

# Tourism plan under fire

Reforms 'too vague' to avert overdevelopment, say engineers and hoteliers

The government's special zoning plan for tourism, which authorities say will boost development while protecting the environment, is too vague to protect Greece from the "concretization" that has ruined much of Spain, conservationists, civil engineers and even entrepreneurs have told Kathimerini.

"The plan's goals are very general and overshadowed by a sense of competitiveness," according to Ilias Beriatos, president of the Greek Association of Urban and Regional Planners.

The leader of the state Association of Regional Development Scientists, Christos Ladias, is also cautious about the plan drafted by the Environment and Public Works Ministry. "It needs improvement and clarification, including a determination of what activities will be permitted in Natura (or European Union-protected) areas," Ladias said. Even some businessmen involved in tourism are concerned about the impact of the plan. According to Gerasimos Fokas, president of the Hellenic Chamber of Hotels, the plan "is general and

unclear, allowing the use of land for tourism everywhere, without prerequisites or restrictions."

But the most vocal in their criticism are the conservationists. A consortium of environmental groups, including Greenpeace and WWF Hellas, issued a statement condemning the zoning plan for "treating tourism as an activity chiefly connected to public works and favoring large-scale projects such as golf courses and large hotel complexes... without considering the need to protect the natural environment."

The ministry has stressed many times

that the plan aims to promote tourism development alongside environmental protection, creating different zones for different levels of development.

But many believe that these zones are not strictly delineated and that, in practice, exemptions would be granted to large developers. There are also concerns that islands with a high level of tourism infrastructure will be opened up to even more construction and that smaller and relatively undeveloped islands, and the mainland's coastline, will become fair game for construction firms.

## Young Greeks top EU list for lung cancer

*Greece has the highest rate of lung cancer sufferers under the age of 45 among all European Union countries, according to new research data made public. This high incidence of cancer has been linked to the fact that a large proportion of Greek smokers start the habit before they hit 18, according to Constantinos Syrigos, a professor at Athens Medical School and a visiting professor at Yale. The fact that a third of smokers in Greece are under the age of 25 is another worrying revelation, said Syrigos, who noted that some 7,000 people die of lung cancer in Greece every year. Of these deaths, 90 percent were smokers.*

*Syrigos, who also heads the oncology unit at Athens's Sotiria Hospital, revealed the data compiled by his team on the occasion of Lung Awareness Month. More information can be found at [www.lungcancer.gr](http://www.lungcancer.gr).*

## Former head of leading girls' school killed by speeding driver while on charity mission in Greece

Baroness Brigstocke, the former head of one of Britain's leading girls' schools, was killed by a speeding driver while crossing a badly-lit road in Greece

The former head of one of Britain's leading girls' schools and her personal assistant were mown down by a speeding driver in Greece as they tried to cross a badly-lit road, an inquest heard.

Baroness Heather Brigstocke, who was headmistress of St Paul's Girls' School, London, and her personal assistant Rosamund Magid were killed as they made their way back to their hotel after attending a charity meeting. Westminster Coroner's Court heard driver George Lazoylou was travelling at 120kph, twice the speed limit, when he hit the two women on Posidonos Avenue in the resort of Glyfada, 12 miles south of Athens. The women were dragged along the dual carriageway by the car after the accident, a Greek police report showed.

They were taken to a local hospital but were confirmed dead just 30 minutes later.

The pair had been attending a meeting of the children's charity Home-Start International, of which Baroness Brigstocke, 74, was founding chairperson.

Coroner's officer Terry Lovegrove said: 'On that evening, the women had been at dinner in a restaurant with colleagues.

'At about 11pm, Baroness Brigstocke said she was return-



ing to the hotel, which was about four minutes walk away. Rosamund Magid offered to go back with her.

'To return to the hotel, they had to cross over Posidonos Avenue, and as they were crossing, they were struck by a car and both were killed.'

Mr Lovegrove told the inquest that speed was a 'major contributory factor' in the accident. He said: 'The speed limit was 60kph and it is estimated that the driver was travelling at twice this speed.'

'The road was badly illuminated and several street lights were not working.'

Lazoylou, who had not been drinking, was charged with manslaughter due to negligence in June 2006, but it is unknown as to whether he has yet stood trial over the deaths of the two women.

In a police interview shortly after the collision on April 30, 2004, he said: 'I

suddenly saw the car in front of me change its lane to the middle lane.

'I carried on driving at the same speed. Suddenly the car in front moved to the right without indicating, and I found myself in front of a black bulk without being able to react or understand what it was.

'Having seen this bulk, I instinctively turned the steering wheel to the right but it was then too late.'

The inquest into the deaths of the two women was delayed for more than four years due to difficulties in obtaining police and medical reports from the Greek authorities.

Mr Lovegrove said: 'We do often expect delays when dealing with other countries and Greece did not disappoint.'

Giving his verdict, Coroner Paul Knapman said: 'There is no doubt that they were both killed as a result of a road traffic collision and that this occurred on April 30 2004 in Greece.

'Quite frankly, I think the time has come for us to summarise it in those words.

'In respect of Baroness Brigstocke, I say that she died from multiple injuries and at 23.10 on April 30, she was fatally injured by a speeding motor vehicle while crossing Posidonos Avenue.

'In respect of Rosamund Magid, I say that she too died from multiple injuries after being fatally injured by a speeding motor vehicle while crossing Posidonos Avenue.'

The daughter of a newsagent, Baroness Brigstocke was educated at Abbey school, Reading, and went on to read classics at Girton College, Cambridge.

She married diplomat Geoffrey Brigstocke in 1952 and they had three sons and a daughter.

Tragically, on her appointment as head of St Paul's Girls' School in 1974, her husband was killed in an air crash on Turkish Airlines.

In 1990, she was created a life peer and went on to marry fellow peer, Lord Griffiths, in 2000.

## Job hunters take note...

A recent survey of Greek hiring managers and job seekers revealed that 11 percent of workers admit they have lied on a resume, while more than two-thirds (68 percent) of employers say they have caught a lie on a resume. Of those employers who caught a lie, 42 percent automatically dismissed the applicant, 50 percent still considered the candidate, but did not hire him/her and only 7 percent went on to hire the candidate. Interestingly, nearly one-third (30 percent) of Greek employers say they are receiving more resumes than last year. The most common lies Greek employers say they find on resumes include: -- Skill set: 40 percent -- Embellished responsibilities: 21 percent -- Companies worked for: 13 percent -- Job title: 9 percent -- Dates of employment: 4 percent.

When asked what they look for most on a good resume, Greek employers said:

-- Customized to the position: 40 percent -- Relevant experience: 27 percent -- Career summary: 20 percent -- Focused on results: 9 percent.

Want to increase your chance of your resume being seen? Special terms employers are searching for most often are:

-- Customer service or retention (44 percent) -- Bilingual or languages spoken (44 percent) -- Team building (38 percent) -- Oral and written communications (35 percent) -- Project management (31 percent) -- Technology (31 percent) -- Problem-solving and decision-making (28 percent) -- Performance and productivity improvement (24 percent) -- Internet (22 percent).