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*Editorial contact: Giota Georgakopoulou
Tel. No.: 2111 801 801
e-mail: ggeorgakopoulou@rota.gr*

PRESS RELEASE

RECORD VISITORS FOR THE 31ST INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

119.112 visitors of the 31st International Boat Show experienced over 1,000 sea vessels and 10,000 nautical products & services, featured from 279 exhibitors.

Unprecedented success awaited the **31st Athens International Boat Show**, that ended some days ago at the METROPOLITAN EXPO exhibition centre in the Athens International Airport area. This year's exhibition was inaugurated by the Minister of Finance, Competitiveness & Mercantile Marine, Mrs. Luka Katseli on Saturday the 17th of October and lasted a total of nine days. The Boat Show attracted **119,112 visitors** (6,879 of which were trade visitors) who welcomed the opportunity to experience over 1,000 impressive sea vessels and 10,000 nautical products and services, from 279 exhibitors. While touring the exhibition grounds, Mrs. Luka Katseli was impressed by the observable interest of visitors, the large attendance of public and the proficient presence of exhibitors.

Mrs. Katseli noted that "*Sea Tourism and Greek Seas in particular are considered a national asset by the newly appointed Government. Our goal is to invest in our ports, even during world economic crisis, while it is important that Greece exports its sea vessels*".

The Athens International Boat Show has established itself as the leading exhibition event in the business sectors of Sea Recreational Activities and Sea Tourism, dedicated to those interested in boating, yachting, fishing and aquatic sporting activities, on a professional or enthusiast level. For the first time, this year's event has held in the new exhibition centre of METROPOLITAN EXPO. The 31st International Boat Show made full use of the ultra modern facilities provided by the generous venue grounds (50,000 sq.m. of exhibition space), satisfying visitors and exhibitors alike. Many visitors also commented on the structural benefits and easily accessible grounds of METROPOLITAN EXPO, which elevated the event quality standards to an even higher level, matching the best of renowned international shows.

SEKAPLAS P.E.E.Y President Mr. Nikitas Agelakis and General Secretary Mr. Alexandros Zeis expressed their satisfaction for the organizing aspects of the event, as well as the overwhelming visitor attendance. Exhibitors also voiced their positive outlook towards future sector development, despite the global economy downturn.

The International Boat Show is organized by EXPO ONE show organizing company, in co-operation with SEKAPLAS P.E.E.Y (Greek manufacturers of boats). It is held under the auspices of the international organizations, namely the 'International Federation of Boat Show Organizers' (IFBSO) and the 'International Council of Marine Industry Associations' (ICOMIA). Media Sponsors for the 31st Athens International Boat Show, included SENTRA FM 103.3 radio station and 'Paper' Magazine.

About Expo One

EXPO ONE Organizing Company is active in the show organizing sector. It has annually organized the 'International Boat Show' and 'Spring Boat Show' events for the last 9 years. More information on EXPO ONE Organizing Company is available at: www.expoone.gr.

About SEKAPLAS PEEY

The Greek Marine Manufacturers Association (SEKAPLAS P.E.E.Y.) is a Professional Organization ruled by the 1712/1987 Law, bearing the distinct title of SEKAPLAS P.E.E.Y. It was founded in 1978, while following a relevant change in its articles in 1993, the Association included importers, traders, and service providers engaged in the boats and the sea activities/hobbies in general as its members. The last change in its articles was made in 2007 so as to abide by the terms in Law 1712/1987. Currently, its members also include manufacturers-agents, importers and traders of all types of boats (dinghy, rubber boats e.t.c), sea

engines, equipment and nautical-electronic instruments, boat building material, dyes, lubricant, fire extinguishing equipment, diving and fishing equipment, aquatic sports items, etc. The Association seat is in Neo Faliro, its more than 370 active members come from all over Greece and employ more than 15,000 full time personnel. SEKAPLAS P.E.E.Y. is a member of ICOMIA - International Council of Marine Industry Associations. It provides members with the services of Secretariat, Press Office and Counselling, with agents specialized in the fields of Maritime Law, Accounting, Taxation and General Law.