

TRAVEL TRADE

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Record Number of Arrivals in November 2016

The Statistical Service of the Republic of Cyprus recorded satisfactory tourist arrivals in November 2016, continuing the upswing in performance of the previous 10 months.

Compared to the corresponding period of 2015, it shows that tourist arrivals for November 2016 increased by 14.9 percent, from 108,093 in November 2015 to 124,192. Regarding the cumulative period January - November 2016, total tourist arrivals exceeded the record number of three million, a 20.1 percent increase, confirming the Cyprus Tourism Organisation's initial estimates.

Improved Annual Traffic Figures for Ryanair



Ryanair's December 2016 figures show that the airline's traffic has grown 20 percent, load factor rose three percent while the annual traffic jumped 15 percent.

Commenting on the performance, Kenny Jacobs, chief marketing officer, Ryanair, said, "Customers can look forward to even lower fares for this summer, so there has never been a better time to book a low fare flight on Ryanair and we urge all customers who wish to book their summer holidays to do so now [...]."

EXCHANGE RATES

as of 30.1.2017

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	EUR1=
US (USD)	Dollar	1.07
UK (GBP)	Pound	0.85
Switzerland (CHF)	Franc	1.07
Japan (JPY)	Yen	122.89

Civil Wedding Booking Platform Launches

BookYourWeddingDay.com, hailed as the only international platform for booking a date for a civil wedding instantly, was recently launched in Cyprus.

The platform, which aims to contribute to the growth of wedding tourism in Cyprus, enables tour operators, wedding planners and couples to instantly book their desired date with the click of a button and choose the ideal venue for them, saving them time.

Maria Evripides, CEO, BookYourWeddingDay.com, said, "I firmly believe that BookYourWeddingDay.com will be a really useful tool for all stakeholders while at the same time it will place Cyprus on the international radar as an ideal wedding destination. Wedding tourism in Cyprus has already started blooming and I am positive that BookYourWeddingDay.com will be very beneficial, as it solves the problem of the long waiting time for Cyprus."



ONE Receives First Place Award

Located on Limassol's premium seafront avenue, reaching heights of 170m, Pafilia's flagship development ONE has received first place in the European round of the prestigious International Property Awards, in a ceremony held in London at The Savoy in December 2016.

ONE residential high-rise development is set to be the tallest residential seafront tower in Europe. Developed to redefine the Limassol skyline, it is set to become a beacon of progress, visible from anywhere in the city.

"An International Property Award is the most prestigious accreditation in our industry. This award is a great acknowledgement of Pafilia's work, and for ONE as the best high-rise residential development in Europe," stated, Michelle Taliotou, marketing manager, Pafilia Property Developers.



ONE development

Paphos Joins European OER-CRAFT



OER-CRAFT 1st Presentation

The European Chamber of Paphos participated in the European project *Open Educational Resources for the Development of Arts and Crafts* (OER-CRAFT) had made a presentation on challenges and opportunities for micro-entrepreneurship in Cyprus.

The chamber presented various financial sources from European funds, with objectives set by the Cypriot government and the European Union for the development of entrepreneurship and the OER-CRAFT platform that is planned within the project to support entrepreneurship microenterprises and enterprises engaged in arts and crafts.

OER-CRAFT is devoted to all those individuals who wish to establish their own micro and craft-type enterprise as a response to the crisis or unemployment.

Cyprus – The Golf Destination to Be



In a collective effort to promote Cyprus as a tourism destination for golf, Cyprus Tourism Organisation, together with numerous hotels and four golf courses, hosted over 40 specialised agents and 29 travel organisers specialising in golf to the island.

The programme included golf games at four golf courses, as well as a culinary experience offering an authentic taste of Cypriot hospitality.

The ultimate purpose of the Mega Golf Fam Trip, was to acquaint travel specialists with golf products in Cyprus, and especially in the winter period.

The operators expressed sincere satisfaction for the quality of the golf courses, the hospitality and the professionalism of the golf tourism partners.

Larnaka International Airport Further Caters To Passengers

Larnaka International Airport proceeded with a further upgrade of its services offered to people with reduced mobility and disabilities. The airport has obtained the new system, namely Eagle Passenger Lifter, which is also operated by many contemporary airports around the world and through which a non-manual procedure can be employed to assist in the transportation of persons with reduced mobility and disabilities, from their wheelchairs to their aircraft seats.

The Eagle Passenger Lifter system also provides the possibility of offering better embarkation and disembarkation services to individuals suffering obesity and facing significant difficulties with their movement.

Hermes Enters the ACA Certified Group

Following the accreditation regarding energy management, Hermes airports announced its acquisition of the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) certificate issued by the Airport Council International (ACI) in-light of global efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

In addition to the verification from the appropriate authorities for the submitted data, the first stage of certification issued to Hermes Airports, marks the entry of Cyprus airports in the international programme for the reduction of carbon dioxide emission, which at a later phase, will involve all other companies and services operating at Cyprus hubs who produce carbon dioxide through their operations.

Overall, the ACA certification includes four stages of implementation and aims towards the development of collective efforts on an international level for the reduction of carbon emissions and environmental protection.

It is worth noting that for the time being, the programme and its requirements, have managed to be met by less than 200 airports worldwide.



CONFERENCES



SEMINARS



MEETINGS

The Hotel's guests may enjoy all four main Halls, "EVROPI, DANAE, NEFELI and CLIO". All four fully equipped, adaptable Conference Rooms offer ultimate flexibility in a venue for any event from 10 to 350 attendees. All four Halls provide full range of audiovisual facilities ready to meet the needs of the smallest meeting to a multifunctional conference, festive banquets or hi-impact product launching seminars.

The adaptable Event Halls are ready to accommodate the needs of a Single Venue Conference request to a multifunctional versatile Workshop/Training. High end audiovisual facilities and high speed internet secures the Events' successful implementation while the Hotel's Staff being able to cater any Food and Beverage Requirement of a simple Welcome Coffee Station to a rich coffee break, buffet meals or selective set menus.



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Larnaca Taking Part in European Tourism Programmes

The Larnaca Tourism Board (LTB) and its associates will participate in various European tourism programmes, including two dedicated to Erasmus.

The LTB is taking part in the CS.Tour project which aims to develop customised training courses for the tourism industry to help participants develop the appropriate interpersonal and cultural awareness skills. Technical Training Cyprus is representing Larnaca's current participation in the European-funded Skilltour project, which aims to make rural tourism business more sustainable for small or family-run companies by improving core skills. The project started in September 2015 and will run until August of this year.

Larnaca

Cyprus: Flavors of Wine

A series of events were organised in 2016 by Cyprus Tourism Organisation, offering seminars and events aiming to educate visitors about Cyprus' long lasting wine tradition.

This included free trips to the wine routes accompanied by a licensed guide as well as specialised seminars for restaurateurs for recipes based on Commandaria.

Under the supervision of Oenophiles Cyprus Group, the peak of the series was the Flavors of Wine event, held on November 27, 2016, where 30 wineries took part and more than 1,500 people visited.

Cyprus Wine Routes

Paphos Continues Tourism Development

The annual general meeting of Pafos Regional Board of Tourism was held on December 9, 2016, at Hotel Almyra in Paphos.

The event was organised under the supervision of Angelos Loizou, president, Cyprus Tourism Organisation, who made a presentation on developments of tourism in 2015 and 2016. He also indicated a positive outlook for Cyprus regarding the current year and particularly for Paphos that will become the European Capital of Culture.

In addition, Andreas Dimitriadis, president, Pafos Regional Board of Tourism, highlighted the proceedings of the company and actions during 2015 as well as suggestions of the tourism board for the developments of tourism in the city, including among others, upgrading of flights to and from Pafos International Airport and implementation of outstanding planned, private and public infrastructure.



Paphos tourist area

Ambassadors honoured in Ayia Napa

Regular visitors, Kore Hemli, Kristian and Ase Lillian Melum, Yngvar and Juliet Ryland and Leif and Sonya Vinqvist were honoured on December 13, 2016 with a commemorative plaque and an Ambassador of Tourism Ayia Napa medal for frequent and repeated visits.

The event was held at City Hall and Maria Tsantila, cultural officer, Ayia Napa Municipality, and honoured the regular visitors showing warm appreciation for their love of the city. Later, John Karoussos, mayor, Ayia Napa, and the city council members also showed a warm appreciation for the visitors' adoration of the city.



Nissi Beach Ayia Napa

Wedding Tourism and Short Vacation Workshop in Lebanon



Following the workshop organised by the Cyprus Tourism Board with emphasis on wedding tourism and short vacations in Beirut, the event concluded in December 2016 on a successful note.

The workshop consisted of 21 Cypriot companies from both hotel and tour operating industries, while more than 55 Lebanese travel agents and 100 Lebanese tourism professionals visited. The organisation aimed at acquainting new companies, develop existing partnerships and create new contacts in those sectors, in-light of increasing tourist arrivals regarding the wedding and short vacation tourism industry.

As part of the event, allocated television and radio interviews were conducted with high media visibility both inland and in the Arab Gulf countries.

Electronic Tourist Guide Paphos Reaches 175,000 Readers



Following the introduction of the official electronic tourist guide Paphos, it was announced that the initiative received 175,000 readers.

Created by the Tourism Development and Promotion Region Paphos (E.T.A.P), in collaboration with Swedish company arrivalguides.com, the website is aimed directly at consumers, with distribution via an effective global distribution network.

The guide, distributed electronically over 300 media platforms including 40 airlines, is available in three languages, including an array of options such as, planning and travel options, municipality news, recreational and leisure activity lists and event news.

According to statistics, within the period of January – December 2016, the guide was downloaded by 175,000 people and is estimated to have been read by 500,000 consumers. For this period, the top 10 readers include the UK, Sweden, US, Germany and Finland.

Giovani Group Announces New Resort in Sotira



The Sun City Spa & Residences in Sotira

The beginning of the construction works for The Sun City Spa & Residences in Sotira, was officially announced on December 2, 2016 at the Hilton Park Hotel in Nicosia.

The event was attended by several professionals and political representatives including, Dimitris Syllouris, president, parliament of Cyprus - House of Representatives and George Takka, mayor, Nicosia. The project, which also includes a five-star hotel and luxury villas, is a part of Giovani Group's portfolio and is expected to be fully completed two years after the date of commencement of the construction work.

Syllouris stated, "After many years of efforts we managed to find, and bring [...] the necessary investment resources [to Cyprus] for the construction of Sun City Spa & Residences [...]."

Second Radisson Blu Announced in Larnaca



Larnaca

Expanding on its collaboration with The Rezidor Hotel Group, Sunnysseekers Hotels has unveiled plans for Radisson Blu Conference and Airport Hotel, scheduled to open in 2019.

Hailed as the first airport hotel and conference centre in Cyprus, the 180-key property will be located one kilometre from Larnaca International Airport. The property will boast extensive meetings and events facilities as well as a spa, gym, tennis court along with indoor and outdoor swimming pools.

Commenting on the announcement, Marios Poluviou, CEO, Sunnysseeker Hotels, said, "We believe future demand will only grow with the city's keenly anticipated future plans for tourism development, combined with the appeal of a trusted brand such as Radisson Blu."

Rise Hotel Teams Up with eRevMax



Rise Hotel

Rise Hotel in Larnaca has selected eRevMax for improving online bookings and exposure. The hotel has been using the LIVE OS platform for channel management, reservation delivery, rate benchmarking and business intelligence to improve business efficiency.

Channel Manager Web, the cloud based channel management solution from eRevMax hosted on LIVE OS, is helping the revenue management team to update rate and inventory across all connected travel channels as well as receive reservations directly delivered into their hotel management system.

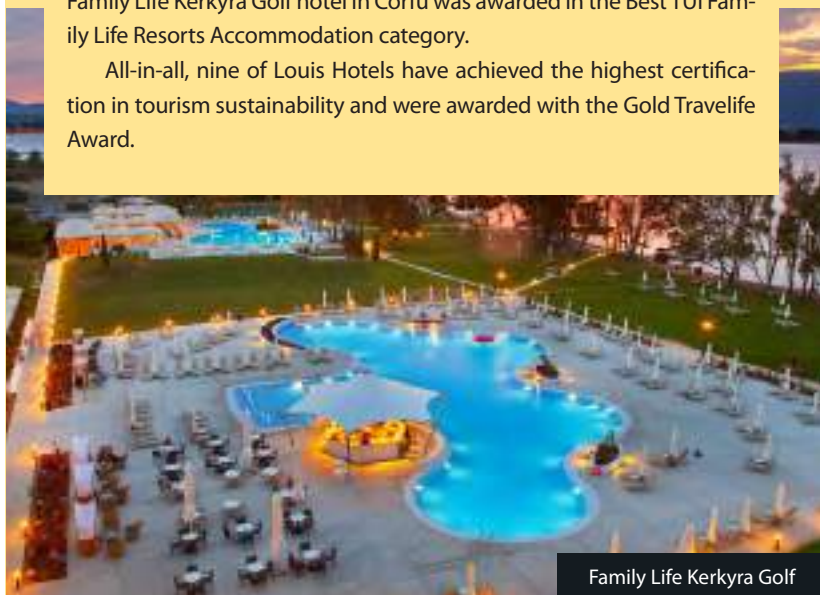
“With LIVE OS, there are no more spreadsheets. We manage everything directly from this innovative platform. We can track our business performance in real-time and that has boosted online revenue drastically,” said Olga Peppas, hotel manager, Rise Hotel.

Louis Hotels Awarded for Excellence

For another consecutive year Louis Hotels has been awarded for its high-level of hospitality services and quality in the tourism industry in Greece and Cyprus. Not only by some of the largest tour operators in the world but also from its almost 200,000 guests.

During the World Travel Market in London, TUI awarded The King Jason hotel in Paphos as the Overall Winner of First Choice Favourites. In the same ceremony, The King Jason Protaras was awarded as one of the best Thomson favourite hotels around the world. Furthermore, the Family Life Kerkyra Golf hotel in Corfu was awarded in the Best TUI Family Life Resorts Accommodation category.

All-in-all, nine of Louis Hotels have achieved the highest certification in tourism sustainability and were awarded with the Gold Travelife Award.



Family Life Kerkyra Golf

Adonis Beach Villas Added to Golden Mile



Adonis Beach Villas

Following the outstanding success of its unique beachfront projects, namely Apollo Beach Villas and Apollo Village, the Leptos Group continues to enrich the Golden Mile, with its exclusive modern beachfront development Adonis Beach Villas.

This luxurious address overlooks the sea with modern architectural design and finishes, as well as services, facilities and amenities of the highest standard.

The project features private pools, landscaped gardens, large verandas and outdoor living areas, contemporary modern technology, as well as functional connectivity, which blends harmoniously with the golden sun-kissed coastline, rocky and sandy beaches together with its wild natural beauty.

The vision of Leptos Group is for this unique location and its name to justify its passion for creativity, innovation and preservation of the natural environment.

Selectour Afat Fam Trip to Athens



Selectour Afat branch Paris

Members of Selectour Afat took part in a familiarisation trip (fam trip) to Athens, after a collaboration between the Greek National Tourism Board in France and the central office of the agency. The aim of the trip, which took place November 24 – 27, 2016, was to promote Athens as the ideal winter destination to the French market. This was done in-line with the strategic goal of emphasising urban tourism and the expansion of the tourist season.

During their stay in the Greek capital, members of the network toured the Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum, experienced local cuisine, and took advantage of cruises to the islands of the Saronic Gulf.

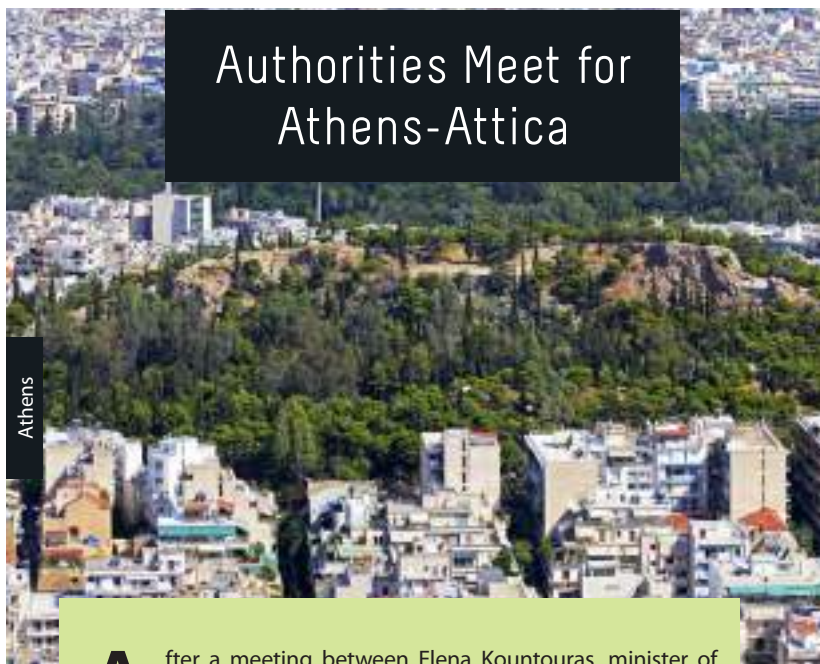
Increase in Annual Conference Events in Greece

The International Congress & Convention Association 2016 figures report that there was an increase of five percent in annual conferences in Greece.

Dimitris Trifonopoulos, secretary general, Greek National Tourism Organization, opened the general assembly of Thessaloniki Convention Bureau and elaborated on the importance of the MICE industry and the role the Convention Bureau for the country.

Highlighting the role of the tourism industry in Greece's fight against the economic crisis Trifonopoulos said, "In particular, 49.1 percent of new jobs that were added to the labour market came from the accommodation area. This simply means that one in two jobs come from tourism. As regards to the MICE industry, as recognised by the Hellenic Association of Professional Congress Organizers, conditions internally stabilised."

Authorities Meet for Athens-Attica



Athens

After a meeting between Elena Kountouras, minister of tourism, Greece, Rena Douro, regional minister, Attica, and George Kaminis, mayor, Athens, a general assembly of all relevant public and private sector professionals was held in order to implement, for the first time, an operation and communication plan for the targeted endorsement of the Athens-Attica as a city break destination abroad. The promotion project will be executed this year and will be applied for two years.

In the assembly, the framework of actions in the immediate future were discussed with the aim to promote and enhance the visibility of a single destination city break. The goal is to create attractive tourism packages and exclusive tourist services, offers and products, air and rooms, while in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, to undertake initiatives in archaeological issues and cultural interests.

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Ellinair Presents Aviation Industry to Graduates



The graduates of the faculty of economics had the opportunity to learn first hand about Ellinair, its strategic plan, and the general operation of the aviation industry, at an event held at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

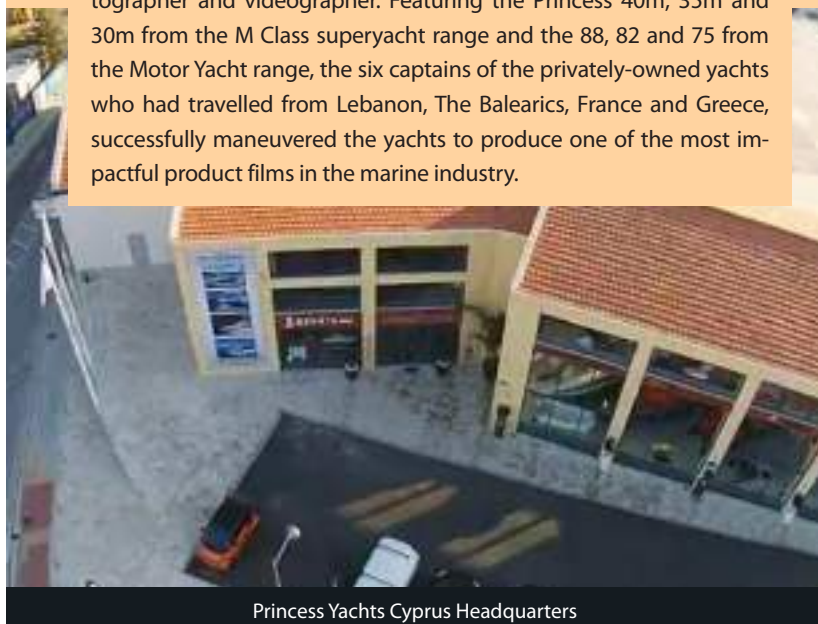
The executives of Ellinair, responding to the invitation of the faculty, informed the students of activities of the Ellinair and Mouzenidis Group.

The presentation was given by Stavros Daliakas, commercial director, Ellinair, G. Panagiotidou, senior business analyst and Ioannis Maroulas, pricing and revenue management specialist, Ellinair, and focussed on the historical evolution of the airlines, the way the aviation market operates and also the management of the corporate performance in Greece and around the world.

Princess Yachts Filmed at Limassol Marina

Princess Yachts recently revealed its most ambitious film to date, with a new production showing the brand's six largest yachts, with a combined value of just over EUR70 million.

The never-seen-before display was captured at the Princess Heads of Business conference in Limassol, Cyprus by Quin Bisset, photographer and videographer. Featuring the Princess 40m, 35m and 30m from the M Class superyacht range and the 88, 82 and 75 from the Motor Yacht range, the six captains of the privately-owned yachts who had travelled from Lebanon, The Balearics, France and Greece, successfully maneuvered the yachts to produce one of the most impactful product films in the marine industry.



Princess Yachts Cyprus Headquarters

New Paphos to Tel Aviv Route for Ryanair Customers



Ryanair announced a new summer itinerary from Paphos to Tel Aviv, with a daily service beginning in March.

The airline celebrated the new route by releasing seats for sale at a reduced fee for travel in April and May. These low fare seats were available from December, 2016.

Commenting on the summer schedule, Chiara Ravara, sales and marketing manager, Eastern Mediterranean, Ryanair, said, "Cypriot customers can look forward to even lower fares when they make advance bookings for summer, so there is never been a better time to book a low fare flight on Ryanair [...]."

PwC Sponsors Conference in London

The Cypriot economy's return to growth, and the role which Cyprus can play as a regional business centre of the Eurozone in the Eastern Mediterranean, was at the centre of a successful international conference, hosted by The Economist that was held at the London Stock Exchange on December 07, 2016, and sponsored by PwC Cyprus.

Harris Georgiades, finance minister, Cyprus, referred to the recovery of the Cypriot economy in the past three years and underlined the government's plan to negotiate more agreements for the avoidance of double taxation focusing ahead on achieving sustainable growth.

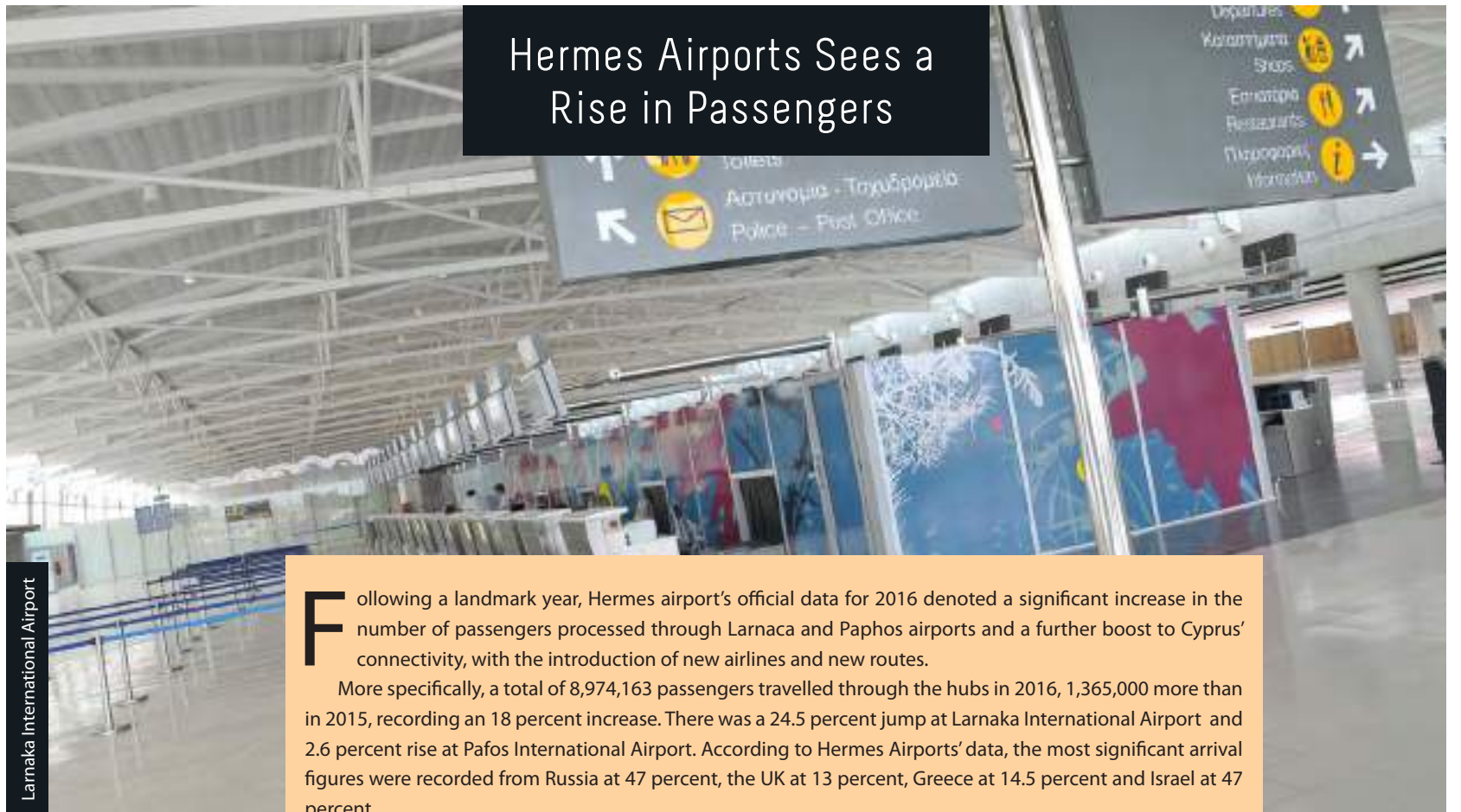
Georgiades, commented, "Cyprus remains a safe and stable business centre, with one of the highest rates of growth in the European Union at three percent and has the capacity to become the fastest growing economy over the next 10 years."

Hermes Airports Sees a Rise in Passengers

Following a landmark year, Hermes airport's official data for 2016 denoted a significant increase in the number of passengers processed through Larnaca and Paphos airports and a further boost to Cyprus' connectivity, with the introduction of new airlines and new routes.

More specifically, a total of 8,974,163 passengers travelled through the hubs in 2016, 1,365,000 more than in 2015, recording an 18 percent increase. There was a 24.5 percent jump at Larnaca International Airport and 2.6 percent rise at Pafos International Airport. According to Hermes Airports' data, the most significant arrival figures were recorded from Russia at 47 percent, the UK at 13 percent, Greece at 14.5 percent and Israel at 47 percent.

Larnaca International Airport





Paphos Training Camp Welcomes Daniela Ryf

RYF at IRONMAN World Champion in 2016

Daniela Ryf, the IRONMAN World Champion in 2015 and 2016 and IRONMAN 70.3 World Champion in 2014 and 2015, has recently visited Paphos Training camp. Ryf was invited by Mokapot Productions with the support of Pafos Regional Board of Tourism, Paphos Nautical Group and Paphos Municipality.

Accompanied by her coach, Con Brett Sutton and her colleague, Carina Brechters, Ryf stayed at Paphos Training camp for a six-day triathlon training programme.

Mokapot Productions will ensure that the camp's operations run smoothly by April as dozens of athletes from around the world are expected to arrive in the region in the following season.



Paphos

Paphos Hosts European ERASMUS Programme

The first partners' meeting of the European ERASMUS programme KA3 entitled, Apprenticeship Helpdesk for Small & Medium Size Enterprises was organised by the Paphos Chamber between November 23 and December 01, 2016. The programme aimed to develop a support service for learning to provide tailor-made practical support and advice to small and medium size enterprises in Cyprus and Poland. The service will also be available online through AppHelp4SMEs Tool-kit. By using the expertise of the Association of Employment and Learning Providers Limited - AELP UK mentora- partner, best practices from the UK will be examined and adapted to the national context of Cyprus and Poland.

BLUE MED FAB Members Share Good Practice

The nine Functional Airspace Block (FAB) members met in Brussels on November 29, 2016, to participate in the final FAB Study Workshop, a review launched in July, 2016 by the European Commission.

The research team asked each participating country to give a short presentation on an implemented good practice, so that BLUE MED was able to inform the audience about the engagement of third countries in the BLUE MED FAB. This underlined that BLUE MED, in accordance with the Single European Sky legislation, is fully committed in involving other neighbouring countries, which are non EU members, within the FAB activities in the permanent effort to harmonise operational and technical aspects of ATM and European capabilities beyond EU borders.

The final report of the study, taking into account the workshop's findings and insights, became available in January.



Costas Tsielepis & Co Give their Share of Festive Gifts

Following the festivities, Costas Tsielepis & Co has made numerous donations to help children and their families via numerous charities.

The firm donated monetary help to the Pafos Foundation, which strive in helping children who suffer from the effects of prematurity, to the Dancing Queen Foundation and the Miranda Fund, both aiding children in need of psychological and physical support and to the Smile of Life (Chamogelo tis Zois) charity organisation, which helps abused and underprivileged children.

Commenting on this, George Tsielepis, managing director, Costas Tsielepis & Co, Limassol, said, "We are especially sensitive about impoverished or sick children and their families. We thought we should help brighten their Christmas holidays."



The slicing of the vasilopita cake by Giannis Karouso, mayor, Ayia Napa, at the municipality manor's reception



The flamingos have started to return to Lanaca Salt Lake

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Kouklia, Palaepaphos archaeological excavations reveal an ancient rampart



The Organisation European Capital of Culture – Pafos2017 inaugurated the first exhibition of the year-long celebrations, Departing Mythologies at En Plo2

EVENTS

SUNSHINE CUP

Lefkara, Skarinou
February 23 – 26

The Afxentia stage race will start in Lefkara and after completing an off-road downhill tour, participants will arrive to Skarinou.



THE LIMASSOL CARNIVAL GRAND PARADE

Limassol
February 26

More than 150 floats and 50,000 people dressed in colourful costumes are expected to take part in the 7km parade.



CYPRriot AND GREEK ISLANDS MUSIC AND DANCES

Ayia Napa Municipal Theatre
March 30

The Andreas Nicolaou Music Group will present Cypriot and Greek songs and dances.

High Interest for Mouzenidis Group

Mouzenidis Group witnessed positive results, both in the cooperation level, as well as at the level of overall presence and participation at the 32nd Tourism Exhibition Philoxenia, in Thessaloniki.

The attendance at the Mouzenidis Travel and Ellinair stand surpassed all expectations.

According to George Masmanidis, director, Mouzenidis Travel, "The interest of Greek and foreign experts and the public to the products and services that we offered in 2016 is higher than in the past. We accepted the proposals for launching of the directions that we will, of course, consider carefully. The Philoxenia exhibition [in 2016] was the most successful in recent years, and we are very pleased that we can contribute to the increasing of the tourist flows to Greece."

RS:X Windsurfing Championship 2016 a Success



RS:X Youth World Windsurfing Championship

The 2016 RS:X Youth World Windsurfing Championship was successfully completed in Limassol, with 103 athletes from 120 countries taking part.

The event was organised by the Limassol Nautical Club with the support of the Cyprus Sailing Federation and is under the auspices of the Cyprus Sports Organisation.

The second day of the competition started with wind 27 knots and offered a real spectacle, while conditions in the following days became tougher, with waves reaching a height of up to two metres.

Mack Van den Eerenbeemt, representing Aruba, and Yoav Omer of Israel, were among the top winners of the contest.

Limassol Hosts Orthodontic Congress

Limassol Cultural Center at Limassol Marina hosted the fifth Mediterranean Orthodontic Congress, under the title *New Technologies, Old Principles* on November 11 – 13, 2016.

Organised by the Cyprus Orthodontic Society and sponsored by the Ministry of Health and the Limassol Municipality, participants from 39 countries had the opportunity to share their knowledge and cover clinical issues they face in their daily practice while learning more about the latest advancements in the orthodontic field.

An artistic programme also took place in addition to a social schedule with cultural and leisure activities for the participants.