



Piraeus Tower. The consortium of Dimand-EBRD with Prodea Investments is planning to turn the so-called Piraeus Tower, Greece's second-tallest building, into the greenest building, after yesterday's signing of the concession deal with the City of Piraeus. The plan provides for the investment of 50 million euros, fetching the city €1 million per year.

I N B R I E F

Unprecedented drop in turnover for food service, accommodation

The turnover of food service and accommodation enterprises posted an unprecedented nosedive in April, shrinking by 73.5% and 92% respectively compared to the same month last year, according to Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) data released yesterday for the month when Greece was in lockdown from start to finish. April turnover for the accommodation sector amounted to 17.6 million euros, against €217.5 million in April 2019. The decline in Attica amounted to 89%, while on the island of Limnos in the northern Aegean there was an increase of 47.5% year-on-year. The food service sector recorded takings of just €30.5 million, compared to €109.7 million a year earlier. In Attica turnover dropped 72%. Over the first quarter of the year, which included the first month of restrictions, the turnover of food service companies fell 10.3% from the January-March 2019 period, and the accommodation sector endured a 17.1% annual drop.

Investment forum to assess Greece's attractiveness

The first half of the 3rd InvestGR Forum: Greece in Pole Position next week (on July 15-16) will feature four online discussion panels with politicians, chief executive officers, academics and experts discussing issues such as Greece's attractiveness as an investment destination, the digital leap in the public and private sectors, Greek innovation and the concept of purpose for the state and companies. The event will also discuss the specially commissioned "EY Attractiveness Survey: Greece 2020" on the attractiveness of Greece as an investment destination. For the first time since the start of the health crisis, the survey is expected to capture the investment community's views on the country's strengths and weaknesses as an investment destination. To attend the 3rd InvestGR Forum, register at investgr.eu/en/home-conference-en. The second half of the forum will take place in October.

Bulgaria pandemic. Bulgaria will further extend the nationwide epidemic emergency over Covid-19 until the end of July, the country's Health Minister Kiril Ananiev said at a press conference yesterday. The epidemic emergency was initially declared on May 14 with a duration of one month, replacing the state of emergency implemented on March 13. It has already been extended twice, to the end of June and mid-July, respectively. The prolongation of the epidemic emergency would help contain the spread of the coronavirus, Ananiev said. A total of 5,740 Covid-19 cases have been confirmed in Bulgaria so far, and 246 people have died. (Xinhua)

Albania transport. Residents living in Albania's capital Tirana started using public transport again yesterday after four months of interruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Public transport resumed in the morning under strict health protocols for both staff members of public transport operators and passengers. According to health authorities, mask-wearing is mandatory, the 1-meter physical distance must be respected, and public transport vehicles should operate at a maximum of 70% capacity. (Xinhua)

Blue Air. Romanian low-cost air carrier Blue Air announced yesterday it will enter a debt restructuring preventive agreement with its creditors to ensure it can prioritize the cost of its scheduled flights after a state of alert ends in Romania on July 16, as the coronavirus pandemic wreaks havoc on tourism and business travel. (Reuters)