

Athens ICOMIA World Marinas Conference to Focus on Growth



The Athens marina

The viability of Europe's marina industry will be the focus of

the **ICOMIA World Marinas Conference** to be held in Greece for the first time at Athens' **Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC)** on **October 25-27**.

Under the theme: *“Cross Sea Challenge for Marinas – Setting the Scene for Collective Development and Growth”*, the three-day event will include conferences, panel discussions and tours of Athens' finest marinas and waterfront projects.



Topics to be addressed include concession models, innovation, energy-saving technologies, tapping into natural resources, electricity storage, electric boats, solar piers, floating houses and infrastructure, port and marina security, oil pollution crisis management, marina marketing, and development of the super-yacht charter.



The marina of Kos

“ICOMIA has been discussing the terms for concession or lease of marinas by the state. In view of the fact that this is the case in Greece, as in other countries, especially in the Mediterranean, significant investments have been made in the past, but these require very high rents and operating costs, which have however led in times of economic crisis to the projects being unsustainable and some ending

up degraded or abandoned,” said Greek Marinas Association President **Stavros Katsikadis**.

Some 400 delegates, sector professionals, experts, academic associations, public sector bodies and investors will also be introduced to ICOMIA’s Environment Guide and will have the chance to explore global issues affecting marinas, such as new international guidelines for marina design and ISO regulations for ports.



Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC). Photo Source:

The three-day program also includes networking opportunities and a celebratory welcome reception for delegates and partners which will include a tour of the Acropolis Museum and the Zappeion Exhibition Hall.

The leading international event is organized every two years by the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA), and was made possible in Greece with the support of the **Greek Marinas Association (GMA)**, the **Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB)** and destination management and marketing agency Toposophy. The initiative is also supported by the tourism ministry, the Athens municipality, and the **Greek Tourism Confederation (SETE)**. For more information, visit www.worldmarinasconference.com.