

ENTERPRISE GREECE
INVEST & TRADE

NEWSLETTER APRIL 20

**GREECE E-GOVERNMENT
SERVICES**

**REGIONAL PORTS
PRIVATIZATION**

**HELLENIKON AIRPORT
DEVELOPMENT**

GREECE ROLLS OUT NEW E-GOVERNMENT PLATFORM, DIGITAL SERVICES

Greece has rolled out a new online platform of more than 500 e-government services – covering everything from residency permit applications to medical prescriptions – two months ahead of schedule as a result of the global coronavirus crisis.



14
MINISTRIES

34
AGENCIES &
ORGANIZATIONS

3
INDEPENDENT
AUTHORITIES

gov.gr is the new internet portal of the Greek state. It hosts all the digital services provided by ministries, agencies, organizations and independent authorities of the public sector already available on the internet.

gov.gr is continuously evolving. Soon, it will serve as the center for digital services for any transaction you have with the public sector.

Link: <https://www.gov.gr/>
Source: gov.gr

The new platform – www.gov.gr – represents one of the government's major reforms to streamline public services and improve Greece's competitiveness. Since its initial launch in late March, gov.gr has been continuously adding services, most recently: certificates of inheritance and temporary driving permits for new drivers.

Although slow in coming to the digital age, Greece's public sector has been steadily developing its suite of online services over the last several years, most notably in areas like revenue collections and in the public health system. But many of those services were scattered across various websites or incomplete. Those have now been brought together in a single platform.

"We rolled out a unified government platform, where we brought together more than 500 digital public services," said Minister of Digital Governance Kyriakos Pierrakakis in a BBC interview. "A problematic situation, such as the coronavirus crisis, is acting as a catalyst for the digital transformation of our state."

The new, central platform boasts 11 categories comprising 507 e-government services, and covering 14 Greek ministries, 34 public sector bodies and three regulatory agencies. The services include issues relating to agriculture, justice, education, business, labor & social security, family affairs, taxes, culture & tourism, military service and health, as well as a category for miscellaneous other interactions with the public sector.

At the same time, the ministry has moved to digitize internal government processes, including setting up new teleconferencing platforms for the public sector and creating digital signatures for cabinet ministers. In late March, Greece also launched a new nationwide mobile phone alert system for national emergencies.

A new digital governance law now being developed is further expected to unify and streamline scores of other online transactions with the public sector.

news in **brief**

Greek Economy

Greece's economy is expected to shrink between 5% and 10% this year as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, Finance Minister Christos Staikouras said, in line with other forecasts. Greek think tank IOBE forecasts a decline of between 5% and 9%, while the IMF foresees a 10% contraction in 2020, followed by a 5.1% rebound in GDP next year.

Greek Bonds

Greece raised €2.0 billion from a new 7-year bond issue with a yield of 2.0% to boost its cash reserves and as it copes with the economic fallout of the global coronavirus crisis. The new issue was almost 3 times subscribed, indicating strong demand for Greek debt. And it comes after the European Central Bank announced it will accept Greek government bonds as collateral in refinancing operations, waiving previous restrictions and underscoring Greece's improved credit standing. Greece is also eligible to tap up to €8 billion in financing and liquidity support under a new €540 billion emergency Eurozone package.

Natural Gas

Greek utility company Gastrade successfully concluded its second market test for a planned natural gas facility near the northern port of Alexandroupolis, drawing binding offers for up to 15 years and marking a major step forward in the project. The facility, which comprises a floating LNG storage and regasification unit and a 28 kilometer pipeline system, is expected to start operations in 2022.

Power Projects

Electric grid operator, ADMIE, is planning investments of €4.3 billion over the next 10 years to upgrade and expand Greece's power transmission system. Among them are plans for two high-voltage submarine cables connecting the island of Crete with mainland Greece with a total investment of €1 billion.

Marina Privatization

The ministries of finance, development and tourism have signed off on a 40 year operating concession for the Alimos Marina, the largest marina in southeast Europe. Last year, Greek developer Ellaktor bid €57.5 million for the rights to operate the marina, which is located along the Athens Riviera south of the Greek capital. The company plans to invest approximately €107.5 million to upgrade the marina.

Virtual Tourism

Greece's tourism ministry has launched greecefromhome.com, a new virtual tourism experience designed to showcase the country's attractions as a tourism destination. The initiative, done in cooperation with Google, aims to position Greece as a first choice destination once global travel restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic are eased. The ministry has also launched a special hotline for tourists, businesses and workers for information regarding the pandemic.

Research Center

The European Investment Bank has agreed to provide a €48.3 million loan to Greece's Demokritos National Center for Scientific Research, the country's largest public research center and the first ever to receive EIB financing. Funding will be used for the construction of new buildings, expansion of the Lefkippos Technology Park, and the renovation of research laboratories and other facilities. Once completed, an additional 100 senior research jobs are expected to be created at the Demokritos campus.

Enterprise Greece

As part of its efforts to mitigate the economic impact of the global coronavirus crisis, Enterprise Greece has launched a special news feed to inform Greek exporters about developments and restrictions in markets of interest. Link: <https://www.enterprisegreece.gov.gr/en/covid-19-announcements-countries>

Greece moves ahead with regional port privatizations



Greece is moving ahead with the privatization of four regional ports as part of its efforts to become a transportation and logistics hub for Southeast Europe, building on the successful privatizations of its leading ports in Piraeus and Thessaloniki.

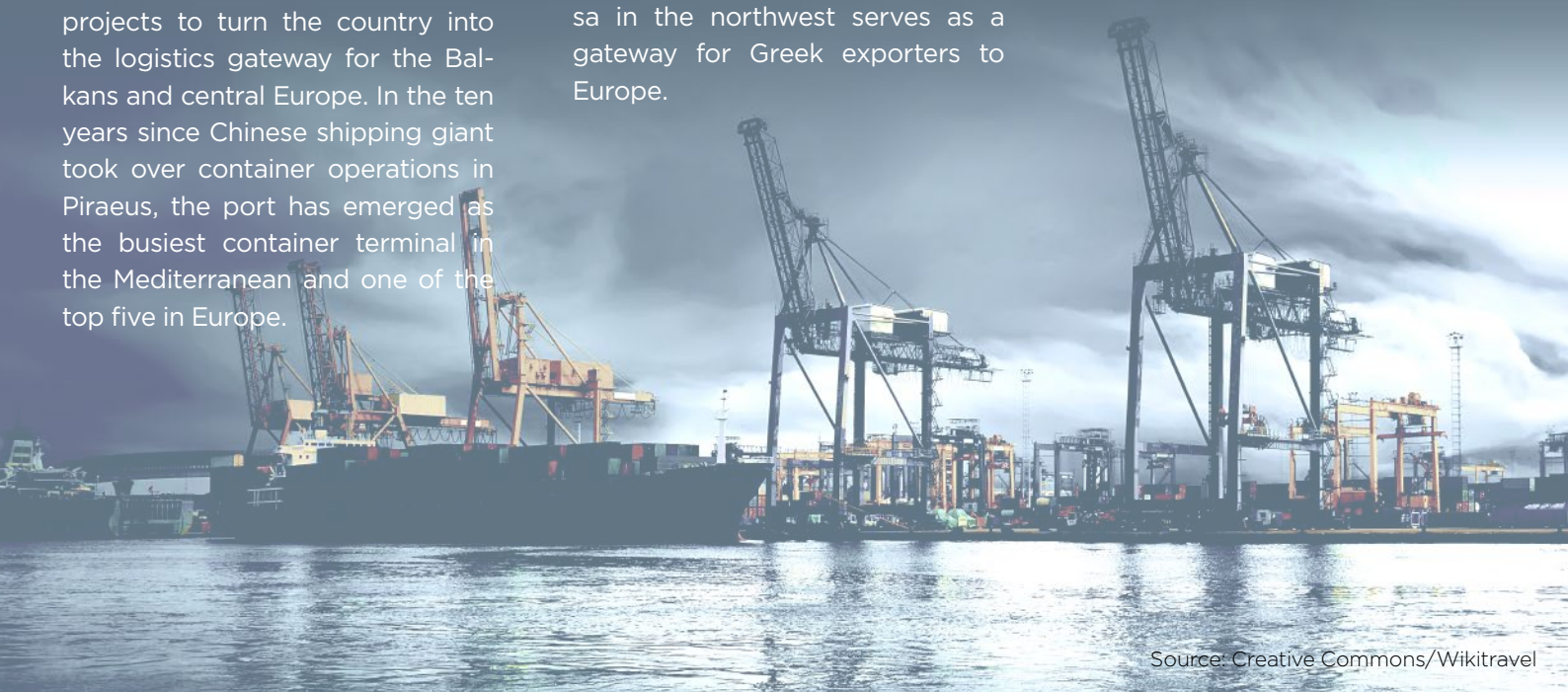
In an announcement, Greece's privatization agency said it will sell majority stakes in the ports of Alexandroupolis, Igoumenitsa, Heraklion and Volos and is now seeking financial advisers for the sales.

Greece is investing billions of euros in new road, rail, port and airport projects to turn the country into the logistics gateway for the Balkans and central Europe. In the ten years since Chinese shipping giant took over container operations in Piraeus, the port has emerged as the busiest container terminal in the Mediterranean and one of the top five in Europe.

Since then, Cosco has taken over operations for the rest of Piraeus port and is implementing a €611 billion investment program. In 2018, a German-led consortium acquired a 67% stake in Thessaloniki's port and a €130 billion expansion project is now underway.

The four regional ports each represent a unique development opportunity. The northern port of Alexandroupolis, is emerging as an energy hub with plans for a new natural gas facility. The port of Igoumenitsa in the northwest serves as a gateway for Greek exporters to Europe.

The port of Volos, in the east, has traditionally served Greek farm exports from the nearby plains of Thessaly. But its proximity to the Meteora monasteries – one of Greece's most important cultural sites – has raised its prominence as a cruise ship destination. Likewise, the port of Heraklion on Crete has become a major port of call for cruise ships in the eastern Mediterranean.





- Greek National Holiday: May Day (May 1)

Greece speeds Hellenikon airport redevelopment project



Greece has moved closer to starting construction on the €8 billion redevelopment of the old Athens airport at Hellenikon, following the greenlight from two key supervisory councils last month.

In late March, Greece's archaeological and architectural councils approved the demolition of some 400 buildings and structures on the site. Work on the initial site preparation could commence within weeks.

However, full implementation of the project, which is expected to stretch over 10 years, will only begin after a Council of State ruling on a disputed casino license tender that will likely be issued later this summer.

The project is expected to transform the Athens Riviera – the 50-kilometer coastline stretching from Athens to Cape Sounion – into a premier destination in Europe, and will be one of the largest urban redevelopment projects in Europe covering an area three times the size of Monaco. The project is expected to create 10,000 jobs during construction, 75,000 permanent jobs thereafter, and contribute 2.4% to Greece's GDP.

Greece's Lamda Development, which holds the rights to the site, plans a mixed-use complex of hotels, offices, shopping centers and recreational facilities.



Enterprise Greece's response to the coronavirus outbreak

- Enterprise Greece's staff are working remotely to support Greek trade and investment efforts. We continue to operate as normal and to conduct business as usual.
- Enterprise Greece has launched a digital information campaign to inform businesses and exporters of the available economic support measures that the government has undertaken in order to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic on the national economy.
- Enterprise Greece will be disseminating information regarding any restrictions imposed in countries of interest.
- Enterprise Greece is launching a "Support Greek Exports" information campaign in order to support the sectors / products and services most affected.
- Posing a serious threat to both global health and the world economy, Enterprise Greece is working in close collaboration with all its international and national stakeholders to control the impact on Greek SMEs.

CONTACT US

To learn more about the many investment and trade opportunities Greece offers, visit us today at www.enterprisegreece.gov.gr

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