

Economic Bulletin

PM: Poland is good place for investments

The PM later attended the 10th anniversary of foundation of the Kostrzyn-Slubice Special Economic Zone, one of 14 such zones in Poland. In his address the PM stressed that Poland was becoming a huge area of investing.

„Poland has entered a long period of fast growth which opens new vistas not only before the country but also before investors from all of Europe and the world. A country like ours is a good place to invest,” he said.

The PM addend that Poland’s economic indicators are high, drawbacks have been eliminated and social indicators like the unemployment rate, which goes down have improved.

Gilowska: public spending unchanged for years

The relation between public spending and GDP has been stable for a few years, deputy PM and Finance Minister Zyta Gilowska has said during a gala inauguration of the new academic year at the School of Economy in Poznan. „Relation between public spending and GDP has remained unchanged practically for the past 10 years and stands at 42 pct of GDP, Gilowska has said. She confirmed that the figure was 2 percentage points smaller than 10 years ago.

„It has happened despite the fact that Poland is member of the European Union, Gilowska has stressed and underlined that in connection with Poland’s membership of the EU the budget revenues are more than 14 billion zloty higher and the amount for spending went up by 34 billion zloty.

■ The Central Statistical Office (GUS) has revised upward its forecast of the GDP growth in 2006 from 6.1 percent to 6.2 percent, GUS reported on Monday. The 2006 GDP in current prices amounted to 1,060,194 million zlotys.

■ Poland has been officially invited to join the International Energy Agency, Economy Minister Piotr Wozniak has said in Paris. The minister stressed that the membership would help Poland getting assistance from other member countries in case of disrupted crude oil deliveries. The invitation means that the path to membership has opened though it is not tantamount to becoming the agency member. The decision depends on the Polish side, the minister has explained.

■ Gross revenues on privatisation on September 30, 2007 stood at 1.41 billion zloty against 3 billion envisaged in the plan for the entire year, the state treasury ministry has reported. Net revenues stood at 1.02 billion zloty while the plan for 2007 envisaged net revenues at 2.3 billion zloty.

■ After nine months of 2007 the budget showed the surplus of 160 million zloty against the planned deficit of 18.55 billion zloty, deputy Finance Minister Elzbieta Suchocka-Roguska has said.

Almost 6,000 firms privatised since 1990

5,780 state firms were privatised between August 1, 1990 and August 31, 2007, the State Treasury Ministry has reported.

„The treasury minister was a founding body for 21 state enterprises and one state-owned bank and executed rights on shares in 1,237 companies,” the report reads.

This year commercialisation covered 15 state firms and one research and development institute including „Dom Słowa Polskiego” Graphic Technique Plant, „Dom Wydawniczy Bellona” publishing house and „COBRABID,” the central research and development centre making equipment for research and teaching.

According to the data at the end of August 2007, 1,602 state-owned enterprises were commercialised, which constituted 27.7 percent of all firms under transformation.

Between August 1, 1990 and August 31, 2007 1,905 firms were liquidated due to their poor financial condition with 1,067 being removed from the register and 681 going bankrupt.

1 USD = 2.66 PLN

1 EUR = 3.76 PLN

TRANSPORT

PM Jarosław Kaczyński has said that the government decided to modernise the No. 16 home road, one of the most important east-west roads in the Warmia and Mazury (north-eastern) region of Poland near the Great Masurian Lakes. According to General Direction of Home Roads and Motorways the modernization will cost 1.5 billion zloty.

BANKS

The Bank Supervision Commission (KNB) has okayed the division of BPH Bank. The merger between Pekao SA and BPH will have to be preceded by a consent for the division of BPH from which a BPH branch with 200 divisions will be separated and sold to a new investor. Both banks earlier reported that BPH will be divided in 30 days from receiving KNB consent.

INVESTMENT

The renowned international Costa Coffee chain plans to open at least a hundred shops in Poland in the next five years. The company opened its 8th Polish shop Friday in Katowice. Costa Coffee also has shops in Wroclaw, Cracow, Rzeszow, Lublin, Rybnik and Sosnowiec. By the end of this year there will be 15 Costa Coffee shops in Poland.

METALLURGY

AcelorMittal Poland S.A. is the new name for Poland's biggest steel producer known until to-date as Mittal Steel Poland.

The change of the name is a result of last year merger between world's tycoons on the steel market Indian-British Mittal Steel and European Arcelor.

MOTORISATION

German MAN concern has opened its new truck plant in Niepolomice, outside Cracow on Thursday. The new plant, a green-field investment, was built in just over one year at the cost of 100 million euros. Some 650 people will find jobs at the plant by the year 2010. The plant's one-shift annual production capacity reaches 15 thousand trucks, MAN Nutzfahrzeuge AG CEO Anton Weinmann told today's press conference. The Niepolomice will chiefly produce TGA World-Wide 16-tonne trucks meant for central and eastern European and Russian markets.

BANKS

HSBC bank has developed corporate banking in Poland and soon will release details of its plans related to retail banking, bank representatives have said. The banks plans to service small and medium-sized firms. HSBC Polska Bank managing director for corporate banking Rob Carter has stressed that a number of international firms perceives central and eastern Europe as an attractive base for investing in the EU.

INDUSTRY

The Polish-made SW-4 light helicopter has been certified for sale and use in the EU, the machine's

producer PZL Swidnik informed Tuesday. The certificate, granted by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), will also enable the SW-4's sale in America, Asia and Africa. The SW-4 is a light multi-purpose helicopter taking on 5 persons or 550 kilogrammes of freight.

INVESTMENTS

The German Messer Group plans to build a 30-million-euro industrial and medical gas plant in Rybnik, south Poland. The plant, to open in 2009, will be sited in the Rybnik section of the Katowice Special Economic Zone. The cornerstone under the new plant was laid in Rybnik Tuesday. Messer officials said the company plans to invest 300 million euro in east and central Europe until 2011.

MOTORISATION

In the 1st half of 2007 Poland sold abroad products of the automotive sector worth nearly 7.84 billion euro, up more than 931 million euro (13.48 pct) from the similar period of 2006.