal dog fights were being held.

Officers recovered seven dogs, one of which had died. The animals were taken to a local veterinarian for treatment. The suspects were aged between 21 and 55. Four of them were from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The rest were Greek.

Police were looking for the 25-year-old that owns the stables and a 41-year-old man whose car was found at the scene.



Samaras hails 'good day' for Greek-Turkish relations

Prime Minister Antonis Samaras and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed 25 bilateral agreements in Istanbul on Monday, as the Greek premier said that the two sides aimed to put "economic growth at the service of peace."

Samaras and Erdogan spoke to journalist briefly after their talks and the meeting of a High-Level Cooperation Council involving a number of other ministers.

"Today is a good day for Greek-Turkish relations," said Samaras, who added that the two countries' relationship was not "fully

aligned" and "careful steps" had to be taken to build trust.

The issue of oil and gas exploration in the Aegean was one of the key issues on the agenda and both leaders made brief references to it after Athens and Ankara recently sent diplomatic notes to the United Nations to complain about the other side's stance on the issue. Samaras said that the continental shelf rights Greece has as a result of the Law of the Sea are "clear." Erdogan said the two sides would be in a win-win situation if they could come to an agreement on the issue.

PASOK's congress ends with new faces elected to party's central committee

PASOK's congress concluded on Sunday with a number of new faces being elected to the party's central political committee and signs that a core group was forming around a prominent member of the party's youth wing. A total of 3,525 delegates elected on Sunday 130 committee members, with Nikos Androulakis of PASOK's youth wing coming first with 1,158 votes.

It was notable that nine of the 10 first places in terms of votes gathered were taken up by Androulakis, already a member of the party's political secretariat, and the team that formed around him. Of PASOK's old guard, only ex-minister Dimitris Reppas was able to break into the top 10. PASOK leader Evangelos Venizelos hailed the outcome as a sign that the party is going through a phase of renewal.

"This is a strong message of renewal, a very positive sign for the future prospects of PASOK, the center left and the country's political life," said Venizelos.

Androulakis has been one of PASOK's rising stars, joining the party's student wing in 1997. In 2007, he was elected the representative of the party's youth wing. The civil engineer caused a stir in 2008 when he was elected to PASOK's political council with the second highest number of votes.

Despite the success of Androulakis, who hails from Iraklio on Crete, most commentators believe that Venizelos emerged from the congress slightly strengthened after a turbulent few months for his party and leadership.

PASOK's new central committee is expected to meet for the first time later this week.

