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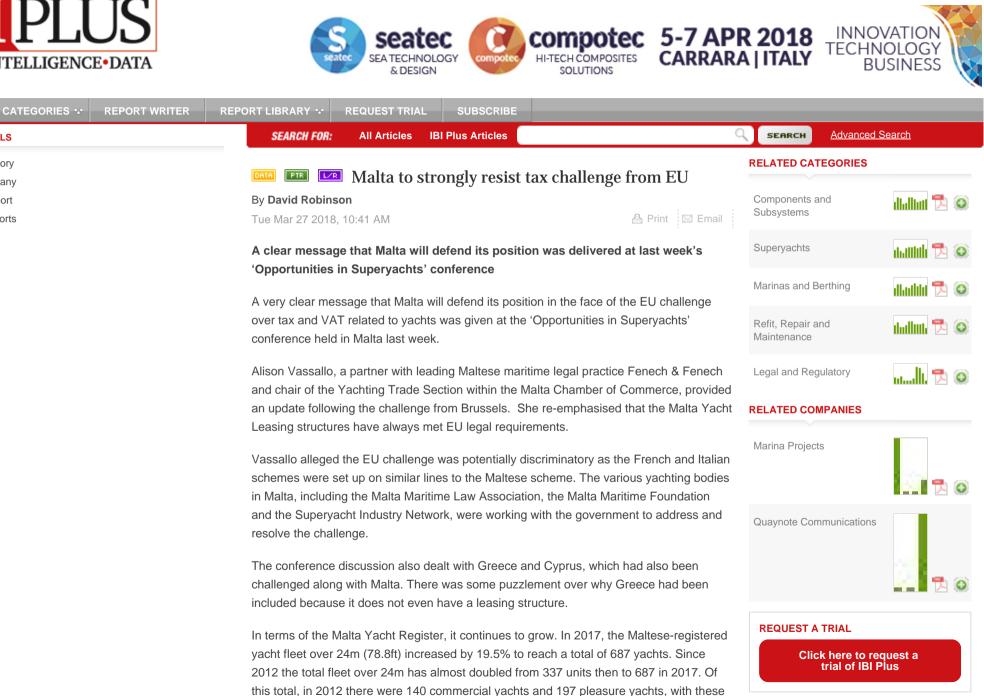
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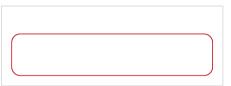
numbers rising to 238 and 449 respectively five years later.

To meet a growing demand, the Maltese register will consider requests to allow the carriage of more than 12 passengers on pleasure yachts of 24m and above. Granting condition is on the basis that the yacht does not navigate further than 150 miles from a safe haven.

The register has introduced two categories for this dispensation – namely, yachts over 24m but under 500 GRT, and yachts over 500 GRT. It has also issued a set of conditions that have to be met by the yachts in both categories.

The conference, which was organised by Quaynote Communications, also discussed how Malta might be developed into a year-round superyacht destination. The issue here is that the island is primarily active within the market as a wintering base or as a location for yacht repairs and refit.

Figures presented by the UK consultancy Marina Projects highlighted that Malta



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experiences a reverse to the general trend in the Mediterranean, with more yachts in winter than summer. Some 90 superyachts, equivalent to about 2% of the global superyacht fleet over 30m (98.5ft), were recorded as being in the island in the winter season.

In total the Marina Project figures showed that over a 12-month period 430 visits were made by 245 yachts, with the average length of stay being four weeks. Of the 245 yachts, 70% only visited once. The highest demand for superyacht berthing, in terms of the number of vessels, is for superyachts between 30m-35m.

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