

1. Cash-strapped property owners can't afford green renovations. Most Greeks would welcome the transition toward a green economy, but since the country is still feeling the aftermath of an acute 10-year debt crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic is taking a heavy toll on the economy, they cannot afford to take the steps needed without substantial state support. According to a recent survey conducted by the Hellenic Property Federation (POMIDA), 65% of property owners in the country would like to renovate their houses to make them more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly, but they simply cannot afford that kind of investment.

2. Greek AI startup ranks among most promising in the US. Greek-owned startup Intelligencia, co-founded by Dimitris Skaltsas and Vangelis Vergetis, is among the 50 most promising artificial intelligence companies in the US, according to prestigious magazine Forbes. Based in New York but also present in Athens, Intelligencia was founded in 2017 and has developed a software through AI algorithms that can predict the chances of a clinical study's success, while offering data about improving the research or other research fields where emphasis ought to be placed. This minimizes the risk of failure in medicine development at the clinical stage, helping pharmaceutical and biotech firms.

3. Greece is the world's state support champion. Greece is the world champion in supporting its economy, thanks partly to the inflow of resources from the Next Generation EU fund, ING notes in a new report. Adding up the various support measures the Greek government has taken and the funds set to flow into the Greek economy from Brussels, the Netherlands-based multinational calculates that the total package the Greek state will have to address the pandemic's effects amounts to 32.1% of the country's gross domestic product – the world's highest rate, topping even that of the US.

4. RES wind blows toward the Aegean Sea. Investor interest in new renewable energy source projects in Greece is turning to the strong winds of the Aegean Sea, as the technology of floating offshore wind turbines matures, allowing their installation at great depths. This is a development that will allow them to unlock the country's huge windpower potential. Greece and its firms are preparing for the second opening of this market, after the effort of 2010-2012

with the provisional setting of 12 maritime wind parks totaling 1,200 megawatts. A Navigant study for the European Commission has put Greece's total offshore wind potential at 263 gigawatts.

5. Ferryhopper reports bookings on a par with two years earlier. Ferry ticket bookings for the next few months are showing a huge increase compared to the same time last year, according to Greek startup Ferryhopper. This month bookings have already reached the level seen in May 2019, which confirms that, if all goes well from now on with the pandemic, the tourism season will be a great success. "This May we estimate to have some four or five times more ferry ticket bookings than in April," Christos Spatharakis, the co-founder and chief executive officer of Ferryhopper, tells Kathimerini. "Interestingly the booking interest is split down the middle between Greeks and foreigners," he adds.

6. China tourists to bounce back. Chinese tourists are eager to return to Greece for holidays and weddings. Marianna and Sofia Erotokritou, the 25-year-old identical twins who made Beijing their second home during their studies and now in Athens are looking forward to going back there once the pandemic subsides. "Born in Greece to a Greek mother from Central Macedonia and a Cypriot father from Limassol, they took the leap in the unknown upon finishing school in Athens to go and study in China. Seven years and two degrees in Beijing later, the Erotokritou sisters, known in China as the "**Greek Twins**," have captured the imagination of the Chinese world, becoming a window to Greece amid the pandemic for the world's most populous nation.

7. Astypalaia is turning green. The Dodecanese island of Astypalaia is preparing for the launch of its electric mobility program, titled "Astypalaia 4.0," on June 2 by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. This is part of the memorandum of cooperation the German carmaker signed with the Greek government last November for the transformation of Astypalaia into a "green" island. Volkswagen is set to present local authorities with four electric cars and an electric scooter, to be shared by the municipality, the police, the port police and the Civil Aviation Authority. The German giant has already installed chargers for them, plus another six chargers for public use on the 97-square kilometer island.

1. Bill and Melinda Gates divorce could jeopardize billions in charity. Bill and Melinda Gates have pledged to continue their philanthropic work together despite their divorce. Billionaire benefactors Bill and Melinda Gates have said they would be splitting up after 27 years of marriage, raising concerns around the future of one of the biggest and most influential charity organizations in the world. The couple have been among the most bighearted philanthropists over the past few decades, gifting more than \$36 billion to the nonprofit Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation since its launch in 2000. More than 20 years later, their foundation ranks as the largest private philanthropic foundation in the United States and one of the world's biggest with an endowment of nearly \$50 billion. The charity organization has spent around \$55 billion over the past two decades in areas including malaria and polio eradication, child nutrition and vaccines in 135 countries. The foundation last year committed some \$1.75 billion to COVID-19 relief.



2. EU-China investment deal put on ice over sanctions. The EU's long-time-coming investment deal with China is facing major hurdles. The EU's economy commissioner says diplomatic tensions have made conditions for the deal "unfavorable." After almost seven years of negotiations, the European Union and China on Tuesday finally agreed an investment deal, although its official signing is expected on December 30. According to an internal European Commission paper which DW gained access to, the deal, known as the Comprehensive Agreement on Investments (CAI), removes barriers to foreign investments in China for certain EU industries, such as new energy vehicles, cloud computing services, financial services and health, the Commission said.

3. Lufthansa posts €1 billion loss in first quarter. Germany's largest airline has suffered another massive loss in the first quarter as the pandemic continues to cripple the travel branch. German airline

giant Lufthansa on Thursday posted a first-quarter net loss of €1 billion (\$1.2 billion) as the COVID pandemic continues to keep passengers on the ground worldwide. Although troubling for the company, the net loss is smaller than the one of €2.1 billion suffered over the same period in 2020, owing to cost-cutting measures taken in the meantime. Lufthansa Technik, which offers maintenance services in Germany and abroad, also made a profit of €16 million, mainly on the back of operations in the US and Asia.

4. US to start vaccinating adolescents after BioNTech-Pfizer approval. The CDC has given a green light to using the BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine in children aged 12 to 15. Meanwhile, Cuba has started inoculating its citizens using two locally produced vaccines. Follow DW for the latest. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has backed a plan to begin using the BioNTech-Pfizer COVID vaccine in adolescents aged 12-15. The CDC gave the approval after trial evidence showed that there were no severe allergic reactions from the vaccine in the age group.

5. Cyprus ready to welcome back cruise industry. The pandemic has dealt a massive blow to cruise homeporting and call destinations around the world. Cyprus has witnessed a knock-on effect caused by the cancellation of calls and homeporting operations, and the ongoing instability of cruise programs which in turn affects agents and port flow. The island's tourism body will participate in this year's digital Posidonia Sea Tourism Forum on May 25, through which it hopes to inform the international cruise community about the preparations it has made to safely welcome cruise ships back as soon as possible.

6. Ryanair wins EU legal challenge to airline state aid. Ryanair, the Irish budget airline, won two rare EU legal victories in a long-running row over state aid rules. It had filed complaints with the bloc's General Court in Luxembourg over subsidies provided to Dutch carrier KLM and Portugal's TAP. Both airlines were provided with government-backed loans at the height of the coronavirus pandemic that were signed off by EU competition officials. But judges ruled that no repayments would need to be made until the European Commission had made a new decision on the loans.