

GREEK MARKET

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1. Objective values are likely to grow by 20 percent on average. Property surveyors commissioned by the Finance Ministry to recommend new zone rates aimed at matching market prices are expected to submit proposals for a rise in taxable rates – known as objective values – that would be higher by 30-35 percent in Attica and the country's most popular tourism destinations.

2. 2020 Delphi Economic Forum launches on March 5. Over 500 speakers and some 3,000 participants representing 32 countries are expected to attend the 2020 Delphi Economic Forum, an annual event held at the city of Delphi between March 5 and 8. The forum runs under the auspices of Greek President Prokopios Pavlopoulos, who together with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis are expected to address the forum on March 5



3 Fresh effort to rid Folli Follie of its owner. The government is mulling a regulation that will suspend the voting rights of shareholders facing charges, such as the allegations against Dimitris Koutsolioutsos, the main stakeholder in jewelry company Folli Follie, on a recommendation by Capital Market Commission head Vassiliki Lazarakou.

4. Greek government holds on to Elliniko jewels. After the expiry of the concession of the old Athens airport at Elliniko, on the city's southern coast, the Greek state will retain ownership of the integrated casino complex, the marina, the marina hotel and the marina mall, and another six major plots plus one more where another hotel may be built, Kathimerini can reveal. The state will also hold on to all public spaces and parks, including the metropolitan park that will cover an area of 2 square kilometers.

5. Newport Shipping UK is returning to this year's Posidonia shipping fair on June 1-5. During its previous Posidonia participation, the British company found fertile ground to promote its services and build its brand, as well as the chance to meet with potential suppliers and clients.

5. OTE Telecom fourth quarter profit up as Greek market grows. Greece's biggest telecoms operator OTE posted a 9.4 percent rise in fourth-quarter core profit thanks to growing business at its home market. The former national monopoly, which is 45% owned and managed by Germany's Deutsche Telekom, reported earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) of 355.9 million euros (\$384.34 million) for the quarter, up from 325.2 million euros a year earlier.

6. Rents in Athens rise to prohibitive levels. The Athens residential market has rental rates in the last few months that in many cases exceed the highs seen before the outbreak of the financial crisis, resulting in many would-be tenants being unable to find properties that would cover their needs within their means.

7. Platform for standard debt payment opens. The online platform for the new standard debt repayment mechanism opened, offering debtors twice as many monthly installments (ranging from 24 to 48) for the payment of their dues to the state. Tax administration officials say that in the first hour of the platform's operation some 1,000 applications were submitted, which illustrates that many debtors were eagerly anticipating the activation of the mechanism so as to settle their arrears to the state.

8. Cruise giants target Piraeus. As work got under way on Piraeus Port Authority's (OLP) new cruise terminal on Tuesday, top officials of global cruise tourism giants Carnival and Royal Caribbean expressed confidence that it would reposition Greece's main port at the center of the Mediterranean cruise market.

9. Mixed impact on local firms from coronavirus outbreak. Greek business is not hiding its concern about the spread of the new coronavirus, primarily in China and Italy, even though Greek enterprises have yet to feel any major negative impact from the virus. Certain local companies, mainly food exporters, have even benefited from the current situation, as many Italian consumers have been panic buying over the last few days. However, Greek companies acknowledge that any unrest in the market is never positive at the end of the day.

GLOBAL MARKETS

1. How will the coronavirus affect the world economy? The coronavirus epidemic is spreading further in China and Chinese experts believe that it could peak in 10 to 14 days. Around 45 million people in the Chinese province of Wuhan are cut off from the outside world. In order to curb the spread of the virus, Beijing has extended the Chinese New Year holiday, and pushed back the opening of the stock markets. When it finally opened, stock prices crashed. They, however, stabilized again.

2. Will trains play a key role in the European Green Deal? While governments debate the EU budget, Commissioner Adina Valean tells DW she expects “a good budget for transport.” With a growing interest in railways, transport is well positioned for a big role in climate plans. Night trains are making a glorious comeback in several European countries, banking on the penchant for nostalgic traveling while sleeping. After a 16-year break the first night train connecting Vienna and Brussels left the Austrian capital in mid-January.



3. Poland gives EU unlikely Vietnamese trade boost. Trade between Poland and Vietnam passed \$3 billion last year, but may be set to grow even more as the EU signs a trade deal with the communist-ruled nation. Poland’s large Vietnamese population could provide the bridge. With Poland growing at a rate of over 4%, while its neighbors show tepid GDP expansion, several Asian countries including China have been eyeing investments in the Eastern European country. South Koreans lead the way in Warsaw real estate, for example.

4. European stocks claw back after Monday Feb 24 coronavirus panic. European stock markets have begun to claw back some of the big losses felt on Monday Feb 24. A surge of new cases of coronavirus, particularly in Italy, prompted a sell-off across the continent. European stocks rebounded trading after

Monday’s battering on the back of renewed coronavirus fears.

5. Will 5G mobile networks wreck weather forecasting? Meteorologists were able to forecast Storm Sabine well before it hit Germany. But they will have it harder when 5G networks spread. The new mobile phone frequencies disrupt weather satellites. Weather forecasting has never been as precise as it is today. That’s thanks in large part to Earth observation satellites, which record and deliver a variety of exact weather data. That data then gets fed into computer models to generate weather reports. The problem is that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) decided at its that the new 5G mobile network should operate in the range of 24.25 and 27.5 GHz. That leaves a slim 0.25 GHz of separation between 5G mobile telecommunications and that all-important water vapor range that meteorologists need to predict storms. It’s almost inevitable that 5G — its send-and-receive masts and our mobile devices — will disrupt the flow of weather data to meteorologists.

6. Is London’s LSE helping Huawei clean its reputation? The prestigious London School of Economics says it has not decided yet to accept sponsorship from the Chinese IT firm Huawei. But its name is being dragged through the mud nonetheless. The Chinese IT firm Huawei is in talks to pay the London School of Economics (LSE) £105,000 (€130,000, \$143,000) for a three-year project to study the company’s “leadership” in the development of 5G technology. The new funding was described by the LSE as a “donation” to cover a “proposed three-year consultancy project,” according to documents published in the British media.

7. Cruise industry buoyant despite negative coronavirus PR. Cruise ships have been described as “floating Petri dishes,” ripe for the spreading of viruses such as COVID-19. But while the images have been alarming, many in the European industry remain calm and play down the risks. Cruise liner passengers trapped in on-board quarantine have made many, slightly terrifying, headlines since the coronavirus, aka COVID-19, first hit. So, surely one might expect such negative optics to be hitting demand for cruise holidays? But, at least for now, one would be wrong. The cruise industry in fact said it expects to keep growing in 2020. Worldwide, the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) expects 32 million passengers this year, an increase of two million from last year.