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FAREWELL TO OUR CHAMPION

Theodore G. Spyropoulos was the voice and champion of his generation for the Greek community. Our compatriot, a great Greek American, Theodore G. Spyropoulos, left his last breath, Thursday September 25, 2014 at 11:22 a.m., at his family home in Chicago, IL, USA.

Hellenism has lost a great leader, visionary, philanthropist, who was, to many of us, a friend, a brother, and a mentor. With this great loss, we convey our sincerest condolences to his wife Erica, his daughter Mariyana and her husband Paul, and their relatives. Our thoughts are with them during these difficult times.

Theodore G. Spyropoulos was the nucleus, a power house, for the Greek American community, whose goals included unity, education, and above all progress in the 21st Century. Yes, he was a leader, and yes, he was a benefactor, but above all he was a man who truly believed in the beauty, transcendence, and diachronic values ingrained within the Hellenic spirit and principles, and it is this that inspired his good works and efforts which we can only aspire to follow. And these beliefs are what he sought to impart to the world. For all of those who knew him, knew he fought tirelessly for what he believed in, and were inspired by his vision and ideals. In honor of Theodore G. Spyropoulos, we are reignited by our pride in his great legacy, and kneel on one knee for our champion. We avow and pledge our allegiance to the cause for Hellenism.

May his memory be eternal.

Paul Kotrotsios

*Founder & Publisher of the Hellenic News of America
President of the Hellenic American National Council*

Greek, Turkish FMs talk Cyprus



Talks between Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu at the United Nations General Assembly in New York recently focused on the prospects for a settlement to the Cyprus problem amid a new peace push, with Venizelos underlining the importance of “encouraging dialogue.” Addressing the assembly, Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades asked Turkish-Cypriot authorities and Ankara to agree on trust-building measures which he said could act as a catalyst in the peace drive. Venizelos said talks with Cavusoglu focused on Cyprus, which he said was “the key to the development of Greek-Turkish relations.” Cavusoglu said Ankara backed a comprehensive settlement for Cyprus. “We are fully supportive, as never before.” The talks were said to be very cordial, with the two men to meet again in Istanbul on November 30.

Tourism accounts for about a fifth of Greek economy



In a message to mark World Tourism Day on Saturday, Association of Hellenic Tourism Enterprises (SETE) president Andreas Andreadis estimated that tourism’s contribution to Greece’s gross domestic product has risen considerably in 2014 and will come close to 20 percent, from just over 16 percent previously. On the same occasion Tourism Development Minister Olga Kefaloyianni called on tourism professionals to raise their quality of service even higher for next year to make 2015 another year of records.

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Kobane: Islamic State battles to encircle Syrian Kurds



Islamic State fighters have launched fresh attacks in the Syrian border town of Kobane in an attempt to encircle the Kurdish defenders. The IS militants attacked western parts of the town but have yet to take the border crossing point with Turkey. The crossing point is a vital supply and exit route, correspondents say. The US-led coalition is continuing air strikes against IS but the Kurds say they urgently need more weapons and ammunition. The US has itself said that air strikes alone may not be able to save Kobane from IS. The BBC at the Syria-Turkey border, says the Kurdish militiamen have pushed back the latest advance by Islamic State inside Kobane.

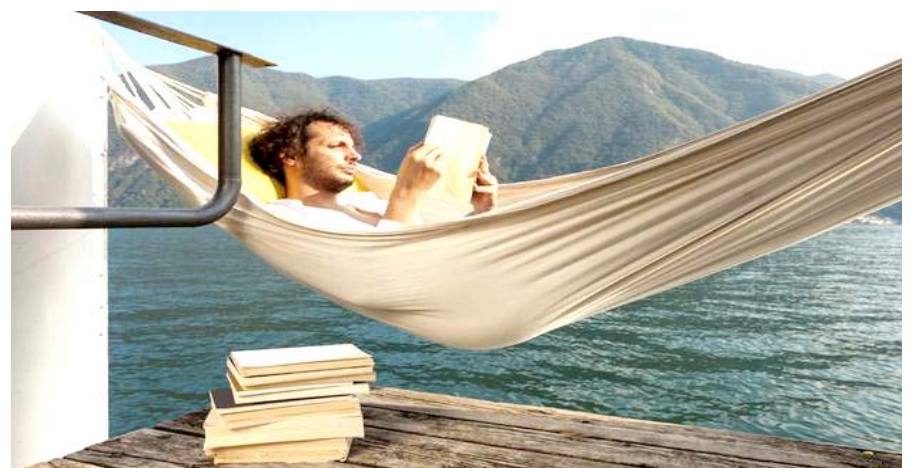
IS militants in Kobane appear to have been resupplied. However, he says the militants are being easily resupplied from the south and the east and are able to launch further attacks. On Friday, UN envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura warned that they would "most likely be massacred" by IS if the town fell. Turkish forces are ranged on the border but have not crossed. Tens of thousands of refugees have fled over the border into Turkey. Ismet Sheikh Hassan, a senior member of the Kurdish forces defending Kobane, repeated those fears on Saturday. He told Associated Press: "We want a corridor to be opened, to evacuate the civilians. If [IS] enter the city centre, there will be a massacre. "There are air strikes, but they are not that effective. It has been 26 days we have been resisting. We want the international community and the United Nations to support us."

Since the IS offensive against Kobane began in mid-September, some 500 people have been killed and up to 200,000 have fled across the border into Turkey. Mr de Mistura called on Turkey to allow Kurdish volunteers to cross into Syria with equipment "to be able to enter the city to contribute to a self-defence operation".

Turkey has ranged its military forces on the border but has so far ruled out any ground operation on its own, and has refused to allow Kurds in Turkey to cross the border to fight. Turkey is reluctant to get involved militarily, partly because it is concerned about arming the Kurdish forces who are fighting the IS militants. Turkey fought a long civil war with its Kurdish minority.

Meanwhile in Iraq, the provincial council in Anbar submitted a request to the Iraqi government asking for US ground troops to help fight IS militants. The vice-president of the council, Faleh al-Issawi, warned Anbar could "fall in 10 days". A US official told AFP news agency the situation in Anbar was "fragile".

IS fighters control large stretches of territory in Syria and Iraq. IS says it aims to establish a "caliphate", a state ruled by a single political and religious leader according to Islamic law, or Sharia. It has become known for brutal tactics, including mass killings, abductions of members of religious and ethnic minorities, and the beheadings of soldiers and journalists.



What if you didn't have to wait until you were in your mid-sixties to retire? What about 50, or even just as you hit your 40th birthday? Don't laugh — with enough dedication, you could say goodbye to your full-time job years sooner than you think. You just have to put the right plan in place. What it will take: Dropping out of the workforce years before everyone else, means you have to be completely debt free, with savings equal to about 25 times the income you wish to achieve in retirement, taking any government pensions or payments into account.

How long do you need to prepare: It depends on how dedicated you are to your cause, and how quickly you can pay off any outstanding debts (including paying off your mortgage) and accrue the required savings. Do it now: Start immediately. Early retirement becomes an impossible dream for many people purely because they didn't plan for it early enough. Downsize your lifestyle. The mantra for early retirement should be save more and spend less. The less you spend now on housing, cars, and holidays, the more disposable income you have for debt and savings. Consider whether you really need the fourth bedroom, the luxury car, the deluxe TV package and dinner out twice a week.

Greek coalition wins confidence vote, gaining support only from own MPs

A banner held up by protesters gathered outside Parliament on Friday night reads 'No Confidence.'

The government breezed through a confidence vote that took place after midnight on Friday as it gained the support of its own MPs but no other members of Parliament.



The final results saw 155 MPs back the coalition, two lawmakers vote "present" and 131 deputies vote against the government.

With 155 MPs in its ranks, after being boosted by the return of Nikitas Kaklamanis to New Democracy on Thursday, the government was not expected to run into any problems.

It needed to secure the support of just 146 deputies as nine Golden Dawn MPs were unable to vote as they are in pretrial custody.

Addressing the House, Samaras, who is also New Democracy leader, highlighted the imminent return of growth and the possible early exit from the bailout as reasons for ensuring the coalition remaining in power.

PASOK leader and Deputy Premier Evangelos Venizelos said the coalition had put together a "comprehensive national strategy to exit the crisis." He said main leftist opposition SYRIZA's policies would undermine an economic recovery. "Five years of toil and sacrifice can be undone in five days," he said.

SYRIZA leader Alexis Tsipras insisted that the government would soon be removed from power as it would be unable to elect a president in February.

Some independent and PASOK MPs' suggestions the parties should come together to create a government of national unity received short shrift from New Democracy, PASOK and SYRIZA.

"We are not interested in such scenarios," said SYRIZA spokesman Panos Skourletis. "We believe that at this time the country needs a strong government that will defend its interests and get us out of the memorandum and the crisis."

Democratic Left (DIMAR) leader Fotis Kouvelis stuck to his position that the government needed to be replaced. Kouvelis has said his party will not vote for the coalition's candidate in February's presidential elections.

"A change of policy in a progressive direction presupposes a change of government," said Kouvelis. "This government cannot and does not want to implement progressive policies. Political stability does not mean the continuation of the same policies. These policies create social instability."

Global war

By Nikos Konstandaras

When a few thousand fanatics of the self-proclaimed "Islamic State" (ISIS) stormed into Mosul on June 10 and consolidated their hold over swaths of northern and western Iraq, few would have predicted that in a little over three months the world would be entering a glo-

of Jordan stressed the threat posed by extremists using social media to recruit around the world, saying, "It is the fight of our times."

The fight of our times crosses all continents, involves religions, affects every generation, every person on the



bal war. In a way that echoes how the global economy and electronic media have broken down barriers and radically changed the relationship between individuals, states and international organizations, ISIS has drawn more than 15,000 foreign fighters from 80 states to Syria and Iraq in the past few years. This threatens not only the Middle East, it has also turned the region into an incubator for terror around the planet.

The international community responded on Wednesday, when the UN Security Council passed a resolution calling on all member states to "prevent and suppress the recruiting, organizing, transporting or equipping of individuals" who cross borders to take part in terrorist activity or training. "The words spoken here today must be matched and translated into action, into deeds – concrete action, within nations and between them, not just in the days ahead, but for years to come," said US President Barack Obama. "For if there was ever a challenge in our interconnected world that cannot be met by any one nation alone, it is this: terrorists crossing borders and threatening to unleash unspeakable violence." The resolution was passed unanimously in a rare meeting of the Security Council members' heads of state. Obama stressed that 104 countries around the world had sponsored it. King Abdullah II

planet. It is being fought with every means, from ships and warplanes costing hundreds of millions of dollars each to kitchen knives, video cameras and tweets. Recruits to the extremists' cause come not only from "the repression, the lack of opportunity, too often the helplessness that can make some individuals more susceptible to appeals to extremism and violence," as Obama said. About 1,000 ISIS fighters are believed to have traveled there from France, with about 500 from Britain, at least 250 each from Belgium and Australia and about 100 from the United States. Recruits from these countries are not the products of repression by dictatorial governments; more likely they are youths alienated by the surrounding culture who see an opportunity for action and revenge, through membership of a group that not only has all the answers, that is unequivocal as to the holiness of its cause, but is also on a triumphal rampage, offering a sense of belonging and the thrill of victory.

The bid to stop globalization through stricter border controls will either fail or will degrade the freedoms of even free nations. What is needed now is decisive military action to destroy ISIS. This will unmask its killers and destroy the dangerous power it exerts over individual misfits and copycat groups around the world.

Why Ebola is so dangerous



Ebola is a viral illness of which the initial symptoms can include a sudden fever, intense weakness, muscle pain and a sore throat, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). And that is just the beginning: subsequent stages are vomiting, diarrhoea and - in some

cases - both internal and external bleeding. The disease infects humans through close contact with infected animals, including chimpanzees, fruit bats and forest antelope. It then spreads between humans by direct contact with infected blood, bodily fluids or organs, or indirectly through contact with contaminated environments. Even funerals of Ebola victims can be a risk, if mourners have direct contact with the body of the deceased.

People are infectious as long as their blood and secretions contain the virus - in some cases, up to seven weeks after they recover.

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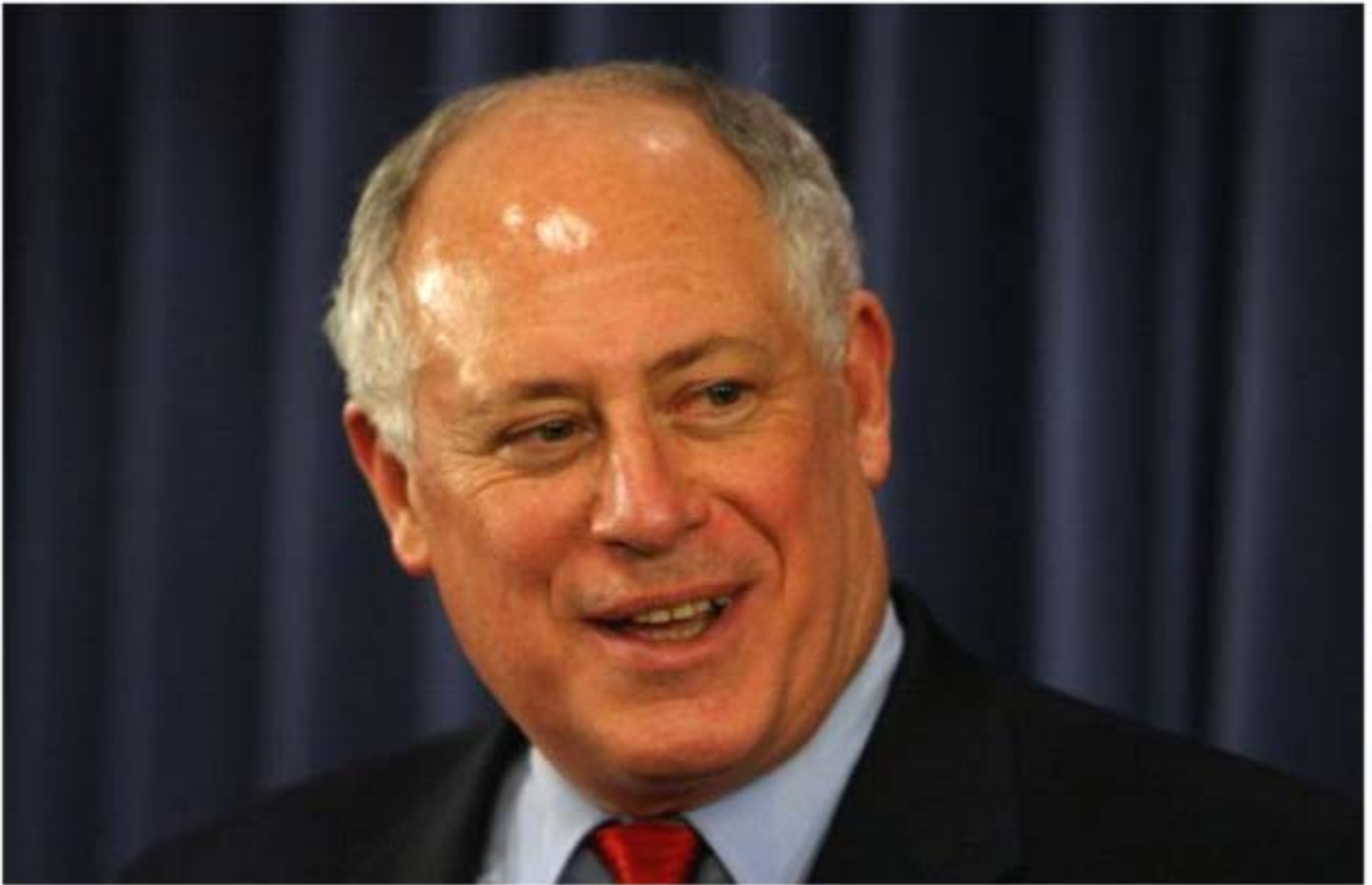
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Ο Πατ Κουίν κατά τη διάρκεια της θητείας του ως κυβερνήτης έφερε νέο ήθος και διαφάνεια στη διακυβέρνηση της Πολιτείας του Ιλλινόι. Έχοντας υπηρετήσει την Πολιτεία επί 30 χρόνια από διάφορα κρατικά αξιώματα γνωρίζει σε βάθος τα ζητήματα που μας απασχολούν.

Με την εμπειρία του αυτή συνέβαλε σημαντικά στην ανάκαμψη της οικονομίας της Πολιτείας. Ανέπτυξε τους τομείς της Επιστήμης και Τεχνολογίας, επένδυσε και δημιούργησε νέες υποδομές στην Εκπαίδευση, τις Μεταφορές και τη Υγειονομική Περίθαλψη ανοίγοντας διαρκώς νέες θέσεις εργασίας.

Ο Πατ Κουίν στάθηκε πάντοτε στο πλευρό του Ελληνισμού της περιοχής, στηρίζει και συμμετέχει στις εκδηλώσεις του και αποτελεί εγγύηση για τη συνεχή ανάπτυξη και πρόοδο της Πολιτείας μας διατηρώντας την ανταγωνιστική στην δύσκολη παγκόσμια οικονομική συγκυρία του 21ου αιώνα.

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WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT THE GREEKS

When George Clooney issued a plea for the Elgin Marbles to be returned to Greece earlier this year his sudden intervention prompted surprise among many of his fans and consternation among MPs firmly opposed to his view.

Now it has emerged the actor's interest may have been prompted by his new wife's sympathy for the Greek cause.

Amal Alamuddin, 36, a barrister, has been quietly advising the Greek government on the issue and is due to fly out next week to discuss the matter with Antonis Samaras, the prime minister.

She will be part of a delegation led by Geoffrey Robertson, the human rights QC who is joint head of Doughty Street Chambers, where Ms Alamuddin specialises in international and criminal law...

~The Telegraph (Oct. 8 2014)

Every year, about 13 million tourists go to Greece to see the ancient ruins. The decision to go to Greece, in many instances, is a decision to improve oneself. Learning about ancient Greece is a pilgrimage into the heart of civilization. Greek ruins help the visitors fall in love with the land that made their culture possible or, at the very least, help them understand the beauty and achievements of ancient Greece.

The 18th-century German poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, was right saying: "Of all peoples, the Greeks have dreamt the dream of life best."

Since the Renaissance in the 15th century, the Greeks have been the subject of intense scrutiny and study. Thousands of books continue to be published about them in several Western and non-Western languages. Hundreds of colleges teach ancient Greek in the West and some other countries of the world...

~Huffington Post (10/2 /2014)

(CNN) — In the azure waters off the rocky coast of Antikythera, a remote island in the Mediterranean with a population of less than 50, lies one of the most mysterious shipwrecks of all time.

In 1900, sponge divers from the Greek island of Symi anchored along the eastern coastline of the island while waiting for a ferocious storm to pass. What they would stumble upon would stun the world.

Underneath the crystalline waters, lay an incredible wreck undiscovered for thousands of years. And as the site was explored over the next year, they would uncover life-size bronze statues and remarkable artifacts. But it was the 1902 recovery of a clump of calcified stone with mysterious inscriptions that would push the wreck into archaeological lore.

The heavily corroded bronze fragments would turn out to be what has been described as the world's earliest known "computer," designed in the first century BC — the Antikythera Mechanism. Built to track the astronomical calendar and lunar movements, later radiographic image analysis of the mechanism revealed 30 intri-

cate gear wheels...

~CNN (10/6/2014)

..I'd booked a room at a small guesthouse with two picture windows overlooking the Vikos Gorge, one of the deepest in the world (the easiest way to see it is by visiting the abandoned Monastery of Saint Paraskevi just north of the village and walking out onto the terrace of the chapel). I sat for a while on the stone patio outside my room, listening as villagers emerged from their homes and began climbing the kalderimia toward the square, loose chunks of limestone rolling under their feet. By 10 p.m., a good-size crowd had assembled to eat souvlakia and drink homemade tsipouro, a pomace brandy produced, like grappa, from the residue of the wine press and sold here in repurposed water bottles. While Grigoris Kapsalis, an 85-year-old clarinetist, prepared for the opening mirologi, the sounds of the Orthodox liturgy — a deep and heavy Byzantine chanting — drifted up from the church of the Dormition of the Virgin in lower Vitsa.

Nonetheless, the spirit was convivial, nearly jubilant. I asked Vangelis Papachristos, a 33-year-old Vitsa native with a short, dark beard, about the significance of the day. He said that we were here now, together, but next year we might not be. "For this we dance, and for this we cry," he said, his hand on my shoulder...

~The New York Times (9/29/2014)



hits, surpassing such behemoths as Alfonso Cuarón's Gravity... ~Cineuropa(9/10/2014)

After having taken the Hellenic Film Academy (HFA) Awards by storm with six wins and achieving a hat-trick at the Shanghai International Film Festival a few months later, Pantelis Voulgaris' period drama Little England [+] now sets sail for the Oscars, as the film has been selected as Greece's official submission for the Foreign-Language category of the upcoming Oscars. Staged by a collective including non-film professionals who had confidence in the veteran director's vision, the \$2 million production saw its budget swiftly recovered by box-office receipts, as the film reached record-breaking numbers. With over 360,000 tickets sold, Voulgaris' film ended its theatrical run as one of the country's biggest domestic successes in years, as well as one of the year's greatest

EDITING STEVE HELIOTIS

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NEWS FROM GREECE

New clues found in Philip II of Macedon tomb

Archaeologists present the results of their research at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki on Friday.

Fourth-century BC King Philip II of Macedon rode a lot, suffered from sinusitis and was injured in his left arm by a sharp object, archaeologists investigating remains found in the tomb believed to be his in Vergina, northern Greece, said on Friday.

Speaking at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, the researchers who have been studying bone fragments found in the tomb for the past four years also revealed information about the burial mask found in a gold larnax. It contains the rare minerals huntite and porphyry, which backs the belief that someone of great importance was buried in the tomb. It is also believed to have been worn by Philip II on formal religious occasions.

Billions expected from EU to boost growth

The European Union subsidy program for Greece covering the 2014-20 period begins with almost 5 billion euros flowing in from Brussels in the next couple of years.

On top of the projects planned for the first two years of the program, amounting to 4.2 billion euros, another 750 million euros will go toward the funding of previ-

ously announced plans to boost employment among the jobless, of which 600 million euros is from the 2014-20 program with the rest coming from the previous program.

According to the draft budget for next year, which was submitted this week in Parliament, the EU funds coming to Greece in the next



two years will be the main funding force of the Public Investments Program that will amount to 6.4 billion euros in 2015. This concerns jointly funded projects – with EU contribution – budgeted at 5.7 billion euros, while 700 million euros will be spent on projects exclusively funded by national resources.

The funding program covering the period up to 2020 will amount to 26 billion euros, consisting of 20.8 billion from Brussels and 5.2 billion from the national budget. This amount includes 2 billion euros the Greek side will seek to se-

cure next year through the revision clause, offsetting the imbalance from calculations made before the crisis.

Greek political risks, bailout exit agitate markets

Greek bond yields shot above the 7-percent mark on Tuesday amid investor skepticism about the country's prospects, prompting the government to consider what action it could take to restore stability.

The yield on Greece's 10-year bond shot up to 7.14 percent during Tuesday's trading, a level not seen since April 2012. At the same time, 3.3 billion euros was wiped from the value of shares on the Athens Stock Exchange.

Investors, unnerved by the poor growth figures in the eurozone, appear to be reacting to the latest round of political instability, caused by the prospect of early elections if Parliament fails to elect a new president in February. They also seem skeptical of the Greek government's plans to exit its bailout agreement early and not receive the International Monetary Fund loans due to be paid in 2015 and 2016, which amount to some 12 billion euros.

The message from the markets on the latter issue appears to be that investors would like Greece to remain under some kind of monitoring program that would include a precautionary credit

Finance Ministry sources played down the latest turbulence, suggesting that since the market for privately-held Greek debt is shallow it only takes movement from a few investors to affect bond yields. Nevertheless, the high yields mean that the ministry must put on hold its plans to issue a new seven-year bond.

In a bid to convey a message that the government remains united and determined, despite an increasing sense of political instability, Prime Minister Antonis Samaras is to chair a session of the Cabinet on Tuesday afternoon. The premier is expected to push key ministers to press on with pending economic reforms pledged to the troika and to finalize legislation foreseeing tax relief for citizens in order to boost the government's waning popularity.

Sources indicated that Samaras is likely to issue a fresh response to suggestions earlier this week by leftist SYRIZA spokesman Panos Skourletis that MPs are being bribed to back the coalition's candidate for presidential elections early next year.

Administrative Reform Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis suggested on Tuesday that the coalition should propose its candidate for president sooner rather than later, to avoid fuelling mounting speculation and political tensions, and said a candidate from outside the sphere of politics would be preferable.

Gov't announces plan for the poor

Guaranteed minimum income to combat extreme poverty and social exclusion, starting in 13 cities

People and households living in extreme poverty in one of 13 municipalities chosen for a pilot scheme aimed at boosting poorer members of society will be able to submit their electronic applications from November 15 for the so-called minimum guaranteed income, according to a program presented by the Labor Ministry on Tuesday.

"Today we are introducing in Greece a social policy tool for the protection of the weak, the combating of poverty and the reintegration of those under threat of marginalization," said Prime Minister Antonis Samaras at the event, held in Zappeio Hall in central Athens.

The prime minister went on to stress that the primary surplus from the country's budget is allowing the country to cover basic social needs without borrowing to do so.

Labor Minister Yiannis Vrotsis dubbed the plan the "country's biggest social reform." He said the crisis has revealed in the most glaring manner the distortions, gaps and problems of the social protection system in Greece, adding that the new program will serve to bridge these gaps.

The pilot scheme will cost 30 million euros and apply to 13 municipalities around the country: Drama, Edessa, Grevena, Ioannina, Karditsa, Lefkada, Mesolongi, Halkida, Kallithea in Attica, Tripoli, Samos, Syros and Malevizi on Crete.

According to the plan it will complement existing policies for combating poverty and social exclusion. It will initially concern some 30,000 beneficiaries and when fully developed will cover around 7 percent of the population to become the backbone of new policy in the context of a broader restructuring.



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After the scheduled test flight on March 21, 2014, that included HCAA executives, the Company fulfilled all required legal procedures, and is ready to commence flight operations worldwide. Concurrently, documentation has been submitted to the American and Canadian Civil Aviation Authorities, in order to obtain the necessary licenses and launch in its initial phase, scheduled flights from Athens to New York, Toronto and Montreal.

In the meantime, the Company will conduct selective charter flights. SkyGreece Airlines S.A. is staffed with experienced personnel in the aviation industry whose main goal is to unite Greece with the Greek diaspora. The Company operates in Markopoulo Attica, Montreal and Toronto, with future offices in New York.

The first aircraft of SkyGreece Airlines S.A. is a Boeing 767-300 ER, named "Taxiarchis" that has 274 seats, and hosts a distinctive Greek flag on its tail. The airline expects to enter the market dynamically with trans-Atlantic flights all in Greek traditional hospitality. It is currently in the process of acquiring a second aircraft.

We would like to inform you, that in order to respect the American and Canadian Civil Aviation procedures, SkyGreece Airlines S.A. will not be issuing another press release until all above licenses as required by law, have been obtained.

SkyGreece Airlines S.A. is grateful to the diaspora and the Greek State for their total support and cooperation.

Greek hospital on standby for Ebola outbreak



One public hospital, the Amalia Fleming in northern Athens, has been put on standby to deal with an Ebola outbreak in Greece while medical specialists have been dispatched to the country's main entry points in a bid to contain possible arrival of the deadly disease, authorities said Friday.

No plans for screening travelers for the deadly virus were announced Friday following a meeting between Health Ministry officials with experts from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO) and the National Health Operations Center (EKEPY).

However, it was decided that visitors traveling from high-risk countries would be asked to fill in a questionnaire aimed at helping authorities filter out high-risk cases.

"There is no reason to be particularly worried about Ebola in Greece if we are well prepared," the Health Ministry's general secretary Christina Papanikolaou told Skai ahead of Friday's meeting.

Posters have already been placed in Greek airports providing information, in Greek as well as in English, about the Ebola virus.

KEELPNO has issued a warning against travel in Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

The disease, which has no proven cure, has killed nearly 4,000 people in West Africa, more than half of them in Liberia. It has also reached the United States, Spain and, possibly, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). Authorities in Skopje were Friday investigating after a 56-year-old Briton died of "Ebola-like symptoms" in the country's capital on Thursday.



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