

1. Philos is the new virtual assistant for AIA travelers.

Philos is the new virtual assistant whose function is to help travelers passing through Athens International Airport, initially on a pilot basis. He is seen informing airport users with the help of artificial intelligence about issues regarding their trip, and of course Covid-19. Philos introduces himself through the airport's website, on www.aia.gr, and is ready to answer travelers' questions in an interactive form of communication that will help users in a speedy and friendly manner before or after their flight. Meanwhile Philos will continue to be upgraded during this first, pilot phase of his virtual life.

2. Jobs that flourished in 2020.

Workers in food production, as well as fishermen, drivers, machine operators and various service agents are the five groups with the biggest chance of finding a job amid the pandemic in Greece. The demand for low-skilled workers such as cleaners, drivers and machine operators is recorded by the new mechanism for scanning labor market needs, which also registers multiple changes in the local market.

3. Grecotel buys five hotels on Mykonos, Corfu.

The Daskalantonakis-Grecotel group has announced the completion of its acquisition of five new hotel resorts on the islands of Mykonos and Corfu with a total of 1,800 beds for 61 million euros. The company has budgeted €43 million for the modernization and the expansion of those units, which raises the total amount of Grecotel's investment plan to €104 million. Therefore, with the pandemic still ongoing, the Grecotel group is expanding its portfolio to 40 four- and five-star hotel complexes, totaling 17,000 beds. Its new acquisitions are the Mykonos Star and Mykonos Thea (Agios Sostis), and the Nostos, Vassilis and Gelina hotels on Corfu (along with the Hydropolis aquapark). The units are ready for operation and their addition will create 1,000 jobs, the group said in a statement.

4. Lamda secures funds needed for Elliniko.

Lamda Development has signed the necessary contracts to complete all transactions concerning the financing scheme for the Elliniko project's first investment period, totaling 2.5 billion euros. The funding scheme was concluded on Wednesday with the signing of the updated local contracts, worth €1.16 billion, with Eurobank and Piraeus Bank.

5. First seaplanes expected to take off in September.

Grecian Air Seaplanes plans to launch flights in early September with three 19-seater seaplanes, which will be gradually increased, interconnecting Greek islands and lakeside areas both with the mainland and between them. The fleet will consist of privately owned and leased planes. The purchase cost of each seaplane is €7 million. Flights will start from the Ionian Sea, where the first licensed waterways are located, before the company's activities are extended to other island regions – the Cyclades, Dodecanese, Crete, the northeastern Aegean, the Sporades and the Saronic Gulf. A German fund is investing through the company Axionair in the creation of Grecian Air Seaplanes.

6. Government reveals infrastructure plan worth 13 billion euros.

Greece has a well-prepared and realistic almost 13-billion-euro plan to improve its infrastructure, with the main targets being Thessaloniki and northern Greece, General Secretary of Infrastructure Giorgos Karagiannis said on Wednesday while addressing the 4th Prodexpo North conference.

7. Holiday homes on Attica coastline are hot properties this Easter.

Holiday homes on the Attica coast are evolving into the new hot properties of the real estate market. Demand has been so high that almost all available villas with gardens have secured tenants for the Easter period, with bookings starting even before the government announcement that people wouldn't be able to travel between regions in the festive period.

8. Corporate tax slashed to 22%. Corporate tax is

to be slashed from 24% to 22% for this year's incomes, which will be payable next year. The measure is permanent, applying also to the following years' incomes. As of this year and on a permanent basis, all self-employed professionals will have their income tax deposit reduced from 100% to 55%, while corporations will this year have their income tax advance reduced to 70% for this year and 80% (from the original 100%) as of 2022.

1. Microsoft to supply US army with augmented reality headsets. Microsoft Corp snatched a highly lucrative contract to provide US soldiers with augmented reality headsets, US media reported on Wednesday. The deal with the Pentagon could end up being worth close to \$22 billion (€18.8 billion) over the course of 10 years. The technology behind the headsets is based on Microsoft's HoloLens product and backed up by Azure cloud computing services.

2. Shopping in Amazon's supermarket of the future. Online giant Amazon opened its first brick-and-mortar cashier-less supermarket in Europe — the Amazon Fresh store in London. DW's Marie Sina tried it out. For her it was part store and part sci-fi mixed together. In early March, Amazon opened its first "just walk out" grocery store in Europe, where customers can simply put their items in a bag and leave without stopping to pay at a register. At the entrance, staff in fluorescent green Amazon Fresh T-shirts explained the process. I had to open the Amazon app on my smartphone and scan a personalized QR code. A green light appeared; the gate swung open letting me in. The moment I entered the store, the app timed my visit.

3. Ethiopian Airlines pilot mistakenly lands at unfinished airport. The plane's nonappearance took its original destination in Zambia by surprise. As the pilot informed air traffic control that he was about to land, they told him: "We can't see you. An Ethiopian Airlines plane landed at an airport that is still under construction in Zambia, "by mistake," a government official and the carrier announced. The Chinese-built airport in the Copperbelt was supposed to open in mid-2020, but was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Once finished, the \$397 million (€336 million) airport will have a greater carrying capacity than its predecessor, with upgraded amenities and 3,500 meters (3,827 yards) of runway. Cargo flights have helped Ethiopian Airlines remain financially viable during the pandemic, with Africa's largest carrier using dozens of passenger planes as freight transporters.

4. Turkey launches vaccination campaign to boost tourism. Turkey has launched a vaccination campaign for tourism professionals to boost a vital industry heavily impacted in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic. The program covers the principal players in the tourism industry,

including employees of accommodation facilities and restaurants, personnel at companies providing vehicles for tours and transfers, and tourist guides. Over 1 million tourism industry workers will be inoculated in total as part of the plan.



5. Italy bans cruise ships from Venice. meeting of the Italian Cabinet agreed that berths for large passenger ships and container ships should be located away from the historic sites of Venice. Critics say the waves the ships create are eroding the foundations of the historic lagoon city, which regularly floods, leaving iconic sites such as Saint Mark's Square underwater. Venetians also complain that the massive ships are an eyesore *that* undermine the city's tourist economy.

6. EU Commission officially registers halloumi PDO. The European Commission announced the official decision for the registration of halloumi/hellim as a protected designation of origin (PDO) product, protecting it against imitation and misuse across the EU. The European Commission also adopted a measure allowing the product to cross the Green Line, provided that the cheese and milk from which it was made has met all EU animal and public health standards, in order to facilitate producers in the Turkish Cypriot community to draw full benefits from the protection.

7. Tech needed to halt climate change still underdeveloped. Many of the technologies needed to stop climate change are still in early stages of development, a study of green tech patents has revealed. Greater action is required to bring them to market in time. Global climate targets can only be reached with a major acceleration in clean-energy innovation, as many of the technologies required to bring down CO2 emissions are currently only at the prototype or demonstration phase. This is the conclusion of a joint report released Tuesday from the European Patent Office (EPO) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).