

1. Greek guests becoming scarcer in local hotels. The numbers of Greek guests at the country's hotels have been in constant decline over the last decade, with more than five out of every six overnight stays concerning foreigners. This is happening in the context of an increase in hotel room availability and in room rates, according to the hoteliers' chamber.

2. Neighbors take Airbnb host to court. The absence of an adequate and integrated legal framework on short-term property rentals through websites such as Airbnb and HomeAway is leading to individual apartment blocks coming up with their own regulations and solutions for any problems that emerge. Legal sources are reporting an increasing number of lawsuits by neighbors of rented properties, and point to a recent decision by a Thessaloniki court that banned the short-term rental of a holiday home through online sites.



3. Pensioners have become the biggest group among taxpayers. The number of pensioners expanded since the starts of the financial crisis more than any other group, coming to outnumber even salaried workers. The relevant data from the Independent Authority for Public Revenue are impressive, showing that in nine out of the country's 13 regions, pensioners make up the biggest group of taxpayers, ahead of salaried workers, farmers and freelance professionals.

Greek fish farming suffering from fierce competition after lira drop.. Although Greek aquaculture companies managed to sell greater quantities in 2018, the average sale prices dived due to pressures in foreign markets from the much cheaper Turkish fish.

4. Norwegian firm eyes offshore wind parks. Norway's energy giant Equinor sees good potential for building floating offshore wind parks in Greece as long as the country adopts a regulatory framework for the technology.

5. Cosco plan for three Piraeus hotels is approved. The Central Council for Modern Monuments gave its nod to the Chinese company's investment program which sees the famous Pagoda building in Piraeus being transformed into a five-star hotel, on the condition that "its front is not altered." It also issued its approval for the transformation of two large warehouses into four- and five-star hotels.

OTE intends to create at least three new subsidiaries. Although the details are not clear yet, the telecommunication giant's intention is to establish at least three subsidiaries to provide specific services, both to OTE's existing clients and third parties.

6. Sunlight gets its first lithium battery order. Greek company Sunlight announced its entry into the market of lithium battery products, along with the return to full production capacity of its unit at Olvio near Xanthi, after the blaze that almost destroyed it on May 1, 2018.

7. Astir Palace has opened to guests. Four Seasons Astir Palace Hotel Athens has opened to guests with occupancy rates at 100 percent at weekends, after completing the first stage of its investment plan worth 140 million euros.

8. Bank realty sales add to Greek property supply. The desire of Greek banks to rid themselves of the burden that thousands of repossessed real estate properties put on their expenses is reshaping the country's property sector, local market professionals told Xinhua in recent interviews.

9. Public Power Corporation spins into freefall. Public Power Corporation's losses are growing at a mind-boggling pace, reflecting the deep structural problems of the utility and the outcome of government decisions concerning the electricity market.

10. Social security debts expand to almost 20 pct of GDP. The debts that 1.4 million workers, employers, self-employed and farmers owe to the social security funds have exceeded 20 percent of gross domestic product, while just one in four debt settlement plans are adhered to.

GLOBAL MARKETS

1. No industrial revolution without 5G. Digital networking has been a big topic for years at the Hanover industrial fair. The motto of this year's show is "Integrated Industry Industrial Intelligence." So, what it's all about is the advance of artificial intelligence (AI) and complex facilities that maintain themselves or at least report about any glitches. Jochen Köckler, head of the Deutsche Messe organizers: "What we can show here is that integration is getting one more boost from the new 5G data transmission standard." At the fair's 5G Arena, a special test field was set up, enabling machines to communicate with each other about 100 times faster than before

2. Lithuania floats a solar-powered future. A floating photovoltaic power plant at the Kruonis hydroelectric facility in Lithuania is the first of its kind in the Baltic region. The market is growing worldwide, and smaller countries like Lithuania can benefit.

Japan's new visa regulation opens door to foreign labor. Faced with a shrinking workforce, Japan has made it easier for migrant workers to get a visa. Conservative critics are concerned about the impact of mass immigration on Japanese society. Julian Ryall reports from Tokyo

3. Irish whiskey renaissance: The 'water of life' flows again. Dublin was once the whiskey capital of the world. However, it went into a period of marked decline from the late 19th century on. While American bourbon and scotch still command a far larger share of the overall market, Irish whiskey is growing at a significantly faster rate. In 2017, Irish whiskey sales grew by more than 10.6% from the previous year.

4. Germany: Beer prices soared in 2018. The Federal Statistical Office released the sobering news ahead of German Beer Day. The prices of beer and drinks containing beer rose by 3.5 percent across the board in 2018, well above the official consumer inflation rate. That's according to data released by the Federal Statistical Office. Pilsners, lagers and dark beers were hit the hardest, with a price increase of 3.8 percent. Meanwhile, beer-based mixed drinks, like shandies with added lemonade or Coke, saw a price increase of 3.6 percent, while the cost of alcohol-free beers rose 2.7 percent, reflecting their growing popularity.



5. Paris joins Hong Kong and Singapore as world's most expensive city. The French capital shares the title of the world's most expensive place to live with Hong Kong and Singapore. Economic woes have made Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo and Istanbul much cheaper. Singapore is one of the world's three most expensive cities for the sixth year running, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit's 2019 Worldwide Cost of Living Survey, released on Tuesday. The southeast Asian city-state shares the tag of the most costly place to live along with Hong Kong and Paris.

6. Boeing grounds entire 737 MAX fleet. All of Boeing's best-selling planes have now been grounded since the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines flight. Earlier, President Donald Trump announced an emergency order to ban the airliners in US airspace. US President Donald Trump announced a plan to ground all Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

7. Dash for 30-year Cyprus bond shows lengthening euro debt horizon. Cyprus' first 30-year bond sale was overloaded with orders with high demand for such long maturities showing just how much Europe's bond market is adjusting to expectations of persistently low interest rates and central bank stimulus.

8. After the tragedy, Sri Lankan tourism braces for impact. The attacks struck at the heart of the country's vibrant tourism industry, a sector of importance to the country's fragile economy. "The attacks will not only impact already weak economic but also the country's relatively vulnerable external liquidity position," Citibank's Asia desk said in a note, adding that the tourism sector would suffer the biggest blow of all.