

## = Greece in the Eurovision Song Contest 2005 =

Greece participated in and won the Eurovision Song Contest 2005 , its first Eurovision Song Contest victory . Greek national broadcaster Ellinikí Radiofonía Tileóراسι ( ERT ) internally selected Helena Paparizou who sang " My Number One " in Kiev , winning the competition with 230 points . The song is written by Christos Dantis and Natalia Germanou , and composed by Christos Dantis . " My Number One " was selected through a national final on March 2 , 2005 , where the public and a professional jury chose it over three other candidate songs .

## = = Background = =

The Eurovision Song Contest 2005 marked Greece 's twenty @-@ sixth entry in the Eurovision Song Contest since its debut in 1974 . Prior to the contest , its best result was third place which was achieved twice : in 2001 with the song " Die for You " performed by the duo Antique and in 2004 with " Shake It " performed by Sakis Rouvas . Greece 's least successful result was in 1998 when it placed twentieth with the song " Mia Krifi Evesthisia " by Thalassa , receiving only twelve points in total , all from Cyprus .

The Greek national broadcaster , Ellinikí Radiofonía Tileóراسι ( ERT ) broadcasts the event in Greece each year and organizes the selection process for its entry . Its selection techniques have varied from national finals where the public selects the entry , to internal selections like used in 2004 , where the broadcaster has complete control over the selection . For the Eurovision Song Contest 2005 , ERT decided to hold a televised national final after internally selecting an artist .

## = = Performer = =

Throughout the months preceding the national selection , rumors flooded Eurovision news websites about which artist would be representing Greece in the Eurovision Song Contest 2005 . There was an internal selection for the artist , being chosen by the broadcaster , while there would be a national final for the song , with the public having a say in the choice .

The first artist given an official proposal to represent Greece in the 2005 contest was Sakis Rouvas , the Greek entrant in the 2004 contest . During a press conference on 15 June 2004 discussing plans for the 50th contest , the network announced that they would like to have him represent them again if he liked . ERT was expecting an answer by mid @-@ July but Rouvas ' response did not come until the 22nd of the month . He considered it , but ultimately felt that another artist should receive the opportunity . ESCToday mentioned that Rouvas ' " decision is expected to sadden Greek fans , who generally supported the idea of him competing again . " ERT would continue to ask Rouvas to represent them every year until he finally accepted again in 2009 . Meanwhile , in June 2004 , Anna Vissi stated that she " would go to Eurovision if she was asked to " . The network kept the internal format , seeking high profile acts . A few months later on November 27 , 2004 , it was reported that Despina Vandi was " ready to sign the necessary contracts " though nothing was officially announced by ERT . The rumored contract , brokered between Vandi 's record label Heaven Music and ERT would have included a term that required all of Vandi 's songs to be written by popular Greek songwriter Phoebus . The next day , November 28 , 2004 , ERT 's Eurovision spokeswoman Daphne Bokota stated that Despina Vandi and ERT were close to a deal , but had concluded that she was too expensive to send to the contest . She also said that Vandi was worried about participating in the Eurovision Song Contest while her international career was going well . " Here at ERT , we don 't understand [ why ] Greek artists are so insecure to participate " , she stated . Bokota ended by saying that they would announce the artist within the next five to ten days and that a possible backup was Helena Paparizou . Around the same time , another name , Annette Artani also became a popular rumour . The Greek @-@ American songwriter was still participating in Fame Story at the time and rumours expected her to pull out of the competition . On December 5 , 2004 , Anna Vissi was reportedly also in negotiations with ERT and on December 8 , 2004 , Daphne Bokota once again spoke on the issue saying that there would be a delay in the decision because of

some sort of " obstacle " within the broadcaster . On January 15 , 2005 , ERT held a meeting with Franz Ferdinand which was reported by Star Channel to be the front runner , but ERT soon excluded them as they had " no idea how Eurovision works and thus they proposed to compose a remake of a past song of theirs " , a violation of contest rules ; they were also requesting more money .

Finally on January 22 , 2005 , ERT announced that it had selected Helena Paparizou , former member of the Greek @-@ Swedish duet Antique which had represented Greece at the 2001 contest , achieving 3rd place . Deals with Artani and Vissi that were also going on at the time failed to materialize . In Vissi 's case , one factor may have been scheduling issues , as during the time of the contest she was in the United States promoting " Call Me " . In a press release , ERT stated that Paparizou 's singing career in Sweden was " a factor which surely contributed to the final choice of Paparizou , since the ' northern ' votes are considered to be important " . Shortly before the announcement of Paparizou 's participation , Bokota was fired from ERT for unknown reasons ; she was the one who had originally proposed to her .

= = National final = =

After selecting Paparizou , ERT decided to pick four candidate songs , and host a national final where the Greek public , along with a jury , would select their favorite song . Voting to select the song at the national final would be conducted through televoting and SMS texting by the public , and a nine @-@ member " expert jury " , weighted 60 % and 40 % respectively . The jury would be made up of Mimis Plesas , Antonis Andrikakis , Kostas Tournas , ?eljko Joksimovi? , Betty Golema , Ion Stamboulis , Fotini Giannoulatou , Sietse Bakker , and Christos Liritzis .

Out of 100 the songs that were sent in by Greek and foreign artists , a committee made up of representatives from ERT , Sony BMG , and Paparizou , chose 15 songs initially and then narrowed the selection down to four . On a special show broadcast on February 18 titled EuroMania , the four songs were presented to the Greek public as : " My Number One " composed by Christos Dantis with lyrics by Dantis and Natalia Germanou , " OK " composed by Christodoulos Siganos with lyrics by Siganos and Valentino , " Let 's Get Wild " written by Douglas Carr. and " The Light in Our Soul " written by Kostas Bigalis . On February 19 , it was revealed that " The Light in Our Soul " had been released and made available on Amazon.de by a band named " Big Alice " on May 25 , 2004 and therefore disqualifying the song from the competition . According to contest rules , a song cannot be released before October 1 of the previous year . This revelation trimmed down the four candidate songs to three . The choreography for all songs was arranged by Fokas Evangelinos . Following the selection of the songs , a second special Eurovision show was broadcast on February 25 , 2005 , to familiarize the Greek public with the artist .

The national final took place on March 2 , 2005 at " Club Fever " and was hosted by Greek @-@ Swede journalist and television @-@ presenter Alexandra Pascalidou . In between Paparizou singing her three candidate songs , the Greek musical group C : Real performed some of its songs , while several acts from other countries performed to both entertain and promote their own Eurovision songs . The 2005 representatives from the Netherlands and Andorra were present with Glennis Grace singing " My Impossible Dream " and Marian van de Wal singing " La mirada interior " . Eurovision Song Contest 2004 's runner @-@ up ?eljko Joksimovi? sang " Lane moje " and the Swedish band Alcazar , which was still taking part in Melodifestivalen 2005 , the Swedish national final , sang " Alcastar " .

= = = Result = = =

ERT received 229 @,@ 368 televotes and SMS texts of which 152 @,@ 269 votes came in for the song " My Number One " , which made the song the clear winner . " OK " received around 73 @,@ 500 votes and " Let 's Get Wild " got around 20 @,@ 500 . The nine jury members gave points between 1 and 10 for the songs in a school @-@ grade style system , giving the best song 10 points . Seven jury members voted for " My Number One " , one gave the maximum points to " OK " and

one voted for " Let 's Get Wild " . " My Number One " won with 83 points , while " Let 's Get Wild " placed third with 48 points , and " OK " third with 46 points . Although " Let 's Get Wild " received a higher score from the jury than " OK " , it placed third when the televoting and SMS texts were taken into account .

= = Promotion = =

Before her appearance at the contest , Paparizou went on a promotional tour sponsored by the Greek Ministry of Tourism and the Greek National Tourism Organization , singing her song in several Eurovision countries . The tour started off on March 12 , 2005 in Berlin , Germany , where she visited the International Tourism Exchange Show and performed " My Number One " . The next stop was Moscow , Russia , where Paparizou taped a show for MTV Russia and then presented the Greek song at the International Tourism Exhibit , the largest tourism exhibit in the world . She also gave several interviews to the press and before leaving , attended a Greek Independence Day reception at the Greek embassy . Upon return to Greece , she was greeted at the airport by fans along with the music video of " My Number One " playing on the video monitors . While in Greece , she attended the opening ceremony of the European final four for the Volleyball Champions League in Pylaia , where her song was played as she appeared on stage with cheerleaders . On March 29 , Paparizou arrived in Valletta , Malta where she signed autographs , appeared on television stations , and gave interviews to the local media . Following Malta , she traveled to Serbia and Montenegro where she gave additional interviews before moving on to Andorra on April 10 . She was soon in Lisbon , Portugal where she promoted not only her song , but also Greek export products , as she was sponsored by the Greek tourism industry . She attended an international exhibition of food and drink where the song was played for the many tourists , while its music video was seen on a large monitor . On April 20 , 2005 , Paparizou arrived in Sweden where she had started her singing career as part of Antique . She was interviewed by many of the local media outlets and could be heard on radio stations around Stockholm . Following her stay in Sweden , Paparizou flew to Istanbul , Turkey where the Greek delegation met with Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople , who told her that it was good luck that the contest fell on her name @-@ day of May 21 . While in Turkey , she also posed for magazines and was interviewed by the media . She soon returned to Greece before leaving for a short trip to Kiev , the location of the contest .

= = At Eurovision = =

As Greece had finished the Eurovision Song Contest 2004 in third place , its 2005 song was pre @-@ qualified for the final in 2005 . Greece was drawn to perform nineteenth on the night , following Croatia 's Boris Novkovi? and Lado with " Vukovi umiru sami " and preceding Russia 's Natalia Podolskaya with " Nobody Hurt No One " . Paparizou appeared confident on stage and her dancers prepared an extravagant show with carefully choreographed stage moves . She wore a short orange @-@ yellow dress while the dancers wore tan colored clothing . The performance included Paparizou playing the lyra , a Greek musical instrument and the backing dancers forming the number 1 on stage . The final was hosted and commentated on Greek television by Alexandra Pascalidou , who also hosted the national final , while the spokesperson who revealed Greece 's votes for other countries was Alexis Kostalas , an ERT Board member who had been the spokesperson since 1998 .

" My Number One " won with a total of 230 points . It received 12 points , the maximum number of points a country can give to another country , from Albania , Belgium , Bulgaria , Cyprus , Germany , Hungary , Serbia & Montenegro , Sweden , United Kingdom , and unexpectedly Turkey . The highest viewing ratings in the history of Greek television were recorded during the presentation of the pure gold trophy to Helena Paparizou by the Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko , with 94 @. @ 2 % of the Greek population tuned in .

= = = Points awarded to Greece = = =

= = = Points awarded by Greece = = =

= = After Eurovision = =

Papazidou 's first words after winning the 50th Eurovision Song Contest were " We showed the modern face of Greece . I reckon that ? s the face everybody loves . Europe is our home ! " Upon arrival back in Greece , she was greeted by crowds of fans at Eleftherios Venizelos Airport and the National Fire Brigade created a water @-@ jet archway for her airplane , suggestively bearing the number " 001 " , to pass through after it had landed . On the way to ERT Studios for a welcome party for Papazidou and the Greek delegation , people were standing on either side of the road throwing rose petals along the route of Papazidou 's bus . When she reached ERT Studios , she was " met with deafening applause " and after moving from sight for a few minutes , she emerged on stage dressed in the Greek flag and holding the Eurovision trophy .

" My Number One " did very well in the music charts , being certified platinum in Greece and gold in Sweden while climbing to number one on both charts and charting for an extended number of weeks . It also charted in other European countries such as Germany , Switzerland , and Austria . It was later released in the United States as a CD Single with remixes and reached number eight on the US Billboard Hot Dance Club Play charting for eight weeks .