

1. ATM charges end for remote islands. Banks are not only freezing the charge hikes they had planned to impose on customers, following pressure from the government, but they are also abolishing some other charges previously introduced.

2. Two of China's largest banks moving to Greece. Two of China's biggest banks plan to do business in Greece, the Bank of Greece, has announced. Specifically, the central bank informed the Development Ministry on October 31 about the establishment of branch of a branch of Bank of China (Europe) Luxembourg.



3. Fraport eyes new developments at Makedonia airport. Fraport Greece is considering implementing additional non-obligatory investments at Thessaloniki's Makedonia Airport, including the construction and operation of a hotel. The German-Greek consortium has completed most of the initial 450-million-euro investment program in the 14 regional airports it operates.

Greek airline Astra grounds flights to work on restructuring. Small Greek carrier Astra Airlines said on Monday it had grounded all scheduled flights to work on a financial restructuring. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) suspended the airline, freezing its transactions and stopping any ticketing through IATA accredited travel agents.

4. Interest from abroad in local properties has grown 25 pct. Demand for properties from potential foreign buyers has this year soared 25 percent compared to 2018, according to an analysis by property ad website Spitogatos. The driving force behind this flurry of investments in the local realty market is made up of Americans, Germans and British house-hunters, with the Dutch behind them.

5. Luxury homes to get ENFIA hikes. Owners of luxury properties will see their Single Property Tax (ENFIA)

bill grow, as the government will introduce criteria related to the quality of construction and this will be one of the parameters that determine the taxable rate of each property, known as the "objective value." At the same time, one of the parameters for the objective value of an office will be the existence of a bathroom: This is because most old offices in the center of Athens share one or two toilets on the same floor. Sources say that offices without a toilet will obviously have a significantly lower objective value

6. Piraeus becomes the biggest port in the Med in terms of container traffic. Piraeus is expected to be among the top four ports in Europe for 2019 in terms of container traffic, and the top in the Mediterranean, as Cosco-owned Piraeus Port Authority saw the unloading of the 5 millionth container to pass through the port this year, aptly from a Cosco ship.

Part of Petalioi island complex put on the auction block. The complex, off the coast of Evia, is to be auctioned off at a bargain price. Alpha Bank has put up 50 percent of Petalioi Estate SA for sale with a starting price of 2.7 million euros. This share of the company belongs to Maris Empeirikos who owes Alpha 1 million euros.

7. Greeks lagging in entrepreneurship culture. Latona's, a mergers and acquisitions expert, processed data from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) concerning 48 countries and created a list of the states with the strongest business spirit. Greece ranked in 36th place with 42.8 points out of 100.

8. More early IMF loan payments. The Public Debt Management Agency is targeting more early loan repayments to the International Monetary Fund next year if the interest cost makes financial sense and the country's creditors agree, Kathimerini understands. Its loan strategy for 2020 also includes a significant reduction of treasury bills.

9. Incentives for digital technology investments. The government plans to offer incentives for investments in digital technology as it seeks to accelerate the country's transition to the digital era, Development and Investments Minister Adonis Georgiadis said while addressing the Digital Economy Forum 2019, themed "Leading Greece to Growth," in Athens.

GLOBAL MARKETS

1. Germany: Health apps to be available on prescription. Patients in Germany will be prescribed health apps starting in 2020, the German parliament announced on Thursday. Health insurance firms in Germany will provide digital health services on personal electronic devices. Patients in Germany can be prescribed health apps, the German parliament announced.

Airbus scores major deals as Boeing falters at Dubai airshow. Emirates ordered dozens of planes from the European giant while the US-based Boeing continued to suffer. Boeing has had a severe dip in reputation after two major deadly crashes involvings its 737 MAX.

2. Billionaires' wealth falls as Chinese economy stalls. For the first time in a decade, the world's wealthiest saw their riches drop in value last year as stock markets spluttered. American billionaires bucked the trend but only just. The world's billionaires became poorer to the tune of \$388 billion (€354 billion) in 2018 as wobbling stock markets and a downturn in the Chinese economy hurt their wealth. The Billionaire Effect report, describes how following a decade of getting richer, those with more than a billion dollars in cash and assets were worth 4.3% less than the year before.

3. Brandenburg in Eastern Germany happy to get a Tesla Gigafactory. Tesla's decision to build a Gigafactory in the Eastern German state of Brandenburg surrounding Berlin has been met with unconditional approval by people living there. They're already dreaming about thousands of jobs. For most people in the Eastern German state of Brandenburg, the news about Elon Musk and Tesla willing to build a car factory in their backyard came as a big surprise.



4. EU sues Denmark over misuse of term 'feta' on Danish cheese. The European Commission said it was suing Denmark for failing to prevent local companies from making and exporting outside the EU white

cheese labeled as "feta," breaching rules that limit that term to cheese from Greece.

5. Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee unveils plan to save the internet. Thirty years after he invented the World Wide Web, Tim Berners-Lee has released what he calls a "roadmap to build a better web." His plan aims to halt abuse of the internet by governments, companies and individuals. Tim Berners-Lee, a British engineer credited with having invented the World Wide Web in 1989, has released an ambitious plan detailing steps for better online governance, addressing problems like misinformation, data surveillance and censorship.

6. LVMH to acquire Tiffany. European luxury group LVMH is taking over American rival Tiffany in a bid to strengthen its watches and jewelry business and help make tradition-bound Tiffany more relevant to youthful shoppers around the world.

7. Why Russian doctors are fed up with state-run hospitals. Overtime and bad pay are normal for medical staff working in Russia's state-run hospitals, with many working side jobs just to make ends meet. Some frustrated doctors have even decided to give up their medical careers. Every year, 10% of Russia's doctors turn their back on the health care sector. The country now faces a shortage of more than 25,000 medical staff, with remote regions often worse off. It's not just veteran doctors heading for the exit; hospital workers fresh out of medical school are also deciding against a career in state-run hospitals.

A thief in Austria made off with €50,000 worth of Milka chocolate in a truck after convincing a factory that he was the courier. The police say incidents of this type have become more common in recent years. A thief in Austria tricked a factory into giving him a 20-ton truckload of chocolate, police confirmed.

8. Food company picks 'golden leaves' in China. Greek food company Palirria SA has purchased 3,700 tons of vine leaves this year from Turpan, a key hub on the ancient Silk Road in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Turpan, with its dry climate and abundant sunshine, has a long history of growing grapes and is one of the main grape production bases in China. Its planting area totals 37,800 hectares with a yield of 1.14 million tons of grapes.