



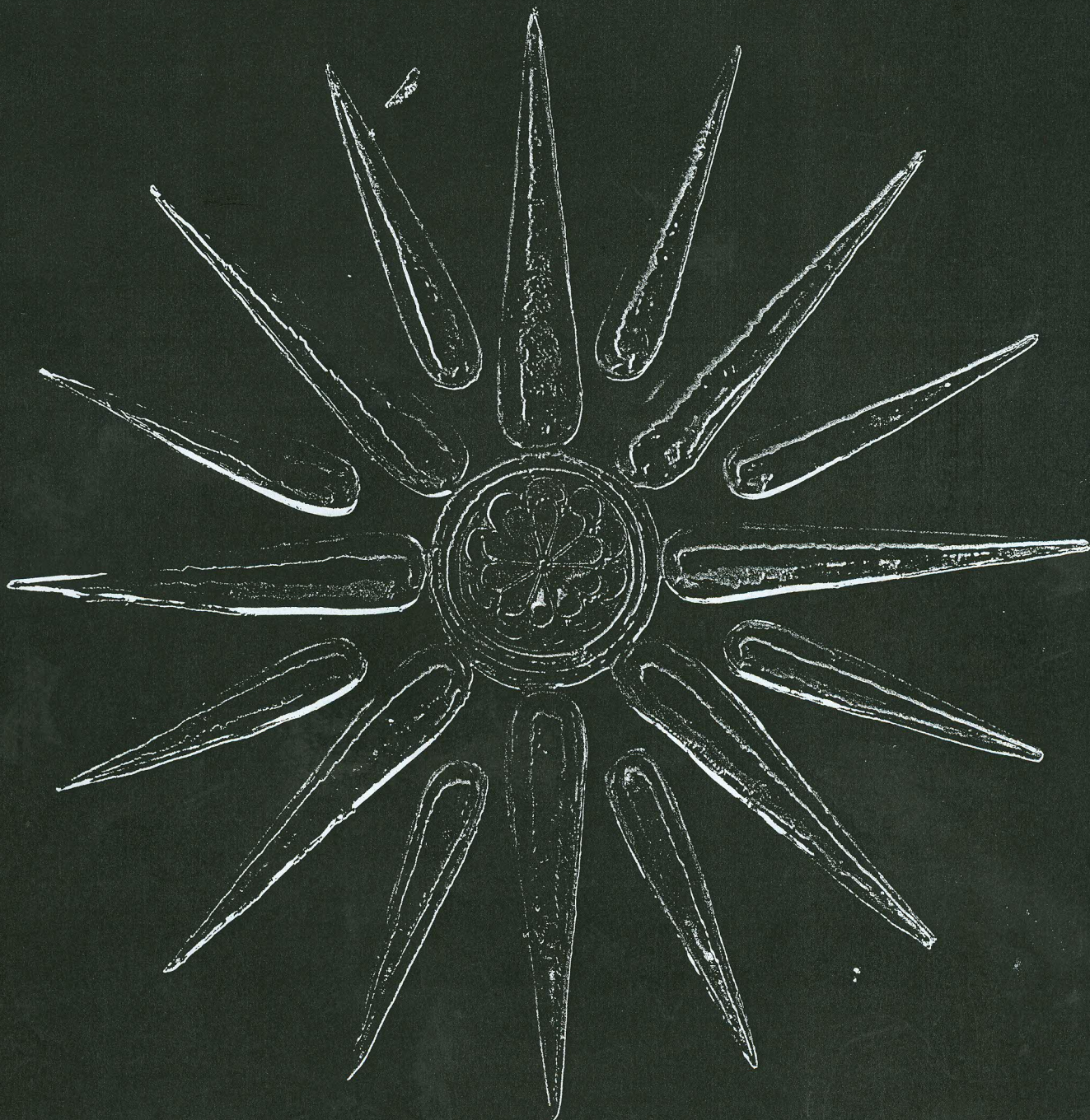
**G R E E K**

# ECONOMY

International Greek Magazine for Trade and Investment

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### PHOTOGRAPHY

Elias Sotiropoulos

### CORRESPONDENTS

#### NICOSIA CYPRUS

George Leonidas

Eleftherias Square

Troodos Building 5th floor

### FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS

Economothechniki LTD

Voucourestiou 40

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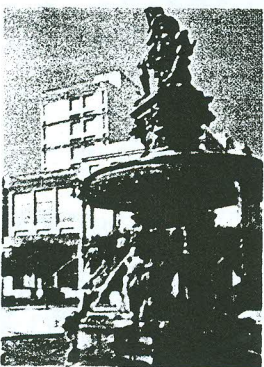
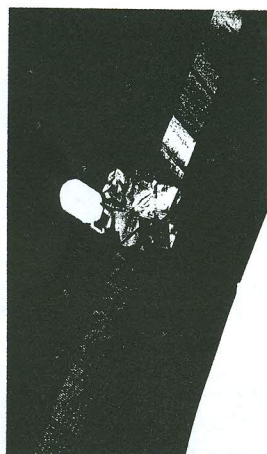
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# The role of women in without frontiers

By Rena Kamberidou



Rena Kamberidou, M.A., Editor in Chief, Instructor at Athens University and on the board of directors of the Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute (K.E.G.M.E.)

**W**omen from East and West Europe met in Athens recently to exchange experiences and formulate strategies to promote understanding and cooperation in breaking down all social barriers, in a conference on "Building a Europe Without Frontiers: the Role of Women".

George I. Khodorovsky, head of the Women's Commission in the Ukrainian Parliament, and the only male participant in the conference, told "Greek Economy" that Ukraine has opened its doors to foreign investments, stressing that it is "a very rich country in natural resources".

"We are looking for managers and sponsors who are a little bit crazy and who will invest in the Ecological Academy of Life." (Poland - Lucyna Winnicka)

Moscow journalist and author Zoya Boguslavskaya said they were looking for sponsors or funds to finance projects such as a newspaper for European women with an international staff and to establish three European annual prizes for the best creative work.

"Economic problems seem to be far less serious than expected, but the whole unification process has created serious psychological problems". (Alliance 90 - the New Greens, East Germany).

The conference was organised by the Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute (KEGME) in cooperation with the General Secretariat of Equality, CEPES and the European Network for Women's Studies. KEGME President Kate Lazaris, Greek General Secretary of Equality Irene Lampsa, and Mayor of Athens Antonis Tritsis addressed the opening session, and EC Commissioner Vasso Papandreou, unable to attend, sent her support.

The then Mayor of Athens, the late Antonis Tritsis, whose recent death was a great loss to the women's movement as well, in his opening speech said: "we are playing with fire", in view of the situation in Eastern Europe, stressing that "women have always been the focus (centre) of injustices". Tritsis said women must develop political initiative first and not continue to lose time analysing the problem. The late Mayor invited Athenian women to the Municipality of Athens to activate (re-vitalise) the Municipality's Bureau of Equality between the Sexes and put the EC programmes into effect. "Take active political action...history needs protagonists," he concluded.

Participants from over 150 international organisations --in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Albania, Romania, the former Soviet Union, the former Ukrainian SSR, Finland, Hungary, Turkey, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Scotland, England, Spain, France, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal and Belgium -- presented studies, asked for assistance and held workshops in Athens on "the passage to a market economy", "the transition from a totalitarian system into a democratic state", "will the integration of the European market lead to more democracy?", and "the status of women in a changing world" ....

Topics on the agenda included "the Women's Movement in East and West Europe", "Mass Media and changing patterns", "developing a European Network system", "political, economic and social changes in Europe and their impact on women", "the integration of the European market and visions", "priorities of women for a new Europe in the year 2000" and "Dawn of a new Europe: Young women".

## Ukraine opens doors to investors

In an interview to "Greek Economy" George I. Khodorovsky, head of the Commission on Women's Affairs, said he would do his best to promote every type of cooperation between Greece and the Ukraine. "Some economic and cultural projects between the two countries are already underway. Children from Ukraine who suffered from the Chernobyl tragedy were welcomed to Greece for a month last year. I will be very happy if relations between Greece and Ukraine bring prosperity and happiness to the people of both countries," he said.

Asked why the head of the Special Women's Commission in Parliament is a man, Prof. Khodorovsky said in his country he was a renowned speaker on child care issues and was selected by Parliament over three female candidates.

Responding to the next question concerning the number of women in Parliament as opposed to men, Mr. Khodorovski said: "13 out of 450".

Mr. Khodorovsky also told Greek Economy that Ukraine had always wanted to break away from the Soviet Union. "We want cooperation with all the Republics but we do not want some other country to suppress us as before. We were 15 Republics inside the Soviet Union and .... We want



# building a Europe



a central power over the Republics with representatives from each republic. Not a state, but something to coordinate laws, strategic defence such as an ecological committee, an inter-state or inter-republic ecological committee that will coordinate all states. However, that does not mean we want to live in isolation."

"When we were in the Soviet Union all money and material goods or supplies passed to the central power. They distributed everything unjustly and this must never happen again," he said.

He said Ukraine was a very rich country in natural resources and would open its doors to foreign investments and direct interstate conventions with other countries. "In the past only Moscow could do this", he added. "We'd like to be open to other countries for economic, cultural, and technical cooperation." Mr. Khodorovsky also said all nuclear weapons would be prohibited in his country.

## "Looking for investors"

"We are looking for managers, sponsors or investors who are a little bit crazy and who will invest in the Ecological Academy of Life in Poland", the Polish participant, Lucyna Winnicka from the "Ecology Academy of Life", told Greek Economy. Courses will be taught in English and Polish and students will receive degrees as Environmentalists.

The Academy, she said, as an international centre of environmental education, will branch out to 10 large cities of Poland. As founder and president of the Academy, Ms. Winnicka has also invited professors from the United States and Western Europe to Poland.

## Te first victims of unification: women

V. Wollenberger, member of Parliament and of the East Greens, former GDR, told Greek

KEGME President Kate Lazaris, General Secretary of Equality Irene Lampsa and the late Mayor of Athens Antonis Tritsis





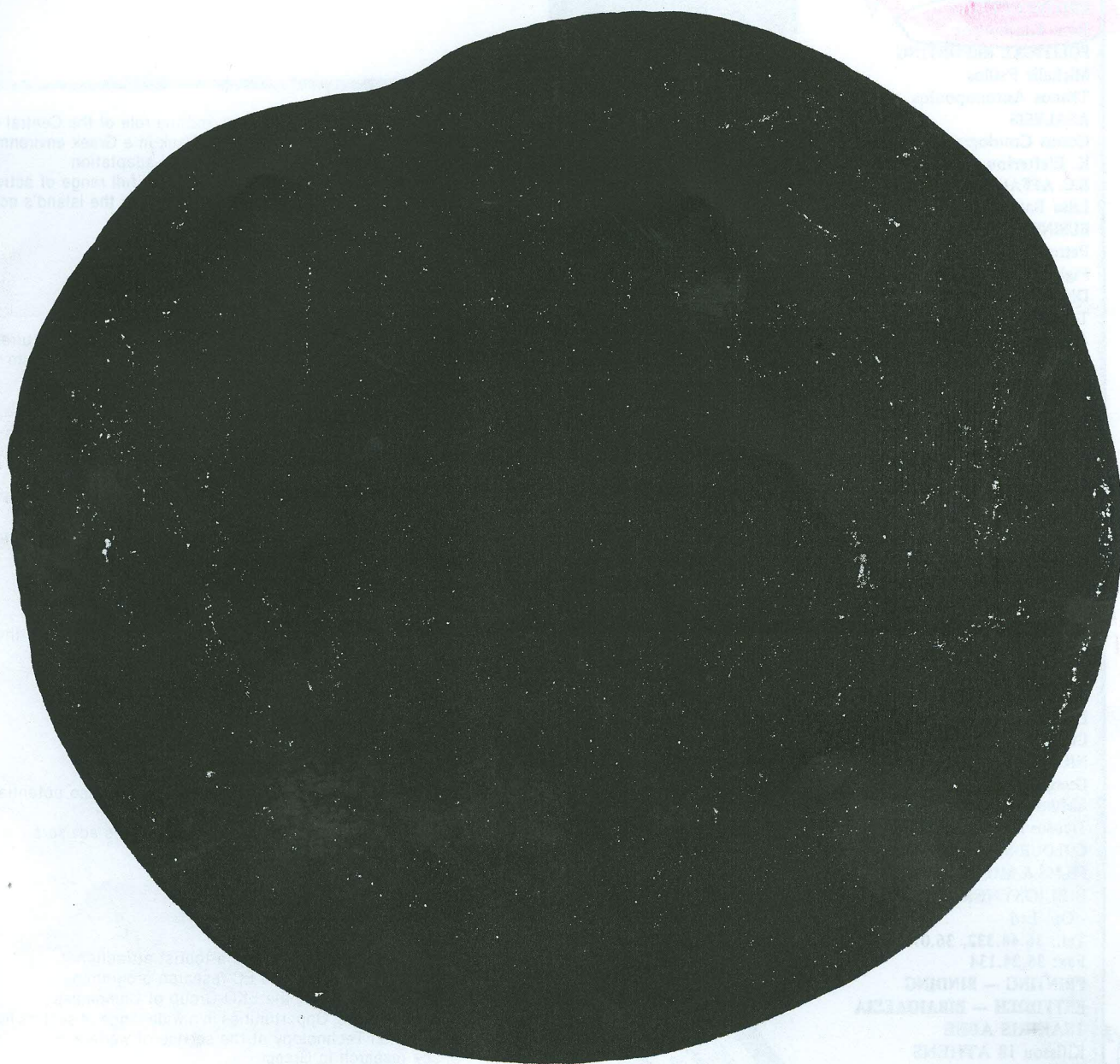
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**APHRODITE'S ISLAND: A BUSINESS  
HUB LOOKING AHEAD TO THE EC**



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### PHOTOGRAPHY

Elias Sotiropoulos

### CORRESPONDENTS

### NICOSIA CYPRUS

George Leonidas

Eleftherias Square

Troodos Building 5th floor

### COLOUR-SEPARATIONS,

### FILMS & MONTAGE

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### EΚΤΥΠΩΣΗ — ΒΙΒΛΙΟΔΕΞΙΑ

TSAKIRIS ABEE

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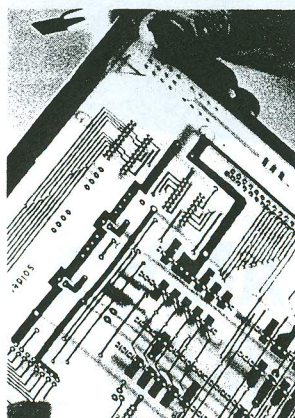
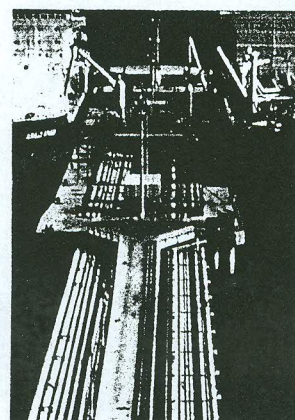
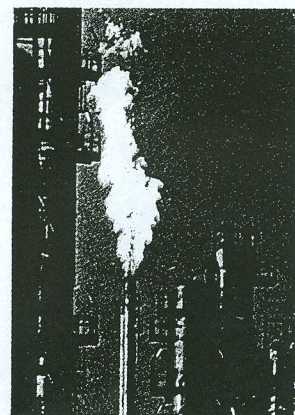
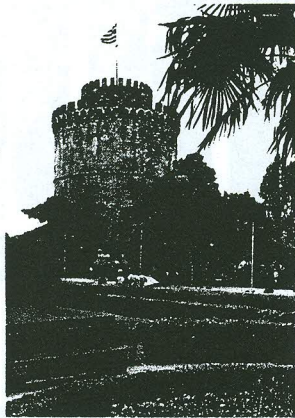
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National Metsovion

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Elias Sotiropoulos

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Demetrios Kosmidis

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Miranda Grigoropoulou

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Adelaid Road Surbiton

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#### PHILADELPHIA U.S.A

Pavlos Kotrotsos

P.O. Box 1246

Havertown PA 19083-1217

tel. (215) 4461463

#### NICOSIA CYPRUS

George Leonidas

Eleftheria Square

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### FINANCIALS CONSALTIES

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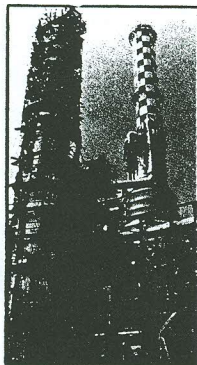
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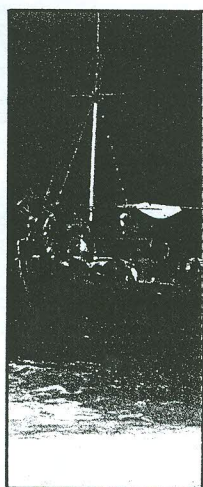
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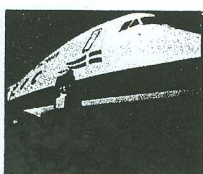
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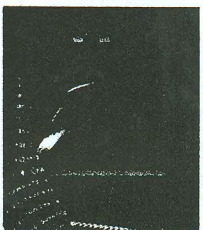
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