



Marinas point to lost revenues

The national economy has missed out on revenues from value-added tax receipts of at least 40 million euros over the last three years due to the policies adopted by the state in the recreational boat sector, according to data presented on Wednesday by the Greek Marinas Association.

Stavros Katsikadis, the association's president, said that besides the revenues lost from the drop in boat moorings – as 25 percent of traffic has moved to rival destinations – there has also been

a decrease in revenues from peripheral activities such as supplies, fuel, repair and maintenance and staff hirings.

The GMA is also opposed to the imposition of a mooring levy for private recreational boats, as that would represent a disadvantage for the country's competitiveness and lead to more boats choosing neighboring destinations such as Turkey, Croatia and Montenegro.

The turnover of the association's 22 members sank about 15 percent in 2012 compared to the year before.



Suspects in northern Greece gold mine arson attack to be questioned

Police in northern Greece have written to 22 people asking them to appear at the force's headquarters in Thessaloniki on Friday as part of the preliminary investigation into the arson attack at the Skouries gold mine last month, when offices and vehicles belonging to Hellas Gold were torched.

Following the attack, the police's search for suspects in Halkidiki prompted angry responses from locals who accused officers of illegally obtaining DNA samples from people including minors. The police denied breaking the law.

There was also a flash point earlier this month when riot police entered the village of Ierissos in search of suspects. Their use of tear gas prompted an angry response from locals, who claimed that children suffered health problems as a result of inhaling chemicals.

Four people were arrested during the raid on suspicion of illegally possessing firearms and fireworks. The suspects said the weapons were heirlooms that were no longer in working order. The trial of the four Ierissos residents was on Wednesday postponed until February 7 next year.



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