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• ΣΕΛΙΔΑ 3

ΝΕΑ ΣΧΕΣΗ ΜΕΤΑΞΥ ΤΩΝ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΩΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΩΝ ΡΩΣΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

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THURSDAY 14th June 2012

ND and Pasok chiefs fear poll deadlock, urge alliance

The leaders of the country's two traditional ruling parties warned on Sunday of political stalemate after the June 17 elections and called for a government of national unity to prevent a repeat of the confusion that followed the last vote in May. "It seems that we are heading for a deadlock," Pasok head Evangelos Venizelos told a news conference, saying he had written to the other main parties calling for a broad-based national unity government. "None of the scenarios after the elections looks like leading to a solution. What they're leading to is an absence of government."



According to internal party polls cited in two newspapers on Sunday, pro-memorandum New Democracy has held on to a narrow advantage over the Radical Left Coalition (Syriza), which says it will cancel the troika deal. No party appears strong enough to form a government alone, however. Conservative-leaning Typos on Sunday said the polls showed New Democracy and Syriza both gaining votes, with a slight advantage to New Democracy. Proto Thema said four of the six polls conducted over the past three days gave a lead to New Democracy. In one unpublished poll seen on Thursday by the Athens

News, Syriza had the lead over New Democracy and would be likely to be in a position for a two-way coalition with the Democratic Left.

Pasok, reduced to a shadow of its former standing as the country's biggest party following a wipeout in the May election, trails far behind both New Democracy and Syriza but could play a role in a coalition government.

Venizelos said both New Democracy and Syriza would have to be included in a unity government to head off the danger of street protests against any new administration struggling with the worst economic crisis in Greece's postwar history. "Greece cannot be governed with more than half of Greeks against the government," Venizelos said in his letter, but offered no detail about how to bridge differences which scuppered efforts to form a government after the May elections.

His call for unity was immediately dismissed by Syriza, which said it was typical of the "lack of clarity" offered by Pasok during the crisis. However, his warning of disaster was echoed by New Democracy leader Antonis Samaras. "A third round of elections would be suicidal," Samaras told Mega TV in an interview. "We must have a government by any means," he said.

New Democracy and Pasok both broadly accept the bailout deal signed in March between Greece and the European Commission and International Monetary Fund, although they both want some easing in the painful austerity demands attached to the deal.

The leader of the Democratic Left, a key player in last month's failed negotiations on creating a coalition, also said on Sunday that his party's priority was ensuring a government emerged after June 17. Fotis Kouvelis said: "We will do whatever we can in order for the country not to remain ungoverned," he stressed. However, in an implicit criticism of Syriza's proposals, Kouvelis reiterated that he was against any unilateral actions terminating the country's bailout terms. An end to the memorandum would be through

gradual and negotiated "disengagement".

In an interview with Proto Thema, European Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn hinted that the lenders may be prepared to offer some flexibility to a country facing rising social unrest at the conditions imposed under the deal.



But he called for more effort from Greece itself. "The return to growth is being delayed mainly because of the obstacles to reforms from unions, the lack of national unity and the limited capability of the public administration," he said. "I know the sacrifices that Greek people have made but they are necessary to consolidate the Greek economy," he said. However, taking a different line, the head of the German central bank has warned that Greece can expect further financial support only if it adheres to the existing bailout programme. "The new Greek government, once it is formed, has to send a clear signal whether it is ready to implement the agreed reform measures. It is in Greece's hands to decide," said Jens Weidmann. He said this was necessary as it would otherwise cast doubts over the binding effect of other euro zone programmes, like those for Ireland and Portugal.

Malta shares the goal that Cyprus has set, «Towards a Better Europe»

Malta shares the goal that Cyprus has set, "Towards a Better Europe", based on the fundamental principle of solidarity and contributing to the enhancement of social cohesion and growth and has agreed to work together in that direction.

The statement was made by President of the Republic Demetris Christofias during a joint press conference in Valletta with Prime Minister of Malta Lawrence Gonzi.

On his part, Gonzi said his country is in complete accord on issues concerning development and social cohesion.

According to an official press release, in his opening remark, Christofias said they had a productive discussion on issues of mutual interest, noting that "Cyprus and Malta have common positions on the issues discussed".



The two reviewed the excellent bilateral relations and agreed to deepen them even further in all fields, while identifying new areas of cooperation.

Christofias and Gonzi discussed

current European issues, in view of the upcoming Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the EU, starting in July 2012.

"The Cypriot Presidency will also seek to bring Europe closer to

its neighbors and work for the empowerment of the Union in the world. We are therefore happy to have Malta on our side in the efforts to emphasize the Southern Dimension of the European Neighborhood Policy", said Christofias.

Another issue on the agenda of the talks were developments in Syria and Libya where "we shared our concern for the rising tension and violence in our region".

With reference to the crisis in the Eurozone, Christofias said they "agreed that our response should be guided by social sensitivity. It should lead to fiscal consolidation, while at the same time focus on the social needs of the citizens and most importantly pay attention to the needs of the vulnerable groups of our society".

(continued page 14)

CYPRUS HOUSE PRESIDENT: Greek Cypriot properties sell off a «national danger»

The continuation of the usurpation of Greek Cypriot properties in the Turkish-occupied areas of Cyprus is a "national danger", House President Yiannakis Omirou said. He further warned that if this trend goes on, it will turn all initiatives to solve the problem irrelevant.

Omirou was speaking after a meeting he had on Friday with a delegation of the Movement of Cypriot landowners of properties in the occupied areas of Cyprus.

Kyrenia MP Sophocles Fytidis and Yiannakis Matsis were also present during the meeting.

The President of the House of Representatives said moreover that a decision was taken to draft a report on the matter and submit it to the Cyprus government and the President of the Republic, "in order to reverse this deadly national danger". If the sell off of Greek Cypriot properties continues to the so-called immovable property committee or through contracts between the landowners and individuals or "legal" entities in the occupied areas of Cyprus, the Cyprus problem will unfortunately become solved "on the ground", Omirou noted.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Matsis referred to a shift taking place in the handling of the Cyprus problem and said that the refugees that feel compelled to sell their properties to the "committee" or other individuals need the support of the state. He added that the state needs to cover the necessary funds and declare its intention to stand by the refugees.



CYPRUS DEFENCE MINISTER: Turkey seeks to give an end to negotiations



The intransigent stance and the backtracking of the Turkish side at the negotiations do not allow us to be optimistic about the outcome of UN-led direct talks on the Cyprus problem that have come to a deadlock, Cyprus Defence Minister Demetris Eliades has stressed.

Speaking on Sunday, Eliades noted that Turkey is not interested in promoting a settlement of the Cyprus problem, adding that Ankara seeks through a blame game to give an end to the process of direct negotiations and to upgrade the illegal Turkish Cypriot regime in Cyprus territories, occupied since the Turkish invasion of the island in 1974.

The good will and the political will of the Greek Cypriot side is not enough to reach a solution based on the UN resolutions, the international and European Law and the High Level Agreements between the two sides, he pointed out. "We pursue a settlement, we work for a solution and we are ready for a just and viable compromise", Defence Minister said, adding that "we will not legitimate the fait accompli of the Turkish invasion and will not accept conditions set out by Turkey, putting in danger the survival of Greek Cypriots".

Eliades also stressed that Turkey should not be optimistic about its EU accession course as long as it continues to occupy part of Cyprus.

Defence Minister said that ahead of the forthcoming Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the EU, Turkey threatens, keeps an arrogant stance and insults EU institutions, while it seeks to become a member state. "This stance is unacceptable and as such it is rejected by our European counterparts", he stressed. "We will take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU and we will act with responsibility and prudence, cooperating with good will and in a spirit of consensus with our European counterparts in order to serve EU policies", he said, adding that Cyprus will cooperate in the same spirit with the EU candidate states, including Turkey. "If Turkey does not respond and cooperate, this is not a problem of Cyprus, but it is a problem of Turkey," he said.

Searching for Mubarak's millions in Cyprus

AN EGYPTIAN delegation is in Cyprus as part of a worldwide effort to find and recover millions of euros worth of assets siphoned from the state under the 30-year regime of ex-president Hosni Mubarak.



The four-member delegation met with officials from the Justice Ministry and Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS) on Friday while spending yesterday with lawyers handling local court cases on their behalf. They are due to return today to a waiting Egyptian media that has been following their efforts intensely since the search began a year ago for Egypt's missing millions.

PSEKA Conference: USA Congressmen and Senators denounced Tukey's policy on Cyprus

The International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA) concluded Friday its annual conference, in the presence of Cyprus Government Spokesman Stephanos Stephanou.

US Congressmen, speaking at the meeting, have denounced Turkey's policy on Cyprus, urging Ankara to accept a proposal on the return of Varosha – now under Turkish occupation – to UN administration.

The conference honoured at a formal dinner Chairman of the Republican National Committee Reince Priebus, the American Jewish Committee, and Greek Cypriot businessmen living in the US Nicos Mougias and Dinos Iordanou.

On Thursday more than 100 delegates from the US, Britain and Canada had the opportunity to meet with 30 Congressmen and nine



Senators with whom they discussed the Cyprus problem and other national issues. However this year no meeting took place with a representative of the US Administration.

The Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Con-



gressman Howard Berman, the top Democrat on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, denounced Turkey's policy on the Cyprus question, Ankara's threats against Cyprus regarding its research for hydrocarbons in its Exclusive Economic Zone, and the influx of illegal Turkish settlers in the areas of Cyprus occupied since the 1974 Turkish invasion.

Congressman Eliot Engel who submitted a bill to Congress against the presence of Turkish settlers and Turkish threats also spoke along the same lines.

Many members of Congress stressed the need for Turkey to accept a proposal by Cyprus President Demetris Christofias on the return of the fenced off area of the Turkish occupied town of Famagusta (Varosha) under UN administration.

The PSEKA conference was attended by Mayors of occupied municipalities of Cyprus, including Famagusta Mayor Alexis Galanos.

UN Security Council resolution 550 (1984) considers any attempts to settle any part of Varosha (the fenced off area of Famagusta) by

people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible and calls for the transfer of this area to the administration of the UN.

Famagusta was captured by the advancing Turkish troops during the second phase of the



Turkish invasion, in mid August 1974. Since then, it has remained sealed off, under the control of the Turkish military.

Malta shares the goal that Cyprus has set, «Towards a Better Europe»

(from page 13)

As far as the accession process of Turkey is concerned, Christofias

said Turkey must fulfill its obligations towards the European Union, including the Republic of Cyprus.

It must prove in practice, its will for a solution to the Cyprus problem based on the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and the principles and values upon which the European Union is founded".

Christofias underlined "that, Cyprus will, during its Presidency, act as an honest broker and continue to objectively review Turkey's accession negotiations. At the same time, it should be made clear that, we will not allow anyone to jeopardize our Presidency".

On the Cyprus issue, Christofias briefed Prime Minister Gonzi on the latest developments in the talks and reiterated his "commitment to reaching a solution that will guarantee a peaceful and prosperous future for all Cypriots on the basis of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation".

The two also discussed the developments regarding the "activities for the extraction and exploitation of hydrocarbons in Cyprus's Exclusive Economic Zone and the unacceptable Turkish threats and provocations which constitute a threat to regional peace and stability".

I once again reiterate my strong belief that the exploitation of hydrocarbons can contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in Cyprus

and the entire region".

On his part, Gonzi said "we are in complete accord on issues concerning development and social cohesion. We discussed how we can proceed towards this direction", said Gonzi, adding that Europe needs development, fiscal purging and stability".

He further said that discussions on the Multiannual Financial Framework will continue in the next weeks.

Gonzi said that the two examined the economic future of Europe, the Southern Dimension of the European Neighborhood Policy and the situation in north Africa.

Asked how the Cyprus presidency can tackle the problem of illegal immigration, President Christofias said that Malta and Cyprus share the same concerns. "We are not racists", he said, adding that the issue is serious and should be handled with solidarity by all EU member states.

"Our presidency will work towards this", he added. To a question how cooperation between Malta and Cyprus can increase, Christofias said "through tourism, energy and agriculture".

CYPRUS

Recession deepens in first quarter

CYPRUS remained in deep recession in the first quarter of the year with the economy shrinking by more than initially thought, giving little sign of hope for a country that may need to seek an international bailout to prop up its damaged banks.

The economy registered a 0.4 per cent quarterly contraction in the first three months of 2012, the statistics department said yesterday, following a 0.3 per cent decline in output in the last quarter of 2011.

On a year-on-year basis, the economy contracted by 1.6 per cent in the first quarter compared to a 0.8 per cent contraction in the fourth quarter of 2011.

On Thursday, the Central Bank sharply cut its economic output forecasts for 2012, now anticipating the economy shrinking by 1.1 per cent from earlier estimates of zero growth.

Flash estimates issued by the statistics office on May 15 said Cyprus had experienced a 0.3 per cent decline in growth in the first three months of the year.

It was the third successive quarterly output contraction for Cyprus, one of the euro zone's smallest economies.

Church to mark EU Presidency with various events

THE CHURCH of Cyprus believes that the assumption of the Presidency of the Council of the EU by Cyprus in July is an opportunity for the country to present itself to its European partners and make them aware of the Christian Orthodox tradition in the EU, head of the Representation of the Church of Cyprus to the European Union, Bishop of Neapolis Porphyrios has stressed.

Speaking to the Cyprus News Agency, the Bishop said the Church firmly supports the Cypriot EU presidency and is preparing a series of events partly in cooperation with the Republic of Cyprus that will be held during the six-monthly rotating EU Presidency.

A significant number of Orthodox icons will be displayed at the exhibition on Cyprus, that will begin on June 21, at the Bozar museum in Brussels, he said.

On July 1, the day the presidency begins, the Church will organise a special symbolic ceremony at St John's Cathedral in Nicosia.

Among other events, in October an exhibition will take place in Prague on the destruction of religious heritage in the north.

The Church will also participate in an exhibition, in October, on the Byzantine and Medieval Cyprus at the Louvre in Paris.

EAC: imported gas would have saved millions

THE DECISION not to import natural gas for power production after it became clear Cyprus had its own deposits is costing the country around 50 million euros a year in potential savings, said a senior electricity official Saturday.

Electricity Authority of Cyprus (EAC) official Yiannis Tsouloftas questioned the wisdom of scrapping plans to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) which would have lessened Cyprus' dependence on costly oil for electricity production. He noted the "great uncertainty" now surrounding the issue of when gas will be brought to Cyprus from its own offshore field in Block 12.

Speaking at the Cyprus Natural Gas Conference sponsored by Ernst & Young Cyprus, Tsouloftas blamed the EAC's soaring prices on the island's dependence on oil, and its small and isolated market, rejecting the notion that profits were high.

GREECE

Economy keeps on crumbling

Greece's economy shrank further in the first three months of 2012, shrivelling at a yearly rate of 6.5 percent against a backdrop of painful wage cuts, tax hikes and record unemployment.

The data, released on Friday, will add fodder to politicians campaigning against terms of an international bailout ahead of a June 17 parliamentary election.

Painful budget austerity has deepened the country's economic malaise, turning voters away from mainstream political parties that backed a European Union/International Monetary Fund rescue deal.

The first quarter Gross Domestic Product preliminary projection was based on seasonally unadjusted data. It topped a previous -6.2 percent year-on-year flash estimate and follows a 7.5 percent year-on-year GDP decline in the last quarter of 2012, statistics service ELSTAT said.

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Archbishop Chrysostomos and Russian Patriarch officiate a service at Agia Sofia in Nicosia

Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia Kirill who is paid an official visit to Cyprus and Primate of the Cypriot Church Archbishop Chrysostomos II officiated Sunday a service at Agia Sofia church in Nicosia.

Addressing the Russian Patriarch, Chrysostomos said Cyprus is looking forward Russia's support to the restoration of justice in Cyprus, adding that "we will never compromise with injustice no matter how much time passes."

On his part, Kirill wished that "the Lord will offer the much-awaited peace, restore the united state of Cyprus and give back to the Cypriot Church the churches which for the time being are inaccessible."

In his address, Chrysostomos recalled that Cyprus have always looked forward to the support of Orthodox Russia, adding that the support of Russia became substantive during the Turkish invasion of 1974 "when by violating all divine and human laws Turkey attacked and occupied 37 per cent of our land, killed, raped, turning a third of our people into refugees and colonized our country with Muslims from Anatolia."

The Primate of the Cypriot Church also recalled the Russian Federation veto to a UN Security Council resolution on the Annan Plan, a plan rejected by the Greek Cypriots and accepted by the Turkish Cypriots on April 24, 2004 during separate simultaneous referenda. He said that the veto was submitted following the intervention of both Kirill and his predecessor to the then President of the Russian Federation, as said.

Chrysostomos expressed hope that the Russian Church will continue to support Cyprus "because the drama of our people continues," noting that after 38 years Turkey does not seem to be willing to restore justice in Cyprus.

"On the contrary, by exploiting time and with the tolerance of their powerful allies, the Turks consolidate the fait accompli, want to occupy the whole island and by applying the policy of ethnic cleansing they have displaced the legal inhabitants, and turkify the Greek and Christian



part of our country," he added.

He also pointed out that Christian temples in the northern-occupied part of Cyprus that have not been transformed into mosques, warehouses, clubs, military camps or barns, have been left to decay in time.

"We are not even allowed to restore them, as their effort is to extinguish any evidence of the Christianity on our island," he said, adding that Turkish Cypriots have been forced to migrate while the demographic nature of Cyprus is being transformed violently with the transfer of hundreds of thousands of settlers.

Noting that the Church of Cyprus will honour Kirill with the Order of Apostle Varnavas, the highest decoration of the Cypriot Church, Chrysostomos called on the Russian Primate to remember that the tomb of Apostle Varnavas, the founder of the Cypriot Church, is under occupation.

"It is inaccessible to those who wish to visit it freely. Please pray to God that the time of liberation will not delay so that in a future visit we will be able to guide you to Apostle Varnavas, Apostle Andreas, as well as Kyrenia, Famagusta, Morfou and to all of our occupied land," he concluded.

On his part Kirill conveyed the Russian peo-

ple's love to Cyprus and the fellow-orthodox people living on the island.

"May the lord give the long-awaited peace, restore a united state of Cyprus and to bring back to the Church of Cyprus all of its wholly temples which are for the time being inaccessible," he said.

Kirill presented Chrysostomos with a scale model of Ayia Sofia, while the Cyprus Church Council President handed over to Kirill a model of the temple on a round silver tray.

PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA KIRILL on Saturday visited also the Constantia-Famagusta Metropolis. Patriarch Kirill visited the Cultural Centre in Dherinia, where he looked over the fenced-off ghost town of Varosha. He was welcomed by the mayors and members of Famagusta and Dherinia Municipal Councils. Famagusta Deputy Mayor Simo Ioannou gave the Patriarch two gifts, an icon of Saint Nicholas and a clay amphora vase. Patriarch Kirill also visited Ayios Georgios square in Paralimni. Mayor of Paralimni Theodoros Pirillis welcomed the Patriarch and asked him to support the Cypriot Greek Orthodox people and the refugees of Famagusta in their struggle to return to their homes and their properties.

Cyprus FinMin : Cyprus Resorting to the Support Mechanism not ruled out



Finance Minister Vassos Shiarly has outlined before the House Finance Committee the four pillars on which the new package of measures for the economy will be based.

According to the Minister, these four pillars aim to reduce the cost of the state machinery, target social benefits, improve competitiveness and take some measures which may include taxes. The Minister said that the recourse to the EU support mechanism is not necessarily "something bad or shameful," as it was set to provide support to Eurozone countries.

Shiarly stressed that a negative development for Cyprus will be to see the country in such a weak situation that stringent terms will have to be imposed during the negotiation process to enter the Support Mechanism. He noted, however, that there should be alternative choices and proper handling in order to avoid unacceptable conditions being imposed.

The Finance Minister also said that "we have never ruled out the possibility of resorting to the Support Mechanism", adding that this measure is one of available options and noted that the time for Cyprus' recourse to the Support Mecha-

nism is urgent.

The Minister expressed optimism that Cyprus will be able to secure good terms if it resorts to the Support Mechanism.

Referring to the current state of the economy and prospects in the short and medium term, Shiarly stressed that the main goal of the consolidation measures to be adopted is to reduce fiscal deficit to 2.5% and cover the fiscal deviation of 1% of GDP. As he said, given the current data, fiscal deficit is estimated to reach 3.5% at the end of this year.

In the medium term, he added, the goal is for the Cyprus economy to return to positive growth of 0.5% in 2013 and 1% in 2014. Vassos Shiarly talked about the

objective to achieve a fully balanced budget in 2014 and referred extensively to the possibility of Cyprus's recourse to the Support Mechanism of the E.U which is not necessarily something bad if done with the right conditions, as he said.

He also referred to the efforts for interstate lending, something which he did not rule out and went on to say that if Cyprus managed to get a loan from another state, then it would have an extra bargaining chip during its negotiations with the Support Mechanism in order to achieve better terms.

In his intervention before the Committee, the Governor of Central Bank Panicos Demetriades said that it is not right to send the message globally that the situation is tragic, and noted that commendable efforts are being made both by the Government and the House of Representatives for the consolidation of public finances.

The Minister of Finance at first made a presentation on the current state of the Cypriot economy, saying that Cyprus has been greatly affected by the developments in the Greek economy and its interconnection with Greece. With regard to the growth prospects of the

economy, Shiarly said that Cyprus will continue to face significant challenges. The growth rate for 2012, he added, will be clearly negative and will be around 1%.

Taking into account these facts and challenges, it is even more urgent to take corrective and structural measures, he added. Shiarly described the prospects of finding hydrocarbons in the Cyprus's EEZ as a positive development.

Regarding the labour market, the Finance Minister said the unemployment rate stood at 7.7% and in 2012 will stand at 10%. Inflation is due to remain high at around 3% in 2012, he added.

He said that public finances during the first 4 months of the year showed an improvement compared to 2011, but not to the extent that it was expected. Based on the current trends, according to Shiarly, the budget deficit in 2012 is estimated to range with the current data at 3.5, namely 1% over of what it was planned which was 2.5%.

The Minister of Finance referred to the exclusion of Cyprus from international markets, noting that the deficit financing is one of the major problems Cyprus is called upon to solve.

LETTER TO SIMON HUGHES BY CYPRIOT WOMEN'S LEAGUE(UK)

«You appear to be a volte-face»

Dear Simon,

First of all, let us say how much we appreciate the support you have hitherto shown for the reunification of Cyprus. Your passionate addresses at Trafalgar Square, meeting with our CWL Members at the House of Commons, with the National Federation of Cypriots in the UK, etc. have, over the years, certainly given hope to us British and British Born Cypriots. We also felt that here was one of our senior MPs who understands the plight of Cyprus, i.e. of invasion and continuing illegal occupation of Cyprus by Turkey and its army.

However, our Members have asked us to express our deep disappointment with what sadly appears to be a volte-face by yourself. We cannot understand who ill-advised you to visit the occupied area; to access it via the illegal airport of Tymbou, etc, all of which go against and abuse international law.

Turkey continues to attempt to "woo" politicians from other countries to recognise the illegal and self-proclaimed regime in the occupied area, in order to make the reunification of the island an impossibility. We cannot believe that any of our MPs could be duped by Turkey in this way, i.e. pretending to be acting on behalf of the Turkish-Cypriots. Indeed, our Turkish-Cypriots are gradually being "squeezed" out of the occupied area of Cyprus, have been and continue to be replaced by illegal settlers from Turkey.

Please let us have your views on the above so that we can pass them on to our Members.

Yours sincerely,
Susie Constantinides MBE
Honorary Chair
Evoulla Nicolaou
Chair

Health Minister outlines Cyprus Presidency priorities in health



The priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the European Council were presented by Health Minister Stavros Malas on Friday who said that the Ministry is ready to undertake this great challenge. Speaking at a press conference, Malas said "the Ministry of Health will promote actions for the protection and welfare of the European Citizens' health for a 'better Europe'". He said the Ministry will chair the Council (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs), often abbreviated to EPSCO and the relevant working groups of the Council, the working group on High Quality Health Care, Pharmaceutical Products and Food Safety.

Regarding the issues that the Cyprus Presidency will receive from the Danish presidency, Malas referred to the regulation for adopting the programme "Health for Development" for the period 2014-2020, and other issues concerning cross border health threats and the need to amend the Transparency Directive.

On the issue of organ donation and transplants, Malas said that his Ministry will concentrate on the fact that organ donation and transplants are an act of altruism and social solidarity towards and recognizing the lack of human organs for transplant purposes, the Cyprus Presidency will highlight the issue at a community level. Malas also said that the Ministry will organize a high level meeting in September which will focus on the preventive measures that lead to promoting health at every stage of peoples' lives.

Volunteers wanted to clean up Cyprus in one day

CYPRUS' first islandwide clean up will take place on September 29 with a monumental effort to make the island rubbish-free in only one day. "This is the first and probably only campaign regarding the environment which is taking place on such a large scale in Cyprus," said Natasa Ioannou, communications head for the campaign, who was speaking at a news conference yesterday to announce the project: 'Let's do it Cyprus.'

"The important thing for us is to locate the areas which need to be cleaned up," said Environment Commissioner Charalambos Theopemptou. He said they wanted everyone involved including politicians and local authorities. According to Ioannou, the aim is clean the island up in a day, while creating awareness among the public. The project involves cleaning the waste from natural areas, including beaches, forests and fields, but not cities. The campaign is a global one with 100 countries participating. The initiative began in Estonia in 2008 when 50,000 volunteers cleaned up 10,000 tonnes of waste in a day.

Before the clean up can begin a number of other actions must take place in the months leading up to it, such as mapping the targeted areas, and creating groups of volunteers. Those who want to help map the sites should look out for areas polluted with plastic bottles, paper, aluminium cans, packages, tyres, glass and discarded electrical appliances. "We want foreigners to help too so that's why our website is in English as well," said Theopemptou, adding that several groups have already shown interest, and mapping has already started on their websites. Organisers are hoping to get thousands of people interested in participating. To find out more or to take part look to the website on

Stephen Fry's Parthenon Marbles plea backed in debate vote

A call backed by actor Stephen Fry for the return to Greece of the British Museum's Parthenon Marbles has come out on top in a debate held in London.

Fry said it would be a "classy" move to restore the sculptures brought to the UK by Lord Elgin in the 19th Century.

The debate, hosted by Intelligence Squared, ended with a majority for the motion of 384 to 125. Opposing the motion, Tristram Hunt MP said the British Museum played a key role in cosmopolitan culture.

The Greeks were a proud people suffering terribly, Stephen Fry told the audience in London's Cadogan Hall, but "no matter how much the sovereign debt crisis means they owe us, we will never repay the debt that we owe Greece."

He said he revered the British Museum as "one of the great flowerings of the Enlightenment" but that returning the Marbles to Greece would be an act of "grace and decency".

He said it would be "classy" if future visitors to the British Museum could see a "Parthenon experience" including a film showing how Britain had curated the marbles "beautifully" for 200 years and then handed them over to Athens' Acropolis Museum.

Mr Hunt supported the argument advanced by the British Museum, which says there is a need for collections like its own which allows many different cultures to be compared.

The museum says the division of the sculptures between London and Athens "allows different and complementary stories to be told about the surviving sculptures, highlighting their significance within world culture and affirming the place of Ancient Greece among the great cul-



NIKOS DANIILIDIS

tures of the world."

Stephen Fry said he wanted Britain to show "grace and decency"

It should be a source of pride to the Greeks that the sculptures, as a symbol of Greek culture, were such an important part of the British Museum's collection where it could be compared with exhibits from other civilisations, said Mr Hunt.

He feared that restoring the Marbles could lead to a "purge" of museums in which "tit-for-tat recoveries" of objects by their countries of origin would lead to a "global loss of appreciation and understanding".

He said the Marbles had been legally acquired with a permit from the Ottoman empire and the Greek government had never challenged their ownership in an international court.

But Stephen Fry said the argument did not apply because Greece was an occupied country at

the time.

Proposing the motion to send the sculptures back, Andrew George MP said it may be that Elgin helped preserve the sculptures, but that job was done now.

He said he was "appealing to Britain's better instincts" and that restoring the sculptures willingly now would be better than a "cringing climb-down" some time in the future.

The debate comes a week before an "International Colloquy" in London on the Parthenon sculptures in London, organised by the British, US and Australian committees calling for their return to Greece. Those attending will hold a "planned organized attendance" at the British Museum on 20 June.

Recordings of the debate will be broadcast on BBC World News at 09:10 and 21:10 on 23 June, and 02:10 and 15:10 on 24 June. All times GMT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

«Thank you» to the voters of Brunswick Park Ward

BY CLLR ANDREAS IOANNIDES

Dear editor,

I wanted to thank all the voters of Brunswick Park who voted for me in the recent council by-election, and I look forward to representing and working with all local residents, whether they voted for me or not, to try and deliver a better Barnet for all.



The by-election result was a clear message that people want to see a change in the way Barnet council is run, particularly the disastrous One Barnet programme that has already closed Friern Barnet Library and eight children's centres, hiked up parking charges, cut sheltered housing wardens and more besides.

Of most concern is the billion pound gamble to sell-off crucial services like planning, environmental health, highways, and other regulatory services like licensing - losing control of these services could have a serious impact on the people of Barnet.

Road safety is one of the services that could be sold-off to be delivered by a private company, and as trying to improve road safety in Brunswick Park was one of my election pledges it is something I feel passionately about. I will, of course, be working hard on all my election pledges, but have made a start with road safety by launching a residents' survey to help get support for a safe pedestrian crossing on Brunswick Park Road where an 11 year old girl was injured last year, as well as council proposals to introduce pedestrian crossings on Russell Lane, which the council have not yet consulted on. Brunswick Park residents can download a copy of my survey from www.labour4barnet.com.

Thank you to residents, once again, for supporting me.

Yours sincerely
Cllr Andreas Ioannides
Labour councillor for Brunswick Park ward

English Councils back troubled families scheme

Every eligible council in England is to take part in the government's programme to tackle the problems of "troubled families", ministers have said. The news represents an expansion of a scheme under which local authorities get financial incentives to tackle some of the 120,000 families said to cost the taxpayer £9bn every year.

Ministers have said they want to turn around these families' lives by 2015. Labour says government cuts limit the impact of family intervention schemes. The government says the 120,000 families are to blame for a significant share of social problems because the adults are usually on benefits for life, their children are often absent from school and the police are regularly called to their homes.

The estimated £9bn they cost the public purse each year relates to spending on them with regards to the NHS, the police and social services. Under the government programme, councils are being encouraged to join up the efforts of the various agencies involved with these families - from social workers to teachers, police officers and doctors. The government is diverting £448m from existing departmental budgets over four years to help pay for a network of people who will identify families in need of help, make sure they get access to the right services and ensure that action is taken.

But the money will cover only 40% of costs, and councils who want to use it will have to agree to fund the other 60% themselves. However, if a local authority manages to cut a family's level of truancy, anti-social behaviour, or benefit dependency, it will receive extra money. Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said that 152 councils in England would be incentivised to send in troubleshooters to confront the difficult families in their area.

Speaking to the BBC's Today programme, Mr Pickles announced that all councils had agreed to take part in the scheme and there was now a "window" of opportunity to deal with problem families. He said: "I think there's a kind of acceptance that we tend to throw money at these folks for them to go away and we have a chance now, a window to actually break that cycle of deprivation. We've been piloting it. We've seen some very good turnarounds of these families and I think it's an attempt to say we're not going to abandon these families." "These families are ruining their own lives, they're ruining their children's lives and they're ruining the lives of their neighbours and I think it's a laudable attempt to deal with that to get their kids back into school, to get them on the road to work and to cut down anti-social behaviour", he added.

Under the government's measure, families need to meet five out of seven criteria - including truanting children, parents with addiction and anti-social behaviour - to be classified as "troubled". Speaking at the launch of the initiative in March, Prime Minister David Cameron said some "deeply troubled families", who were "deeply chaotic", were responsible for "a huge amount of social problems, for themselves but also for the wider community". "I am very proud of the fact that this government has decided to roll up its sleeves and really try and deal with these problems, it's a hugely important area of work," he said. But, when this initiative was first proposed, Labour MP Gloria De Piero said there was only so much troubleshooters could do when cuts were hitting family intervention projects.

Freak Summer Downpours Begin To Ease Off

The number of flood alerts in place across Britain has been reduced after freak summer downpours started to ease off.

Rain has lashed parts of south east England since Sunday evening, with some areas seeing a month's rainfall in a day, but now the weather appears to be settling.

The Environment Agency (EA) had 50 flood alerts in place in the early hours of this morning, but have reduced the number to 38. The number of serious flood warnings has also fallen from six to four.

But while the South East will enjoy some respite from heavy rain, poor weather is moving to the west.

Sky News weather presenter Isobel Lang said: "After a deluge of

rain on Monday, downpours are easing off in the south east of England." But sporadic rain is forecast for Wales later which may cause problems, given that the area has already had a large amount of rainfall over the past few days. "With the bad weather moving west there are also thunder showers in store for Ireland and south west England - particularly in Torbay and South Devon - and these will continue through to Thursday and Friday."

Flooding has already wreaked havoc across parts of the country, causing the closures of roads and a hospital. In 36 hours, up to 7am this morning, parts of south-east England saw more than a month's worth of rain.

Wiggonholt in West Sussex received the biggest lashing with 72mm downpour in that time. It's monthly average for June is 52.9mm.

In the same county, Thorney Island and Shoreham Airport recorded 68.6mm and 67.8mm respectively.

Emergency cases at nearby Worthing Hospital were diverted to neighbouring Brighton and Chichester for several hours overnight because of flooding.

Meanwhile, a special disaster fund is to be set up after more than 1,500 people were evacuated and 150 rescued in mid-Wales over the weekend.

Water up to five feet gushed through homes and businesses in

Ceredigion, Powys and Gwynedd, with the clean-up and insurance costs expected to run into millions of pounds. But despite the heavy rainfall, an EA spokesman confirmed areas of southern England remained in drought.

He said: "The rain we have had since the start of April - following the driest March for 70 years - has led to a huge improvement in water resources, putting us in a much more positive position for the summer. "Water companies have seen reservoir levels rise, river levels are mostly back to normal, and many wildlife habitats that were suffering due to a lack of water have recovered.

"While the risk of drought with further water restrictions and associated environmental impacts this summer has reduced, the situation could deteriorate again next year if there is not enough rain this winter, particularly as groundwater levels are still low for this time of year."

The Met Office said the UK was still below its average rainfall for the time of year. There are no severe flood warnings, the highest alert, which mean there is an immediate danger to life. The Environment Agency warned people to remain vigilant and check its website for the latest situation, adding that people were "strongly" advised to stay away from swollen rivers and not to drive through floodwater.

Thames Water lifts hosepipe ban thanks to record rainfall in recent weeks

Thames Water is lifting its hosepipe ban from today thanks to record rainfall in recent weeks. The UK's biggest water company, which serves 8.8million customers including those in Potters Bar, imposed the temporary ban on April 5 following two of the driest years on record. Despite the recent deluge, Veolia Water, which serves customers across Barnet, has kept its own restrictions in place.

Heavy downpours in April, May and over the past week have enabled Thames Water reservoirs to return to acceptable levels and the ban will be lifted from today. Richard Ayland, sustainability director for Thames Water, said: "We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our customers for complying with the restrictions, and for their ongoing efforts to use water wisely. They really are much appreciated." "We are really pleased we can now lift the ban but, with groundwater levels still low and the possibility of a third successive dry winter, we still need to be careful. We don't need a ban, but we do need to ask everyone to keep on using water wisely."

The company says the restrictions have saved 100 million litres of water per day but that its natural underground basin reserves remain low. Veolia Water has kept its hosepipe ban in place despite admitting its reserves have risen for the first time in a year. A representative said in a statement: "Unfortunately at present we will not be relaxing the temporary use ban further as we need to conserve our supply of water to prepare for the possibility of a third dry autumn and winter."

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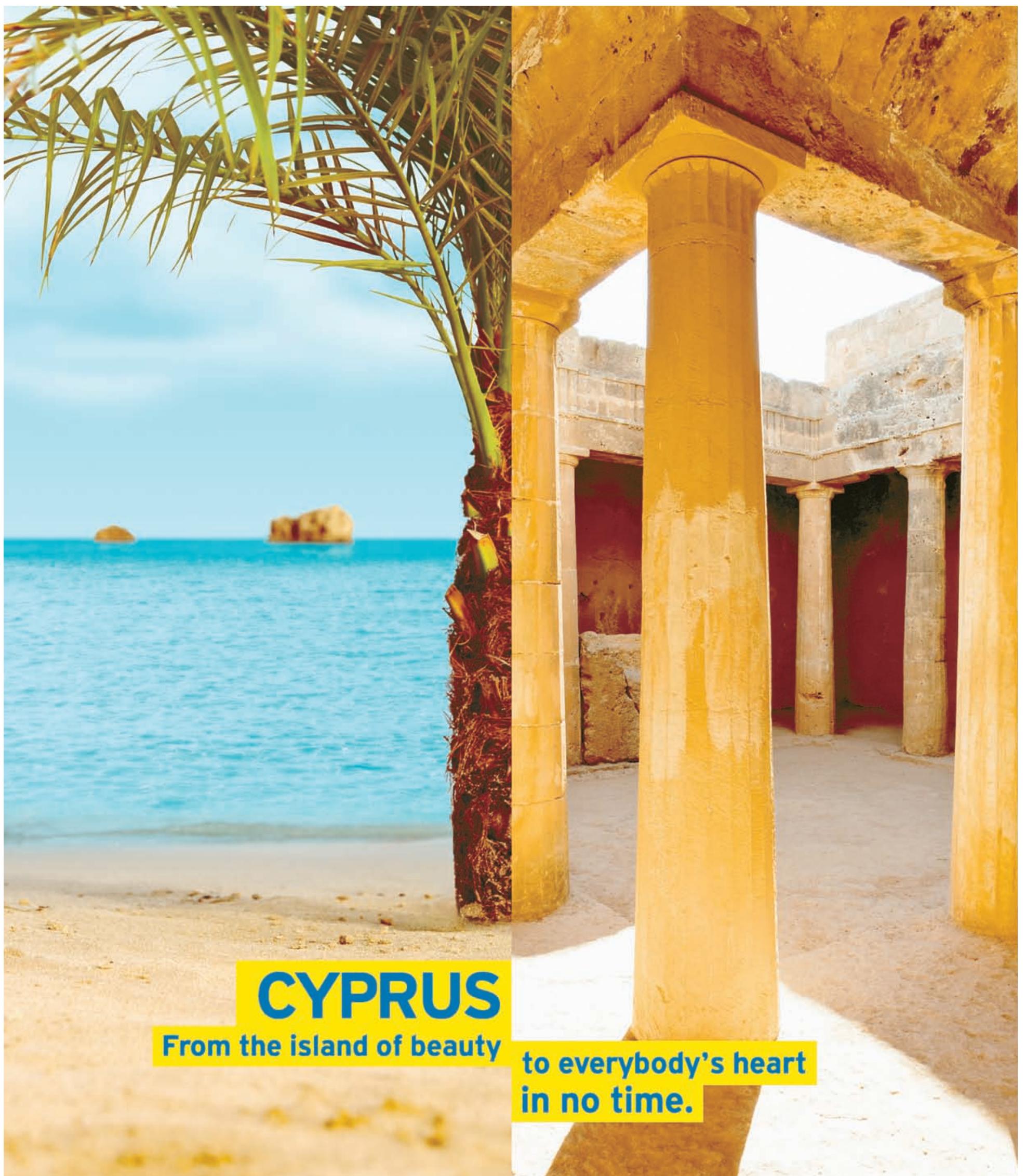
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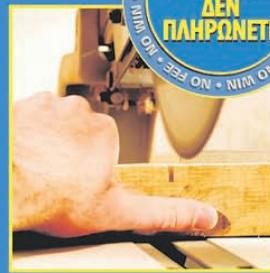
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EDITORIAL

Chelsea's Champions League win was rightly heralded as a clash of styles which culminated in an exciting finale with the London club winning a penalty shoot-out. A deeper look at the consequences of the tactical battle of that final and Chelsea's semi-final defeat of Barcelona seems to have given teams a blueprint to win a match that on paper they would otherwise lose.

Of course football is not played on paper and the history books are littered with victories for perceived weaker teams but a bright and exciting start to Euro 2012 is also being characterised by the tactical battle between teams.

The favourites, Spain, are renowned for their tiki-taka football; their ability to retain possession, recycle the ball and open up the opposing defence with the passing ability. Against Italy they came up against a team that was content to concede possession but who were ready to exploit them on the break.

Football purists purr at the way Spain play their football but against Italy they could not break down their opponents and had to come from behind to claim a draw. In the same group, Denmark, like Italy were happy to forfeit time on the ball against Holland and bide their time, hoping they could score first and hold on. It worked as Holland toiled, created plenty of scoring opportunities but lost.

Ultimately football is a sport and in sport at the highest level winning is the objective. Denmark beat Holland's better football, like Chelsea beat Bayern Munich.

The question is whether Spain's football, which at international level for the past four years has yielded a World Cup and a European Championships is now being eroded and negated by tactics which advocate position on the football field rather than possession. This was nowhere more in evidence than in the drab, solid and unspectacular England display against France. Roy Hodgson's team was predictably set out in two banks of four making it difficult for their opponents. France dominated possession but England had the upper hand zonally and protected their position admirably.

Whereas the last tournament was a victory for possession football, Spain's brand of football dominating their opponents, this tournament may see the winners advocate a more conservative approach with counter attack their main threat.

A clear pattern has certainly emerged from Poland and Ukraine. As mentioned already England ceded to France as did Denmark to Holland and Italy to Spain. One team have been proactive while the other reactionary, absorbing pressure waiting for the moment to break. Add to that set plays, as evidence by England's method of scoring against the French and it is a recipe that has yielded results.

But why has this come about? The answer may be simpler than the method to tackle it. Such has been success of Spain and Barcelona, with the two not mutually exclusive for obvious reasons, that teams who have come up against Pep Guardiola and Vicente Del Bosque's team have had no option but to concede possession and devise a plan beyond how they would normally play. Any team that has tried to outplay Spain and Barcelona in the last four years ha more often than not lost and this is evidence by the incredible success of both teams at club and international level.

What should be noted at Euro 2012 is that while conceding possession and space to teams like Spain would normally be characterised as being defensive, once in possession teams like Italy have actually been progressive. The point is that they cannot stand toe to toe, to use a boxing metaphor, and simply have to bide their time and attack when they can. It is a efficient form of football, playing to ones strengths and in truth was the way Greece eight years shocked football and was victorious Euro 2004.

Football evolves and there are very few instances of revolutionary changes in tactical play in recent history. Euro 2012 may be the moment where Spain, and Barcelona's hitherto dominant style is usurped. This shouldn't mean the end for this tactical style, instead it will mean another evolutionary step. To those who believed that Barcelona were invincible, and Manchester United fans certainly believed so after Rome and Wembley, will have seen that even as players tire and show their weaknesses, so do tactics and styles of play. It has taken years for Real Madrid to find a way to beat Barcelona and this past season they have won La Liga.

Are Barcelona and Spain's powers waning? Hardly. They are still formidable teams, just that their opponents now have an option that has been seen to be successful. Football is more than just about the players. At the top level it is also about tactics and the interesting starting line-up Del Bosque went with against Italy was with a formation without a recognised striker. Is this the start of the counter attack to the counter attacking style of play? Euro 2012 and next season will show us where tactics and styles of play will take the next era of football.

STOP PRESS...

••• MOUFFLONS WIN AGAIN: The Cyprus Rugby Team complete their triumphant FIRA European Nations Cup campaign with a 100% record in Finland. The team known as the Moufflons triumphed 52-5 in Helsinki to make it eight wins out of eight in Division 2D, all with maximum bonus points. The win means that Cyprus secured a second successive promotion with two games to spare and will play. Cyprus will move up to Division 2C for the next two-year campaign, where they will face Austria, Armenia, Slovenia and either Bulgaria or Hungary, who will play-off for the final spot. The Finland win was their 15th in a row, taking them a step closer to the world record for most consecutive international victories. The team need three more wins to equal the record of 18, currently held by Lithuania, who surpassed the previous standard set by New Zealand in 2010.

GREECE 1-2 CZECH REPUBLIC

Greek mistakes gift the Czechs three points



(Above) The Greece team line up before kick off (Left) Fanis Gekas scores Greece's only goal in a 2-1 defeat

Greece gave themselves a mountain to climb after only six minutes on Tuesday as another poor start gifted the Czech Republic a two goal head start.

Greece regrouped and battled back and even though Gekas halved the deficit early in the second half, Greece could not get back on terms and lost 2-1. It now means that Greece will have to beat group leaders Russia who themselves drew 1-1 with hosts Poland in order to progress.

For the Czechs, the 2-1 victory went some way to exorcising the demons after Greece dramatically defeated them back in 2004 when Greece went on to famously lift the trophy. In that dramatic semi-final tie Greece's won thanks to a silver goal in extra time. Eight years later it was the Czechs who were celebrating.

Petr Jiracek scored the opener when he converted Tomas Hubschman's defence-splitting pass in the third minute. Poor defending from Greece allowed the Czechs the space and time to take the lead. Having lost Avraam Papadopoulos to a serious knee injury in the first game and Sokratis Papastathopoulos for a ludicrous sending off decision, Greece had to make several changes. The defensive midfielder had to be withdrawn from his role and moved into the back four. This hurt Greece's solidity and the Czechs punished them.

Vaclav Pilar then grabbed his second goal of the tournament when he bundled home from two yards out. Arsenal's Tomas Rosicky fed in the impressive Gebre Selassie on the right side of the

area. The full-back pulled his cross back for Pilar, who beat two defenders to the ball and directed his shot in with his thigh.

Greece had a goal ruled wrongly out for offside just before the break which had given Santos' team a lifeline but it was not long after the break Greece got themselves back into the game.

Fotakis was replaced by Gekas after the break and, like in the first match against Poland when Dimitris Salpangidis, came on in the second half and made a difference, the change gave Greece an early boost.

Cech played a big part in goal when confusion between himself and his defender Tomas Sivok caused him to fumble a tame cross. Gekas had the easy task of passing into an empty net.

It was the fifth goal Chelsea's usually reliable number one had conceded in this tournament,

Greece, galvanised by the goal pressed forward and brought on Olympiakos' Kostas Mitroglou to bring the number of forwards in their to four with 20 minutes remaining, but they seemed bereft of ideas against a tiring Czech defence.

In the evening match Poland drew with Russia meaning that the group permutations for the final group games are as follows:

Russia need at least a point from their final game against Greece to qualify as of right but Russia will still qualify if they lose if the Czech Republic draw with Poland

If Russia lose and either Poland or Czech Republic win then Russia are out. The Czech Republic need to defeat Poland to qualify by right

but the Czechs can also qualify if they draw against Poland and Russia win or draw. Poland need to defeat Czech Rep to qualify while the task for Greece is a simple one. Santos' team beat Russia they will go through.

After the match defender Cholebas bemoaned his sides poor start.

"Every single one of us needs to have their mind on the game, and right from the start," he said.

"We must have the will to win the game and not only in the second half. We played better then and created some chances but this must happen from the first minute. You have to take control of the game to win it," he added.

Cholebas said he could not understand why the team has been incapable of competing as well in the early stages of a game as in the latter.

"It's difficult to explain. It was like during the first game, the first 20-25 minutes...I don't know, we were asleep."

"We completely slept through the first 30 minutes, during the first half, it's as simple as that. For us it means a final against Russia, that's for sure. We need to get the three points, there's no other way," he said.

Saturday's clash with Russia in Warsaw will be a difficult test for Greece but they believe they have the resources to pull off a surprise.

"We still believe in our team and in ourselves, and we will keep going until the last minute of this tournament," said striker Giorgios Samaras.

Santos laments slow start

Greece coach Fernando Santos said that another poor start cost his side dearly as two goals in the first six minutes saw the Greeks lose 2-1 to Czech Republic in their Euro 2012 Group A clash on Tuesday.

The 57-year-old Portuguese, who replaced veteran German Otto Rehhagel after the 2010 World Cup finals first round exit, added that he had not given up on securing a last eight spot - though they will have to beat group leaders Russia to do so. The Greeks, who beat the Czechs in the Euro 2004 semi-finals on their way to lifting the trophy, have just a point while the second-placed Czechs have three points. Co-hosts Poland are on two points having fought out a 1-1 draw with Russia, who are on four points.

Santos, whose 45% pay rise raised eyebrows in a country where the majority of people are struggling to pay for basic goods because of the financial hardships brought about by the euro crisis, said that he had feared the Czechs would bolt out of the blocks.

"We knew it could happen. In their first match (a 4-1 loss

to Russia), the Czechs were very attack-minded from the moment they went on to the pitch," said Santos, whose side also made a slow start against the Poles. "But regardless of us being forewarned we were not able to respond."

Santos, a former league and Cup winning coach with Porto, praised his side - who were patched up with a second choice centre back partnership because of suspension and injury - for the second-half performance.

"There would have been another match without those two goals in the first six minutes."

"We conceded four goals in 10 matches in qualifying, and we have conceded three in two matches here! These few minutes cost us dearly."

"Afterwards, we were eventually able to get a foothold on the match, and we played with a lot of heart, we did everything in our power we could to equalise, but it just didn't come."

"Now it is vital we look to the final match, hope still remains."



EURO 2012 GUIDE

GROUPS

Group A

Poland
GREECE
Russia
Czech. Republic

Group B

Holland
Denmark
Germany
Portugal

Group C

Spain
Italy
Rep. Ireland
Croatia

Group D

Ukraine
ENGLAND
France
Sweden

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1960 (Paris)
USSR 2-1 Yugoslavia

1964 (Madrid)
SPAIN 2-1 USSR

1968 (Rome)
ITALY 2-1 Yugoslavia

1972 (Brussels)
WEST GERMANY 3-0 USSR

1976 (Belgrade)
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 2-2 W.Germany
(Czechs won 5-3 on penalties)

1980 (Rome)
W.GERMANY 2-1 Belgium

1984 (Paris)
FRANCE 2-0 Spain

1988 (Munich)
HOLLAND 2-0 USSR

1992 (Gothenburg)
DENMARK 2-0 Germany

1996 (London)
GERMANY 2-1 Czech Rep.
(Germany won on a Golden Goal)

2000 (Rotterdam)
FRANCE 2-1 Italy
(France won on a Golden Goal)

2004 (Lisbon)
Portugal 0-1 GREECE

2008 (Vienna)
SPAIN 1-0 Germany

GROUP GAMES

Friday 8th June:
Poland 1-1 **GREECE**
Russia 4-1 Czech. Republic

Saturday 9th June:
Holland 0-1 Denmark
Germany 1-0 Portugal

Sunday 10th June:
Spain 1-1 Italy
Rep. Ireland 1-3 Croatia

Monday 11th June:
France 1-1 **ENGLAND**
Ukraine 2-1 Sweden

Tuesday 12th June:
GREECE 1-2 Czech. Republic
Poland - Russia

Wednesday 13th June:
Denmark - Portugal 5pm (ITV1)
Holland - Germany 7:45pm (BBC1)

Thursday 14th June:
Italy - Croatia 5pm (BBC1)
Spain - Rep. Ireland 7:45pm (ITV1)

Friday 15th June:
Ukraine - France 5pm (ITV1)
Sweden - **ENGLAND** 7:45pm (BBC1)

Saturday 16th June:
Czech. Republic - Poland 7:45pm (BBC1)
GREECE - Russia 7:45pm (BBC3)

Sunday 17th June:
Denmark - Germany 7:45pm (ITV4)
Portugal - Holland 7:45pm (ITV1)

Monday 18th June:
Italy - Rep. Ireland 7:45pm (BBC1)
Croatia - Spain 7:45pm (BBC3)

Wednesday 19th June:
ENGLAND - Ukraine 7:45pm (ITV1)
Sweden - France 7:45pm (ITV4)

QUARTER FINALS

June 21 (Q1) Winner A - Runner-up B 7:45pm
June 22 (Q2) Winner B - Runner-up A 7:45pm

June 23 (Q3) Winner C - Runner-up D 7:45pm
June 24 (Q4) Winner D - Runner-up C 7:45pm

SEMI - FINALS

June 27 Q1 Winner - Q3 Winner 7:45pm
June 28 Q2 Winner - Q4 Winner 7:45pm

FINAL

Sunday 1st July Kiev 7:45pm

Premier League clubs interested in signing Greek star

AFTER COMING ON AND SCORING FOR GREECE AGAINST POLAND LAST WEEK, DIMITIRIS SALPINGIDIS COULD BE ON HIS WAY TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE

Greece star Dimitris Salpingidis is a target for several Premier League clubs, according to several reports. Stoke, Wigan, Norwich and newly-promoted sides West Ham and Reading are all thought to be eyeing the striker. Salpingidis, 30, became a hero for his country after coming off the bench to score the equaliser against co-hosts Poland in the opening game of Euro 2012 to salvage a 1-1 draw.

Salpingidis, who plays for PAOK, also scored for the Greek outfit in last season's Europa League group stage victory against Tottenham at White Hart Lane. Despite having a year to run on his contract he is thought to be able to leave on a free this summer after a dispute over wages.

The player's UK representative, Chris Nathaniel admitted: "We are talking with a number of Premier League teams."

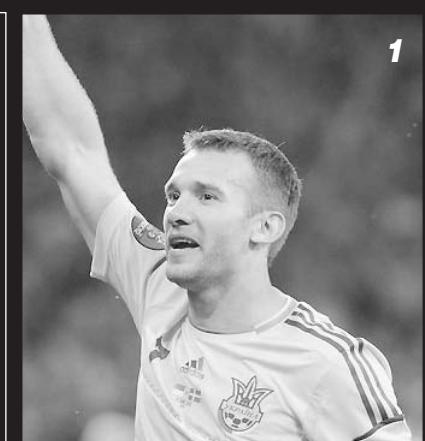


EURO 2012 is only a week old but it has already given us some fantastic football moments and plenty of talking points:

- 1 - Sheva hits a double – Host nation Ukraine came to a virtual standstill as national hero Andrei Shevchenko scored twice to help his side come from behind to beat Sweden 2-1
- 2 - Di Natale stuns champions Spain – In the best match of the tournament so far, Italy's Di Natale opened the scoring but the reigning champions came back to claim a 1-1 draw
- 3 - Greece suffer referee injustice – Greece showed heart in coming from a goal down against co-hosts Poland with 10 men but the sending-off of Sokratis Papastathopoulos was easily the worst refereeing decision so far
- 4 - Van Persie mistiring – One of the favourites could not convert numerous scoring chances and lost to Denmark 1-0.

EURO 2012

The first week in pictures



Sports Round-up

EURO 2012

Now we have seen every team play at least once we can assess which teams will go further in the tournament. Mind you the first games in the groups are always a cautious affair although one or two have gone a step beyond. Dark horses Russia did not disappoint putting up an excellent attacking display against the Czech Republic, as did Croatia against the Irish. Germany showed what a compact unit they are when they beat a good Portuguese team. Denmark surprised fancied Holland but on another day the chances created by the Dutch could go in and then it's double figures!! England looked very solid against the French and will take a very good team to put more than two goals past them but at the same time I can't see England getting two goals themselves. They lacked ideas and sharpness up front and Wayne Rooney is a desperate need. Most of the other teams have good possession going forward where as England surrender it as soon as they are over the half way line. Better practice the penalties well!!!

I thought Greece recovered after a bad start against Poland and should have won. Diabolical referee decisions but they will have to be disciplined if they are to make progress. That was the secret of their success in 2004 where they were disciplined in both behaviour and performance. Perhaps we will never see another feat like that but the formula works because as long as you have the ball the other side cannot hurt you.

I thought Italy put up a good performance against the favourites Spain and could have come away with victory. They certainly were more adventurous than the usual Italian teams especially in an opening game.

I was pleased to see Shevchenko inspire outsiders Ukraine scoring twice to beat Sweden 2-1. France and England are still favourites to go through but what a lift for the home country. It was pleasing to see a real centre forward display even though he is way past his best. His two goals were obtained from clever movement and brave attacking of the ball. So my group winners are Germany, Russia, France and Spain with Germany outgunning the Spanish in the final. I am sure there will still be a lot of turns and twists on the way but one thing is for sure there will be many more exciting moments to come, and that's before the PENALTIES!!!

KOPA

Thursday 14th June May 2012



- KOPA 37TH AGM
- SEASON 2011/12 A SUCCESS
- ASHA F.C. JOIN LEAGUE

BY MIKKOS CHRYSOSTOMOU

KOPA LEAGUE IS SPONSORED by YVA SOLICITORS

KOPA FOCUS ON YOUTH

KOPA's 37th AGM took place on Sunday and the promise is to build on last season's success in the domestic competitions, as well as continue to serve the community by attracting more youth under their umbrella and encouraging more family participation.

The meeting was formally opened by the General secretary Michael Yiakoumi who took register of the clubs (absentee Panthea), then read the minutes of the last AGM which were approved by the clubs.

Chairman Lakis Chrysostomou then gave a review of the season, giving a brief insight on each committee members work. I think everyone at KOPA should get a pat on the back for the smoothness and satisfactory completion of all the competitions. The work now begins for some of them to maintain this progress!!

KOPA then thanked their sponsors, YVA Solisitors, Buzz sweets, and Cyprus Airways and of course Tony Kleanthous the Barnet FC chairman for his generosity in allowing KOPA to use the Underhill stadium. I think this was a tremendous gesture by Mr. Kleanthous and I think it is something that should continue and I am sure it will be beneficial to the community as well as to Barnet F.C. The final generated such great atmosphere and the sight of families at a football match was really something.

Youth was very much on KOPA's agenda and Lakis thanked the Youth Management and Sub-committee for the work and progress they have made with the youngsters. I still feel that KOPA clubs need to have their own youth teams to be able to produce enough players to filter into the senior teams. Nevertheless, this is a very important operation that under KOPA's umbrella and a trip to Cyprus in October will be very beneficial to all.

The work of the Media, newspapers Parikiaki and Eleftheria, London Greek Radio and RIK TV from Cyprus were acknowledged and very much appreciated by KOPA. I believe this is a two way thing and is very important in promoting the Cypriot League. Again, the more exposure we give to the league the better.

General Secretary Michael Yiakoumi has thanked the clubs for their co-operation in making this a very exciting season. I think the General Secretary has done an outstanding job this year but in general I think the whole committee did their jobs well and



the clubs acknowledged this by re-electing them. I am pleased to see the injection of more youth into the committee namely Chris Athanassis, Yiannis Koumetou and Constantinos Roussis.



The re-elected president, Lakis Chrysostomou

Yiakoumi highlighted the introduction of the Passport ID cards for the players and I believe its success goes hand in hand with the fact that KOPA had minimal disputes to deal with, hence the satisfactory completion of the competitions. He then congratulated the winners of the various competitions and wished the others better luck next season.

Last year's Vice Chairman Michalakis Michael

read out the letter sent by his Eminence Archbishop Gregorios who thanked KOPA for the donation of £1,000 to the Greek Relief Fund. Michalakis then thanked KOA the Cypriot Sports Organisation for the 10,000 Euros they have put aside for the community Youth representative teams.

An analysis of the accounts was presented by the treasurer Soteris Chaklides and explained that funds had been invested in the Youth programme and the League website. The accounts were then approved.

With the merger of Ael and Aradippou KOPA needed a new team to complete the two divisions of twelve clubs and a new club Asha FC was voted in at the meeting.

THE VOTING

The Chairman and General Secretary positions were unopposed so Lakis Chrysostomou and Michael Yiakoumi remain in their respective positions.

The new Committee is

Chairman Lakis Chrysostomou
General Secretary Michael Yiakoumi
Other members are
Michalakis Michael
Soteris Chaklides
Kokos Georgiou
Nick Demetriades
Andreas Aristotelous
Chris Athanassi
Yiannis Koumetou
Constantinos Roussis



*M. Yiakoumi (l) re-elected General Secretary.
Yiannis Koumetou (above) and Constantinos Roussis (r) are... new blood.*



