

1. IN BRIEF

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Alpha to gain shareholder approval for share increase

Alpha Bank is on track to secure shareholder approval for a planned 800-million-euro share offering in a vote today, banking sources told Reuters. One Alpha source said yesterday that shareholders were “overwhelmingly in support” of the proposal, which will need the backing of at least two-thirds of those at the extraordinary general meeting and a 50% quorum for the offering to proceed. Supporters included the bank’s major shareholder, the Hellenic Financial Stability Fund (HFSF), which holds nearly 11%, a source at the fund said. Alpha wants the fundraising to fuel growth as European Union recovery funds start flowing in. *(Reuters)*

EC Representation in Greece lends support to InvestGR forum

For the fourth consecutive year, the Representation of the European Commission in Greece is supporting the InvestGR Forum 2021: Reforming the Greek Economy, which will take place on July 14. The central theme of the forum is the reforms in the Greek economy and how they will contribute to the improvement of the attractiveness of Greece as an investment destination. Niovi Ringou, head of the Representation of the European Commission in Greece, stated: “Attracting foreign investment to Greece is vital for the country’s recovery after the pandemic and the creation of new and quality jobs. The approximately €31 billion that Greece will receive from the recovery fund - in addition to the funds from the European development programs included in the new budget of the Union for the period 2021-27 - can be the springboard for an investment leap in Greece. So, this year, too, the Representation is supporting the InvestGR Forum, as it is a key event which has played an important role in recent years in attracting the foreign investment that the country needs.” InvestGR Forum founder Andreas Yannopoulos commented: “Despite the adversity of the period, there are reasonable expectations for significant benefits to the Greek economy from the Recovery and Resilience Fund, as well as the new NSRF. From that perspective, we welcome the symbolism of the support by the Representation of the European Commission in Greece for every effort toward dialogue on the necessity of foreign investments.”

Athens-Larnaca. Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, will operate direct flights between Larnaca in Cyprus and Athens in Greece starting from this Friday. Operated by the airline’s new Airbus A320neo, the flights will take place twice a week on Fridays and Sundays. The new addition will provide residents of Cyprus and Greece the opportunity to experience Gulf Air’s Arabian hospitality along with its boutique products and services on the new fleet with convenient schedule and frequencies to commute between the two cities. Tickets are available to purchase from the airline’s website and appointed travel agencies in Cyprus and Greece.

Hotel fair. The 100% Hotel Show is returning to its physical version this fall, with the 2021 version set to take place on November 19-22, the organizers announced yesterday. The exhibition addressed to hotel owners and tourism professionals in general will be held at the MEC exhibition hall in Paiania, eastern Attica; however, there will also be a virtual booth operating during the weeks before and after the event. For more information, visit www.hotelshow.gr.

Rooftop bars. PK Cocktail Bar at Fira, on the island of Santorini, ranks fifth in the list of the 50 most popular rooftop bars in Europe, according to a survey conducted by the Big 7 Travel website. The list also contains an Athens bar, named Couleur Locale, in 20th place. Topping the list is the Culpeper in London.