

## Greece stubs out smoking

Athens: Greek smokers were under pressure to curb their habit on Wednesday as a new law banning smoking in public places went into effect in Europe's most nicotine-addicted nation.

Under the slogan "Stub out your cigarettes, add to your life," the legislation adopted in July

2009 but so far unenforced bans smoking in all public spaces except casinos and large music halls which have a nine-month extension to June.

Violators face fines from €50 to €500 while business

operators risk tougher penalties of €500 to €10,000 and repeat offenders could have their licenses revoked.

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This time the government will enforce the measure which Prime Minister Georges Papandreou said would "contribute to our goals of making

the country more viable, not only economically but in daily life." Health minister Mariliza Xenoyannakopoulou said smokers would have a one-month grace period during which they will not face punishment, AFP