

## 1. IN BRIEF

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**NBG chairman.** National Bank of Greece yesterday announced that during a Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, its board chairman, Costas Michaelides, said that he would not stand for re-election at the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, when his term of office is scheduled to come to an end.

### IN BRIEF

#### Greeks Are Back Conference planned for October in Athens

**With an enthusiastic** response from prominent Greek senior executives working abroad, The Greeks Are Back, a new initiative announced last year, will be hosting its first conference on October 21, in Athens. Fifty Greek senior executives from abroad will meet at the conference, offering their knowledge and experience with the aim of attracting foreign investment to Greece. The participating executives are from 40 international companies and have experience of working in 12 countries. The Greeks Are Back will be organizing a conference of Greek senior executives working abroad every year to discuss and propose specific steps to make Greece a more attractive investment destination. The 2021 Conference is the initiative's inaugural event. The conference will include plenary discussions in six working groups, which will discuss how to improve Greece's attractiveness as an investment destination in the following areas: green investments, tax framework, talent attraction, innovation and R&D, digital transformation and the silver economy. Founder Andreas Yannopoulos said, "When we announced the initiative The Greeks Are Back, last September, we could not have imagined how warm and enthusiastic the response of so many highly accomplished Greek executives in really key positions at large international companies abroad would be."

#### This summer Crete expects about 2 mln holidaymakers

**"Crete has always** been one of the flagships of Greek tourism and in the unprecedented crisis of the coronavirus, it managed to keep its reputation at a high level and to offer high-quality services to the tourists who visited last summer," Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO) Secretary-General Dimitris Fragakis said in an interview with the Athens-Macedonian News Agency (ANA) released on Sunday. Fragakis underlined that this summer will be much better than the previous one, adding that the country has more tools to ensure a safe opening of tourism this season. Crete remains one of the strongest "brands," Fragakis said, estimating that the course of vaccinations and the timely adoption of stable rules for the opening of tourism will lead to an increase in bookings. According to the president of the Rethymno Hoteliers Association, Manolis Tsakalakis, June is the key month to achieve the goal of 40% of arrivals in 2019, which translates into about 2 million arrivals in 2021.

**Turkish inflation.** Turkey's annual inflation climbed above 16% in March for the first time since mid-2019, data showed yesterday, piling pressure on new Central Bank Governor Sahap Kavcioglu to maintain tight policy after his surprise appointment. Consumer prices were up 16.19% year-on-year, higher than 16.11% in a Reuters poll and 15.61% in February. Inflation remains well above a 5% official target and has been in double digits for most of the past four years. Month-on-month CPI inflation was 1.08%, the Turkish Statistical Institute said, compared to a Reuters poll forecast of 1.04%. (Reuters)

**Turkey tourism.** Turkey has launched a vaccination campaign for tourism professionals to boost a vital industry heavily impacted in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic. The program covers the principal players in the tourism industry, including employees of accommodation facilities and restaurants, personnel at companies providing vehicles for tours and transfers, and tourist guides. Over 1 million tourism industry workers will be inoculated in total as part of the plan. "It will be a major lift for the industry and a significant development regarding Turkey's image and the safe tourism program that we are promoting," Volkan Yorulmaz, a board member of the Professional Hotel Managers Association of Turkey, told Xinhua. (Xinhua)